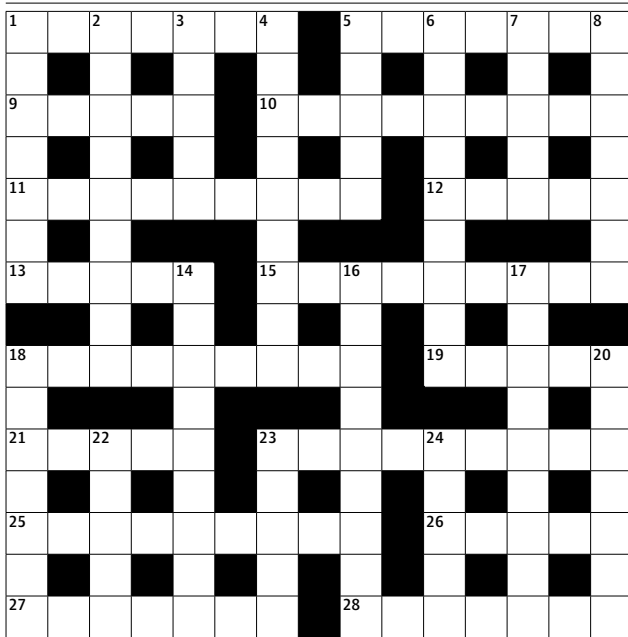


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,559 set by Paul

Across

- 1 15's dip to seize prey, wings torn off (7)
- 5 Pleased to see hit involving heroes, for a start (7)
- 9 Old dictator, Pol's partner, executed the divvy (5)
- 10 Dance tease, say (3-3-3)
- 11 Capitals of Italy, Morocco and Germany less popular in important 8 city? (9)
- 12 Game tease, say, in John (5)
- 13 Regarding the birth of the bum (5)
- 15 Old chef's after salmon for group (4,5)
- 18 Growth in ecstasy through distribution of narcotic (9)
- 19 Escape that's authorised, in a word? (3,2)
- 21 See 23 down
- 23 Like jelly? 4, perhaps, for triangular plate (3,6)
- 25 Obscure 8 7, say – base (9)
- 26 More cross, train not in, completing last in puzzle (5)
- 27 Right pair of OT characters, free (7)
- 28 Plastic through which to draw money by cents, I gathered (7)

Down

- 1 See 18
- 2 Time saved by unscrambling of a Gemini crossword, primarily cryptic (9)

- 3 Name tag's initial, lining hat (5)
- 4 English city Paul built for Australian natives (9)
- 5 See 23
- 6 Discouraging classic hit breaking farmers in middle of July (9)
- 7 One intercepting newspaper feature (5)
- 8 See 23
- 14 Rearing meat, you waste sugar (9)
- 16 "Numbers" originally called "number" in error, raised (9)
- 17 Wild dog taking drink, head down (9)
- 18,1,20 15's doctor went into a hall to pen "Two Little Boys" (7,5,2,3,4)
- 22 Sing composition in lullaby, only borders raised (5)
- 23,21,5,8 15's timid about one gaseous element, shifting my zodiac around (5,2,3,5,7)
- 24 Line in letter recited (5)

Solution No. 25,558

