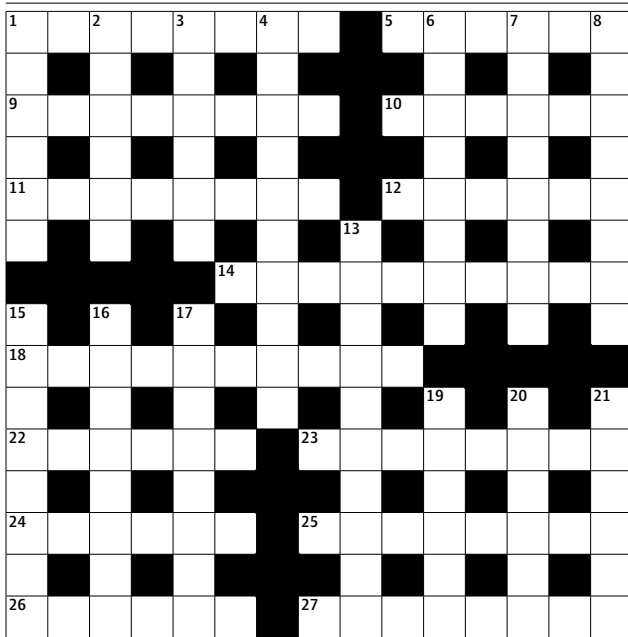


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,619 set by Gordius

Across

- 1** It's done with meal to pour out a drink (8)
5 Row of America with old English parliament (6)
9 Rave-up – and it's none too soon (4,4)
10 One watches violent arrest (6)
11 Reserved? It's back in not long ago (8)
12 Twister puts back time in winter (6)
14 Tory manifestos for reluctant joiners? (10)
18 House title conformed to its outline? (10)
22 Beasts of burden – about time to discover their worth (6)
23 Retreating with weapons over a long time in Guyana (8)
24 Taint, actually! (6)
25 Squeal about sham dealing – that's jolly good (8)
26 Very much like some religious – be silent (6)
27 Hourglass? (3-5)

Down

- 1** City prostitute lost head going to a city elsewhere (6)
2 Powerful hit gym exercise (6)
3 Mark books in European city (6)

- 4** Lothario, or Spooner's soles (5-5)
6 Where awkward types may be taken in hospital? (8)
7 Vegetable cuts below standard (8)
8 Award by teacher exclaimed as unexpected (8)
13 Other mails sorted to the same degree (10)
15 Pears, perhaps, lie in a trellis (8)
16 Happy about bill rectified without undue fuss (8)
17 Associates find prisoners are without diplomacy (8)
19 No difficulty in race where cups are available (3,3)
20 Element made up of air and mud? (6)
21 Trough for a heartless administrator (6)

Solution No. 25,618

B	I	L	L	I	A	R	D	S	A	S	A	P	
O	A	N	O	N	C	E	O						
O	U	T	D	O	B	R	I	C	A	B	R	A	C
B	T	N	I	F	L	E	K						
T	H	E	R	E	I	N	T	R	A	I	N	E	
U		F	I	E	M	G	T						
B	U	D	G	E	T	A	I	R	L	I	N	E	
E	E	L	L	N	T	E							
	B	A	L	L	T	A	M	P	E	R	I	N	G
P	A	S	O	O	L								
S	C	R	E	W	U	P	O	D	O	R	A	N	T
Y	R	O	M	R	T	G	I						
C	H	I	P	O	L	A	T	A	I	D	I	O	M
H	N	P	S	G	O	N	E						
O	R	G			T	W	E	E	N	A	G	E	R