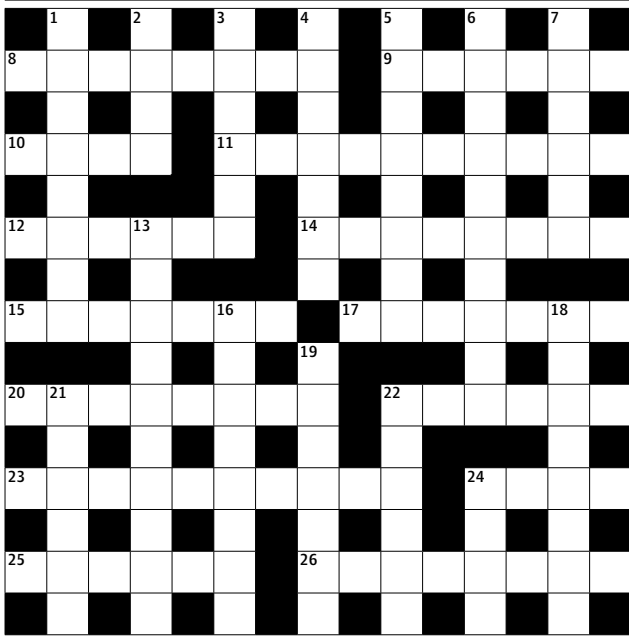


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,642 set by Paul

Across

- 8** Era primarily old, life without iron, not quite Neanderthal – was it? (8)
9 County where soldier's on edge (6)
10 Throw back first bits of trash into my old skip (4)
11 Loudly complain, rep plonked contents here? (4,6)
12 A sign about double parking in Middle Eastern city (6)
14 Ideas set out in part of the metropolis (4,4)
15 Like base about which sort of gas rises (7)
17,7 3's fix with dance champion (7,6)
20 A stroke of genius: staff heard of sound! (8)
22 Writer gets to attempt creative writing (6)
23 3's alternative (10)
24 Smack for party (4)
25 3's fury about genders understandable, ultimately (2,4)
26 3's music, bag of tricks? (5,3)

Down

- 1** See 4
2 Coin that's fragrant (4)
3 Group's unlimited character to hack into? (3,3)

- 4,1** 3's normal fees I foolishly invested in sweets (1,3,3,3,5)
5 More than one flower exists either way beneath upturned bush with no berry? (8)
6 Useful flipping herb, pointless when trimmed round it (10)
7 See 17
13 Victim stabbed by the blinking thing earlier (10)
16 Described like the Three Blind Mice? (8)
18 Caper and egg plant (8)
19 "Nasty" about right for "lovely"! (7)
21 Rotten cold before game (6)
22 Extraction of principled gentlemen's agreement (6)
24 Second ago (4)

Solution No. 25,641

