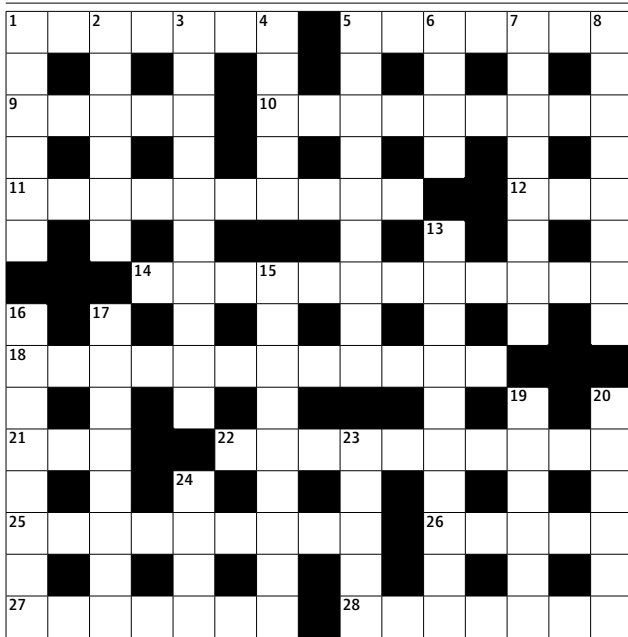


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,692 set by Brummie

Across

- 1 Home county backing to gain weight? Blimey! (7)
- 5 Temperature not quite reduced by restricting sulphur in America – struggles (7)
- 9 Beryl's second character? (5)
- 10 Haunted, hassled and impregnated by knight king – not appreciated! (9)
- 11 Trailer showing Mafia on French island getting Mo back to plug the ambassador? (6,4)
- 12 English novelist, it's said – and the sort of press correspondent he once was? (3)
- 14 Rigged local consent to get rid of line – China's last resort (7-2-3)
- 18 My colonel, he'd limp (when pronounced, 24 26) (12)
- 21 Infantry dismisses chosen test cooler (3)
- 22 First leg of rail commuter's journey: coach to go in the specifically provided container? (5-5)
- 25 Disillusioned with a particular song, so no longer broadcasting (3,3,3)
- 26 Maybe Vivien or Mike's winter transport failing to start (5)
- 27 Submissive type of crucifix rejected by Mother Teresa, initially (7)
- 28 Sire acquiring energy – with 9 + 4 is nominally said to be 21 6 (7)

Down

- 1 Tropical plant's a mess when crushed by earth (6)
- 2 Figures rocks brim full of hydrogen and oxygen (6)

- 3 Take action against wrongly parked car with part of boot against back of traffic light? (5-5)
- 4 Scottish meadow, hectare, that's horrible (5)
- 5 Temple too fancy: it stands emblematically (5,4)
- 6 Writer's seaside location broadcast (4)
- 7 Fancy comedy partner, moreover (8)
- 8 Team (part Spanish one?) of stars (8)
- 13 Powerful Dicky on top of a shrub (10)
- 15 Hypocritical talk about working relative (a sort of letter) (9)
- 16 Support for public execution from small, vulgar eating place, behind the times (8)
- 17 Caught in tornado, poor fellow's head is moving both ways (2,3,3)
- 19 Not new, to apply decoration that's showy (6)
- 20 Two articles on river to which bees are attracted (6)
- 23 Lifted sacks, revealing character's foot, say (5)
- 24 China's much maligned (4)

Solution No. 25,691

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