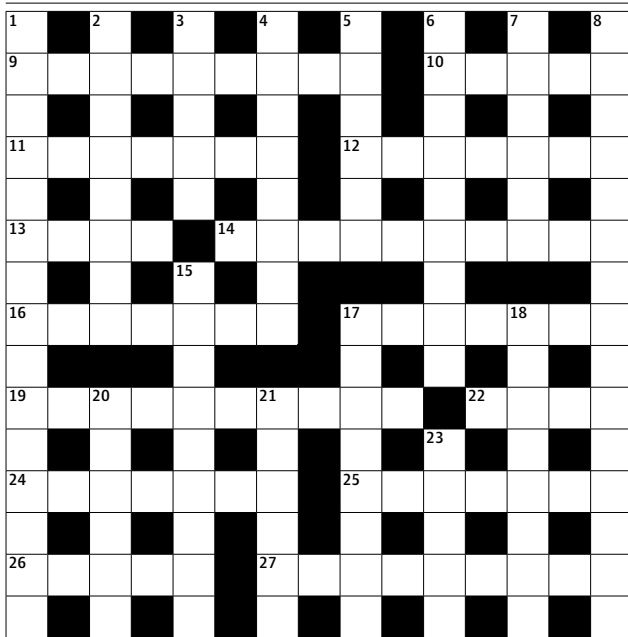


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,792 set by Paul

Across

- 9** Figure fencing honest, when playing just as it should be (2,3,4)
10 Choice between bow and stern for Argonaut on a vessel (5)
11 Bird gets to lick syrup around man's rear (7)
12 An amount of money to be discussed, one feels (7)
13 Loud music's pitch (4)
14 Chain I left among red coral at sea (10)
16,15 17 down 4, so an 8 then? (2,5,5,4)
17 Swallow in the breeze (7)
19 Chance meeting of priest and criminal after murder almost backfired (10)
22 Territory better ventilated, by the sound of it (4)
24 Name girl in conversation (7)
25 Distribute the report of a yobbish baker? (4,3)
26 Catcher caught by dance (5)
27 Old number eight's heel on loose footwear (3,3,3)

Down

- 1** Bimbo superior to old Scot in rapidly deteriorating US foreign policy (6,9)
2 Unusual capital city ultimately abandoned (8)
3 Primarily demonic and wicked – the master from hell? (5)
4 See 17
5 Explosive oath coming up, getting under people's skin (6)
6 Keeper of a fortress, having tinned beer? (9)
7 See 23
8 Picture – drawing that's deadly? (5,10)
15 See 16
17,4 So lovely with an 8? (4-4,8)
18 Swimmer overcoming scoundrel, contracted killer (8)
20 More concerned about the German issue (6)
21 There could be nothing to this point (6)
23,7 Online journal about not entirely smelly English fruit (5,6)

Solution No. 25,791

