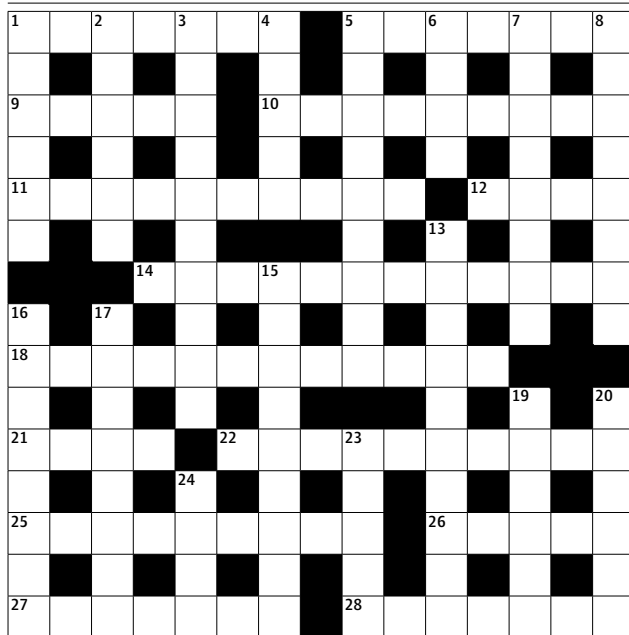


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,823 set by Arachne

Across

- 1 Group of officers, heads of naval detachments (7)
- 5 Old Scotsman's colourful project (7)
- 9 Nice way of saying Arachne's somewhat vacuous and a bit wet (5)
- 10 It might drop me, if uninitiated in its use (9)
- 11 Expert on land usage cultivating margins, too (10)
- 12 Privileged American used to be attracted to power (4)
- 14 Of sound mind, ultimately buffered by stout optimism (12)
- 18 Inspecting, unannounced, what teenagers get up to in bathroom? (4-8)
- 21 Top copy with illiterate's signature (4)
- 22 Damn it, Twitter, you embody fatuousness! (10)
- 25 Party line developed into mutual exchange (9)
- 26 State occasion making a mint (5)
- 27 This team makes you tea (7)
- 28 Qualified agreements to rework endless subsystem (3-4)
- 4 On reflection micron's a tiny amount, in fact (5)
- 5 Bouncer quietly getting Oscar to leave club (4,5)
- 6 Destroys country house, top to bottom (4)
- 7 Admirer's agreement to marry – but not yet (8)
- 8 Wrongly enter hairdressing establishment offering health treatments (8)
- 13 Interest as founder returns to old place (10)
- 15 Freedom fighters beleaguer ill-assorted internees (9)
- 16 Radioactive element, which is used to lower cholesterol in casualty (8)
- 17 Disturbed Harry Lime's last day (8)
- 19 Copper said goodbye (3,3)
- 20 Where French children learn to core fruit (6)
- 23 Sardonicly mentioning carefree fellow (5)
- 24 Perhaps the elder Turge-
nev gets noticed periodically? (4)

Down

- 1 Struggle to disentangle 16 down (6)
- 2 Relating to fast, tailless fictional bloodhound (6)
- 3 Ace tenant merrily taking possession of duke's house (10)

Solution No. 25,822

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