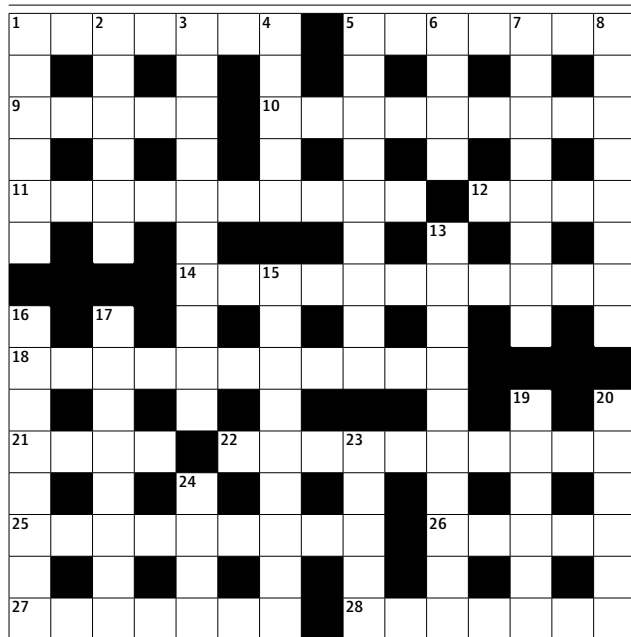


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,834 set by Philistine

Across

- 1 Needing new blood right away for American administration (7)
- 5 Many take a leap, start off with a youngster (7)
- 9 Frolics without extremes are for politicians (5)
- 10 The goddess of hairstyle heard to have a quirky diet (9)
- 11 One may have a flutter up to the point of entry into a monastery (10)
- 12 An element of jazz in concert (4)
- 14 Deer suffering with swollen bums (4-2-5)
- 18 Merge in turn is ordered when there's a gap at the top (11)
- 21,26 It's tough for Spooner's warder working in the garden (4,5)
- 22 Incinerate decomposing waste product (10)
- 25 Dance with ale served first to last in pitcher (9)
- 26 See 21
- 27 Ickle book? (7)
- 28 See Swansea girl being heavenly (7)

Down

- 1 Plug falling out and floating (6)
- 2 Hollow weapon, mine (6)
- 3 Roy in a position with girl on top? On the contrary (10)
- 4 Move slowly with a stroke (5)

- 5 Introduced the woman in previously owned home (7,2)
- 6,24 One seeking honey? Ring up stomach (4,4)
- 7 Worthy and substantial one taken up by her in Paris (8)
- 8 50% excess included in futile and inadequate defence (2,6)
- 13 Third of lesbian feminists get ugly, with head shaved in a way that's anything but 21 26 (10)
- 15 River crustacean the French find repugnant (9)
- 16 Bird getting close, close to transport vessel (8)
- 17 Once more says that parts of corset are tight, when standing (8)
- 19 Kilo for mile, yacht cover would do for the sun-bather (6)
- 20 President whose age ran out (6)
- 23 Minor mutation in angel-fish (5)
- 24 See 6

Solution No. 25,833

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