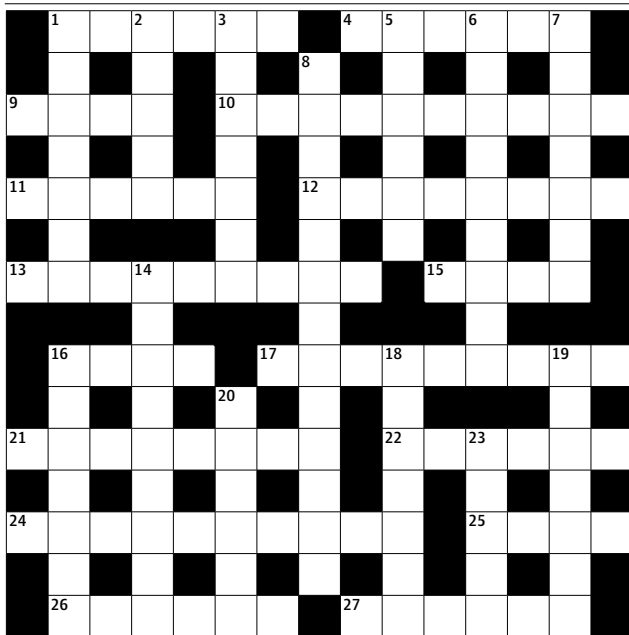


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,970 set by Brendan

Across

- 1 Cover for plants he added after short time (6)
- 4 His cap unravelled in stages (6)
- 9 Some gambit I learned that can be used in board game (4)
- 10 A party type put on bad album that's pedestrian (10)
- 11 Spread out hat that's turned over and put away (6)
- 12 Guerilla fighters coveting changes (4,4)
- 13 Assailant liable to explode into gross rage (9)
- 15 Touched material for making hats (4)
- 16 Virtuous circle? (4)
- 17 Impress with one's effort putting on crown, for example (9)
- 21 That woman's mischievous, taking in current leader (8)
- 22 Hood with gown's first put on, getting dressed (6)
- 24 Possible guidance to pack, if such be the circumstances (2,4,4)
- 25 Part of one's mouth that's hit by person losing temper (4)
- 26 Excellent fellow, poor driver? (6)
- 27 It's possible to bear chap having a row, say (6)

Down

- 1 In hearing, clinching upper limit (7)
- 2 Fedora is this kind of hat (5)

- 3 Drug stashed in safe locations – my goodness! (7)
- 5 Kind of wood used in the odd piece of armour (6)
- 6 Put sailors in vessel – they secure wheels on shafts (9)
- 7 Piece of brass enclosing ring that's worn by noble (7)
- 8 Incomprehensible, like 1 down, 3, 16 across, 25 and other answers (5,4,4)
- 14 Skill of leader holding devices for measuring joint (9)
- 16 It's positioned around locks in the rain, strangely (7)
- 18 Weapon that may be ported, 8 (7)
- 19 Resentment more offensive soldier repeatedly reported (7)
- 20 Show acute embarrassment as husband's embraced by author (6)
- 23 Some cucumber etc that's put on French loaf (5)

Winners of prize puzzle 25,963

