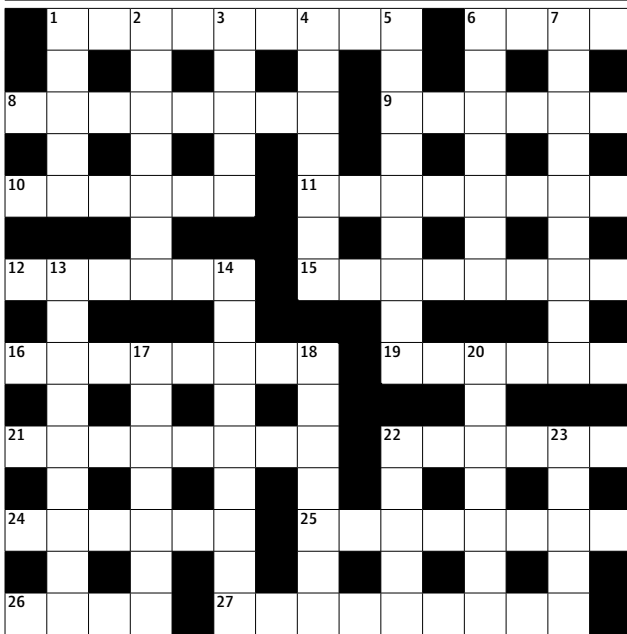


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,985 set by Orlando

Across

- 1 Dad's Army cast retaining English illusions (9)
- 6 Lawgiver needs a drink (4)
- 8 Ready to take part, young fellows at first interrupting course (5,3)
- 9 Cantankerous driver keeps right (6)
- 10 Nancy's first person with second person's servant (6)
- 11 What Orlando did in dining room? Starters do this (8)
- 12 Show off in Venice (6)
- 15 Jolly good luck initially stops betrayal (8)
- 16 Dotty, Sue, Pearl, Joy (8)
- 19 Musical item that's less sensitive (6)
- 21 Stable provides unsatisfactory cover for weapon (8)
- 22 After much delay Titan rocket's closer (2,4)
- 24 The rest of the hussies take part (6)
- 25 Watch parrot? (8)
- 26 Girl seen dropping odd papers (4)
- 27 Tea's ready in mess for movable feast (6,3)

Down

- 1 Central heating installed by European poet (5)
- 2 Back from journey before transport appears in capital (7)

- 3 Up the street wood splits (5)
- 4 Real tie breaker for studio (7)
- 5 Church worker heads for chapel and really is taken by devil (9)
- 6 Pitch invaded by a new dog (7)
- 7 1 down holding container up for young socialite (9)
- 13 Philistine victory over European first off (9)
- 14 Composing a nice tune, say? (9)
- 17 A transmitter, we hear, that's collected (7)
- 18 Missing leader censured dancing bears (7)
- 20 Mussels and lychees for starters at The Fat Duck? (7)
- 22 First drops in wood more than adequate (5)
- 23 Run-down spot on the outskirts of Derby (5)

Solution No. 25,984

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