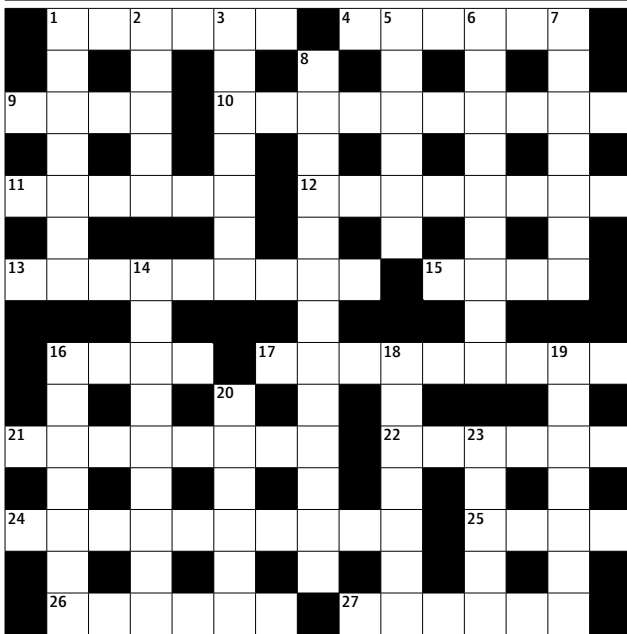


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,986 set by Paul

Across

- 1** See 4
4,1,19 Expensive entertaining revolting upper-class twit, promising to miss starter that's calorific (6,6,7)
9,16 What's testable in a crash? (4,4)
10 Old backward language of criminals in pubs, still (10)
11 See 6
12 Brown trapping Blair finally, Labour leader cut short in dispatch (8)
13 Analyser put paper cups in wiggly line (4,5)
15 Superior sticks around (4)
16 See 9
17 Canal man hurried to tether boat, not heading back (2,7)
21 The Barbarian crossing street, little time for uniform (8)
22 Spurs getting to grips with new balls? (6)
24 Do it in dry surroundings – this dripping? (10)
25 Female cuckoo steals one (4)
26 Again, arrange to see Blackpool, perhaps (6)
27,20 Unknown craft not to be trusted breaking surface at sea (6,6)

Down

- 1** Man dressed as Scotsman upset English just the same (3,4)
2 Amusing pockets to 9 (5)
3 King penguin? (7)
5 Try to catch hockey initially, or a bit of some cricket, perhaps? (6)
6,11 Sardine this moronic, oddly fishy as a 16 down? (9,6)
7 Wages rocketing, game not half barking! (7)
8 Two painters blended in red mark (4,4,5)
14 Professional calling, else fashioned in lies? (9)
16 Fish left in hat (7)
18 Ovum has to do well, roughly speaking? (3,4)
19 See 4
20 See 27
23 Monsoon ending, doctor between two thunderclouds (5)

Solution No. 25,985

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