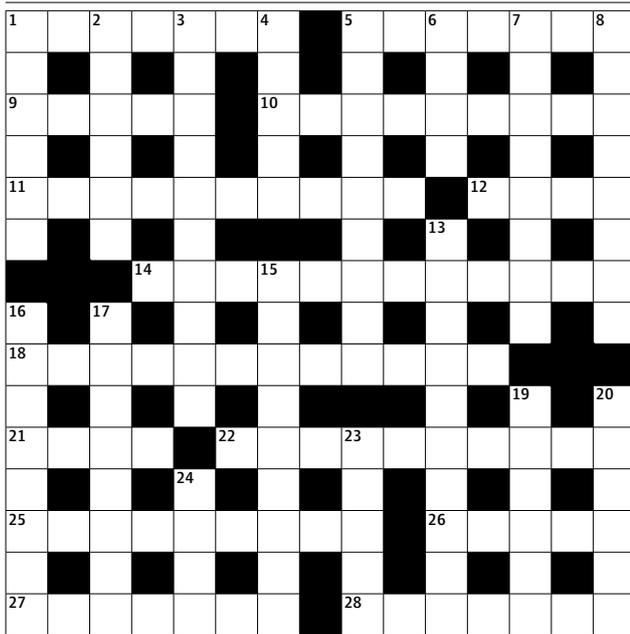


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,997 set by Paul

## Across

- 1 Slightly more detailed clothes for one in a sequined costume (7)
- 5 Is one too tired for the Listener? (7)
- 9 Cuckoo clocks, chocolates, snow, Alps and Heidi ultimately – this? (5)
- 10 Identify large drink – and be affected by it? (3,6)
- 11 Napier's figures almost right, not entirely wrong (10)
- 12 Some light, or heavy, supporting structure (4)
- 14 Barely trendy big but not good musician, losing head as superstar (6,6)
- 18,26 Picture dork eating chicken with badger on the side in New York (4,5,3,5)
- 21 See 24
- 22 Paul's wife in cutie snatched by virtually mad African (10)
- 25 A boy heading west, a country being taken over, leader in exile (5,4)
- 26 See 18
- 27 Cut round opening in pine to get sap (7)
- 28 Dog missing old wine a ton (7)

## Down

- 1,23 Club with a scheme to prepare a strip of beef? (6,5)
- 2 Scrawny geezer, less posh – I don't recall his name (6)
- 3 Current housing is heading for trouble, so upset (10)

- 4 Second paper, one among the others (5)
- 5 Bitter dough? (4,5)
- 6 Diminutive reptile buried in volcanic rock (4)
- 7 Front (not middle) to drop, with modest coat finely spun (8)
- 8 Always before involving the state, testament erased (8)
- 13 Rubbish bin arrives as area emptying the water (5,5)
- 15 Stop Britartist installing the first bit of rubbish in gallery (9)
- 16 Dowdiest sort of paper like this (3-5)
- 17 Measure in computer language left smoke, in the words of Keats, to rise (8)
- 19 Chopper in man, pronounced (6)
- 20 As hair without bleach revived, might you say? (6)
- 23 See 1
- 24,21 Years of being in pain, self-destructive (4,4)

Solution No. 25,996

