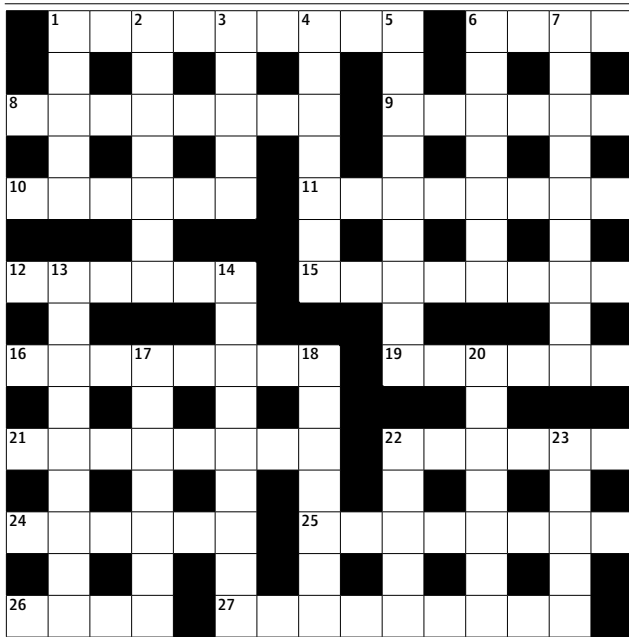


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,006 set by Rufus

Across

- 1 Did it show the way to Mafeking? (6,3)
- 6 Squabbles in the ranks (4)
- 8 Great frolic on the carriage (8)
- 9 Fast, the Italian's pulse (6)
- 10 A problem? He's only kidding (6)
- 11 They may bridge the gaps (8)
- 12 Finish and be quiet (4,2)
- 15 Claim state support (8)
- 16 Recent furore about an actor's appearance (8)
- 19 Happened to go to law, in extremity (6)
- 21 Eg, a crocodile tear-drop, perhaps? (8)
- 22 A tenor is currently helpless (6)
- 24 Underground route (6)
- 25 Retired female retained worth as an honorary professor (8)
- 26 Some poetry does need editing (4)
- 27 Random laughs not seen as offensive (9)

Down

- 1 Gather together for the hike (5)
- 2 Jumps high in a supple way, perhaps (5,2)
- 3 Put your name down to go in (5)
- 4 Pitch of the road (7)

- 5 Chopin piece of sole piano variation (9)
- 6 After several appearances, new trio perform without restraint (3,4)
- 7 Going crazy with a wine list may eventually affect this (9)
- 13 Manage to get a game of golf by artful deception (9)
- 14 Petty formality that may turn out to be unpolitic (9)
- 17 Animals snorted, when disturbed (7)
- 18 Head left students to get good jobs (8)
- 20 Leisure activity for seaside boarders (7)
- 22 Region holding northern sports venue (5)
- 23 Mistake by a serviceman? (5)

Winners of prize puzzle 25,999

