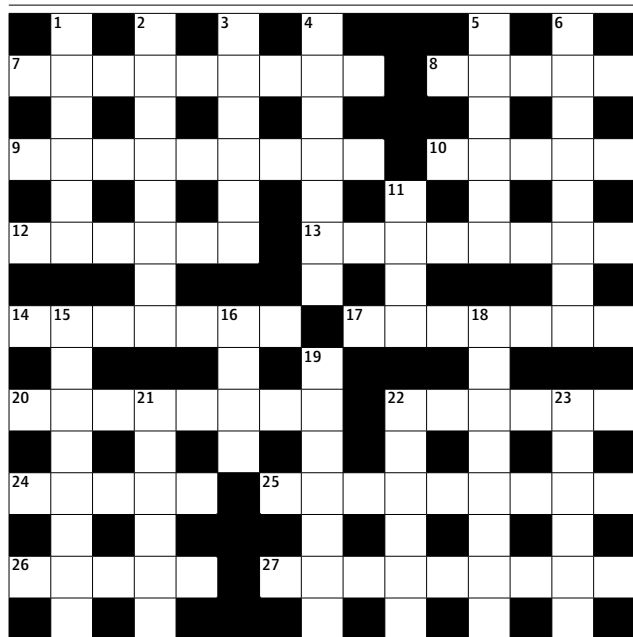


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,007 set by Gordius

Across

- 7 Many interceded without having provided drugs (9)
 8 Big name in Swansea? (5)
 9 Tough solidity for road transport crossing a bit of rail track (9)
 10 Inflexible view of a master of hounds? (5)
 12 Sense about names, as Nigella is this flower (6)
 13 Some retreat into the stronghold – and they are the leaders (8)
 14 Dark and diffident about a skin blemish (7)
 17 Musical score in Abu Dhabi? (7)
 20 See 16
 22 Player of loud music told to get packing (6)
 24 Bush turns writer (5)
 25 Oily rag wrung out over chapter's ruling clique (9)
 26 6 all round = 11 (5)
 27 Statement on cultivation of nature etc (9)

Down

- 1 Sail in river flood (6)
 2 Plastic bag to cope with Costa Concordia? (3,5)
 3 Induct Roger to such knowledge (6)

- 4 Vouch about Southey's first rhyme (7)
 5 Improve Bible class (6)
 6 Little beast causes some trouble in trading area (8)
 11 Untoward? (4)
 15 Tale of mystery to undo with difficulty (8)
 16,20 Sued over disaster following 80% equine in deli product (4,8)
 18 Prayer for a deceased heretic by the river (8)
 19 Withdraw connection from one liable to miss the bus (7)
 21 America finds European corn fit for purpose (6)
 22 Oil worker offshore with voice of severity (6)
 23 Morals in Violet Elizabeth's county (6)

Solution No. 26,006

	R	E	L	I	E	F	M	A	P			R	O	W	S
	A	E	N		A	O	U		A						
G	I	G	A	N	T	I	C		L	E	N	T	I	L	
S	P	E			A	O	R	S							
T	E	A	S	E	R		D	E	N	T	I	S	T	S	
		U					A	A	O	L					
W	R	A	P	U	P		M	A	I	N	T	A	I	N	
U			U				S			N					
E	N	T	R	A	N	C	E		E	N	S	U	E	D	
A	O	C		A		U									
P	R	E	D	A	T	O	R		A	D	R	I	F	T	
O	E	I		N		R	F	A							
T	U	N	N	E	L		E	M	E	R	I	T	U	S	
N	T		I		R	N	N	L							
O	D	E	S		O	N	S	L	A	U	G	H	T		