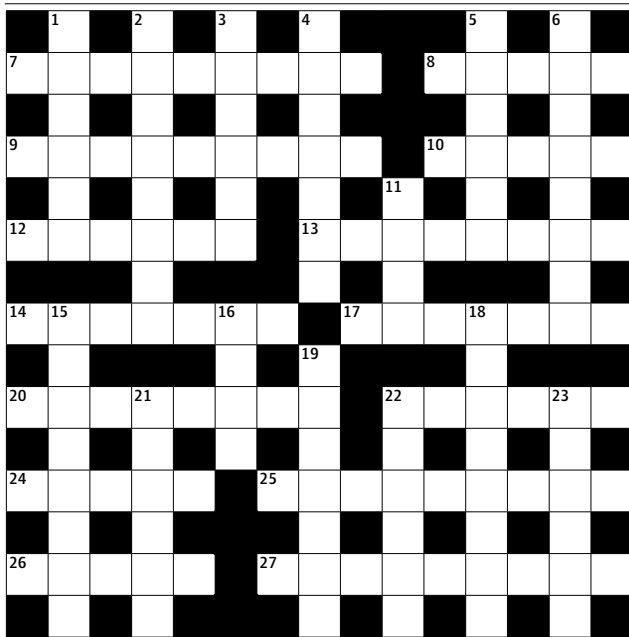


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,018 set by Rufus

Across

- 7 Detect and impede a random inspection (4,5)
- 8 Not exactly up and doing (5)
- 9 It involves places and composition (9)
- 10 Which French officer has cover for retirement? (5)
- 12 Endless darkness is found around northern blockhouses (6)
- 13 Risky game in which players keep their eyes on the ball (8)
- 14 Follows sailor, followed by a sailor (3,4)
- 17 Filthy bones scattered around church (7)
- 20 Military informant shows initiative (8)
- 22 Quietly uplift with encouragement (6)
- 24 Bill free of bitterness? (5)
- 25 New materials could appear sky-high (5,4)
- 26 Correct definition of noon (5)
- 27 Packhorse used around States (9)

Down

- 1 Telephoned after the odds leapt up (6)
- 2 Rooms outside university for academic (8)
- 3 Points out menial worker for punishment (6)

- 4 May come to respect a sign of authority (7)
- 5 More than right, but stupid! (6)
- 6 A loaded statement? (8)
- 11 Insensitive one, for example, displays no hesitation (4)
- 15 Win, although exhausted (8)
- 16 Looks composed (4)
- 18 It's wrong in race to use a whip (8)
- 19 Criminal's escape? Come off it! (7)
- 21 Eastern books contain nothing foreign (6)
- 22 Looked quickly and reached the highest level, say (6)
- 23 It may be thrown for a change (6)

Winners of prize puzzle 26,011

