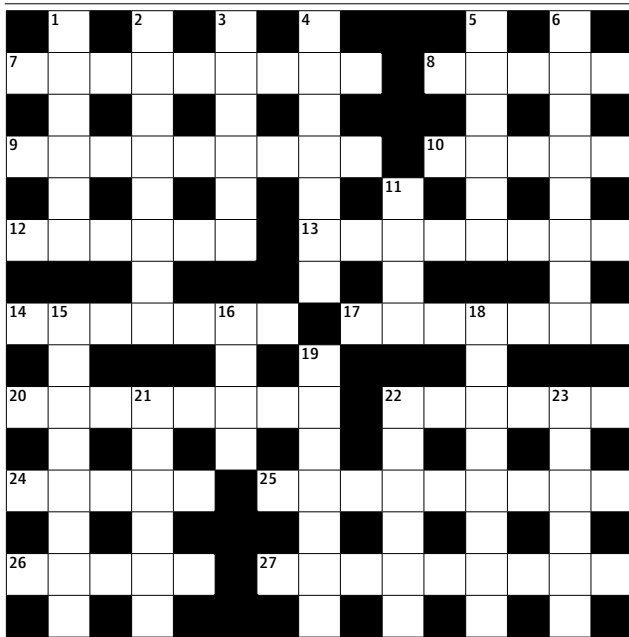


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,048 set by Rufus

Across

- 7 Artist in copper (9)
- 8 Charge made on collection (5)
- 9 Rod, pole, but plainly not perch (9)
- 10 He leads many to sin (5)
- 12 Not the way to walk or speak, surely? (6)
- 13 Mother queueing for InterCity travel? (8)
- 14 Naturally good leg-spinners (7)
- 17 Jailbird before the bench has to toe the line (7)
- 20 Dance involving sailors – one form of exercise (8)
- 22 Fool it's silly to help (6)
- 24 Catch a right during a fight (5)
- 25 Animal in company with suspicious bird (9)
- 26 A gift for dishonesty? (5)
- 27 No friendly blaze to give soldiers a warm welcome (5,4)

Down

- 1 She's barely remembered as being against oppressive taxes (6)
- 2 Agreed sea tends to be rough (8)
- 3 Agent works without end (6)

- 4 Reputation for enjoying poor health? (3,4)
- 5 Girl has the French rising temper (6)
- 6 Couturier resigned in a tantrum (8)
- 11 Duck takes cover on the beach (4)
- 15 Shakespearean magician's ring vanishes with flourishes (8)
- 16 Bird run over by a train (4)
- 18 Loud-mouthed female union member to use the rod first (8)
- 19 Keeps breaking down in tears (7)
- 21 Awful barney not far away (6)
- 22 Put it on without being told? (6)
- 23 Wrongly arrest French intellectual (6)

Winners of prize puzzle 26,041

