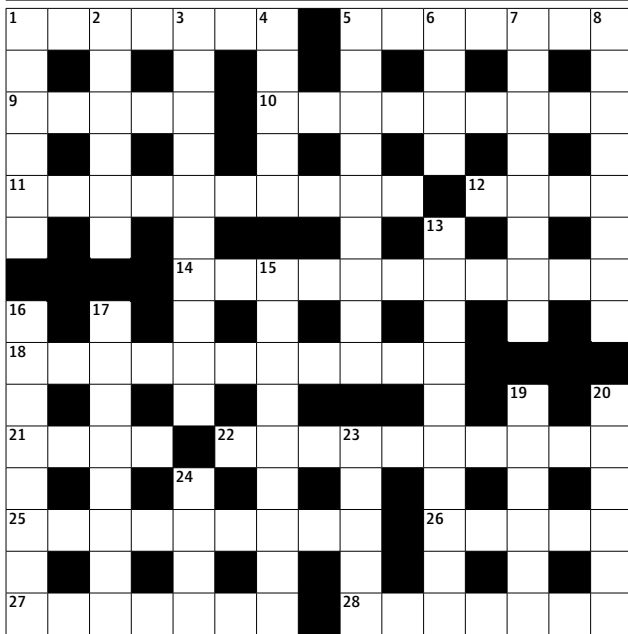


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,082 set by Crucible

Across

- 1 3 of Pilgrims Progress, opportunist whose heart flipped? (7)
- 5 A nice girl, not Irish, could be pure and innocent (7)
- 9 Get a bit of a sore back tossing it? (5)
- 10 Narcotic plant in province NATO and CIA bombed (9)
- 11 In revolt, Gulf nation's switching to our 20s (10)
- 12 Maybe not 25's choice when it's knocked back (4)
- 14 Shabby person wearing trousers in matches (11)
- 18 See 7
- 21 After unrest, Egypt's ejected government, for example (4)
- 22 Like a couple of missionaries' view of a church? (4,2,4)
- 25 I hope one's educated to drink litres (9)
- 26 Fifth columnist in bloody battle not taking sides (5)
- 27 Ted's sick eating fish – there's a number to get through (3,4)
- 28 Info about axes reported originally in the Sun (7)

Down

- 1 Measure of 21's violent ongoing coercion (6)
- 2 Collector books nearly every seat? (6)
- 3 Ferryman lost a relic, rowing former journalist (10)
- 4 Tours streets gathering new 20s (5)
- 5 20 parts, 2 held by climbers, 1 by mountaineers (9)
- 6 Old German understood Hungary (4)
- 7,18 51 first-rate lads corrupt grandee employs in 13 novel (8,11)
- 8 Subject of 13 novel 21A describing Rhode Island (8)
- 13 45 royalist nuts devoted to 20s (10)
- 15 Double-check paper Louis' wife passed round (2-7)
- 16 Labour leader is not bothered about current issues (8)
- 17 A French-English dictionary includes "enclose" for "shut" (8)
- 19 Warning: "Vacate complex!" (6)
- 20 An accommodating character? (6)
- 23 Polish close borders, more or less (5)
- 24 "Pees 'n 'ose", said mate (4)

Solution No. 26,081

P	P	S	S	I	E	S	S							
T	H	E	M	E	L	E	S	S	M	O	T	E	L	
O	A	A	W	L	B	E	A							
L	U	C	I	L	L	E	A	I	R	D	R	O	P	
E	E				R	I	N	A	N	S				
M	O	N	K		I	R	I	D	E	S	C	E	N	T
A	I	A			O									
I	N	K	B	L	O	T	C	E	R	A	M	I	C	
C			A				R		A		K			
S	I	D	E	S	W	I	P	E	R	D	I	S	C	
Y	R	T	N	D										
S	L	I	P	P	E	D	I	N	T	E	R	I	M	
T	L	O			I	T	E	O	E					
E	L	L	I	S	C	R	O	S	S	W	O	R	D	
M	S	T			T	R	T							