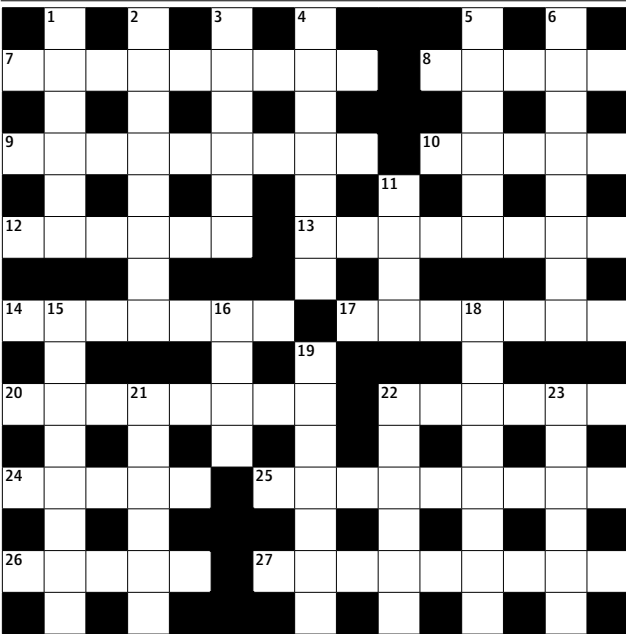


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,090 set by Rufus

Across

- 7 Protect worker who is accused (9)
- 8 Expert clad in an item of protective clothing (5)
- 9 Old university graduate twice blocks change (4,5)
- 10 Lad about to return stolen property (5)
- 12 Goes round bistro abroad (6)
- 13 Abominable, if not extreme, form of explosive device (4,4)
- 14 They have no choice, poor chaps (7)
- 17 Learned English and Italian, in short (7)
- 20 Rotor arm? (8)
- 22 Relic of ship in protective wrapping (6)
- 24 Goodness is a major point in compassion (5)
- 25 Watch, say, for a magazine article (9)
- 26 One involved in outrageous cost was philosophical (5)
- 27 Bar snack? (9)

Down

- 1 Counter-informant (6)
- 2 Stopping at sea? (8)
- 3 Models or ladies in fashion (6)
- 4 Conclude there's no place for the damned (7)

- 5 A quiet look by doctor shows self-possession (6)
- 6 Two things swindlers do and may be found guilty of in court (8)
- 11 Support one through-out (4)
- 15 Broken leg is set by linesmen (8)
- 16 Cruise? Get overexcited! (4)
- 18 One of the following? (8)
- 19 Charge made by soldiers in battle (7)
- 21 Kiss in love story broadcast makes a neat ending (6)
- 22 Do some asset-stripping to run church (6)
- 23 Encourage a sound location for a pub (6)

Winners of prize puzzle 26,083

