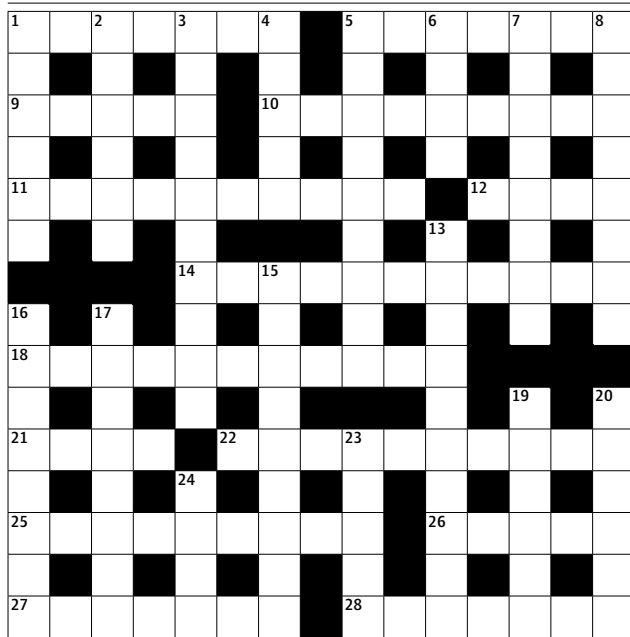


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,098 set by Qaos

Note added 7 November 2013: the spelling of Fleming in 27 across has been corrected.

Across

- 1 Stir and sip mixed drinks (7)
- 5 Penny's husband breaks a ton on motorway with Rolls-Royce (7)
- 9 Perhaps Michael Vaughan's foot follows a leg break (5)
- 10 Before a nut develops, lots of fruit, which may hang from trees (5-4)
- 11 Passing old, green, family silver around (10)
- 12 Oblivious to four notes? (4)
- 14 Blowing air: most reed instruments (11)
- 18 Banger car, with wrecked interior, crashed into tree (11)
- 21 In France a syllable is unforced (4)
- 22 Perhaps Berkeley's after a Liberal from one side (10)
- 25 Solving uses minor part of the brain (9)
- 26 Level playing field (5)
- 27 Fleming's criminal organisation has secret design to seize power (7)
- 28 Storm brews over ball game's lofty stage (7)
- 4 Leader of Kremlin admits mistake turning secret agent (5)
- 5 Palin's touring production, which involves no embroidery (9)
- 6 Retailer loses small ship (4)
- 7 Edward wraps square present, tied with strong string? (8)
- 8 Soldier is holding iron bar out in the open (8)
- 13 Old photographs and toys prefer recycling (10)
- 15 One dapper in fancy style of trouser? (9)
- 16 US crimes: very loud, seen abroad, wearing XXXL? (8)
- 17 Company submits reports (8)
- 19 Author becomes cleaner with HR trade (6)
- 20 Town where the meat's off? (6)
- 23 Luminously eyed Madagascan, usually ringed at the extremities (5)
- 24 It's buoyant, oddly (4)

Down

- 1 Dog had been bitten by pig (6)
- 2 Fires one head over heels (6)
- 3 Inability to grasp a pound? Conservative cuts tragic reality (10)

Solution No. 26,097

