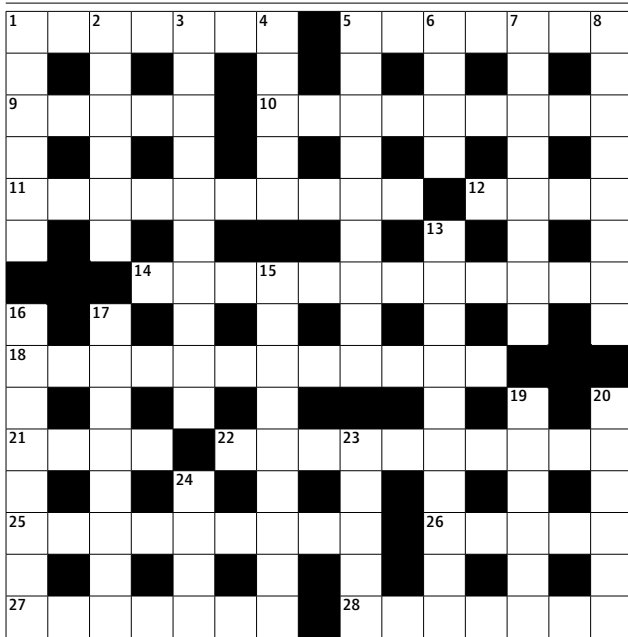


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,099 set by Paul

Across

- 1 Delivery man at the door (7)
- 5 Demonic spirit in political opponents, one detailed (7)
- 9 Old component for modern works (2,3)
- 10 Second question for old newspaper (4,5)
- 11 Add an embarrassing mid-life performance? (3,7)
- 12 Fifty boards to stick down (4)
- 14 Putting off green, child has us beaten (12)
- 18 A pop sensation, no two ways about it! (3,9)
- 21 One joining the bank (4)
- 22 Where atheists might look to steal love, as mischievous (2,2,2,4)
- 25 Crooked letters in long title misplaced (3-6)
- 26 Start due, no middle though (5)
- 27 Beast who's thuggish or evil in silverback? (7)
- 28 Left back, mean (7)

Down

- 1 Flaming, as red (6)
- 2 Headless cockroach, say, with a place in Africa (6)
- 3 Fare traditionally served as ticket held in kind of poetic justice, ultimately (7,3)
- 4 Something to restore, because it's an old instrument (5)
- 5 Performing as one (2,7)
- 6 See 19
- 7 Rocky, as in sea (8)
- 8 Wise to buttonhole crew for long-gone train times (5,3)
- 13 Letters in an anagram are so not working! (3,2,5)
- 15 Needlewoman sees Manx cat biting Manx cat biting cat's tail (9)
- 16 Quiet thus, vacuum won't start (8)
- 17 Eating heartily, scoff as setter, perhaps? (8)
- 19,6 Facial feature two inches out? (6,4)
- 20 Probing of Milibands by computers, censored (6)
- 23 Confess that was painful joke (not written down) (3,2)
- 24 Sweet ass (4)

Solution No. 26,098

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