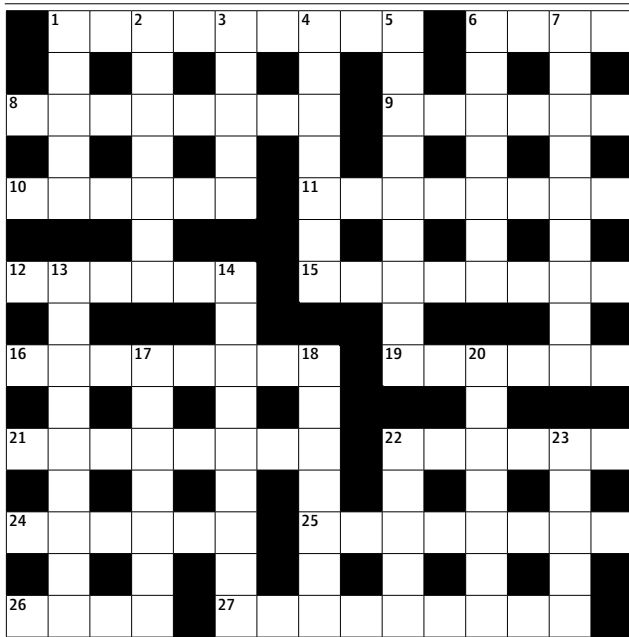


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,114 set by Rufus

## Across

- 1 Leaving – one’s tired out (9)
- 6 Cut down on meat (4)
- 8 Record the sound of Beethoven’s fifth (8)
- 9 Let Eva twirl in the dance (6)
- 10 New York politician seen with his extremely beautiful girls (6)
- 11 They are empowered to go over our heads (8)
- 12 Hit orchestrated (6)
- 15 Vessels off course? (8)
- 16 Exchange hostilities in commercial confrontation (5,3)
- 19 Pursued in a persistent way (6)
- 21 Reprimands for rules etc being broken (8)
- 22 Old German destroyer still active today! (6)
- 24 Horses used in a racket (6)
- 25 Support in setting up dinner (8)
- 26 They are not achieved off one’s own bat (4)
- 27 Sailor man in water-proof material (9)

## Down

- 1 Little Diana, modest but very attractive (5)
- 2 Master taking PE? (7)
- 3 Used by cars and ships in a Greek island, say (5)
- 4 It’s partly a republic, ie country without a king (7)

- 5 Words of consolation always matter (5,4)
- 6 One likely to be a responsible person? (7)
- 7 Not straight, with future too unsettled (3,2,4)
- 13 Knock on a door, perhaps, or the woodwork? (9)
- 14 Not functioning properly, being unqualified (9)
- 17 Doesn’t let go – sets free instead (7)
- 18 He lets loose and is about to curse badly (7)
- 20 Officer showing intelligence and real potential (7)
- 22 It’s still produced in Russia (5)
- 23 A right to be different from others (5)

Winners of prize puzzle 26,107

