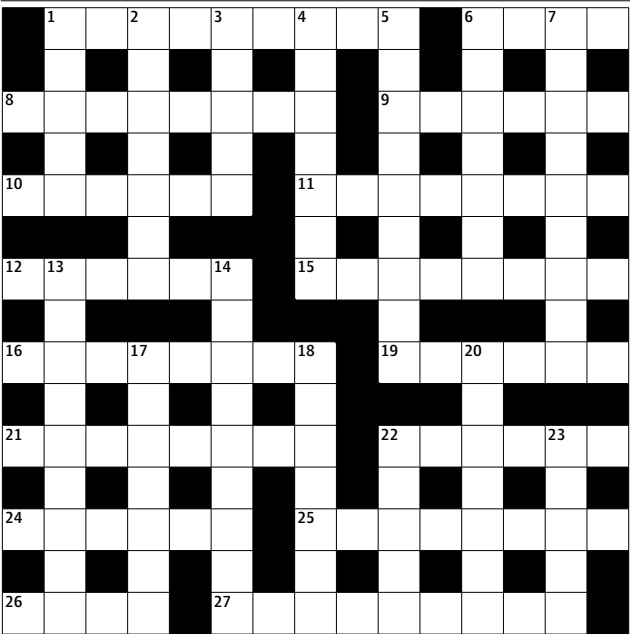


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,138 set by Rufus

Across

- 1 Stocking up time (9)
- 6 Wise man tucked into the turkey (4)
- 8 Making a tidy packet for Christmas, perhaps (8)
- 9 Provides presents (4,2)
- 10 Ingredients relating to cold mince pie (6)
- 11 Hymns or carols he arranged (8)
- 12 Christmas morning? Quietly do a runner (6)
- 15 Made a mess but switched on new tree, finally decorated (8)
- 16 Chop up bird cooked and eaten at Christmas (5,3)
- 19 Heavenly sight, delightful to the shepherds (3,3)
- 21 Secret of crackers not requiring payment (4-4)
- 22 Directions are in the mail for making a warming winter drink (6)
- 24 A gin's knocked back in ancient city (6)
- 25 Came to an all-night party with Edward (8)
- 26 Son was first to get a toboggan (4)
- 27 Young Christmas trees carried around in sledges (9)
- 5 One cheers up after second drink (9)
- 6 Stuff to eat, as it is cooked (7)
- 7 Christmas meal, followed by kiss and an elegantly carved pipe (9)
- 13 Pepsi Cola provided by the church (9)
- 14 Apt phrase describes party wear? (5,4)
- 17 Made provisional arrangements for Christmas? (7)
- 18 Cheer most of the players at end of pantomime (7)
- 20 See Cinders in transformation scene (7)
- 22 It looks as though the frost has got this bulb (5)
- 23 Level betting how Wenceslas found the snow, heading south (5)

Down

- 1 Slice the turkey with five in mind? (5)
- 2 Parcel I untied reveals an identical one (7)
- 3 Pick off the bird (5)
- 4 Wise men state it's miraculous (7)

Winners of prize puzzle 26,131

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