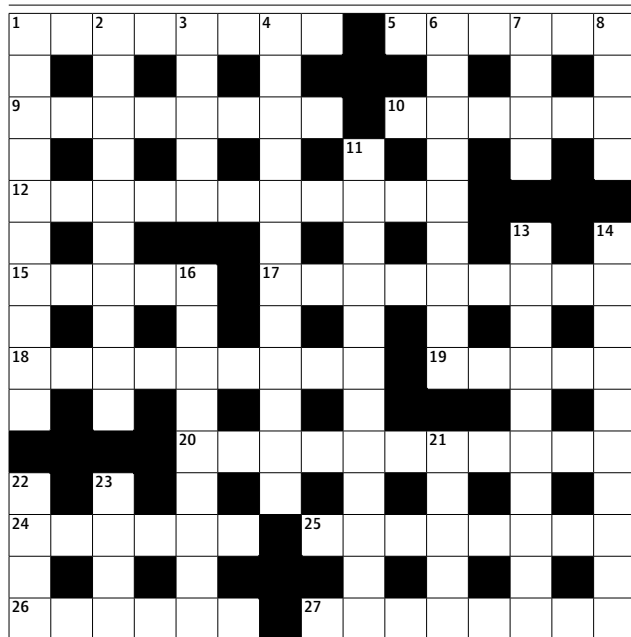


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,139 set by Paul

Across

- 1** Give tick to author over the telephone (5,3)
- 5** Large group of classes speaking of what ya should do wiv yer damaged nails? (6)
- 9** Flight security device said to reassure, regretably starts malfunctioning (5,3)
- 10** A noted wobble? (6)
- 12** While 18 13, it's beyond a dream! (11)
- 15** One taking part in runs (5)
- 17** Riotous promenade welcomed so enthusiastically? (4-5)
- 18,13** Optimistic assertion disproved by a vacuum? (7,2,10)
- 19** Leader of stout heart to achieve goal (5)
- 20** Letter saying something sharp (8,3)
- 24** Hollywood's Essex girl? (6)
- 25** Real monster, gorgon finally repelled in legend (8)
- 26** Disunity is not out of order, messy (6)
- 27** Retired Frenchman into young flesh of the nether regions (8)

Down

- 1** Lettuce with something sticky, a doughnut perhaps also appearing (2-8)

- 2** Give short pixie a place in Piedmont, a big one? (10)
- 3** With punchy ending, published good book (5)
- 4** Marchers, those wielding an axe on behalf of an old Labour leader? (12)
- 6** Sort of rough woman describing a desirable figure (9)
- 7** Together, a more European affection? (4)
- 8** 19, as the second of four booked? (4)
- 11** Resident superpower stuffing herb in meat product (5,7)
- 13** See 18
- 14** Wretch after wilder kind of transmission mechanism (5,5)
- 16** Source of water in car, terribly noisy (4,5)
- 21** Fish's perspective (5)
- 22** You 500? (4)
- 23** Abrasive particles in backbone (4)

Solution No. 26,138

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