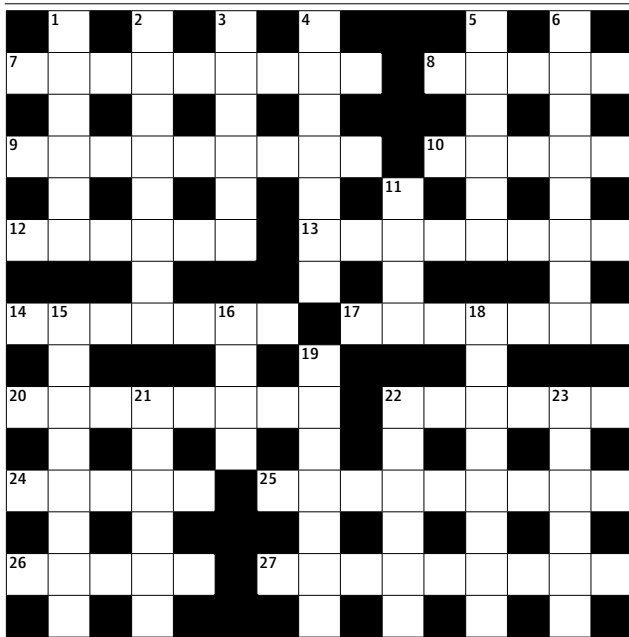


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,149 set by Rufus

Across

- 7 A course people follow (9)
- 8 Anything that sounds obligatory (5)
- 9 Seaman yachting, say, or coming down rope (9)
- 10 Quick – it's cold! (5)
- 12 Call attention to 24-hour period of prosperity (6)
- 13 Around noon, top fighter pilots attempt descent (8)
- 14 Appeal when vehicle has to retire in a race (7)
- 17 A following letter employing harsh language (7)
- 20 A woman's resignation (8)
- 22 Make provision for volumes put aside (6)
- 24 Expect a hold-up (5)
- 25 They go hunting and shooting among the rich and famous (9)
- 26 Welcome cry up North (5)
- 27 Is to alter arrangement – for the better? (9)

Down

- 1 A pretty useless object (6)
- 2 Challenged champion's delay about the final (8)
- 3 Surprise expressed to mass meeting in words (6)
- 4 Shocking subject for play school? (7)

- 5 Blunder upset students (6)
- 6 Broken car phone in Escort (8)
- 11 He continues to work for Southern Transport (4)
- 15 Sideline co-operation (8)
- 16 Once set it may hold ice-cream (4)
- 18 Involved in a score or film story (8)
- 19 It's not a stone to be lifted – it's a heavy weight (7)
- 21 Is about to revolt, but flags (6)
- 22 Way a convict adapted in a German prison once (6)
- 23 Old court official – namely one standing over the Queen (6)

Winners of prize puzzle 26,142

