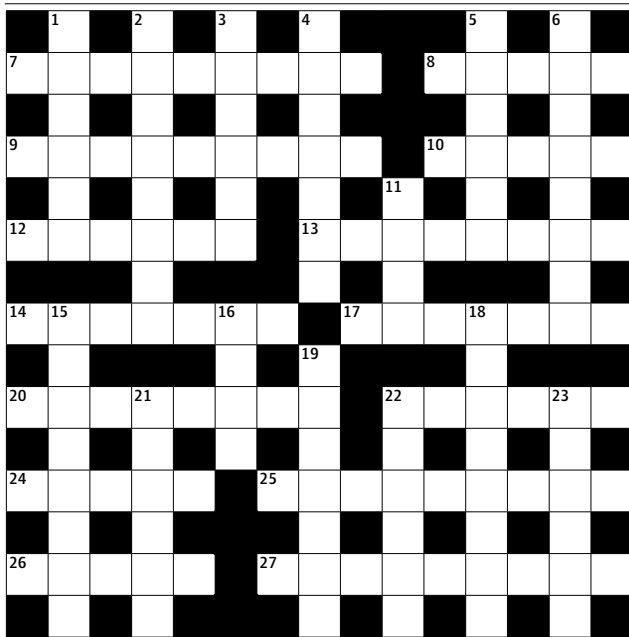


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,173 set by Rufus

## Across

- 7 Not feeling well, so not at school (3,2,4)  
 8 Warmth gets right into the centre (5)  
 9 Not knowing how to mend a fuse? (2,3,4)  
 10 Not very bright, but studies English (5)  
 12 Look knowing about it? Quite (6)  
 13 Unaware that one has the wrong key? (4-4)  
 14 Restraint shown when government security takes time (7)  
 17 Make more records from master (7)  
 20 Welsh town where the leaves drop? (8)  
 22 Find it surrounded by blood – get a lump in the throat (6)  
 24 Getting little credit in support is irritating (5)  
 25 Abnormal tides wear the river bank (9)  
 26 States how old one is – it's the custom (5)  
 27 Be sufficiently competent to take dimensions (7,2)

## Down

- 1 Did this fowl lay golden eggs? (6)  
 2 Hot companion is extra in bed (8)  
 3 Holiday when one is not at one's best (3,3)

- 4 Alternative offered in a part exchange is equitable (3,4)  
 5 Guard appears fed up over tip (6)  
 6 It's very French to overtake and an offence (8)  
 11 Payment before mountain ascent (4)  
 15 Not very bright, so extra shy (8)  
 16 Develop argument after midnight (4)  
 18 Maintain the same policy? (8)  
 19 Behind time, second mate dashed around (7)  
 21 Game captain takes control here (6)  
 22 Agrees to make a film musical (6)  
 23 Fresh air and mud has curative powers (6)

Winners of prize puzzle 26,166

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