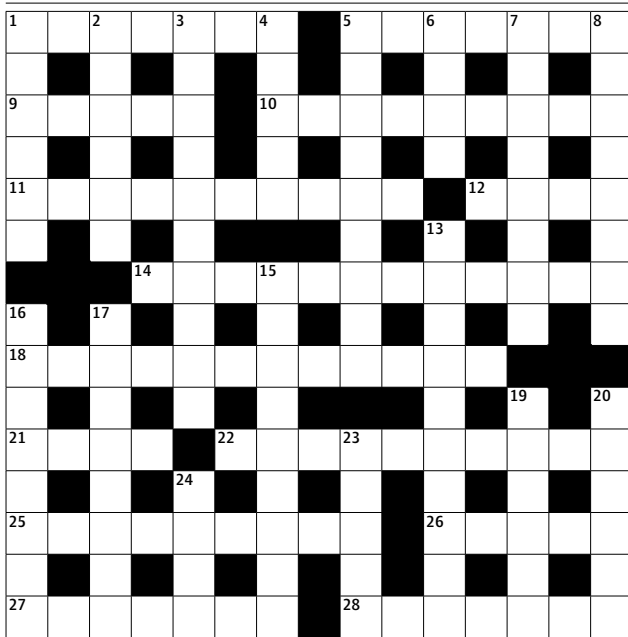


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,175 set by Brummie

Across

- 1,22** As long as a ruler gets buried near the end? (3,4,2,3,5)
5,21 Looking at the downside of maturity (4,3,4)
9 Lie around entrance to basilica that's columnar (5)
10 Outstandingly good sewers assembled with joints? (4,5)
11 Blossom indisposed, so Annie's dressing (10)
12 Number of books consisting of lives and biographical novels, primarily (4)
14 Short of three lots of supporters in the cemetery? (3,4,5)
18 Magical image of Victorian parlour entertainment (7,5)
21 See 5
22 See 1
25 Fish channel, deep sounds with this (4,5)
26 Equal volume is central to currency (5)
27 Lock mechanism dryer (7)
28 Lays out problem plant (7)

Down

- 1** Having taken the stage, send up prompt (2,4)
2 Potential issue, more by fancy (6)
3 Queen Elizabeth's reliance on cooks? (5,5)
4 Not much pulled up to cover one's bone (5)
5 Cricketing events before spring flood (9)

- 6** Fraternal order of molluscs lacking two dimensions (4)
7 English region is doubly English when gripped by extremely tedious arrogance (8)
8 Theatrical location used by hotels in Oregon (8)
13 Instrument inserting last of Cointreau in double dry (ugh!) cocktail (5-5)
15 Banker elected to be grabbed by one keenly interested in breeding (9)
16 Group leader with live-time characters (8)
17 A muscle-flexing, name-concealing land representative (5,3)
19 Cloth (small) removed from doorstep (6)
20 Very fancy, Lumley – no end of fancy paper (6)
23 Sympathy enables accommodating source of laughter? (5)
24 Rising bog round ground (4)

Solution No. 26,174

