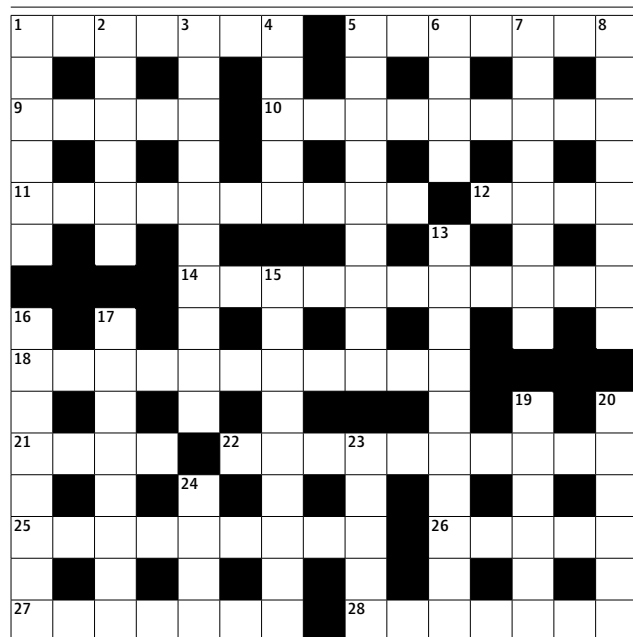


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,182 set by Paul

Across

- 1 Outfit for bash (7)
- 5 Over a long period, seeks food (7)
- 9 Antipodean's choice between parent and setter? (5)
- 10 One to beat, Spooner's foolish hobo from Sydney? (5,4)
- 11 I mess about, drunk or sober (10)
- 12 Engineer, did you say? Please repeat! (4)
- 14 Where a spy might stop interference? (11)
- 18 Dogmatic dictionary about to restrain a thesaurus, initially (11)
- 21 Scholar's rear given senseless thrashing (4)
- 22 Beautiful women, they'll leave you in pieces! (10)
- 25 Reportedly, story deviates as gusts coming from behind (9)
- 26 Muse fast penning letter, finally (5)
- 27 Creeper, one going on foot (7)
- 28 Superlatively eternal peak? (7)
- 4 Religious official, Potter's Pete? (5)
- 5 Swiss collection often used for cooking (6,3)
- 6 Nose around source (4)
- 7 Composer like Wagner, no man displayin' less love (8)
- 8 Jew holds on for an interval (8)
- 13 He's reached bankruptcy, tough luck! (4,6)
- 15 Laird drew loan out, including unspecified amount (9)
- 16 Very old cars, great mind in Greece (8)
- 17 Wee effigy – that's wee from a tree? (8)
- 19 Split second in Scotland, then split! (6)
- 20 Guide rope finally put in place, ton secured (6)
- 23 Mean to cover last of roast to make it moist (5)
- 24 Cuddly alien's electronic cooker? (4)

Down

- 1 Sound logo that clashes with another? (6)
- 2 Not half rowdy supporting old player (6)
- 3 Intercepting express, criminal is armed, one holding up a train (10)

Solution No. 26,181

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