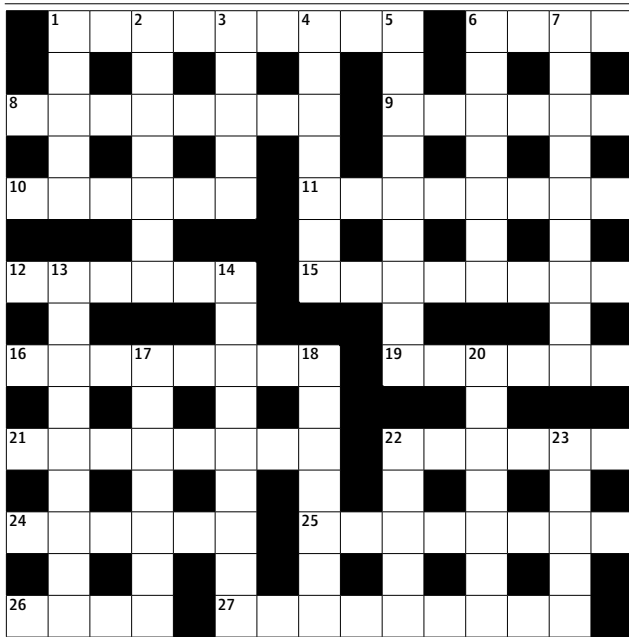


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,185 set by Rufus

Across

- 1 Make an ad-lib? One's better without it (9)
- 6 Miss having a nap on Sunday (4)
- 8 Start playing up after industrial action (6,2)
- 9 Well-filled vessel (6)
- 10 Courteous staff accept it (6)
- 11 Cat given alternative to din after midnight? (8)
- 12 Get off or put on the line (4,2)
- 15 Delays defeats (8)
- 16 Neat island type of boat (8)
- 19 Stragglers revealed in the street lights (6)
- 21 Not many virtuous? Quite a lot in fact (1,4,3)
- 22 Just short of a Left majority (6)
- 24 Necessitate being in late, perhaps (6)
- 25 No end of time (8)
- 26 Present her with a key (4)
- 27 So greatly tempted, got into debt (9)

Down

- 1 A short musical overture (5)
- 2 Putting in charge (7)
- 3 Nothing disturbed bees like being overweight (5)
- 4 One thing you still gain when on a decline (7)

- 5 Judges of knitted ties and cooked meats (9)
- 6 Rendered a tune, setting up a Spanish drink (7)
- 7 Chill wine to go with ends of turkey and cold game (3,6)
- 13 Bluster and rage on car breakdown (9)
- 14 Left sheet listing one's financial assets (9)
- 17 Low gear involved, finding place to park? (7)
- 18 Just come in, unplaced (7)
- 20 Country has a craze to support rugby union (7)
- 22 Given such a start, where you should be (5)
- 23 Enemy the Salvation Army has to beat (5)

Winners of prize puzzle 26,178

