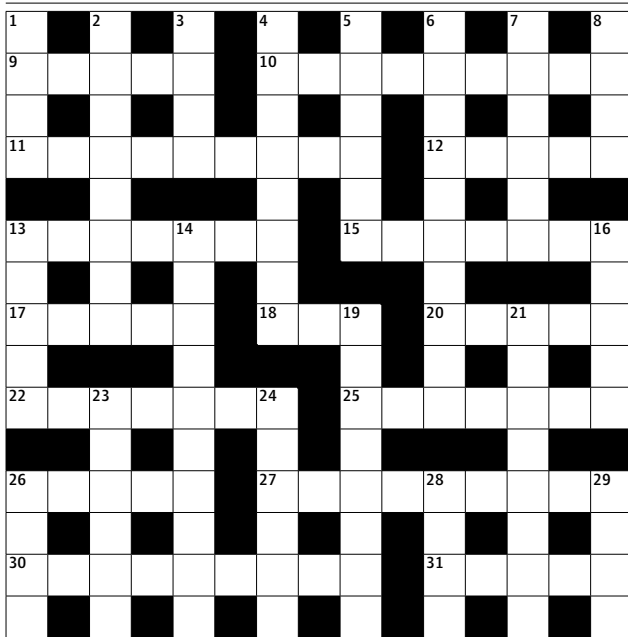


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,198 set by Qaos

Across

- 9 The centre of Earth is molten (5)
- 10 No longer in love with Vincent? You ask for too much (9)
- 11 Weak, slack pants are very easy to obtain (9)
- 12 If he orders, follow Conservative leader (5)
- 13 Country's victory in team sports (7)
- 15 Captain Benjamin shall start to abstain, turning mostly teetotal (7)
- 17 Beast an Aussie can wash his face in, reportedly (5)
- 18 It can happen at Christmas, misplacing small present (3)
- 20 In a junk, in a river, moving softly (5)
- 22 Sun tans leather, not a hide (7)
- 25 Once more prepares note on poor diets (2-5)
- 26 Totally fair (5)
- 27 It's for absurd waves (9)
- 30 With Tippex pens, I veto sections that are 10d (9)
- 31 26's broken arm (5)

Down

- 1 Smart bird yields knowledge (4)
- 2 '90s glam rock band? Not The Shadows (8)
- 3 Women chase One Direction to lodge (4)
- 4 Peer's issue lacks PR article in the news (8)

- 5 Perhaps Newcastle was going up and down and up (6)
- 6 The end, easy? Coppola's upset to lose Oscar (10)
- 7 In clay, salt is regularly crushed as a mineral (8)
- 8 Muscle complaint (4)
- 13 Struggles to accept soft feeling (5)
- 14 50% off 1 ice cream? (6-4)
- 16 Openings to dressers, offices or rooms, say (5)
- 19 Slogans of corrupt social worker: "Look out!" (3,5)
- 21 Area 51 for (allegedly) North America's flyers in a particular zone (8)
- 23 English temp works after 10 for free (6)
- 24 Unrefined citrus pop (6)
- 26 Leading captain and upstanding fellow, eh? Must be Cook (4)
- 28 Cricketer is on 50 again (4)
- 29 Animal sounds 30 (4)

Solution No. 26,197

