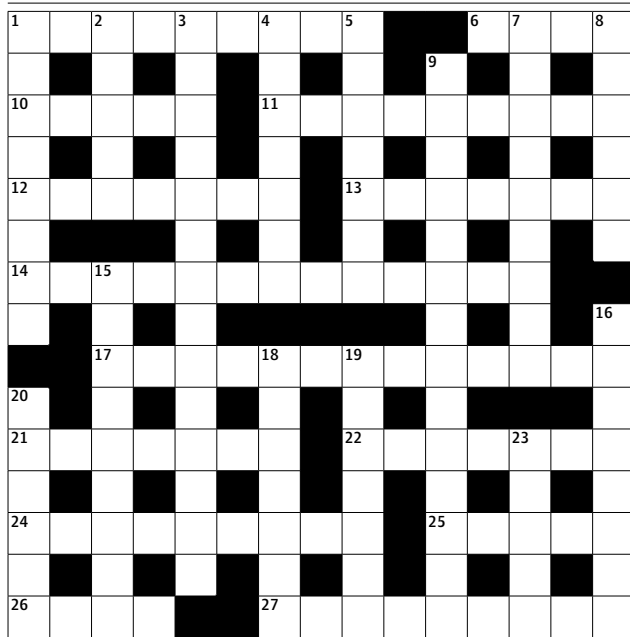


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,231 set by Picaroon

Across

- 1 Conservative scoundrel concealing one plot from the right (9)
- 6 Island where the devout may be found? (4)
- 10 In France a fantastic bird twirls round – one's horny (5)
- 11 Lamb etc? Tries to eat first (9)
- 12 This author, originator of stanza, writes to the Queen (7)
- 13 Picaroon's on your side in Muslim territory (7)
- 14 US president's fighting to restrain Republican – and he's struggling (6,7)
- 17 Congress briefly working with English cabinet (3-5,5)
- 21 Distaste as hopeless sandwiches sold from here, possibly (7)
- 22 £50 stashed in gold through deposits between banks (7)
- 24 In America, plant leaders of Soviet partisans to assassinate president (9)
- 25 Get lost in Rheims, hitchhiking (5)
- 26 A little hearing problem (4)
- 27 Knock hole at the front of one jar (9)

Down

- 1 Journalists who keep saying cutting things (8)
- 2 Lament return of internet network? (5)

- 3 Titillating lady – she does dances to get the King's number (4,5,5)
- 4 A hunter forced ferret out (7)
- 5 Good-for-nothing gathering tip from Iraq for this report? (7)
- 7 What's lost again aroused such a feeling? (9)
- 8 Soft ex-Chinese leader gets cast off (6)
- 9 Is this simply dealing crookedly? That's about right (7,7)
- 15 Pronounced oddness raging in bigotry (9)
- 16 Business one's invested in that is to make things perfect (8)
- 18 Appropriate introduction from Ezra (7)
- 19 It's barbaric to stick farmyard animal in the oven (7)
- 20 What is extremely stagnant and unaltered (6)
- 23 Time to block credit card – perspective's required! (5)

Solution No. 26,230

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