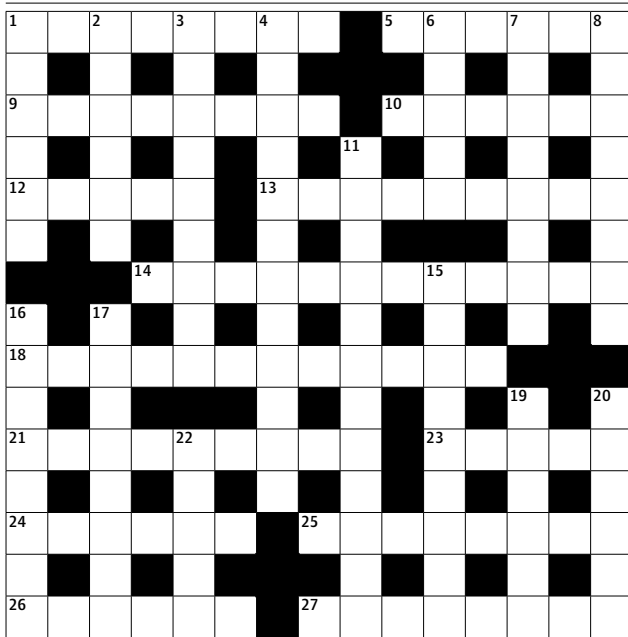


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,248 set by Chionie

Across

- 1 Sprinkler required after Penny gets border plant (8)
- 5 Members of the aristocracy lounge on Sunday (6)
- 9 Begin hostilities in a hot place (4,4)
- 10 Wine stored in port and aged (4,2)
- 12 Seeds taking some beating (5)
- 13 Pinochet's muddled analysis of speech (9)
- 14 A place for cropping trials in Slough (8,4)
- 18 Ambitious and venomous reptile, one that's intelligent (12)
- 21 European's gone? Put away (6,3)
- 23 Promiscuous European after the toilets (5)
- 24 Doctor broke tureen (6)
- 25 Wayward congressman rejected poetry (8)
- 26 Mention hiding earl's jacket (6)
- 27 Pioneer showed the way in a state of shock (8)

Down

- 1 Quick and easy victory in gymnastics (6)
- 2 High standards of ladies become corrupted (6)
- 3 Drink in training review (9)
- 4 Presently about to fall over transport – drawing amusement? (5,7)
- 6 Saw one's daughter get on (5)
- 7 Absolutely impossible Conservative (8)
- 8 Dismiss Greek characters in team (3,5)
- 11 Chain of events making me infect food, accidentally (6,6)
- 15 German aristocrat always found in a car (4,5)
- 16 Lady reading about writer is a spoilsport (8)
- 17 Primate accepts Paul's dubious accolade (8)
- 19 Enclosure puts Rex in the pink (6)
- 20 Ambassador in sight of guillotine (6)
- 22 Foreigner is initially Sheffield United player (5)

Solution No. 26,247

