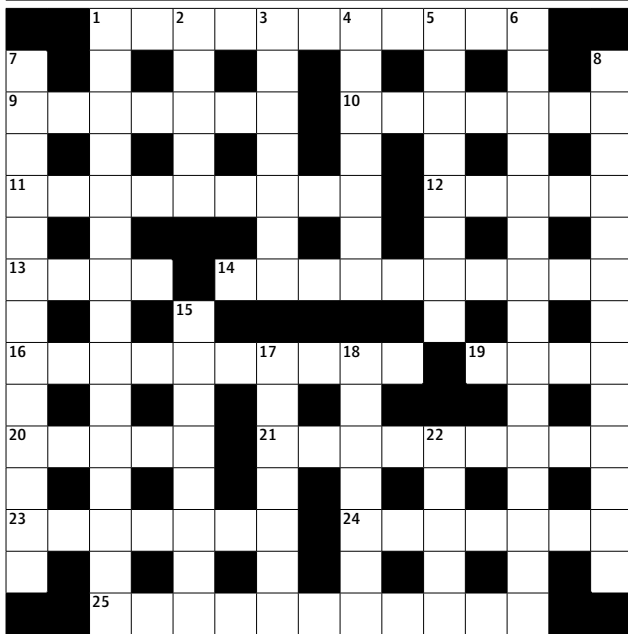


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,249 set by Picaroon

Across

- 1 Between a man and a woman, love gets very loud very quickly! (8,3)
- 9 Military commander, one with things firmly in hand, it's reported (7)
- 10 Convert an investment in Datsun? It is expanding (7)
- 11 Make haphazard money order that is to contain shilling (9)
- 12 What poser did about stink in shoe (5)
- 13 Male model? (4)
- 14 Greenish pigment to return in rotten tree (5,5)
- 16 Stay in dodgy Parisian boarding house (10)
- 19 Family's an issue for Merkel (4)
- 20 Robson beating Williams, for example, winning at least six games (5)
- 21 Toys with book bindings (9)
- 23 Grass skirts twirling girl prepared (7)
- 24 Film screened by rector, fit setting for religious objects (7)
- 25 How to get post from Syria? (7,4)

Down

- 1 In terms of habits, not getting any less anti-Freudian? (6-9)

- 2 Imitation gold for every Rolls (5)
- 3 Fancy a drink, with one compiler coming round (7)
- 4 Gallic arrogance is hard on Balzac, perhaps (7)
- 5 Old letter not saying everything (8)
- 6 Liar raised large drink, admitting liberal speculation and gossip (15)
- 7 How you might describe an old-fashioned looker, honestly (4,3,6)
- 8 The ref stared furiously, collaring United's sweeper (7,6)
- 15 Rumour of recent threesome – name's taken but one's not charged (8)
- 17 Edible fish with poor genetic make-up's rejected (4,3)
- 18 Heads round Britain, gaining victory over Irish (7)
- 22 Exotic tulip's made brighter (3,2)

Solution No. 26,248

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