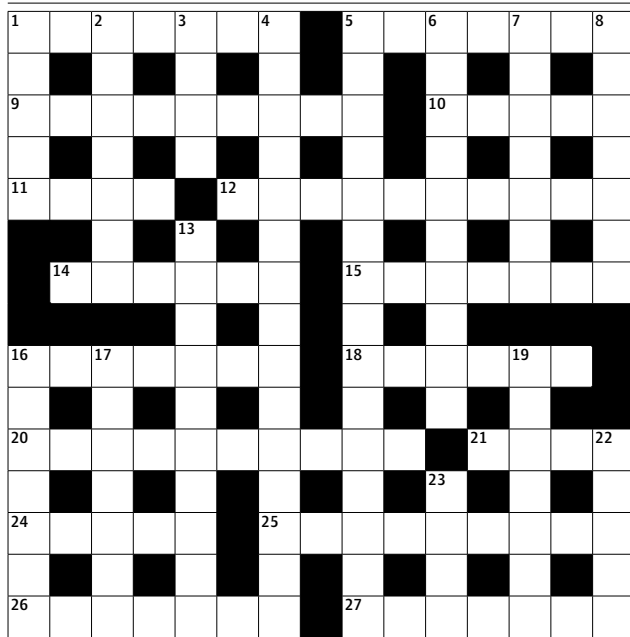


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,252 set by Pasquale

Across

- 1 Spy desires to get into bus leaving university (7)
- 5 Maiden ensnared by a more desperate stalker? (7)
- 9 Do without starter – entering, order ungar-nished beef (9)
- 10 Resin from underground deposit, soft inside (5)
- 11 A tiny bit goody-goody, one of the cricket sides (4)
- 12,21 Run-time OU medic originally smashed, break-ing record (4-6,4)
- 14 The woman’s small creature, mostly a retiring type (6)
- 15 Material cased in lead, old stuff used in medical experiment (7)
- 16 Cold tops in container for ice or snow (7)
- 18 Loutish son joins cam-paign (6)
- 20 Fruit worker gangster forced into car (10)
- 21 See 12
- 24 Road runs into nightclub, maybe (5)
- 25 Good Scottish job with minimal English involve-ment? That points the way (9)
- 26 Little person Sally sound-ing drunk (7)
- 27 Vehicle with rubbish, vehicle falling over (7)

Down

- 1 Graduate given prize in northern town (5)
- 2 Odd European barrister (7)
- 3 It’s slippery, see – that’s what we hear (4)

- 4 Feelings to hot up, sadly, on account of mistake in conversation (4,2,3,6)
- 5 Hip pastor’s hot on uncon-ventional philosopher claiming spiritual insights (15)
- 6 Plotter in country besieged by dull soldiers (10)
- 7 Artist and his creation, not one about to create delight (7)
- 8 Work of art upsetting maiden? There’s some-thing deceptive in it (7)
- 13 Going round to protect John, upset and uncertain (10)
- 16 Unwell girl’s said we sound chirpy (7)
- 17 Financial unit not entirely innocent, I moan (7)
- 19 Trouble with fight break-ing out? Rescue operation needed (7)
- 22 What gets devoured when the foremost lady comes round? (5)
- 23 Good spirit to get old Irish leader half cut (4)

Solution No. 26,251

