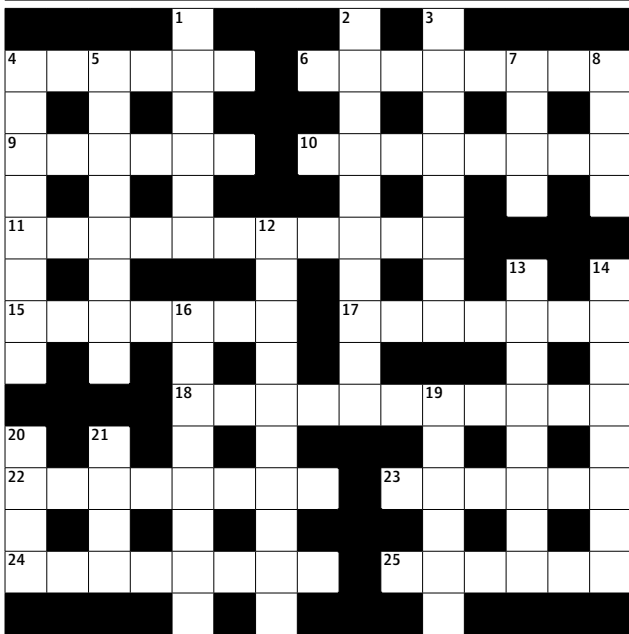


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,277 set by Picaroon

Across

- 4** An article, or three in different languages (6)
6 Event for blues band's beginning with a track about love (4,4)
9 Notorious diatribe by agitator in extremis (6)
10 Obama wrestling with problem requiring bit of guts (8)
11 Where St Augustine was at university, being something of a brain? (11)
15 Like some gems? Rue cost that's ruinous (4-3)
17 State of the Nation lacking relevance (7)
18 Cowboy could wear one down with two 4 acrosses (11)
22 Uses wrong words for male and female titles (8)
23,24 Disreputable business in the East End has groups of schoolkids on drugs (5-9)
25 It's played with wrong score the wrong way! (6)

Down

- 1** Conservatory orchestra's finale slowly absorbs (4-2)
2 Show disgust for Times report of peers getting reward for failure (5,5)
3 Bill may be in couple with seamy side (8)

- 4** Belts that are worn by Hell's Angels (8)
5 Toxic condition of arm-pit – so revolting! (8)
7 Space for worshippers heading away from moral failure (4)
8 What's stopping them making a literary work? (4)
12 Soldiers putting on act – that's rank and file (10)
13 Gather round fighter from Biblical region (8)
14 Wonderful people Spooner invites to parties where there's much chatter (8)
16 Disregard story, knocking back afternoon tea loudly (8)
19 Tesco's bananas for baby (6)
20 Something suggestive of the rise of corporations (4)
21 Back out of moving in Italian town (4)

Solution No. 26,276

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