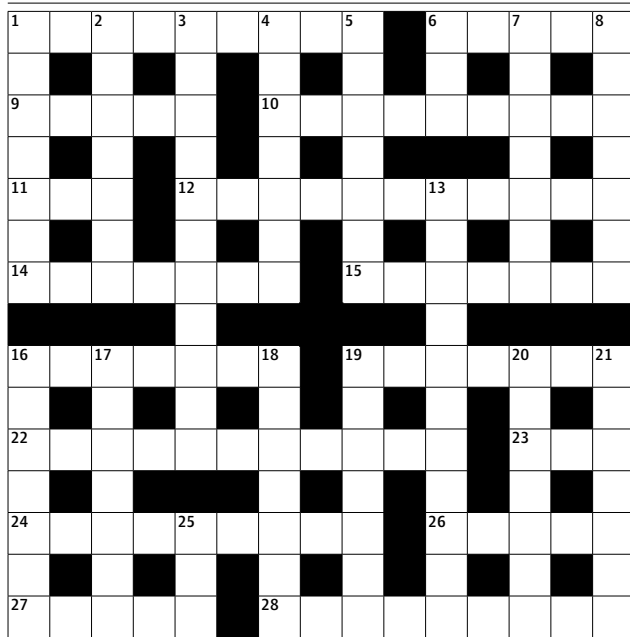


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,279 set by Paul

Across

- 1 Jerk chicken starter? Bound to get a cut of meat (5,4)
- 6 Fast writer (5)
- 9 One having cooler experience after leaving the Tory Party? (2-3)
- 10 Father Christmas say, genuine, about to adopt the fourth strategy? (9)
- 11 Flipping, flipping short clergyman (3)
- 12 Ticket back for returning Frenchwoman, fare from Italy (11)
- 14 Be relevant to smart heads of academies in Norfolk (7)
- 15 Freezing cold for unknown character among obscure characters in a storm (7)
- 16 Was she forced by you to speak for the country? (7)
- 19 Days of the war originally meant for the country (7)
- 22 Neat acts up, dancing round back of shed, assembled from various places (3-3-5)
- 23 Bow to wear, twisted (3)
- 24 Crush repulsive freaks (9)
- 26 Feature entertaining one row (5)
- 27 Result of plucking turkeys with axes – nasty gashed heads (5)
- 28 Ram and goat etc exciting ratings aboard ship (4,5)

Down

- 1 Explain Shakespearean entering competition (5,2)
- 2 Each one opening, under no circumstances remaining open (7)
- 3 Marks in script where hoodlum has to eat Chinese, we hear? (11)
- 4 Facts supporting light overhead, an element of lamps? (7)
- 5 Source for drugs pious among Pius etc (7)
- 6 Character in sound waves here (3)
- 7 Eluding exercise, just gratify yourself! (7)
- 8 Missile dropper drops odd bits amid confusion (7)
- 13 Sport for a drug-taking Olympic gold medallist? (5,6)
- 16 Lift large belly for the prize (7)
- 17 Warm embraces attending a musical for children (7)
- 18 Iodine in fruit is suitable (7)
- 19 Design varies to include a hundred internal parts (7)
- 20 Eastern port making granddad queen then? (7)
- 21 Chaos and chaotic in “disorder” (7)
- 25 Start of life the big bang, all conclude (3)

Solution No. 26,278

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