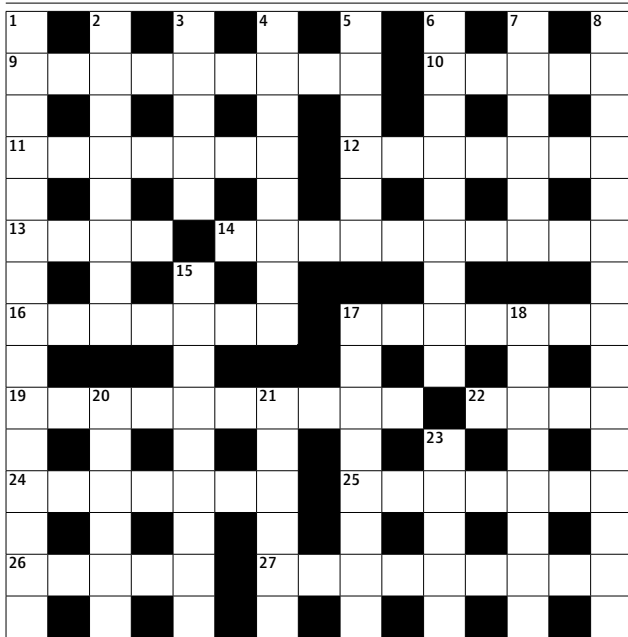


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,289 set by Nutmeg

Across

- 9** Sportsman, one of five in pursuit of fast runner crossing line? (9)
10 Pack animal from America quite contrary (5)
11 Throat remedy brought us together on air (7)
12 Fried food reduced in savoury starters before fish (7)
13 Such a chorister featured in cathedral tour (4)
14 Charitable inclination to pen free e-novel (10)
16 Rough criminal may be caught thus, embracing one-time lover (7)
17 With other people, setter's on edge (7)
19 Maintenance chappie prevents soldier from flying (10)
22 Fawn caught in river, falling over (4)
24 Facing front, daughter's taken on work (7)
25 Queen backs relations getting together again (7)
26 Go after opponents at table, then take action? (5)
27 Decline to follow sun, wanting experience of shade (4,5)

Down

- 1,20** Elaborate finale, then we go to Paris for sight of another country (3,7,5,2,4)
2 Gambler briefly hampers race – it's not fair! (8)
3 Official measure causes damage to the ears (5)

- 4** Most decorated lidless tarts in fact short of filling (8)
5 Disloyal individual sacked from squad with regret (6)
6 Mr Gore converted US homes as accommodation for needy (9)
7 Persuade old king to hold up agreement in Munich (6)
8 Gets away early to take home sensational coats for the lady (5,3,7)
15 Record breaker's time is shown above in headline (9)
17 Aggression one's driven to display? (4,4)
18 Apt to give a description of 1 20 (8)
20 See 1
21 Girl coming aboard's shown up male perversion (6)
23 Get moving statement from the chancellor abridged (5)

Solution No. 26,288

