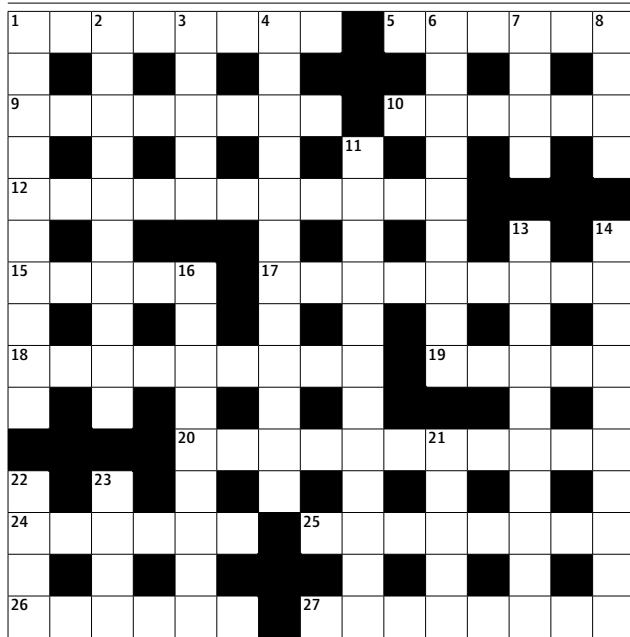


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,301 set by Nutmeg

Across

- 1 Shift operative time of sportsman's appointment (8)
- 5 Husband in novelist's latest yarn recoils in horror (6)
- 9 Charmer? More vexed hosts cheer when he's gone (8)
- 10 Ten with hip complaint, all coming together (6)
- 12 In Rome I love old Latin sparkling wine (11)
- 15 Harry keeps home functioning (5)
- 17 Put small stone inside to make a crackling sound (9)
- 18 Aunts et al badly treated in Muslim autocracy (9)
- 19 Respond to order "about turn" (5)
- 20 Line of French reservists invading lyceum (11)
- 24 Tablet's coating causing harm in mouth (6)
- 25 Sole diversion at island welcomed by coppers (8)
- 26 Present set back left-winger after payment of tax (6)
- 27 Arch over seat accommodating two leaders in trial (8)

Down

- 1 Corrupt doctor's transport parked in depot (10)
- 2 Pocketing raised offer, my character's liable to deteriorate (10)

- 3 Lived with carnal thoughts upping temperature (5)
- 4 Choir's situation shortly after chorister finds better option (6,6)
- 6 Canal worker, one doomed to carry fallen idol? (9)
- 7 Well absolutely empty (4)
- 8 Old mate featured in Times passage (4)
- 11 Tablet walker crunched for afters (8,4)
- 13 Exotic dancer in possession of a vehicle took touring holiday (10)
- 14 Observer's outlook sees very little about the year changing (7,3)
- 16 Noble old lady died, owing about a thousand (5,4)
- 21 US graduate overlooked climbing plant (5)
- 22 Strikes up a bit of an argument (4)
- 23 Large bird with down cut (4)

Solution No. 26,300

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