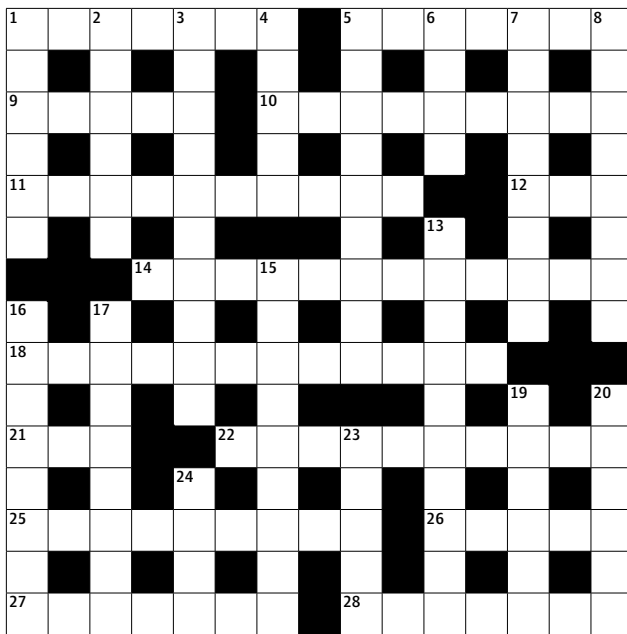


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,494 set by Qaos

Across

- 1 Possibly red hero? (7)
 5 Men like Pasquale and Quixote? (7)
 9 Inside the Guardian, 75% of this puzzle is clean (5)
 10 Old rice crackers with special vitamin – recipe used to keep healthy? (6)
 11 90° in the glaring heat (5,5)
 12 River following sea, say (3)
 14 Football account rejected, with everyone mega corrupt (4,4,4)
 18 Before writing “fine”, rub out “unknown condition” (12)
 21 Paper read in Prague (3)
 22 US comedian has US car to drive away (5,5)
 25 Getting a larcenous Conservative for leader ... (9)
 26 ... in return for a profit (5)
 27 See 20
 28 Stress fractures? Taking iodine? They're related (7)

Down

- 1 Past Tory MP's question: difficult to depose leader? (6)
 2 Regrets decisions to abandon pound (6)
 3 1,500 over 10? One draws characters (10)
 4 Jealous of new party member? (5)

- 5 Bums for deals without energy (9)
 6 Bar brawl's conclusion – punch strikes head (4)
 7 Raised in Britain, aid is boosted by rock (8)
 8 “An ogre is squashing me!”, the little prince yelled (8)
 13 Liberal, posh, wearing platinum – with fancy cars to give rich people (10)
 15 He played with guitar after note, more blue (9)
 16 Ancient warriors fight mutant ants! (8)
 17 No good in house that lacks order, if untidy – might this help? (4,4)
 19 Uncivilised football pundit? (6)
 20,27 Labour MP was wrong about offender pocketing a grand (6,7)
 23 4s like US city, commonly (5)
 24 Boxer, a former heavy-weight on the left? (4)

Solution No. 26,493

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