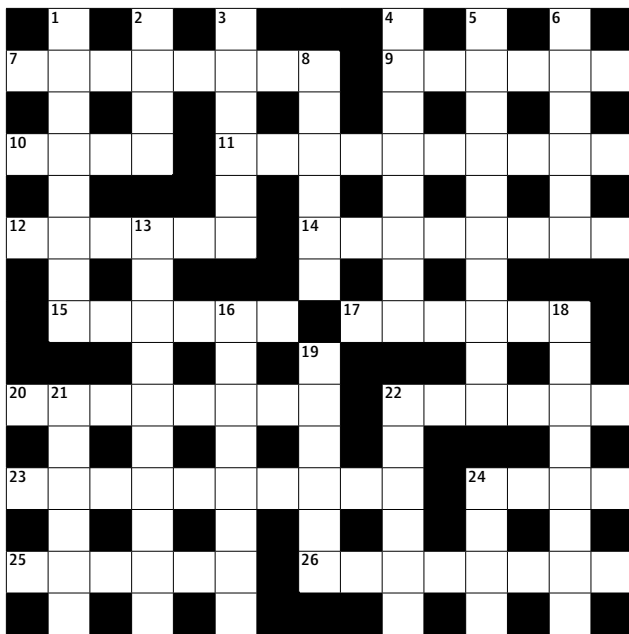


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,518 set by Qaos

Across

- 7 Music and dancing to number 21? (8)
 9 This lord is more cunning (6)
 10 Mellor finally enters taxi – what a sour-tempered person! (4)
 11 According to Spooner, Rooney’s scandal is to put on a few pounds (4,6)
 12 Sweden provided backing with state of the Treasury (6)
 14 Respected European premier answers back journalist (8)
 15 90/100? Drop the second number for precision (6)
 17 Records services on the radio (6)
 20 King of the sea? (8)
 22 Ox and swallow, but not a slug (6)
 23 Long ago, the English Channel was their basis when travelling (7,3)
 24 Before 3rd and 5th pieces of toast, try butter (4)
 25 During last month, Penny and I had time to paint (6)
 26 Rock leads welcome in me, the leader of Rolling Stones (8)

Down

- 1 Exposed by News Corp? I once got stung by this (8)
 2 Cut short sweet rolls up (4)
 3 Sexy girl chases 6 poet (6)
 4 Drink milk with tea – stirred right (3,5)
 5 Unexpected eruption at Iceland obscures heart of glacier (10)
 6 Maybe he works with IT around the City? (6)
 8 Soldiers carry help for young lady (6)
 13 Tropical fruit juice? (7,3)
 16 T Henman tried to do this with matching jumpers and cardigans (8)
 18 College caterers cook on odour-free tables (8)
 19 Pure mathematics complicated? At 1,000, I’m lost (6)
 21 Country – Iceland – has genuine internal mix-up (6)
 22 Conveyor belt split in two, rear damaged (6)
 24 Good memory for measurement (4)

Solution No. 26,517

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