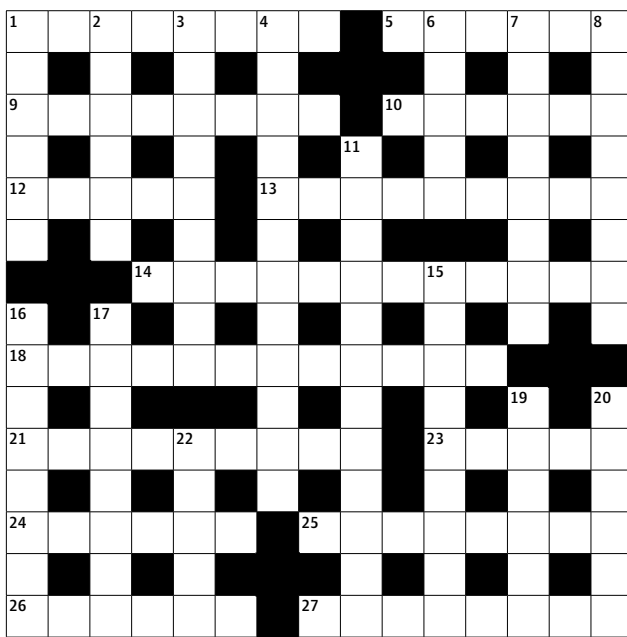


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 27,149 set by Rufus

Across

- 1 Bitter criticism – I'd bear it somehow (8)
- 5 Shopkeeper pronouncedly less refined (6)
- 9 A quick drop for one waiting for opening time (4,4)
- 10 Gunsmiths will add it to their stocks (6)
- 12 It has branches in Lebanon (5)
- 13 There's nothing risky with her new type of pudding (9)
- 14 Worriedly anticipate bill coming in will scupper one (12)
- 18 Lobby Transport House (8,4)
- 21 The only waiting here is at the counter (9)
- 23 Something in the air makes one put on weight? On the contrary (5)
- 24 Set one's sights higher and improve (4,2)
- 25 Suit for a girl's best friend (8)
- 26 Painstaking people enjoy this activity (6)
- 27 Worried about San Diego (8)

Down

- 1 Fault or default (6)
- 2 Programme information in commercial article (6)
- 3 Votes to consult new dean (9)

- 4 The middle section is convulsed during their performance (5,7)
- 6 Gathers in spare parts (5)
- 7 Laird can stand for chief (8)
- 8 Not so anxious since replacement's arrived? (8)
- 11 Stunning, but also inspiring? (12)
- 15 No end of cats here! (4,2,3)
- 16 Hard taskmaster – he's accepted money that must be turned over (8)
- 17 Employees take ring road here in the West Midlands (8)
- 19 Cuts, perhaps, may get us down (6)
- 20 A number relaxed and stopped (6)
- 22 Trips on the River Loire (5)

Solution No. 27,142

