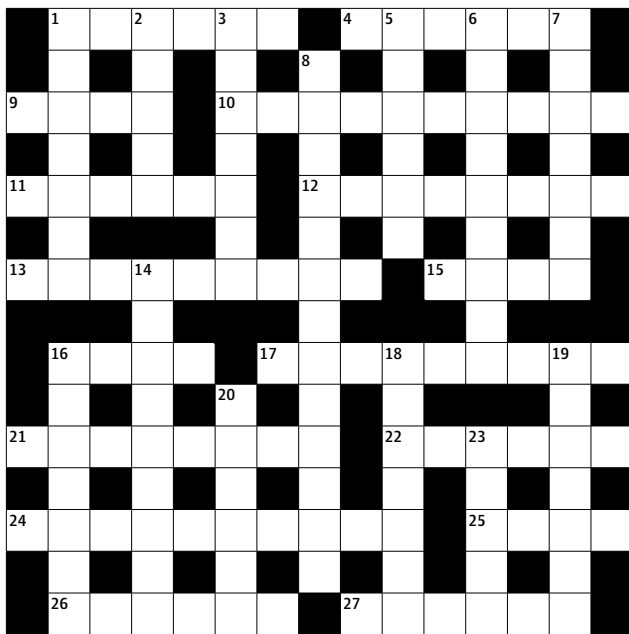


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 27,145 set by Tramp

15 March 2017: at 8 down, the last word was missing originally

Across

- 1 Short words on book, lines not clear (6)
 4 Picture of old heavy drinker after time (6)
 9 Is Best essentially keeping fit? (4)
 10 Persistent complaints left by Chelsea wags (10)
 11 See 1 down
 12 See 1 down
 13 Force down extra large tablets before strong drinks (9)
 15 Five in the morning with quiet attractive girl (4)
 16 Former Catholic entering United (4)
 17 Go to sleep with this bimbo model (not about to split) (9)
 21 Less sharp, bladdered, I put some bottles back (8)
 22 "Port's stolen", boozier admitted (6)
 24 Almost down a shot, sporting great entering wild party (10)
 25 Turn around second leg (4)
 26 Goes stretches dry – most affected (6)
 27 "Round-on-way" line (6)

Down

- 1,11,12 Accept what's offered in cash – George

Best cons bar when drunk (7,4,2,8)

- 2 Put out film collection (5)
 3 Protection for an American series of games (7)
 5 Doctor on way, heroin injected carelessly (6)
 6 Gives up bitter? Get going! (4-5)
 7 Optic to discharge relief for bad spectator? (7)
 8 List of constituents each with large, smooth cut by Hannibal, reportedly (9,4)
 14 United captain first to fill double on recovery (9)
 16 Wretch finished with model (7)
 18 Past: pluck from memory (2,5)
 19 Career over? Confess getting treatment (7)
 20 Trouble with greed, perhaps around looker (6)
 23 Singers from US behind AC/DC covers (5)

Solution No. 27,144

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