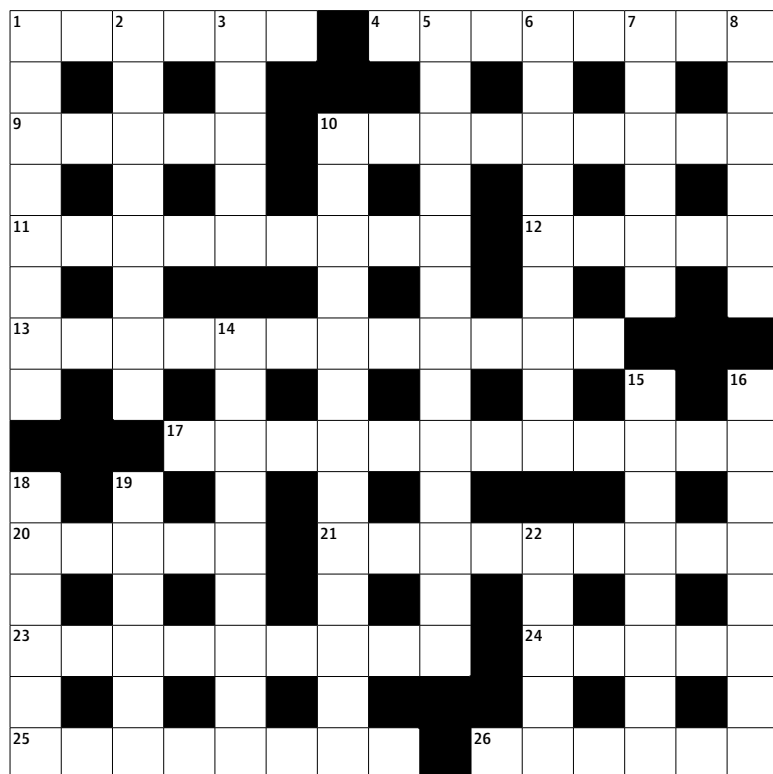


Guardian cryptic crossword No 27,412 set by Chifonie



Across

- 1** Imagine old favourite catching cold (6)
4 Passes on without a risk of illness (8)
9 Knight wears old clothing in island kingdom (5)
10 Distension of birds grasping opponents (9)
11 Bold maiden interrupts unnamed Greek king (9)
12 Confuse designated driver tucking into alcoholic drink (5)
13 Meet behind bar when tight (5-7)
17 Winger prevaricates even before disagreement (5,7)
20 Heron played in the river (5)
21 When groom transformed native (4-5)
23 Deficiency in squat, leading to collapse (9)
24 Old Bob's lofty hedge (5)
25 Notice the French head of state is immaculate (8)
26 Be inclined to keep work of the highest quality (3-3)

Down

- 1** Delight in appearance (8)
2 Held back a girl working in military HQ (8)
3 Anglican keeps rodent in chest (5)
5 Inane film? It is terribly insignificant! (13)
6 Beaten up in Rabat in old Roman

- province (9)
7 Latest result in evaluation (6)
8 Painter of body of land in the Seychelles (6)
10 Hold down cards and pick up special scissors (7,6)
14 Let enamel fuse! That's basic (9)
15 Claim for oneself Yorkshire town lacks aspiration (8)
16 Turn in the troika is done (8)
18 Emergencies? Charlie does his best! (6)
19 Royalist leaders capture commanders in style (6)
22 Some bring us together for exhilaration (5)

Solution No. 27,405

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