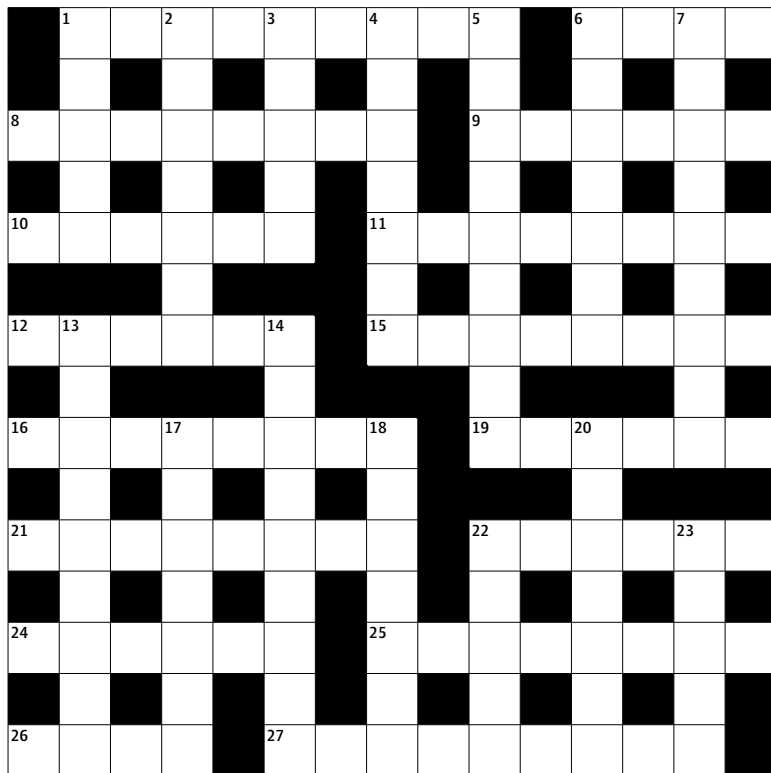


**Guardian cryptic crossword** No 27,778 set by Qaos



26 March 2019: At 14 down, the spelling of 'germanium' has been corrected

**Across**

- 1 Lavished compliments on sliced bread and pies (9)
- 6 Sport contest involves energy (4)
- 8 Fruit left worker in trouble (8)
- 9 Opening of Premier League displayed in perfect colour (6)
- 10 New mood music – missing old CD with heavy metal? (6)
- 11 Song about adult with a curse (8)
- 12 Meal of diced red onion when old duck's off (6)
- 15 Shoes for winter runners? (8)
- 16 Senior citizen, over 50, chopped wood by hand (3,5)
- 19 Solver, this is not one for boys and girls (6)
- 21 They're found in fancy theme bars, not hotel (8)
- 22 Jack hopes to work for patriarch (6)
- 24 Promoted team's benefit (6)
- 25 Provided case of rosé, entertaining finale with wine (8)
- 26 It's a bore producing clothes for TV (4)
- 27 Informal religious group's friend, possibly Mary (5,4)

**Down**

- 1 Second measures of whisky (5)
- 2 A penny? Uproar about taking new income (7)
- 3 A hit record's held at 17 (5)
- 4 Shoes made hard as nails once hair's been cut (7)
- 5 God stifles publicity over Bible's corruption (9)
- 6 Adore drop of wine or drink, gaining a little happiness (7)
- 7 Everything and nothing – animated TV character's linguistic unit (9)
- 13 I shall smash tree over politician in a bad mood (3,6)
- 14 They search odd planet gathering germanium (9)
- 17 Advance notice making East trade with West (7)
- 18 Opening numbers by Turkey and Israel (7)
- 20 Recall an oath? You said wrong answer (7)
- 22 Might she spin a good yarn? (5)
- 23 Goodness! Shame drug's injected (5)

Solution No. 27,777

