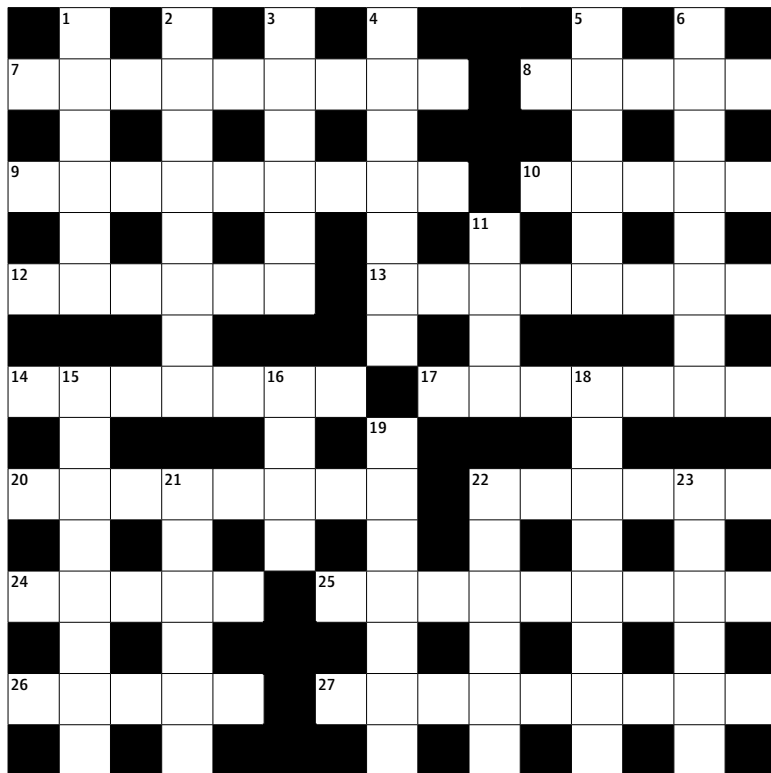


Guardian cryptic crossword No 28,023 set by Qaos



Across

- 7 Member of the force working on a lead? (6,3)
- 8 Writer finds way into literary festival (5)
- 9 Briefest break since son climbs into bed (9)
- 10 Cooker at home once more (5)
- 12 Newspaper feature generates support (6)
- 13 In revolutionary China, run by Mao, mostly as leader (8)
- 14 Little Boy Blue's triumph (7)
- 17 Most elevated dizzy heights (7)
- 20 Helmsman to steer south-west, carried by third person (8)
- 22 Small and large specimen (6)
- 24 Judge an American god (5)
- 25,21 Battle 4, perhaps, to stop in London (9,6)
- 26 The Guardian and Independent read inside out? Strange (5)
- 27 Warship's funny story, invading two rivers (9)

leads to butterflies (8)

- 11 Duty on first vehicle (4)
- 15 Setter eats old stew alone (8)
- 16 Collect new paper, missing one page (4)
- 18 Poet finishes regularly ahead of racing driver (8)
- 19 Defenceless woman's right by the sea (7)
- 21 See 25
- 22 Protection, for example, hiding iron shirt (6)
- 23 One idly passing time arranging flora around the end of June (6)

Down

- 1 Main chant as cyclist retires – hard to puncture two tyres (2-2-2)
- 2 Noble is 1, 2, 3, 4, say, after 5? (8)
- 3 Finally, when telephone call is on hold (6)
- 4 Fabulous bird raised, literally, on an island (7)
- 5 Pester animal (6)
- 6 Mixed salad around space station

Solution No. 28,022

