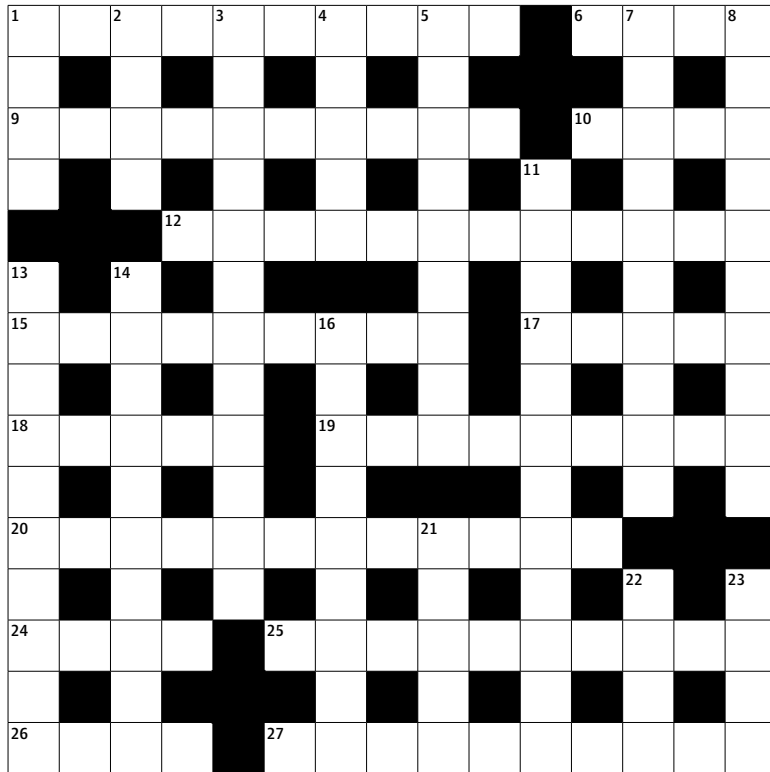


Guardian cryptic crossword No 28,249 set by Picaroon



Across

- 1 Bird putting away pie has first-class beak (10)
 6 President's eighth vehicle? (4)
 9 Cop working with lawyers is a plant (3-7)
 10 Somewhere to kip either side of Dagenham (4)
 12 Delaying, blocking one with this tactic? (12)
 15 Mafia boss hides cockney behind new decorative covering (9)
 17 Reverse of zero times this is number 54 (5)
 18 Put out Scottish team to get stripped off (5)
 19 Rock music's inspiring No 1s in prospect (9)
 20 Favouring mine, one a politician's appeasing (12)
 24 Stroke sheep's back and goat's back (4)
 25 Jack and Kelvin slicing wound that's not dressed (5-5)
 26 Got up in something between red and white (4)
 27 Promote latest odds in contest, which has many dimensions (10)

Down

- 1 Minute clothing label is fake (4)
 2 Peer's wife getting into crack (4)
 3 One may forget how to get in bar? (12)
 4 What a recidivist does to get hashish, for example (5)
 5 Art's lifted mood now, Keats reveals (3,4,2)
 7 More possibly out playing with key player (10)
 8 Make uniform in nursing terribly soigné (10)
 11 Six leaner and sporting six-footers (12)
 13 Fighter protects old man where work is rough (5,5)
 14 Deep Throat may reveal this stuff in dodgy toilets (10)
 16 Ripping story about shipwreck in shaky grounds (9)
 21 Knocked back pill, red and sweet (5)
 22 One seabird's rising, another's coming down (4)
 23 Python seized by intrepid lemur (4)

Solution No. 28,248

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

We regret that in the present circumstances we are unable to process prize entries for this puzzle. The solution to each puzzle will still be published online at midday on the following Friday.