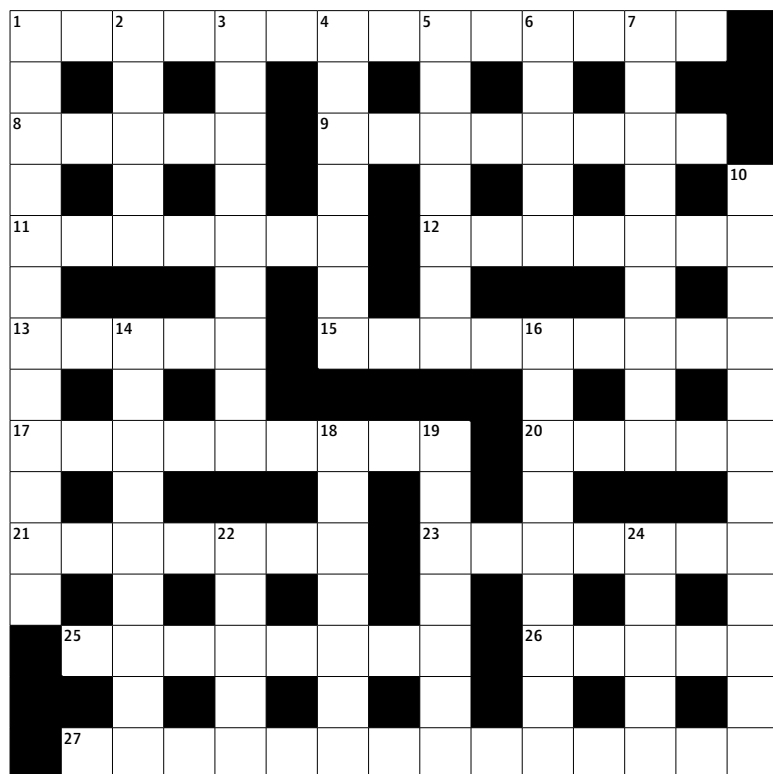


# Guardian cryptic crossword No 28,462 set by Picaroon



**Across**

- 1 Serious measure – key workers are in the dark on this (9,5)
- 8 Needle one fishes out of lake (5)
- 9 Blair cracking tedious, off-colour jokes, say (8)
- 11 Dirty shirt, short and tight (7)
- 12 After firm kiss, groom’s dandy (7)
- 13 Sweet stuff husband’s culled from Chinese text (5)
- 15 Time to study utilitarianism, but it’s a grind (9)
- 17 Touring India freely, Bill’s worried about a drive (9)
- 20 Said what diner did, a curvy figure (5)
- 21 Hip backing band in Japan? I’m not sure this is metal (7)
- 23 It helps to recall troops, having gathered round outside (7)
- 25 Maybe Joaquin’s steps following hobbling soldier (8)
- 26 Arab statesman soon to make a comeback (5)
- 27 Tory in party pamphlet shows what binds us all (6,8)
- 4 Miss America is alluring, Republican’s admitted (3,4)
- 5 Conservative perhaps lying over the European disaster (7)
- 6 We hear this guy runs his tongue over part of ear (5)
- 7 Making grooves in material, using blades (9)
- 10 Scrapper’s initial boost when wrestling (12)
- 14 Setter’s run in mire and grease, flipping mess! (9)
- 16 Hunk of stewed boar meat with date on top (9)
- 18 Very small number – very little, minus one million (7)
- 19 African runner’s go in flash car (7)
- 22 Roman pair squeezing a medic’s feet (5)
- 24 Partridge about to seize unknown antelope (5)

**Down**

- 1 What David achieved with good fortune protecting one colonist (5-7)
- 2 Gold plate shows this, turning up tool (5)
- 3 Agreed working to fix rug was a bugger! (9)

Solution No. 28,461

