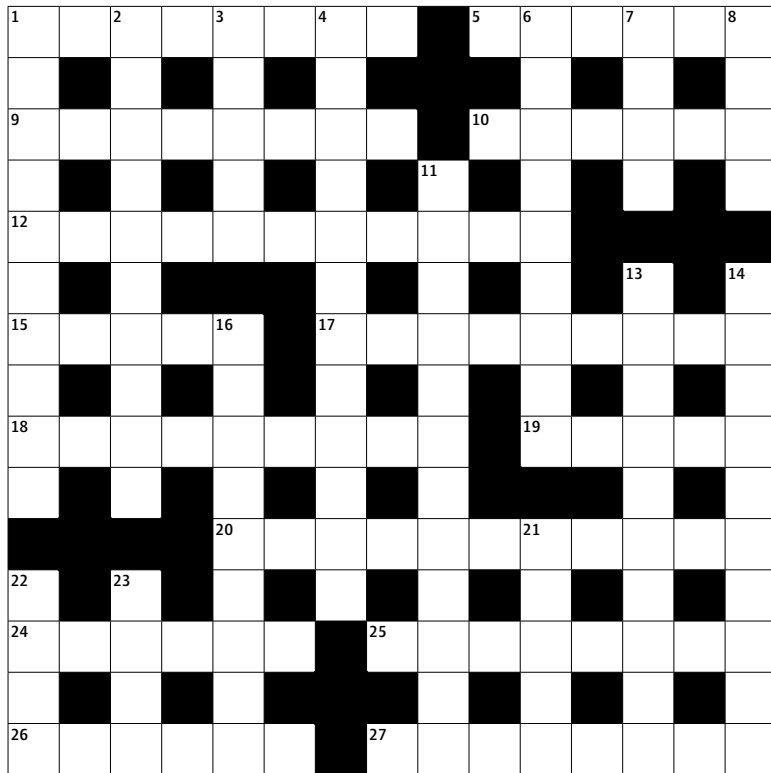


**Guardian cryptic crossword** No 28,482 set by Picaroon



**Across**

- 1 Attendant put on petticoat or an unwanted shift (8)
- 5 Reclining, take a pew and mug for aperitif (6)
- 9 Rickety chair upset with jerk (8)
- 10 Invader has trouble crossing dry area (6)
- 12 Crowd united in high spirits for band with no B-side? (6,5)
- 15 Excluding top royal commentator (5)
- 17 Following the party line, singles wise to drink last of rum (2,7)
- 18 Spanish port I'm leaving without tatty garment on (9)
- 19 Place to drink nothing in current circumstances (5)
- 20 Guitarists and a rock star group (11)
- 24,8 Mark bringing flower back? This is sweet (6,4)
- 25 Forming a habit to ignore cold food ingredient (8)
- 26 See 7
- 27 Out loud, I refer to what the Observer must use (8)

**Down**

- 1 In the main, they catch personnel

- interrupting new temps in seconds (6,4)
- 2 Where Marxists govern, right-winger's brooding has such an effect (10)
- 3 Nancy's old serving man turned up to frame painting (5)
- 4 Artist acquires a bit of English capital (12)
- 6 Opt against playing, leaving golf course (9)
- 7,26 One cuts current outings with enchanting lady (4,6)
- 8 See 24
- 11 Not anticipating much, like Robin's correspondence with Doris? (4,3,2,3)
- 13 Return of cutter riding the waves on the drink (10)
- 14 Nicely trim dressing nurse cut on new patient (10)
- 16 Stealing hearts, music genre's poetic and lyrical (9)
- 21 Sign of decay but not the first (5)
- 22 Leader deposed by Jeb Bush oddly loses power (4)
- 23 Country bringing down current queen (4)

*Solution No. 28,481*

