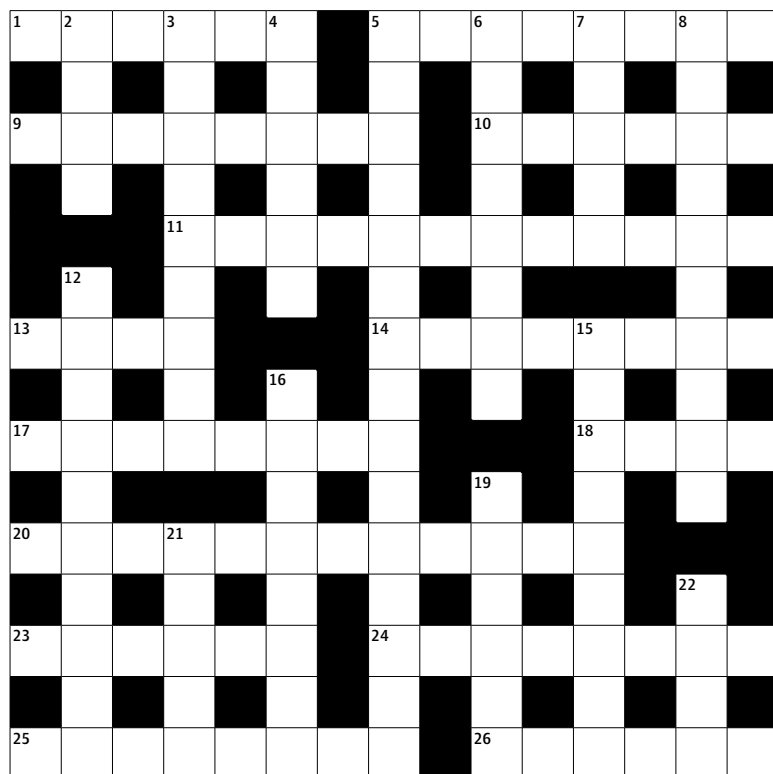


Guardian cryptic crossword No 30,123 set by Brummie



Across

- 1 Plight of conflicted Republican heads leading double lives (6)
 5 Pitiful account of boss turned politician (3,5)
 9 Sponge's loose weight (8)
 10 Dick playing lute to break silence (6)
 11 Applying mascara isn't a protection against greasy hair (12)
 13 Rocket salad starter with re-processed food (4)
 14 Never underestimate Middle Eastern leaders with lively ability to put two and two together (8)
 17 City's very bitter new agents? (8)
 18 Team leader changed, became mature (4)
 20 A British duty to spread nudity (8,4)
 23 Part of company that's failing (6)
 24 Privy you once dumped in river? (8)
 25 Apartment charge for potential item of furniture? (8)
 26 Dance figure is switched between two parties (2-2-2)

Down

- 2 Excellent red for the diner? (4)
 3 Somewhat over-tasked, add lead to make tracks (9)
 4 Superior toys on high (6)
 5 *White Cliffs of Dover* composition - morris dance yet to be arranged

by Kay (11,4)

- 6 Wretched, mannered start of assault on Everest? (4,4)
 7 Not opening, force lock (5)
 8 The Pied Piper of abstract art - baseball player? (3-7)
 12 Intermittent sort of casino in Ohio state (10)
 15 Just a blend of proper English and ordinary American (9)
 16 Uplifted, set sights on getting one around a scholarly environment (8)
 19 Was a fish factory worker disappointed? (6)
 21 Soil: it isn't common (5)
 22 In-house detective was a druggie (4)

Solution No. 30,116

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