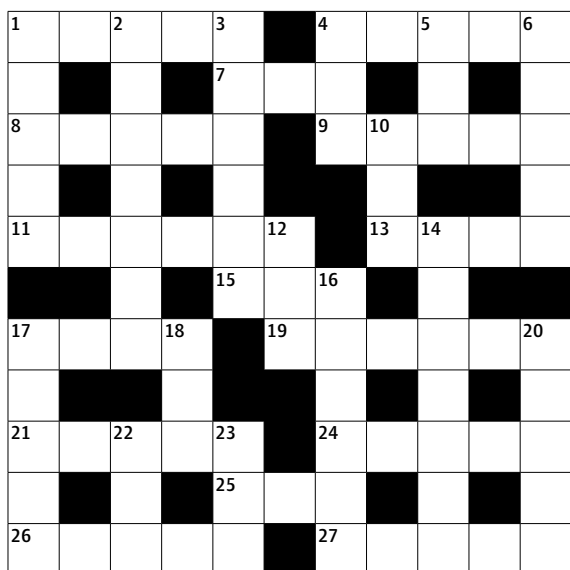


Guardian quick cryptic crossword

No 118 set by Carpathian



Across

- 1 Material gratifying - that's no good (5)
- 4 Decorates without one item of underwear (5)
- 7 Regularly retreat for period (3)
- 8 Prepare narrow section in field (5)
- 9 Subject of optic readjustment (5)
- 11 Dangers of damaged pliers (6)
- 13 Bronzes of army vehicles king disposed of (4)
- 15 Partly bury a kinky beast (3)
- 17 Mount skipping: cold leg? (4)
- 19 Wanting energy, varied underwater explorers (6)
- 21 Fastens missing page to form (5)
- 24 Shape-changing spell (5)
- 25 Oddly missing spoiled dish (3)
- 26 Swift lacking power getting worn-out (5)
- 27 Somewhere else holding dances (5)

Down

- 1 Prawns the writer chopped for rascal (5)
- 2 Hero met unusual proposition (7)
- 3 Can eat lychee piece tidily (6)
- 4 Stoke is strangely apt (3)
- 5 Encamps occasionally to sleep (3)
- 6 Strikes and stuns leaving husband (5)
- 10 Choose knitted top (3)
- 12 Low islands odd characters departed (3)
- 14 Mean saver aged internally (7)
- 16 Captain of boat dropping small fish (6)
- 17 Fastens shaky scale (5)
- 18 Club usually houses vehicle (3)
- 20 Horses taking time in pits (5)
- 22 Copy magpies on and off (3)
- 23 Agent is in his pyjamas (3)

TODAY'S TRICKS Clues begin or end with a definition of the answer. The rest is one of these:

- Anagram** Anagram of answer and hint that there's an anagram
- 'Senator arranged crime (7)' gives TREASON
- Hidden word(s)** Answer hidden in clue's words
- 'Some have altered meat (4)' gives VEAL
- Dropped letter** Remove a letter from another word
- 'Time away from coach in wet weather (4)' gives RAIN
- Alternate letters** Choose every other letter for answer
- 'Oddly envied First Lady? (3)' gives EVE

Solution no 118

