

**CRYPTIC** by DA

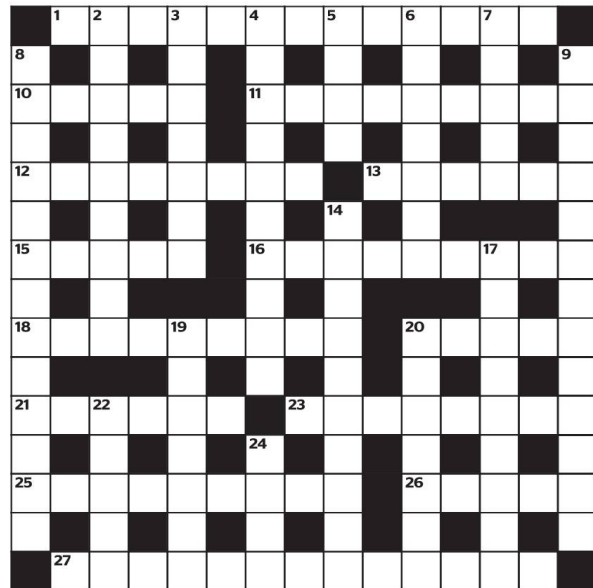
20,959

**ACROSS**

- 1 I exploit Scrabble scores or number-cruncher (4,9)
- 10 A swan harms wing inside tree (5)
- 11 I've run puzzling contract deal all over the place (9)
- 12 Harp's played loudly, even in composition (8)
- 13 A little taken aback by star in car (6)
- 15 Uncertain rabbi edging towards heaven (5)
- 16 Via Bay FM, one's transported (2,5,2)
- 18 Pitch worker at Cockney dance seeing leggy type (9)
- 20 Old poet a big hit (5)
- 21 Big Bird set to spin pea, perhaps (6)
- 23 US actor backing works by track athlete, we hear (8)
- 25 Seasoned application with car, ultimately! (4,5)
- 26 Team charmer doffing cap at racecourse (5)
- 27 See 3-down

**DOWN**

- 2 Judge a very subdued promoter (9)
- 3, 27-across Outfit meant to nail tyrannies! (7,13)
- 4 Near traffic regulator (10)
- 5 Pirate bed (4)
- 6 Composer Boris, met an Australian nurse (7)
- 7 Camel stops nerd abandoning 25-across in a huff (5)
- 8 Hawks, hounds, bears, snakes (5-8)
- 9 Mystery novelist bleeds heart to pen page, describing new stray (5,8)
- 14 Politician contacts pilots - it restrains damage (10)
- 17 Copies US Mail car off the rails (9)
- 19 Hindu greeting a 3-down reduction, possibly (7)
- 20 Try subtracting 50 from split, once (4,1,2)
- 22 Wagtail drops wheat (5)
- 24 Aware of one French denial (2,2)



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**Yesterday's cryptic** 20,958

