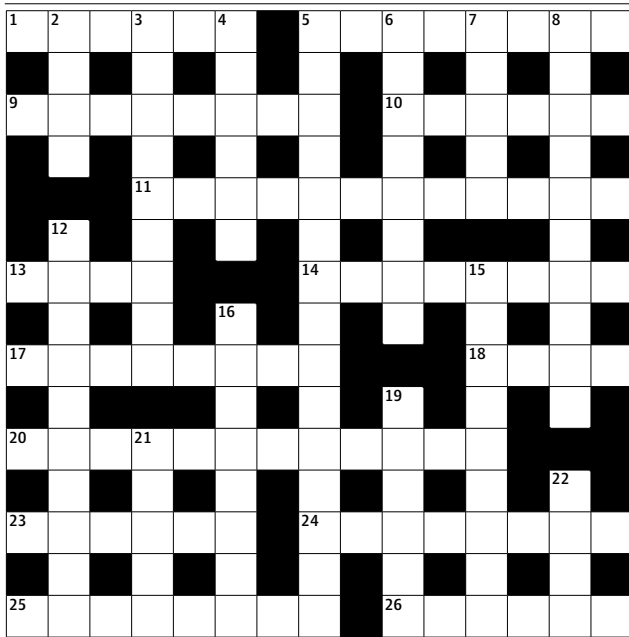


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,054 set by Rufus

Across

- 1 Where you may find night flyers hanging around (6)
- 5 Equestrian ability acquired by the large majority (4,4)
- 9 Blooming beast of burden has trouble returning (8)
- 10 One's income tax return (6)
- 11 Savage as Dracula (12)
- 13 Beaten hollow (4)
- 14 Turn in goal and even nearly score (8)
- 17 Meets and collides (4,4)
- 18 Put down face to back (4)
- 20 Chef, a true star cooking on French backstreet (12)
- 23 Endlessly ask the advice of a government official (6)
- 24 Confiscates one thousand sterling (8)
- 25 Ancient god cunningly poisoned (8)
- 26 It may be used to sort through a difficult problem (6)

Down

- 2 Key engineering work in Holland (4)
- 3 Feels a bit irritated by trifling annoyances (9)

- 4 Colour likely to run (6)
- 5 Cheering up? (8,7)
- 6 Strict control for company employee (4,4)
- 7 Thus three quarters of the beer is not drunk (5)
- 8 Direct opposite of a scholarly exercise? (10)
- 12 Decline to leave rubbish for disposal (6,2,2)
- 15 Convert may avoid the real issue (4,5)
- 16 Showed the flag? (8)
- 19 You'd be angry if you lost it (6)
- 21 One of five is unaccountable (5)
- 22 I would look up to one that's worshipped (4)

Winners of prize puzzle 25,047

