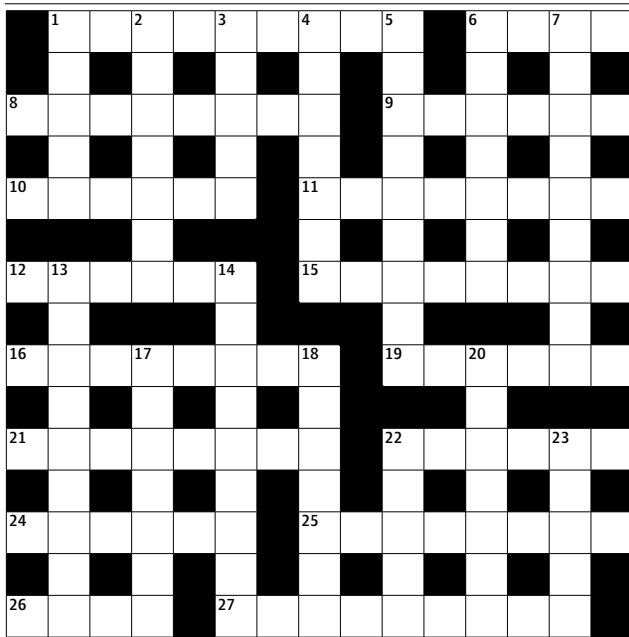


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,192 set by Rufus

Across

- 1 Diversion gives an essential cover for English soldiers (9)
- 6 The advantage being sharp gives one (4)
- 8 Having erected the Christmas tree, make things tidy (6,2)
- 9 Feeling affection for someone, was somewhat lenient (4,2)
- 10 Catch sight of former wife going in, an erotically exciting woman (6)
- 11 Perhaps Ned does right to get confirmed (8)
- 12 Batsman who hits five fours? (6)
- 15 Lets it break to a point that could be lethal (8)
- 16 Breaking up may be wonderful (8)
- 19 Egghead organised space flight (6)
- 21 Loss in fuel is enormous (8)
- 22 Book to read in bed? (6)
- 24 It's plain frozen (6)
- 25 Adventurous girl embraces worker in Spanish port (8)
- 26 You might say it when offering a gift or present (4)
- 27 He used tax form that's expired (9)

Down

- 1 Liberal politician gets in the beer (5)

- 2 Wild pursuer of regal status (7)
- 3 A keyhole operation? (5)
- 4 Say, that's quick! (7)
- 5 Trial run of stroke on river (4,5)
- 6 Demand observance in French Foreign Legion, say (7)
- 7 See post go out in March (5,4)
- 13 Aplomb of company representative certain about nothing (9)
- 14 Restore control to the country (9)
- 17 Making speed on foot (7)
- 18 Very big chap who went down to a stone (7)
- 20 King leaves to shorten meeting (7)
- 22 Impressive stamp edged with gold – the last word in France (5)
- 23 Bill and Ted executed (5)

Winners of prize puzzle 25,185

