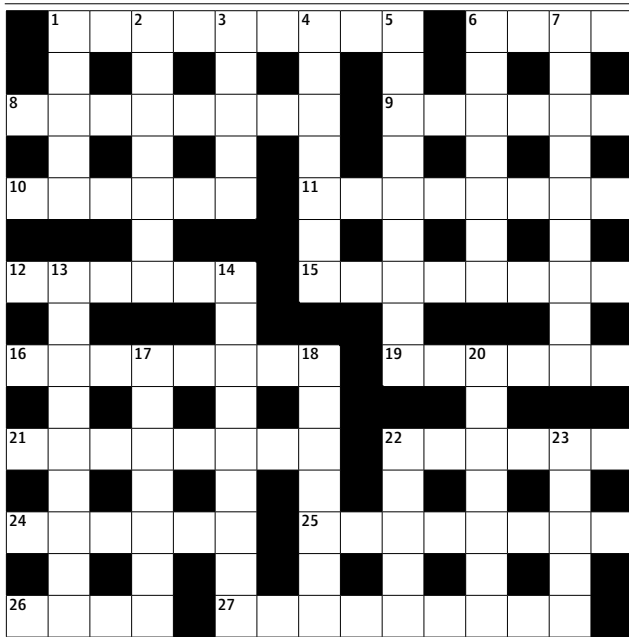


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,198 set by Rufus

Across

- 1 Capital decorations crackers provided, perhaps, at get-together (5,4)
- 6 She may cook the Christmas dinner, if we go out (4)
- 8 Very good article on cake decoration (8)
- 9 Roster made out for a skiing holiday? (6)
- 10 The commanding officer must get present to be consistent (6)
- 11 Exceptionally animated, decorated with glittering ornaments (8)
- 12 Fish goes on ice, perhaps (6)
- 15 Superfluous things on the tree at the end of Christmas (8)
- 16 Party novelties providing all-inclusive benefits (8)
- 19 Remained sober, we hear (6)
- 21 Embraces sweetheart and wives (8)
- 22 The bird may make a timely appearance (6)
- 24 Volume of tax return accepted by firm starting with nothing (6)
- 25 Mince pies and preserve inside for gourmets (8)
- 26 Part of the house decorations that are not wasted (4)
- 27 Christmas decoration? Some let it get out of hand (9)

Down

- 1 Swivel camera towards Christmas show on stage (5)

- 2 Christmas gift offer (7)
- 3 The flower of German wine (5)
- 4 Boy involved in a row with 1 down part (7)
- 5 Packets once holding right sort of decorations (9)
- 6 A fool to moan about a festive occasion (7)
- 7 Anticipation of what might be set for tea or dinner at Christmas (9)
- 13 Packs gifts without a second thought (9)
- 14 Small present upsets 6 across, about to result in bitter squall (9)
- 17 Up for Christmas, he will have a way with him (7)
- 18 Relatively ugly characters in 1 down (7)
- 20 Bill's a relation (7)
- 22 It's cold with central heating off! (5)
- 23 Decorations have point for those that have eaten too much (5)

Winners of prize puzzle 25,191

