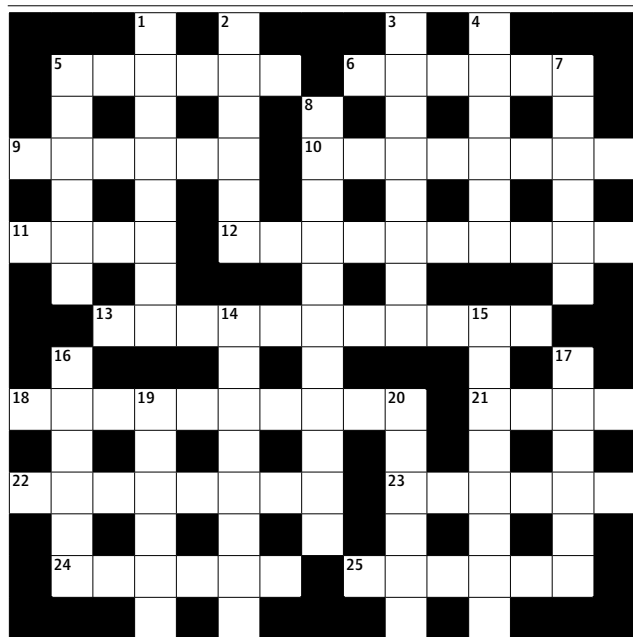


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,209 set by Rufus

Across

- 5** Gathered in study to hold exercises (6)
6 Latest schism besetting church (6)
9 Doesn't go right inside, but wanders around (6)
10 Debit one transferred, following orders (8)
11 A bad start for an ancient king (4)
12 Robber holding up store? (10)
13 Shooting stick? (8,3)
18 Parking, reversing badly, generating a jam (10)
21 Utterly absorbed in something, say (4)
22 Once in a lifetime phenomenon? (4,4)
23 A sort of music providing the message (6)
24 Former forward, one who should know better (6)
25 Drink for each returning academic (6)

Down

- 1** Spy a curly hair on the rug (4,4)
2 When to tell all? (6)
3 Peel read out what he did to the Corn Laws (8)
4 Some solace in failed investment (6)
5 Confirm a try, if converted properly (6)
7 Inclined to be guarded (6)
8 Man using mashie and spoon going round (4,7)
14 Left to old seamen in Labrador resort (8)
15 Mounting disorder (8)
16 Metal grating to cook eggs initially (6)
17 Compass cover (6)
19 It's a sound move – that's plain (6)
20 Cracked jokes when bound not to speak (6)