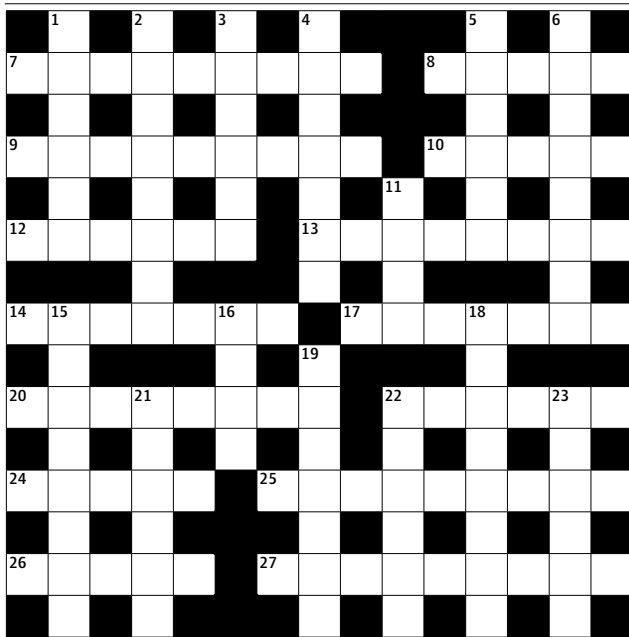


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,437 set by Rufus

Across

- 7 Adopt self-regulating volume control (4,5)
- 8 She's a mother twice over (5)
- 9 Silence on reform shows lack of respect (9)
- 10 Quietly departed with the silver (5)
- 12 Leading lady cut short with smack (6)
- 13 Regular correspondence between sides (8)
- 14 It's normally kept by the fireplace or sink (7)
- 17 Show anger in hair-raising fashion (7)
- 20 Keep small cash book (8)
- 22 Capital – the big smoke? (6)
- 24 Cultivated Scandinavian (5)
- 25 Takeover bid made by the committed buyer (4,5)
- 26 Nobleman about fifty-odd (5)
- 27 Lacking a cryptic clue? It's not important (9)

Down

- 1 Make sharp attack upon Reformed Church (6)
- 2 Was prominent among those who refused to yield (5,3)
- 3 Humble cleric embraced me (6)

- 4 Body found in the motorist's boot, perhaps (7)
- 5 False alibi initially excluded by Scottish magistrate (6)
- 6 Poem completed but not written down (8)
- 11 Ancient mariner's story upset Arab prince (4)
- 15 Capsized oarsman in vessel is in distress (8)
- 16 The attraction of misrule (4)
- 18 The purpose of the visor is to avoid humiliation (4,4)
- 19 Doctor liaised for sitting clergy (7)
- 21 Cut lumber (6)
- 22 Fashionable doctor caught in embrace? That's sweet! (6)
- 23 Has it a piercing eye? Quite the opposite (6)

Winners of prize puzzle 25,430

