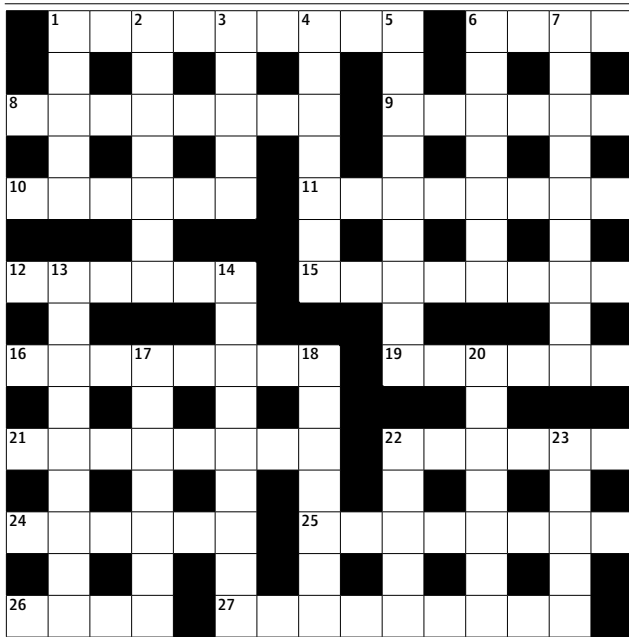


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,473 set by Rufus

## Across

- 1 Carpeting material not staying put (9)
- 6 Lover of Bess in musical heading off for wild party (4)
- 8 Cricketer yearns to face spinner (4,4)
- 9 Catch in Antwerp on the loose without wife (6)
- 10 Plant a bomb that explodes overhead (6)
- 11 Pot or tin basin broken (8)
- 12 Kept going – or didn't (6)
- 15 Minimum investment for patrons of the pools (8)
- 16 I was told off for youthful indiscretions (4,4)
- 19 Perhaps Hudson Bay may have come from one of these (6)
- 21 Party drink is an unusual hit (3,5)
- 22 A disposition of arms (6)
- 24 Fills cracks in the decks with stoppers, say (6)
- 25 Improperly press one for an answer (8)
- 26 US polar explorer – and aviator, by the way (4)
- 27 Wheelwright's representative? (9)

## Down

- 1 Wine jar I put out when empty (5)

- 2 Bob is a hotel employee (7)
- 3 Inaccurate serve results in defeat (5)
- 4 One member takes part in strikes (7)
- 5 Time and place (9)
- 6 Offenders dismissed on orders (7)
- 7 Planning finally approved – delighted! (9)
- 13 Supplementary course? (9)
- 14 Doctor agonised over second opinions (9)
- 17 Spotted divine fruit inside (7)
- 18 Half the school get zero, unusually, for music (7)
- 20 All the same a soldier has to assume it (7)
- 22 A bridal path? (5)
- 23 Sailor took up crime, seen in the dock (5)

Winners of prize puzzle 25,466

