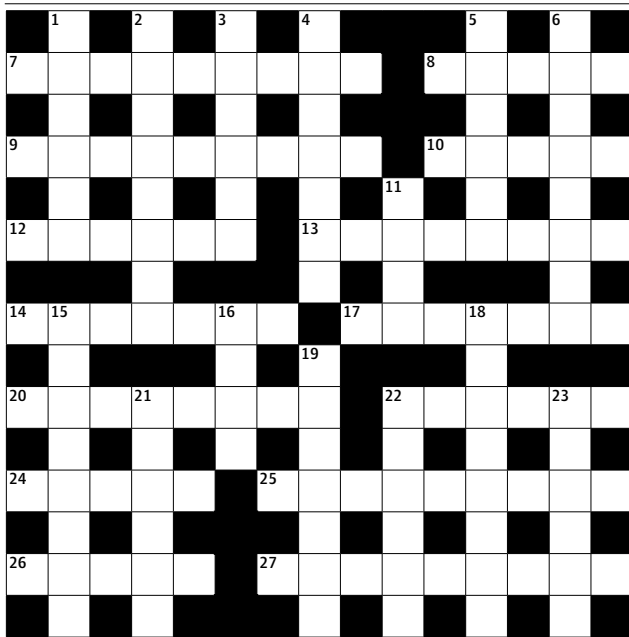


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,509 set by Rufus

## Across

- 7 Resolve to be unconscious after the party (6,3)
- 8 Pick off the bird (5)
- 9 Turkey – but Marian is cooking with duck! (4,5)
- 10 One of Santa’s reindeer – with a long tail? (5)
- 12 Wrongly assert these are Christmas daisies (6)
- 13 Swapping presents – the impudence! (8)
- 14 Two presents impossible to locate (7)
- 17 A boy acquiring djinn, oddly (7)
- 20 Winter dance thrown for enjoyment? (8)
- 22 Blooming choir spoilt start of “Deck The Halls” (6)
- 24 Gather it’s what people may go to church at Christmas for (5)
- 25 Woollen scarf worn in cold weather – Job’s one wasn’t much help! (9)
- 26 Note down new present (5)
- 27 Love helping after a party (9)

## Down

- 1 Finally toasting the party-givers in spirits (6)
- 2 Jesus knew it as a child – using Tehran A-Z? (8)
- 3 China’s unusual Christmas decorations (6)
- 4 Christmas present drawer acting as a guide (7)

- 5 It’s natural to see a robin around the start of Noel (6)
- 6 Social activity following high jinks (5-3)
- 11 A moraliser, not someone like Scrooge, it’s said (4)
- 15 Pretty useless object on the tree? (8)
- 16 Christmas fare always includes traditional sort of ale (4)
- 18 Give one an order: “Put up the ornaments!” (8)
- 19 Old man’s cracking nuts (7)
- 21 Property of the Magi (6)
- 22 Remove top of boxes to reveal presents (6)
- 23 In the freezer find diamonds, a Christmas present (6)

Winners of prize puzzle 25,502

