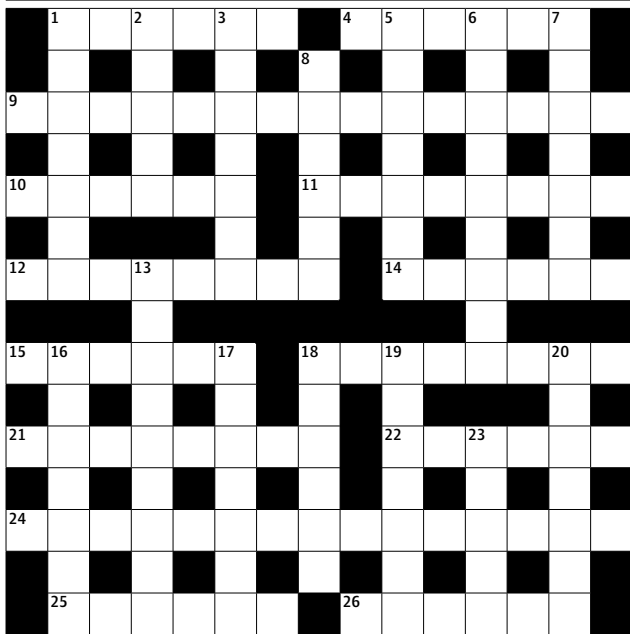


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,565 set by Enigmatist

*A birthday tribute to 1 across
4 - great writer: thousands of
25s broken! (9,6,3,3,8)*

Across

- 1** They may be jolly good in crew not heading for Wolverhampton (6)
- 4** Respected entertainer starts off, needs lots of paper (6)
- 9** Two records rest with singular, amazing puzzler (9,6)
- 10,25** Take note of a disappearing card or three – magic! (3,3,6)
- 11** During a break, tackling Crispa's last – and Custos? (8)
- 12** A great occasion for 1 across 4 (22), 9 10 11! (5,3)
- 14** One of Squires' d__ French team went ahead, after sacking editor (6)
- 15** Man, say, appearing on Monday – many beguiled (6)
- 18** Group do something for this splendid fellow (5,3)
- 21** Pretty girl in crimson rose (8)
- 22** Point out momentous number! (6)
- 24** "Tap it twice", said Roger – not a bad magician! (15)
- 25** See 10
- 26** He occupies hearts, getting more mature (6)
- 5** Far from dull setter Stephenson initially demoted – it 'ad to be a joke (7)
- 6** Flying machines – ten or so – failing to impress lady sawn in half (9)
- 7** Escape from sea with minimum of panic – gee, amazing! (7)
- 8** Sailor's spirit and extremes of gallantry are staggering (6)
- 13** Individual approaches entertainment group, getting first part in Crossroads, male part (6,3)
- 16** Having kittens, lacking time to get out (2,5)
- 17** Everyone that's in Dr Who is a playful type? (7)
- 18** Future flier, no gentleman to treat with disrespect (6)
- 19** An adventurous chap like Vespucci, I become trapped under a foreign sea (7)
- 20** Awful to-do – sailor leaving Oscar in a flap (3,4)
- 23** Excellent setter appearing finally in Attenborough film (a third cut) (5)

Down

- 1** Men in Fleet Air Arm mostly valuable? They're uncommonly so (7)
- 2** Regularly pulled out of glossy hat, it's destined for curry! (5)
- 3** Hardware ordered right away to provide clue for R? That's frightening! (7)

Solution No. 25,564

