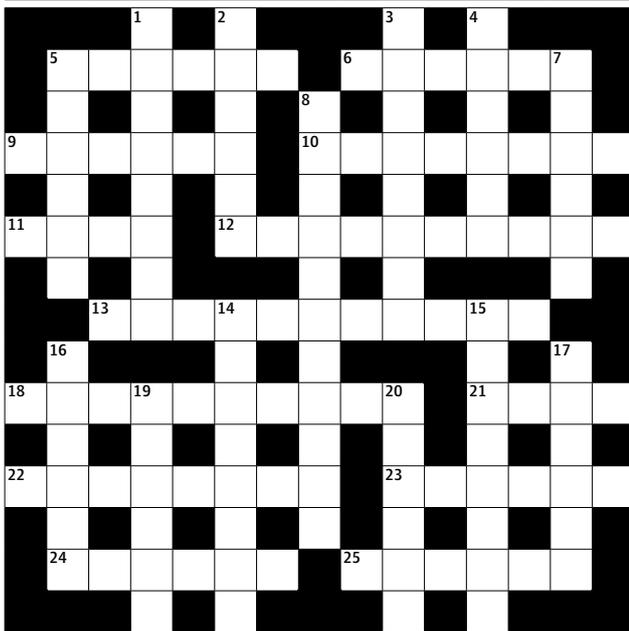


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,578 set by Chifonie

## Across

- 5 Key sign of tooth decay (6)
- 6 The endless stream of excitement (6)
- 9 Praise exotic old country (6)
- 10 Determined soldier found the answer (8)
- 11 Crazy going back for knife (4)
- 12 Over without annoyance being threatened (10)
- 13 Nurse keeps rare dog for arbiter of taste (11)
- 18 Implements used to prepare firewood (10)
- 21 Regret keeping sovereignty in control (4)
- 22 Reject paintings and poetry being cross (8)
- 23 Ruin meal at university (4,2)
- 24 Beautiful woman embraces a partner from Scandinavia (6)
- 25 Conservative leader has holiday cut (6)

## Down

- 1 Combination lock on bicycle (8)
- 2 Avoid worker admitting conflict (6)
- 3 Old king keeps ambassador stumped with old joke (8)

- 4 Small measure starts to irritate European hunting guide (6)
- 5 Cockscombs getting time off in civil service (6)
- 7 Songs the chief heard (6)
- 8 Detects rare fusion of special expertise (5,6)
- 14 One barely appreciates the outdoors (8)
- 15 Centaurs injured old Italian (8)
- 16 Animal in South Dakota is carved up (6)
- 17 Painter gets praise in church (6)
- 19 Dance Virginia enters through the window (6)
- 20 Old Bob's big test (6)

Solution No. 25,577

