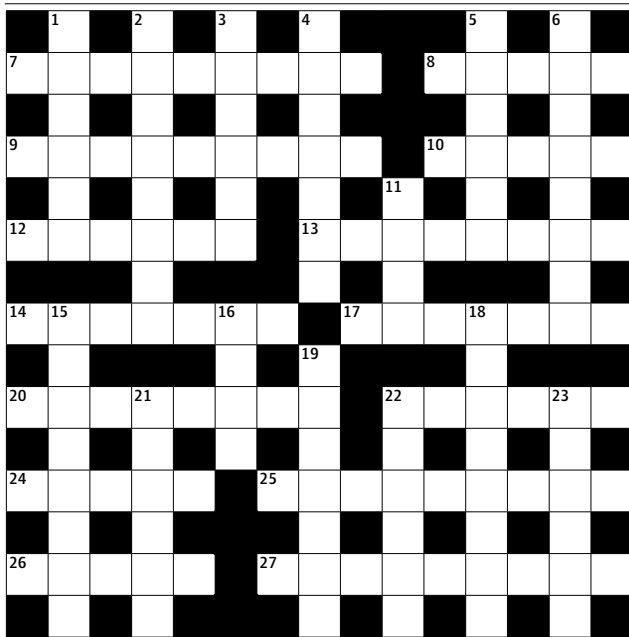


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,599 set by Rufus

### Across

- 7 By no fluke does this slow the boat down (3,6)
- 8 Blissful time, messing about idly on lake (5)
- 9 Person who makes no effort to move (9)
- 10 Good man has criminal to hide away (5)
- 12 Bloomers are old-fashioned wear (6)
- 13 Grass seen at home earlier (8)
- 14 One thousand troops heading southeast in huge formation (7)
- 17 Ship, possibly a tramp (7)
- 20 Swell position for a batsman (8)
- 22 Abeam on a ship? (6)
- 24 About twelve inches? (5)
- 25 Treatment for a stoop? The appropriate specialist here (9)
- 26 Scene of a towering row (5)
- 27 Improvement of action due to training (9)

### Down

- 1 Have second thoughts about hypocrisy (6)
- 2 Killing of many people over a defined area (8)

- 3 Cakes once cooked aboard ship (6)
- 4 Region that is not party to the convention (7)
- 5 Journalist's turn to ride (6)
- 6 Quartz watch that doesn't look real? (5,3)
- 11 A force raised at some distance (4)
- 15 Soldier carrying sailors? (3-2-3)
- 16 Bird that is cut up and smoked (4)
- 18 A course for non-drivers (8)
- 19 Disease possibly spread by water (7)
- 21 Unruly hordes in the Mediterranean (6)
- 22 Means business (6)
- 23 Share out in rota (6)

Winners of prize puzzle 25,592

