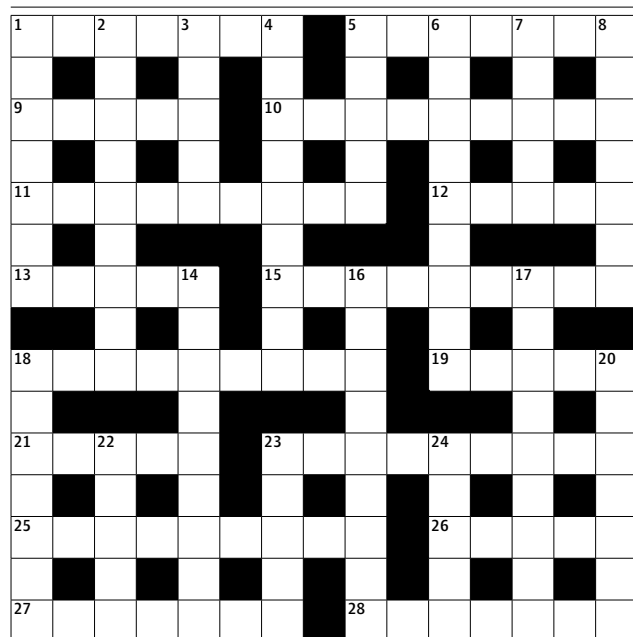


## Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,654 set by Bonxie

### Across

- 1 Bit of dessert? Leading lady has something to chew over (7)
- 5 Manuscript about a pet dog (7)
- 9 Minister to provide free entertainment (5)
- 10 Celebrity redhead in pastures new (9)
- 11 Stern monarch has promise for rider (9)
- 12 President backing oil company in pursuit of 14 (5)
- 13 Assembly given by extremely saintly head (5)
- 15 Chosen one paid tip – I left change (9)
- 18 Vehicle to pick up a passenger returning from chaotic situation (5,4)
- 19 Pulls faces when soldiers hug sailors (5)
- 21 Bottle-opener very well hidden? (5)
- 23 Means of stopping play-boy pursuing place to stay (4,5)
- 25 Conductor has terrible constipation, broken pot taken away (9)
- 26 Band recruits novice guitarist (5)
- 27 I can't help cook eviscerated bird (7)
- 28 Checked top worn by child (7)

### Down

- 1 Stop shooting large animal with old side arm (7)

- 2 Bribe Frenchman to come back after dessert (9)
- 3 Change following demolition of head (5)
- 4 Put out fizzy Diet Colas (9)
- 5 Vehicle used to be blue (5)
- 6 Strong support (9)
- 7 Stroke? Grimace right away (5)
- 8 Prevent from crossing over marsh (7)
- 14 Very old agents held up by outlaw (9)
- 16 Latin poet breaks promise (9)
- 17 Target man flying Spitfire (9)
- 18 Made notes about very small dog lead (7)
- 20 Boiled the egg outside (7)
- 22 Leave head gardener missing plant product (5)
- 23 Boy born on top of stretcher? (5)
- 24 Society embroiled by boom and bust (5)

Solution No. 25,653

R	E	D	T	A	P	E	K	I	N	G	D	O	M
L	A	L	W	S	R	V							
C	A	R	P	A	N	E	M	O	M	E	T	E	R
T	E	T	S	L	E	R							
B	I	R	D	I	E	T	I	D	I	N	E	S	S
O			A	H	E	B	E						
I	N	A	U	G	U	R	A	L	R	E	B	E	L
	N		M		L								
A	E	G	I	S	Q	U	O	T	A	T	I	O	N
N	O	O	N	O									B
S	H	A	N	G	H	A	I	L	A	V	I	S	H
A	J	D	T	S	I	E							
E	N	G	A	G	E	M	E	N	T	R	A	R	E
C	C	A	D	O	G	V							
B	E	A	K	E	R	S	B	Y	G	O	N	E	S