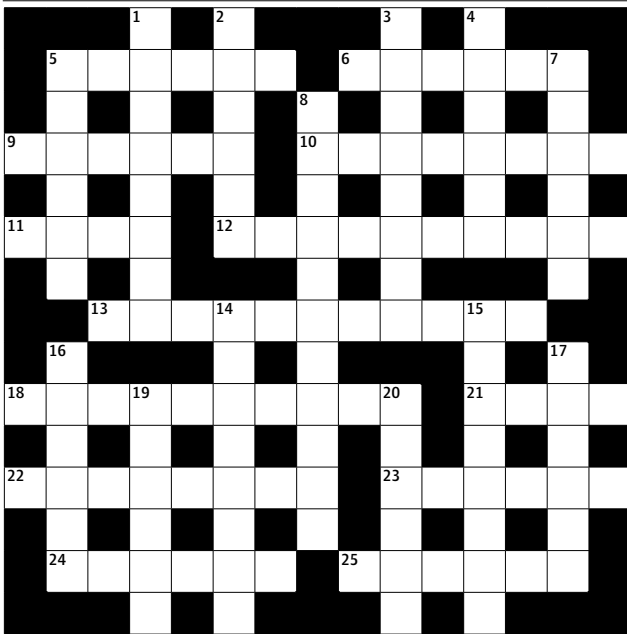


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,659 set by Rufus

Across

- 5 Clergyman in the Magic Circle (6)
- 6 Does he issue bank statements? (6)
- 9 Finish behind full back to protect the goal (6)
- 10 Disposal of rum and cider (8)
- 11 There's a marked inclination here to knock back a drink (4)
- 12 Bargee gets new set of whiskers (3,7)
- 13 Late payments? (5,6)
- 18 Can beginners use these kitchen tools? (3,7)
- 21 Paid to act as a stooge? (4)
- 22 Dons went wild – expelled from university (4,4)
- 23 Package is in the right place for sorting (6)
- 24 Used in a sewing machine, it goes round a screw (6)
- 25 Create trendy opening (6)

Down

- 1 Purchase money always available on time (8)
- 2 Family led out from fire (6)
- 3 No racehorse alive is one (4,4)

- 4 It is involved with a plan that's flexible (6)
- 5 Tick awarded in exam for high marks (6)
- 7 Written evidence leads to convictions (6)
- 8 Serious actress in great need of new parts (11)
- 14 What the driver needs needs above all is to be sober (8)
- 15 Might, in extremity, be unavoidable (8)
- 16 Manage without an intermediary (6)
- 17 Loathe endless study before exam (6)
- 19 Call for a strike? (6)
- 20 Flat out setting up American deal (6)

Winners of prize puzzle 25,652

