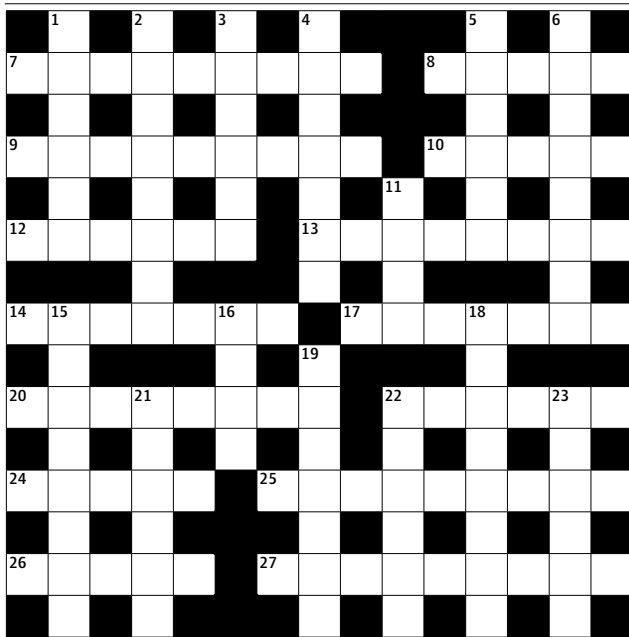


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,677 set by Rufus

## Across

- 7 Highly esteemed? That's hilarious! (9)
- 8 Cuttlefish very good in water (5)
- 9 Minute required – or two thirds of a minute – solving clues (9)
- 10 One of an opening pair (5)
- 12 Fishes in shallow waters (6)
- 13 Tricked into side issues (8)
- 14 Freed of entanglement, volunteered (7)
- 17 A sunny spot? (7)
- 20 Essential requirement, if the standard is to be raised (8)
- 22 A variety, we hear, still to be discovered (6)
- 24 A measure in operation (5)
- 25 Fruit of two trees (9)
- 26 Partygoer in a right state (5)
- 27 Chap to leave a served vegetable (9)

## Down

- 1 It may appear one is in anger (6)
- 2 Correct for clergyman to foot the bill (8)
- 3 The opposite of bustles – yet still worn (6)
- 4 David's work book (7)

- 5 Twins with empty garage acquiring car (6)
- 6 Raise help with a long organised line (8)
- 11 Time that is right for a row (4)
- 15 Happen to be on the level but produce no response (4,4)
- 16 Tender put up for a capital statue (4)
- 18 Caught by stumper, all out – ready for tea? (8)
- 19 The point of medical treatment (7)
- 21 You'd feel better without them! (6)
- 22 Plant about fifty for use in winter (6)
- 23 Kind of robbery most likely to occur in rush hour? (4-2)

Winners of prize puzzle 25,670

