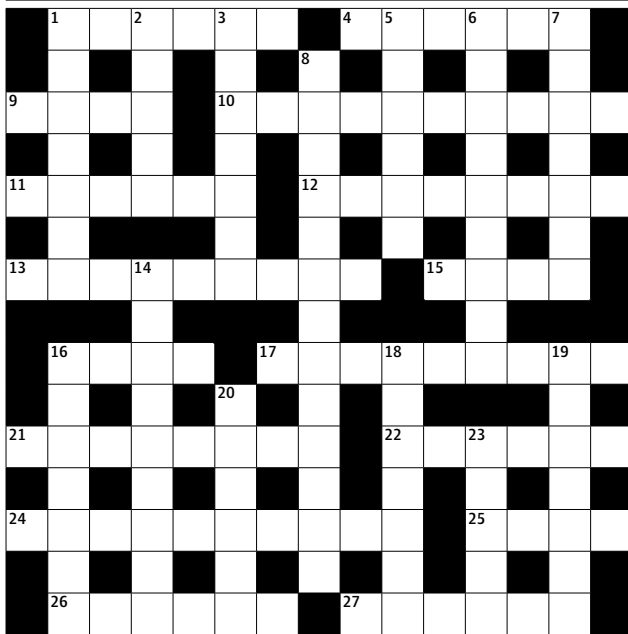


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,704 set by Puck

Across

- 1 Sick note written by doctor in Bury (6)
- 4 Sting initially had awfully dark times (6)
- 9 Part of church services pastor echoed inwardly (4)
- 10 Bullied ex-PM about pound taking lead from euro (10)
- 11 Request halves of beer and he'll stay (6)
- 12 God holds detailed account of what's owed for weakness (8)
- 13 Ships moor around similarly shaped items ... (9)
- 15 ... amongst the number of nights told of in a diary, originally (4)
- 16 Animal in 23 (a reptile) (4)
- 17 Hindu deity back in loft reverting to ancestral traits (9)
- 21 City where Java's ore is processed (8)
- 22 One wearing no undies, divulging super tanning tips? (6)
- 24 No time to search trailer before one and all returned for Mexican food (10)
- 25 Reverse current flowing through damaged dynamo (4)
- 26 They leave the stage with old tune playing (6)
- 27 When it's warm, start to sunbathe with topless mime artist (6)

Down

- 1 Leading lady's letter to the papers (7)
- 2 See 8

- 3 27 time in Rome excited US gang member (7)
- 5 Drink with two setters entertaining another in B & B (6)
- 6 The foreign representative is in a shed changing car parts (9)
- 7 Fragrant sachet not regularly used by little 25? (7)
- 8,2,14 As I said in 15 27 4 23: "Funny farm? The whole lot are dolts, boss!" (4,4,5,5,7,2)
- 16 Key used after reworking of a half-hearted 27 dance (7)
- 18 Vehicle usually starting at university in island republic (7)
- 19 Fashionable drink, as reported by one in the know (7)
- 20 Dull as last character leaving cul-de-sac? (6)
- 23 Large amount put on wrong 16 across? Singular 4 16 across, maybe (5)

Solution No. 25,703

