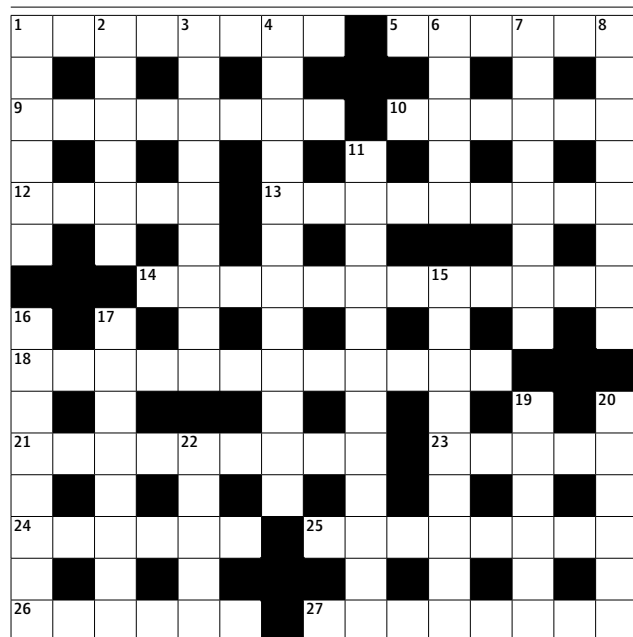


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,720 set by Chifonie

Across

- 1 Butcher some French piece (8)
- 5 Wood modelling initially is soothing (6)
- 9 Russian worker becomes policeman (8)
- 10 Smoke about fifty aboard vessel (6)
- 12 Astronomer lost his head in backstreet (5)
- 13 Sportsman makes one retire (9)
- 14 Musical talent appreciated by batsmen (7,5)
- 18 Artiste to allow director to interrupt high wire performer (6,6)
- 21 Spanish gentleman in political faction finds role model (9)
- 23 Rent is about zero (5)
- 24 Editor foolishly went berserk (6)
- 25 Flags welcome crew in port (8)
- 26 Girl keeps journalist back in The Crown (6)
- 27 Delaware atomic project? That's the last place to live (5,3)

Down

- 1 Hit boy turning up sorrowful (6)
- 2 Scottish beginners furl old manuscript (6)
- 3 Wrongly elect any European leader?

That's inflammatory (9)

- 4 Dan fed on corn crackers? He's dispensable (6,6)
- 6 Worn out during an evil uprising (3,2)
- 7 Parts for FBI agents hidden in the stage scenery (8)
- 8 State chief replaces note in cash (8)
- 11 Record playing well into the night? Very sad (12)
- 15 101 in show that's telling the future (9)
- 16 Former pupils smoked? That's hard to see (8)
- 17 Drink to suit old lawyer (4,4)
- 19 Fold party clothes (3-3)
- 20 Engineering graduate put away present (6)
- 22 A feudal lord in Belgium (5)

Solution No. 25,719

