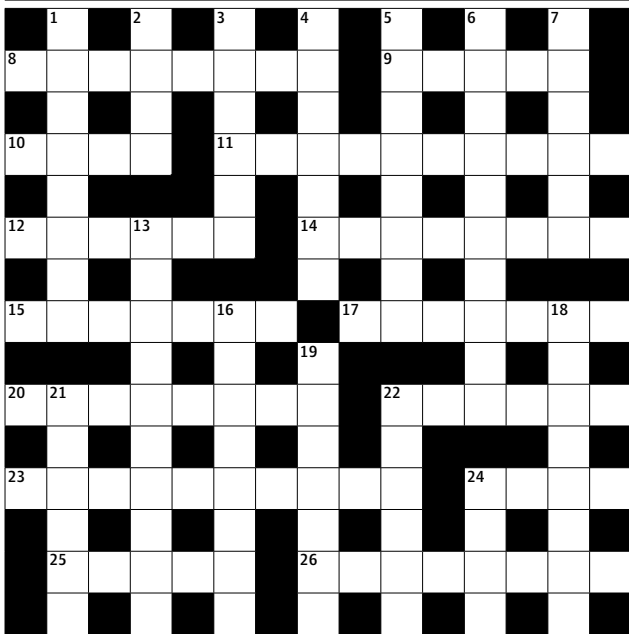


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,721 set by Arachne

Across

- 8** Where you might unship old copper compound, we hear (8)
9 Like a secluded corner for it? (5)
10 Anglers regularly disappearing for long periods (4)
11 Ring Carrie or Christine? (6,4)
12 Old cardinal who's not a sexist (3,3)
14 Thus carrying pet back and forth to be clipped (8)
15 Irish individual hoarding gold, a tradable commodity (4,3)
17 Anaesthetist's comparatively sober (7)
20 Kindle design accepted by Green movement (8)
22 He loves to tell Spooner's fish joke (6)
23 Wretched Liberal willing to embrace leader of Tories (10)
24 Song in which black sheep gets shorn (4)
25 Fluff found in belly of lesser rorqual (5)
26 "Noun" in Roget represented as N (8)

Down

- 1** Old minstrel beginning to junket on fresh gruel (8)
2 Basically you look quite humorous strumming these (4)
3 Initially set contract iPhone to divert (6)
4 Fly attracted to huge English bush (3,4)
5 Make changes – vote in an alternative! (8)
6 Devotees of old Chinese whisper mix-ups (10)
7 Extremely ethical environmentalist cleaned out small hole (8)
13 Record describes capricious regent in Balkan state (10)
16 Dawn is ushered in by ruddy bird (8)
18 Former African dictator, extremely electable candidate (8)
19 Float and line cast over inlet? On the contrary (7)
21 Baffled bachelor becoming new groom (6)
22 Somewhat slowly undergoing contraction by third quarter (6)
24 Behead clergyman shortly (4)

Solution No. 25,720

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