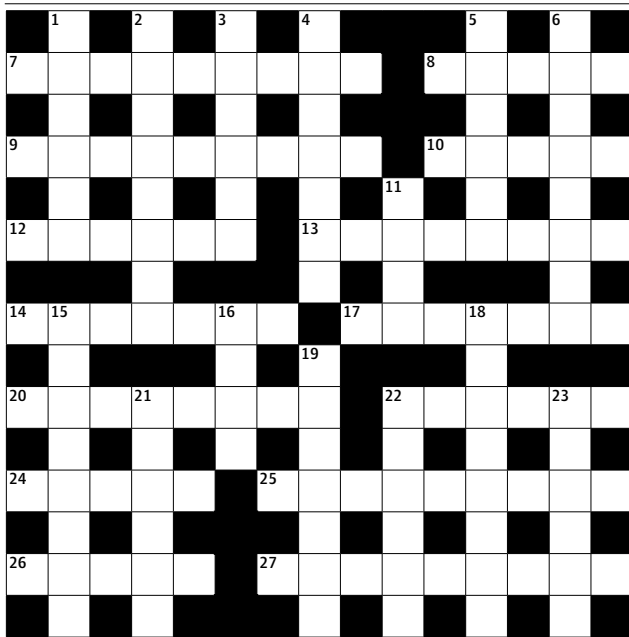


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,755 set by Rufus

Across

- 7 Abandon one on flight (9)
- 8 Importance of respect (5)
- 9 He may counsel the sexual offender (9)
- 10 Timber reordered by one (5)
- 12 Animated or dead – idolised (6)
- 13 Ability to stick to point, perhaps (8)
- 14 After getting in the beer he went round preaching (7)
- 17 Attractive artwork (7)
- 20 Document to be filled in by don or graduate (3,5)
- 22 Pop a question that’s somewhat obscure (6)
- 24 Seven dancing castaways? (5)
- 25 Way home from the inn (9)
- 26 It’s worn by sailor in a blow (5)
- 27 Safety device to protect bird (9)

Down

- 1 Become acquainted with brick carrier’s way of working (6)
- 2 Carry a gun with sleeves rolled up, say (4,4)
- 3 Dull-witted, confused type taken in by boss (6)

- 4 It may wilt and droop in the centre (7)
- 5 Poor performing animal? (6)
- 6 Refuse to reduce the volume (4,4)
- 11 Middle East overturns one ruler – or another (4)
- 15 Grating that goes on top, of course (8)
- 16 Game bird? (4)
- 18 Any power may produce armaments (8)
- 19 Nothing in the ship is of extravagant style (7)
- 21 Line up on parade and collapse (4,2)
- 22 Nuns take what superiors give (6)
- 23 International organisation’s help is implicit (6)

Winners of prize puzzle 25,748

