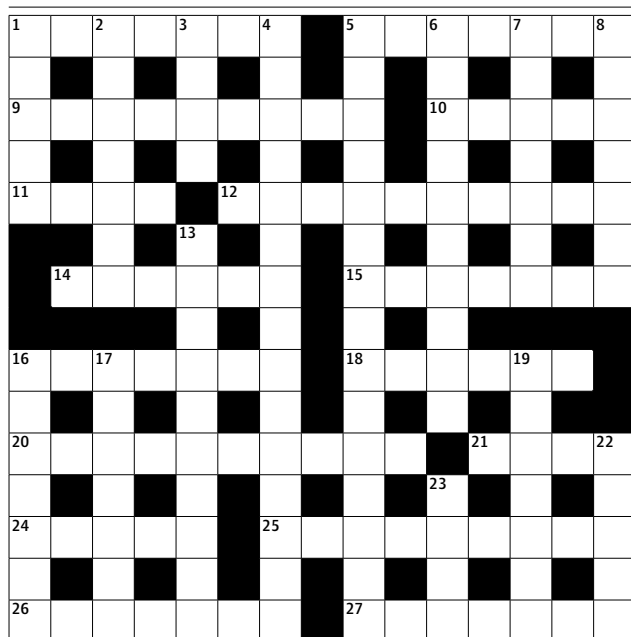


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,763 set by Gordius

Across

- 1** Fate of cracked Meissen? (7)
- 5** Recall astonishing miracle (7)
- 9** Weather conditions bringing infections need kips (4,5)
- 10** Drain off to the bottom (5)
- 11** Egghead goes to one college or other ... (4)
- 12** ... as well as a bit of maths with a student (10)
- 14** Starter key (6)
- 15** Centre of 16 across following Dutch uncle (7)
- 16** Country morning with Heath (7)
- 18** Nothing to bone of bones (6)
- 20** Carried by beasts, parcels can go off (10)
- 21** Book cast out (4)
- 24** Letter gives a sign of resistance (5)
- 25** It's exclusive East European xenophobia (9)
- 26** A buddy rejects sport for which he's not paid (7)
- 27** Stretch of river carrying vessels (7)

Down

- 1 Mother-of-pearl from northern area (5)
- 2 Cissy gets benefit from work (4-3)

- 3** Like valuations of 4?
(2-2)
- 4** Are their ratings never
very good? (8,3,4)
- 5** Gamble like Putin
allowed to get in the
way (7,8)
- 6** Seize and study its face
change (10)
- 7** Not quite 13 together
with advance payment
(7)
- 8** Evergreens – if failing,
try elms (7)
- 13** Tacks away from earth
with little motion (6,4)
- 16** Jar of current and clas-
sic time (7)
- 17** Times create articles of
crap (7)
- 19** This sale is indeed
smart (7)
- 22** Some considerable
number took part in
battle (5)
- 23** Settlement for Peter-
house, initially by the
river (4)

Solution No. 25,762

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