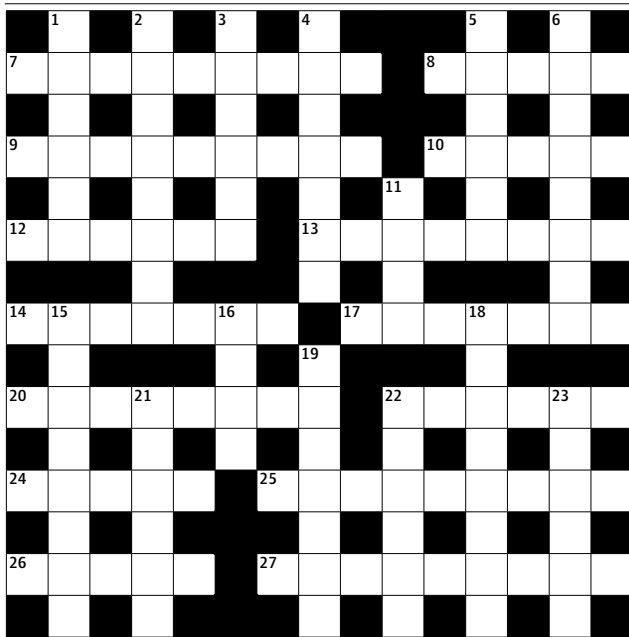


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,779 set by Rufus

## Across

- 7 Routine procedure for a safe crossing (4,5)
- 8 Quiet game (5)
- 9 Rapid rise, sadly, in dilapidation (9)
- 10 A bit of a punch-up (5)
- 12 They fight with one another (6)
- 13 Press one to state conclusion involving a paradox (8)
- 14 Husband shows reticence (7)
- 17 Hit a century, made fast (7)
- 20 To show greater indulgence may be stupid (8)
- 22 Hemingway and Sterne novel (6)
- 24 Footwear that goes with the hose? (5)
- 25 Incensed by having to change banks? (5,4)
- 26 They go round about, loud and heavy (5)
- 27 Missing persons (9)

## Down

- 1 A broken romance? (6)
- 2 A bit over-developed and not finally successful (8)
- 3 Covers spread out (6)
- 4 It's forbidden – and one hundred take it badly at first (7)

- 5 Affected stylish greeting (6)
- 6 Inserted plug in leak – a daring exploit (8)
- 11 One gets a large number upset about hard work (4)
- 15 US recipe cooked for gourmets (8)
- 16 Look in six different directions (4)
- 18 Associates with swindling types? (8)
- 19 Credit work, say, to a writer (7)
- 21 Vice produces record-breaking tax (6)
- 22 Oriental flower festival (6)
- 23 Country editor beset with bad news (6)

Winners of prize puzzle 25,772

