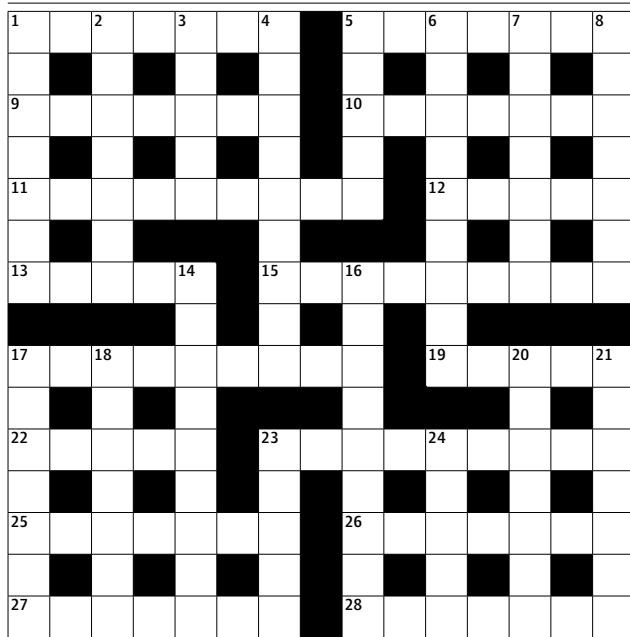


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,786 set by Gordius

Across

- 1 A leg's an odd item on the menu (7)
- 5 Rider rejected transvestite garments from old witch (7)
- 9 Natural growth fostered by grain company (7)
- 10 Puffer with little weight of matter (7)
- 11 Plead to dine out over monastic service (9)
- 12 Hook loses head with anger (5)
- 13 Present letter to Jones (5)
- 15 It's strange, not being told (9)
- 17 Joiner of golfer's complement? (9)
- 19 Revolutionary bears a weapon (5)
- 22 Some of the day a doctor is on hand (5)
- 23 Keep it under your hat! (3,6)
- 25 Various names turn sail into sea (7)
- 26 Ointment for a Frenchman round the bend? (7)
- 27 Relief with mid-river shelter (7)
- 28 Genuine, because given religious education (7)

Down

- 1 Cat like Pope? (7)
- 2 Able to see where it's said to be placed (7)
- 3 King held singular character with scant hope (5)
- 4 Purse made former companion turn queer (9)
- 5 Politician gets hot with fever (5)
- 6 Plant cheerful with promises – about a pound (9)
- 7 Tarmac orders snake to stop (7)
- 8 Swell managed without a gun (7)
- 14 Ash bin was upset, making this a necessity (9)
- 16 One of them can go to the hole in the wall for part of 17 across (9)
- 17 Dawn let loose about Romney? (7)
- 18 Is clout appropriate for treating the 2? (7)
- 20 Asian gets me in 4 (7)
- 21 Style – some present it less than others (7)
- 23 Piece of metal plate or cup elsewhere (5)
- 24 Nigel playing with marbles? (5)

Solution No. 25,785

