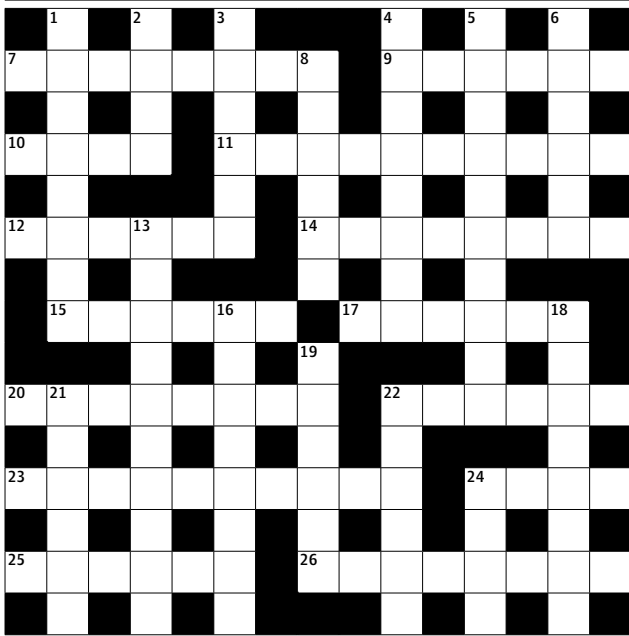


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,799 set by Orlando

## Across

- 7 Superficial variety in ooze (4-4)
- 9 Horse associated with the French farmland (6)
- 10 Current reversal for Don Juan? (4)
- 11 Bird changing tack? Grouse! (10)
- 12 Music centre with characteristic sound (6)
- 14 Ciphers in All Souls? (8)
- 15 Nark gets clear before legal eagle starts (6)
- 17 Centrefold fresh in the memory? (6)
- 20 Composer putting king in check, brought back knight alongside queen (8)
- 22 Delegate like Leo, for example (6)
- 23 Fagin's associates love to be lovey-dovey (4,3,3)
- 24 Save time in the end (4)
- 25 Secret arrangement is archaic, I assure you (6)
- 26 Use a footbridge in a breeze? (8)

## Down

- 1 Bones not cooked with leeks (8)
- 2 Ken and Kelvin got up (4)
- 3 Importance of delay for an auditor (6)

- 4 Nancy's not dark – fair (8)
- 5 Like groom's requirement for party, perhaps (5,5)
- 6 Rip off warm garment (6)
- 8 Simple Tory leader making statement in court (6)
- 13 A tacit rule that's broken, say (10)
- 16 Red border covering number up (8)
- 18 Good books taken up by good number in concert (8)
- 19 Leaders in Czech Republic with a lower place in Poland (6)
- 21 Rex Smith, when upset, was vituperative (6)
- 22 Olympian first in London in a game (6)
- 24 United Nations bar deposed king (4)

Solution No. 25,798

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