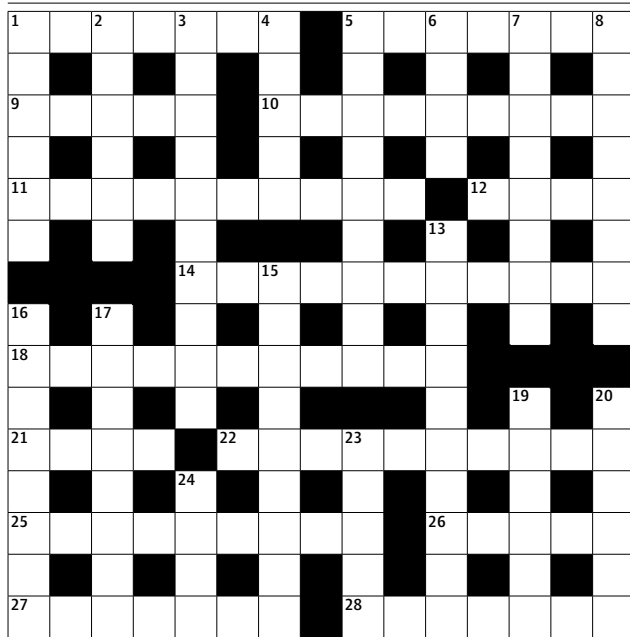


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,804 set by Qaos

## Across

- 1 Finally Condoleezza Rice misled in Massachusetts, USA (7)
- 5 Perhaps Cook makes 100 next (not 50) with England's opening runs (7)
- 9 Looks are said to attain their best with small crowns (5)
- 10 Before starting to darken, skin uses tan to appear like this (3-6)
- 11 Island gods embraced some Bible characters (10)
- 12 Conservative backing European Union? Liberal bias, for starters (4)
- 14 Order me new shirt? It's a deal! (11)
- 18 It's not surprising the Great Pyramid of Giza has shrunk! (5,6)
- 21 First male (Adam) had no ma, surprisingly (4)
- 22 Those ultimately with least struggle? (10)
- 25 I would back loud form of jazz spreading (9)
- 26 Dead keen on Renaissance sculpture? (5)
- 27 Long article on time by nuclear scientists, not about light (7)
- 28 Hearts – they flutter when hugging man in good shape (7)

## Down

- 1 Domestic help to the French couple (2,4)
- 2 Rubber bridge's finale: king, a spade, over queen (6)

- 3 A leading banker taken in by lies ain't corrupt or greedy ... (10)
- 4 ... returns old savings account for something useful (5)
- 5 Sentenced prisoner, heartless man indeed (9)
- 6 Double the victory in Yorkshire? (4)
- 7 Decided to complete this puzzle again by day (8)
- 8 Wine and steam, cooking beef and lamb etc (3,5)
- 13 Broken-hearted over upside-down painting's shapes (10)
- 15 In the past African rebel hero said "no" (9)
- 16 Lily Allen's debut EP holds potential (8)
- 17 Soldier lifts lid off can to store f-f-fuel (8)
- 19 5 + 2/3 of 12: maths' core material (6)
- 20 Uninspired holy man upset God by asking "Why?" (6)
- 23 On the radio Dame Vera and companion make a killing (5)
- 24 Hill made from brown earth (4)

Solution No. 25,803

