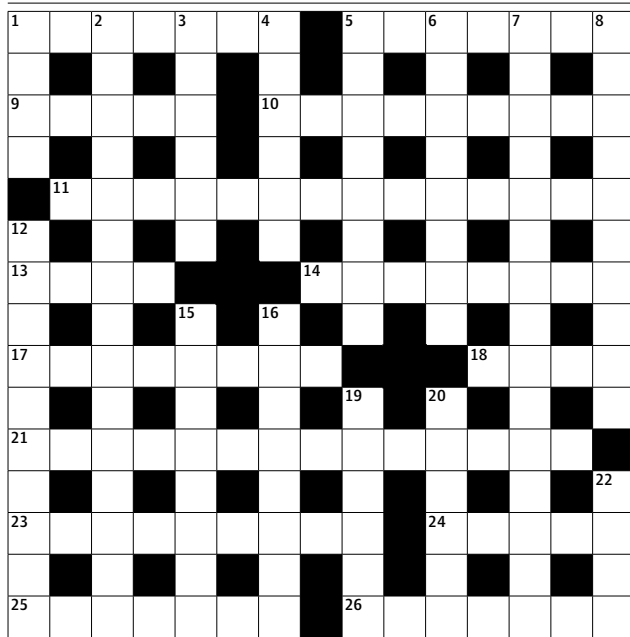


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,908 set by Gordius

Across

- 1** Artist, not a playwright (7)
5 The Guardian's into rejecting obscenity – which may be malignant (7)
9 Second tea or coffee (5)
10 Wickedness ends daily activity (6,3)
11 Small bankers in a big way? (6,2,6)
13 Colours show poet losing heart (4)
14 Friends' hearty gesture (4-4)
17 Diet in uncivilised times? (8)
18 Tool increases sound (4)
21 Wrought iron, hot with reason like study of 19s, say (14)
23 Blairist many construed as concerned with race (9)
24 Esau, without hesitation from him, got pottage (5)
25 Writer lost plot with trifle (7)
26 It's more the difficult matter to be proved (7)

Down

- 1** Pander to sanctimonious politician (4)
2 One quits in clean fashion, which is futile (15)
3 Wound up a character with skill (6)
4 Vegetable is hard to cultivate (6)
5 Linaria, a reptile strong and flabby (8)
6 Creatures lacking backbone – hoods' women catch American king (8)
7 Party lacking competence? (9,6)
8 Seaside jumper spender also wears (10)
12 The pest keeps the greatest number to a marked degree (10)
15 Oddly, I want the termite (5,3)
16 No gin – my one failing, a disgrace (8)
19 Repeated annual check gets the bird (6)
20 Sound wood of sound quality (6)
22 Pretence of British-American relationship? (4)

Solution No. 25,907

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