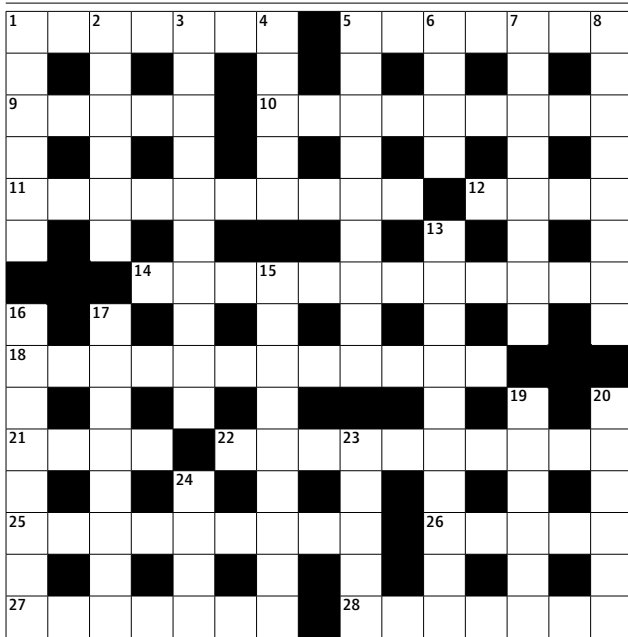


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,974 set by Araucaria

Across

- 1** I turn green in front of 25's work (7)
- 5** Riotous work of 25 (7)
- 9** Close time? (5)
- 10** Inevitable about turn by Russian aircraft getting debugged (9)
- 11** Write letters in spring for 25's work (10)
- 12,22** Face erratic form by returning legendary horse in 25's work (4,1,3,6)
- 14** It is a language in support of the Raj (7,5)
- 18,26** 25's work chimed with treason wrought amid stress (9,2,1,5)
- 21** Stop rowing on the street (4)
- 22** See 12
- 25** Hitch in exposure of RAF doctor's lie (3,6)
- 26** See 18
- 27** Plains heard after 12 more in 25's work (7)
- 28** Precis a game (7)

Down

- 1** Transport is here, not before what 25's lady contrived to do (6)
- 2** Rough as a partially covered floor? (6)
- 3** Unable to bear work with rotten nail (10)
- 4** Goldfish love opera (5)

- 5** They put a bit of ritual into Mass characteristically (9)
- 6** Good lad goes round with frightener (4)
- 7** American fliers act out 25's work (8)
- 8** A contemptuous remark about boring Arab king (8)
- 13** Eatanswill's Mrs Leo after big game? (4,6)
- 15** Plants model on joint poles (4,5)
- 16** Rates for female quadrupeds? (8)
- 17** One's own business in a jam? (8)
- 19** See 20
- 20,19** Wessex island? (6,6)
- 23** Nearly 12 again, which would be a fluke (5)
- 24** Cut part of 25's work? (4)

Solution No. 25,973

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