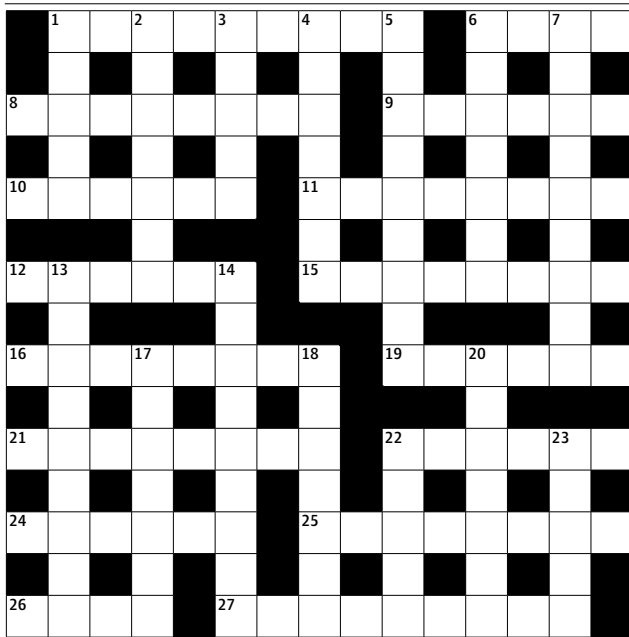


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,976 set by Rufus

## Across

- 1 Device to stop leaves spreading around (5,4)
- 6 Pass around the mugs (4)
- 8 Shared a good round of golf? (8)
- 9 One result of eavesdropping in winter? (6)
- 10 Emphasise the consequence of overwork (6)
- 11 One blow after another makes great entertainment (5,3)
- 12 Speak freely and reveal what's there (4,2)
- 15 Complaint is purely fabricated (8)
- 16 Delightful lake in rustic surroundings (8)
- 19 What one does with a bookmaker, of course (3,3)
- 21 A place of grazing (8)
- 22 A plant Sam has to look out for (6)
- 24 Something lyrical about a redhead's garment (6)
- 25 Equip groups with swimming aids (8)
- 26 Sounds like a plan for a bit of a junket? (4)
- 27 Bishop's repast eaten little by little? (9)

## Down

- 1 Growth for production? (5)
- 2 Be nice to a dog and a bird, for example (7)
- 3 Has an inclination for debauched men (5)

- 4 Queues seen on wash-days? (5,2)
- 5 Gathering impressions hip replacement recently required (9)
- 6 Split with girl and slip away (7)
- 7 Just the thing, if you want to hit the hay (9)
- 13 Mabel gets involved with chap in US resort (4,5)
- 14 Giving undue prominence to bad behaviour (7,2)
- 17 To many a new branch of medicine (7)
- 18 As entered by shipping agent on order? (7)
- 20 Go back to score an advantage over a fellow player? (7)
- 22 Approximately 1,000 held captive in battle (5)
- 23 Gong brings many in to dinner, for example (5)

Winners of prize puzzle 25,969

