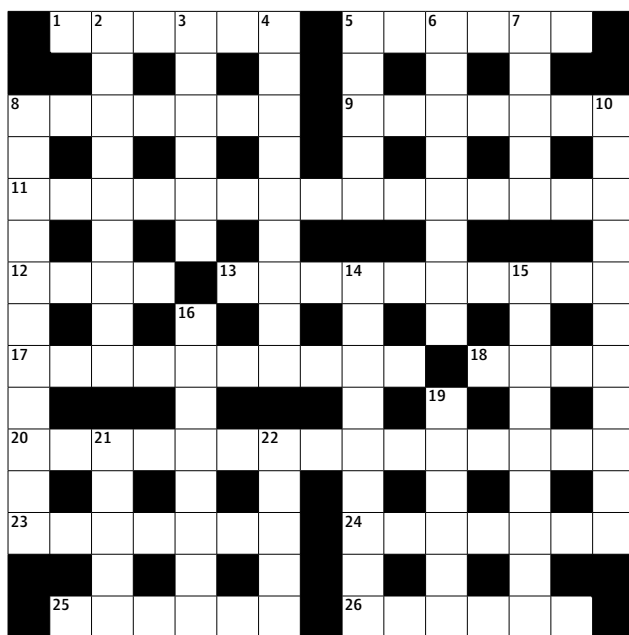


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 24,761 set by Araucaria

The first five correct entries drawn each week win Guardian Style and Secrets of the Setters, worth £28.99.

Entries to: The Guardian Crossword No 24,761, P.O. Box 6603, Birmingham, B26 3PR, or Fax to 0121-742 1313 by first post on Friday. Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday 3 August.

Across

- 1 5 down player and American writer, name of Lee (6)
- 5 Scotsman's far away river for all in 21 letters (6)
- 8 It's sporting an animated conscience (7)
- 9 Start of Strauss opera with no middle and no top part (7)
- 11 Cambridge's latest birds find study of cancer largely – two thirds myth (8,7)
- 12,25 I'm very busy so I wear the burka (2,2,2,4)
- 13 Little birds here should be feature of wedding – Euan Blair's? (10)
- 17 Fairy before returning sweet is ready to be kissed (8,2)
- 18 Mark beginning, not ending (4)
- 20 A lot of 5 down, or my Scotch penny is counterfeit (8,7)
- 23 Repair to meadow with the man who contrived to 21 its clue (7)
- 24 21 inversely bein' emollient (2,5)
- 25 See 12
- 26 One desiring to be extended? (6)
- 4 Why not let everyone have as much beer as they want? (9)
- 5 Sound of cat? Yes, that's correct (5)
- 6 Beans, say, in scarlet are rejected (8)
- 7 Humiliate a singer, say? (5)
- 8 "Teacher wrote 5 down" – report is put around (11)
- 10 Apply too much pressure to passages of 8 across – time to go back to church (11)
- 14 Curmudgeon embracing offspring nearly 19 years older than 11 (9)
- 15 Zenith possible for one mentally ready to achieve it (2,3,4)
- 16 Permit astronomer to drop drug with fatal effect (8)
- 19 Public servants at one in 5 down (6)
- 21 Scottish queen – imprisoned queen indeed! (5)
- 22 Couldn't Alfred make up his mind? (5)

Down

- 2 Thermodynamic formula, one possibly a bit acid (9)
- 3 Girl entertaining family in city, formerly (6)

Solution No. 24,760

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