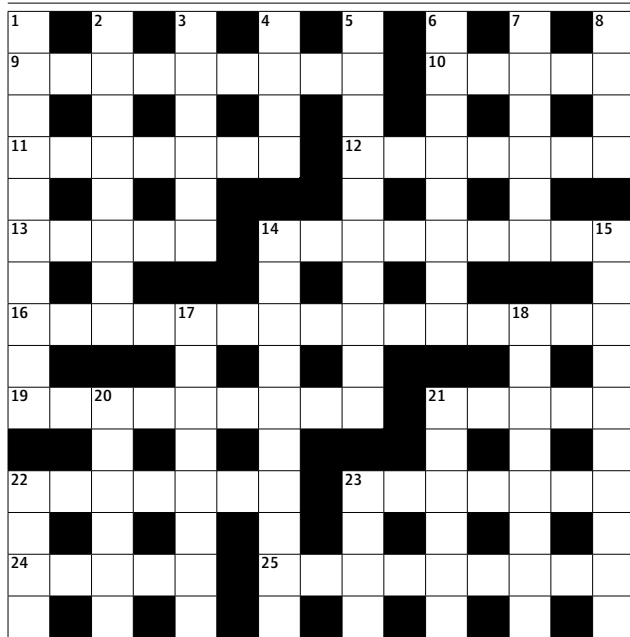


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 24,981 set by Shed

The first five correct entries drawn each week win Guardian Style and A Clue to our Lives, worth £23.98.

Entries to: The Guardian Crossword No 24,981, 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 19 April.

Across

- 9 Cause trouble with high heels, boarding type of transport (5,4)
 10 Inhabitant of water butt (5)
 11 O' __ men, as Burns almost said in "China-town"? (7)
 12 Try to chuck Little Bird (7)
 13 European treaty establishing discrepancy between calendars (5)
 14 Bordeaux, say, is in peace with orthodoxy (9)
 16 Head of state's minders ordered to do eg "Ra-Ra-Rasputin" without head of state (10,5)
 19 Formerly meeting sticky ends – those of Emperor Trajan, Nero, etc? (9)
 21 Island going west in "Prufrock" (5)
 22 Sun exposes party leader taking weed on public vehicle (7)
 23 Trough engulfing a boss (7)
 24 Politician who's into huntin' 'n' fencin'? (5)
 25 Fighter's pleased a riot's erupted (9)

Down

- 1 One bellyaching about daft mare's death (4,6)
 2 Bird raised plant, needing a lot of water (8)
 3 What gardener does to mature plant's humble dwelling? (6)
 4 Slight incline (4)

- 5 Perform sex act on prisoner in bondage, as dominatrix may (10)
 6 Have songwriter up for having dates (8)
 7 Island that's upholding another one (6)
 8 Time to show affection for hoodie, perhaps? (4)
 14 University fees take the "Liberal" out of party leader – which is not all bad (7,3)
 15 Bloody compiler! Lousy, keeping union member up (6,4)
 17 Music maker's sort of disc cutting sort of steak (8)
 18 Reverse decision to encase small sibling in mineral (8)
 20 Spoon about to be dropped by fool (6)
 21 Frank has the ability – and proved it (6)
 22 Less than mature mammal on top of a less than mature insect (4)
 23 Drink and drug necked by loony (4)

Solution No. 24,980

