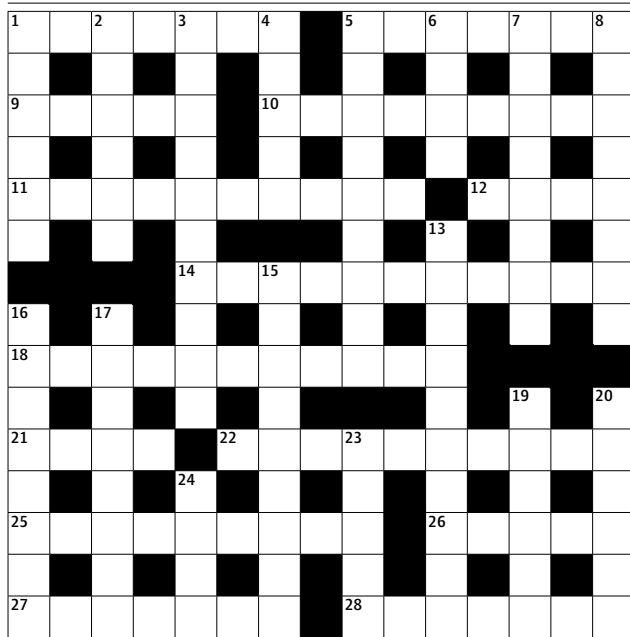


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 24,993 set by Paul

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 24,993, 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 May.

## Across

- 1 Those following a star with cool clobber (3,4)
- 5 See 4
- 9 Mixed colour, including white, for tree (5)
- 10 5 across taken alone, containing hamster, say, stuffed with last of gerbil (5,4)
- 11 Without restraint from unscrupulous Sun reporter, took the initiative (10)
- 12 Don't go from lentils to pizza (4)
- 14 Potentially tricky food items? (3,8)
- 18 He sang, as singer did to cuckoo (4,7)
- 21 Unfinished cut of beef pie (4)
- 22 Mince redolent in cut of meat (10)
- 25 Fine in head, figure not entirely right for mind (4,5)
- 26 Earliest Greek character's "Eureka", pressing disc (5)
- 27 Cornish author Christopher, short of wood, finding branch in the wind? (7)
- 28 German company reaching peak finances authority (7)

## Down

- 1 Is the lowest tide so unconventional? (3,3)
- 2 Most recent two or three points? (6)

- 3,19 24 or chipolatas, then traditional dish (10,6)
- 4,5across Want to take pride initially in developing traditional dish (5,7)
- 5 Meat – go with Argentina's favourite one (9)
- 6 Source of meat, or honey, say (4)
- 7 I cannot, I suspect, show idleness (8)
- 8 One with an opener starts to play ambitious shots to get out (8)
- 13,24 Traditional dish requiring passion, having bondage during party (7,3,4)
- 15 Old MCC president with whom phone tapper catches English theologian (3,6)
- 16 These should rise, so being half full, raised (8)
- 17 European capital moving into Italian food (8)
- 19 See 3
- 20 So is redhead a bit thick? (6)
- 23 Skin apparently sore, coming up to a degree (5)
- 24 See 13

## Solution No. 24,992

