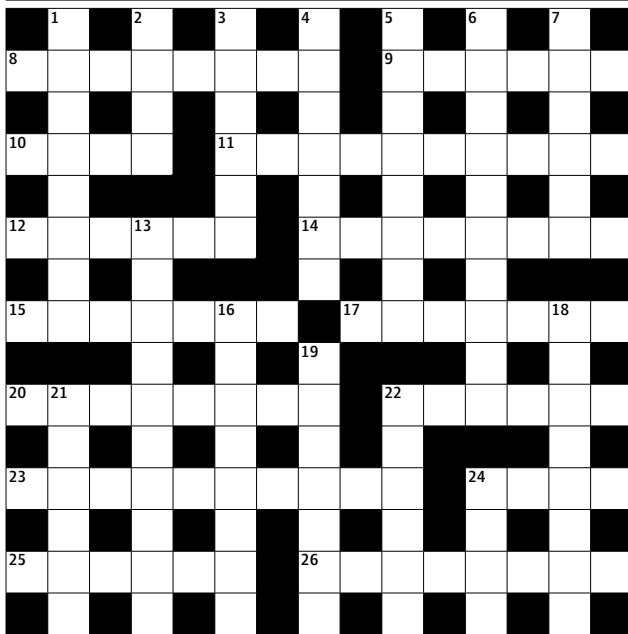


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,041 set by Araucaria

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 25,041, 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 28 June.

Across

- 8** Time in its entirety? (8)
9 Could be weeping at prospect of debt being endless (6)
10 Prize for knocking top off crowbar (4)
11 24 down's 24 down – but what's played sounds like 22 across (6,4)
12 See 24
14 Mimosa on river's course (4,4)
15 Comrade rebel doing stuff (7)
17 A reason for being a stick-in-the-mud? (7)
20 Leave 24 down out for fish (8)
22 Combination of 24 downs (6)
23 Spooky friend entertaining artist at opera (10)
24,12,12 Bid one 24 down twice, to be honest (4,1,5,1,5)
25 2 of 16 gets sworn at (6)
26 Receiving refusal, I admit not being aware (8)

Down

- 1** A skinflint about to spray (8)

- 2** Playing 24 down starts upsetting solvers (4)
3 Unglazed soup? Repeat part of question (6)
4 Past 24 down for learning? (2,5)
5 Bird with 24 down showing off (8)
6 Be without god amid loads of money and I will supply fruit for gin (10)
7 Amount to be read? (6)
13 Septic tank mostly mentioned in 24 down: no regrets then? (10)
16 24 downs intimate with young female? (8)
18 Isthmian railway could take the plunge (8)
19 Remove surface of road with a shrub (7)
21 Refained weapons for 24 downs? (6)
22 Gift of old money? (6)
24 Character of pack member (4)

Solution No. 25,040

