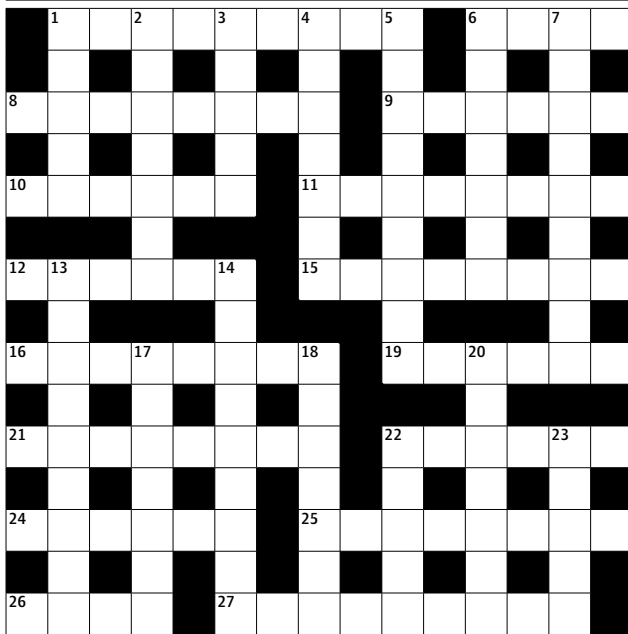


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,089 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 25,089, 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 23 August.

Across

- 1 Making progress, as are friends? (7,2)
 6 Hit power for light (4)
 8 The Beatles, perhaps, playing for us: Ringo's back with Paul (8)
 9 See 26
 10 A diminutive left back given yard as room for manoeuvre (6)
 11 See 24
 12 Greek character catching on with a ton of speech sounds (6)
 15 See 2
 16 Went I re hole? (3,2,3)
 19 Ease decimal point to the front (6)
 21 Dickensian character stretched, say, Elizabeth to become star (3-5)
 22,1down M – give it ten? (4,2,5)
 24,11 Go blue – B? (4,2,3,5)
 25 Cut off gent's ear in a frenzy (8)
 26,9 B – carry rain? (4,2,4)
 27 Sovereign, dirty colour (5,4)

Down

- 1 See 22 across
 2,15 Dr Castier? (5,2,3,5)
 3 Cream like a Welshman? (5)

- 4 Gritty novel about English bird (4,3)
 5 Unable to sniff, possibly, keeping one quiet (9)
 6 African river burst through stretched wheels (7)
 7 Platypus, say, hides first of nuggets in low plant, eating McDonald's (9)
 13 Sing "Crackle"? (4,2,3)
 14 Digger, I'm clear, needing no ground (4,5)
 17 Extract from chaplain to nervous chanter (7)
 18 Criminal nearly caught for theft of personal property (7)
 20 Flier takes soldier in crash (7)
 22 Books into the infernal place, though not quite Fawlty Towers, say? (5)
 23 Exposed to wind, not a place for fire (5)

Solution No. 25,088

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