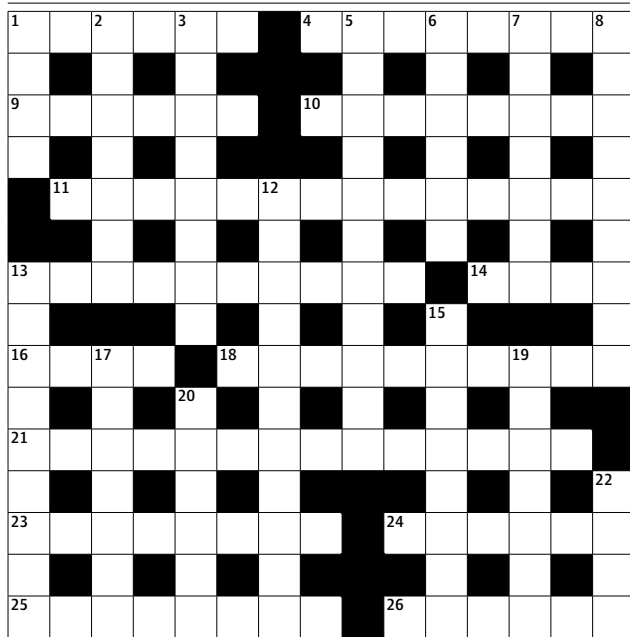


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,143 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 25,143, 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 25 October.

Across

- 1 First of burners turned on, so warmer? (6)
- 4 Analyses dumb ladies? (8)
- 9 What's odd about river? It's Britain's longest (6)
- 10 Some 19 with hoops (4-4)
- 11,21 In which constant blurring of laconic narrations so rectified, mistake ultimately forgotten? (11,3,14)
- 13 Sentence like that entered into computer accessory, ending in "bum" (6,4)
- 14 See 19
- 16 Northern European circuit on the radio? (4)
- 18 Passionate description of some crows devouring rusty bolt (3-7)
- 21 See 11
- 23 Strong resistance to break off engagement, might one say? (8)
- 24 Two in pool get the urge (6)
- 25 Mined particles, hardened diamonds found in blast (4,4)
- 26 Compete to eat what's laid, one wouldn't eat the layer? (6)

Down

- 1 Sculpture more than chipped? (4)
- 2 Temperature taken from worryingly volatile air sacs (7)
- 3 Development here, where catastrophe claims vessel on far edge of weir (4,4)
- 5 Country girl steals car, then bachelor nicks one (5,6)
- 6 Girl in denial eventually flipped (6)
- 7 Right half of visa application, nothing if not one? (7)
- 8 Sod in London area given wine, slurred (9)
- 12 Judge and I lost in poetic justice, unfortunately destroyed (3,2,6)
- 13 Trained poodle? Corgi? Or not! (6,3)
- 15 Its opposite in 3, for sure (8)
- 17 Light-hearted, fly off with me? (7)
- 19,14 Russian performer on which 22 or 16, we hear? (7,4)
- 20 Super speller (6)
- 22 Central European at the far north or south? (4)

Solution No. 25,142

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