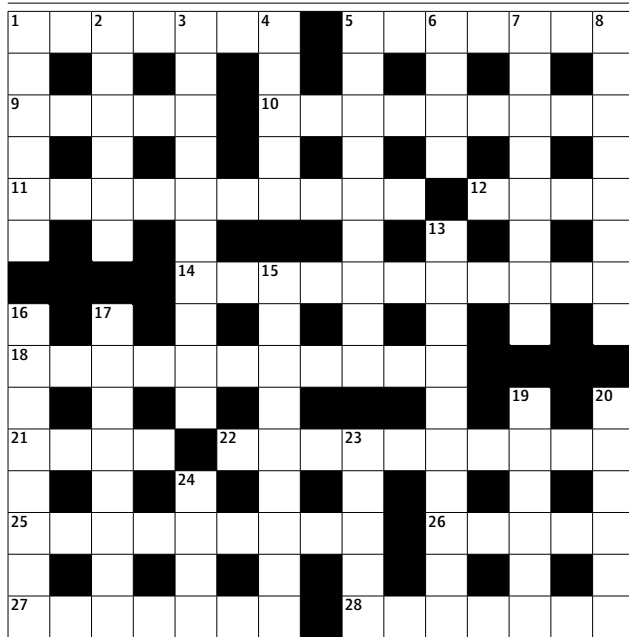


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,214 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 25,214, 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 17 January.

Across

- 1 Gold medal placing either way (3,4)
- 5 P for pillock? (7)
- 9 See 23
- 10 Stiff won't be pliable ultimately, in obsession with women's underwear? (9)
- 11 Kinky Romeo in sexy diamonds, not entirely appreciated by gay people (10)
- 12,5down Directive pens letters required for 16's second post (4-9)
- 14 See 20
- 18 Centre of Birmingham candlelit, perhaps: magical! (11)
- 21 Pool, oxygen on top (4)
- 22 Third of mice forgets to retain squeak (5,5)
- 25 Western food the pigs eat, not eastern rubbish (9)
- 26 Some lothario tasting tiny bits (5)
- 27 See 19
- 28 Russian conclusion? Job unfinished, as went beyond deadline (7)

Down

- 1 Cheap wood covered by tax (6)
- 2 Land in North America confiscated by parents (6)
- 3 Prisoner flipping secure, flushed toilet (6,4)
- 4 A kick, toe reaching head, off limits (5)

5 See 12

- 6 Items securing screws – having one loose? (4)
- 7 Single part of wheel, big, I levered up (8)
- 8 Times, admitting sin under setter, confused person (8)
- 13 Insurrectionary services up for striking, possibly (10)
- 15 Sweet girl (9)
- 16 America's endless nuclear missiles emptied and dismantled (5,3)
- 17 I bleed after a cold, water polluted (4,4)
- 19,27 Country not quite accepting change, government department restraining new 12 5 (6,7)
- 20,14 Columnist, English chap after jewel in 12 5 (6,11)
- 23,9 12 5 gains power after catastrophe (5,5)
- 24 Question a command from cavalryman, perhaps (4)

Solution No. 25,213

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