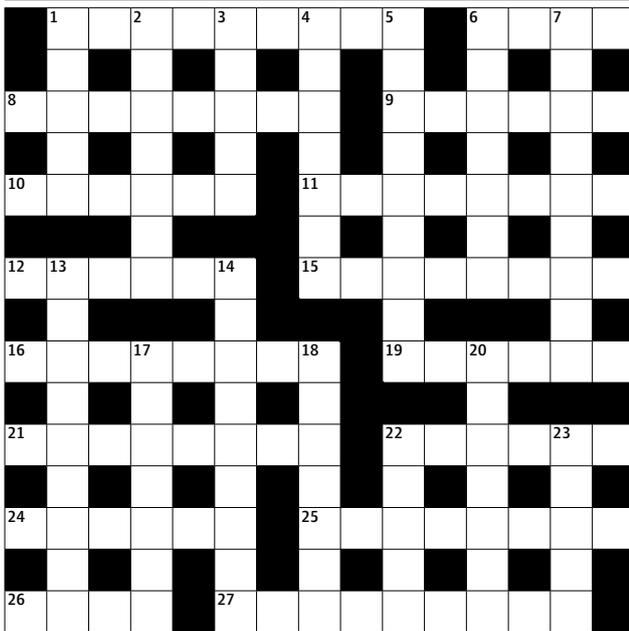


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,232 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 25,232, 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 7 February.

Ten solutions contain a British river and one a holy one; these are disregarded in the subsidiary part of their clues.

Across

- 1 Anticipatory point, I see, said to follow one of the people (9)
- 6,26 It provides food in the wild but has me worried (8)
- 8 Be aware of non-western Japanese invader (8)
- 9 East German fairy to lose breath ... and power of movement? (6)
- 10 Initial offer a good way round? (6)
- 11 Old hat to be crushed? Only put inside (8)
- 12 So free not to vote for police department (6)
- 15 Universal among goals is the clearance of river beds (8)
- 16 Xerophyte is king (8)
- 19 Scrambled up tree seeking fame (6)
- 21 Letters on a stake (8)
- 22 Bird heard noise of old train (6)
- 24 Compel to do a favour (6)
- 25 Doctor's sovereign article (8)
- 26 See 6
- 27 Only one in a suit wearing a vest (9)

Down

- 1 Peninsular and Albert? A beast! (5)
- 2 When to start on Christmas things – or be extremely reluctant? (7)
- 3 Apply energetically to the right (5)
- 4 Boy finding bills boring (7)
- 5 General inspection in the 18? (5,4)
- 6 I want to get on with sculptured portrait on the French river (7)
- 7 Peter the leader gives protection to the fallen (6,3)
- 13 Balaclava that is of no account may be there if needed (9)
- 14 Doctors, footballers or babies (9)
- 17 First time crime for Dawkins? (7)
- 18 £1,000 hot spot (7)
- 20 Demo expert (7)
- 22 Putting herb in chlorine is unkind (5)
- 23 Lie of the wood in salt or sand (5)

Solution No. 25,231

