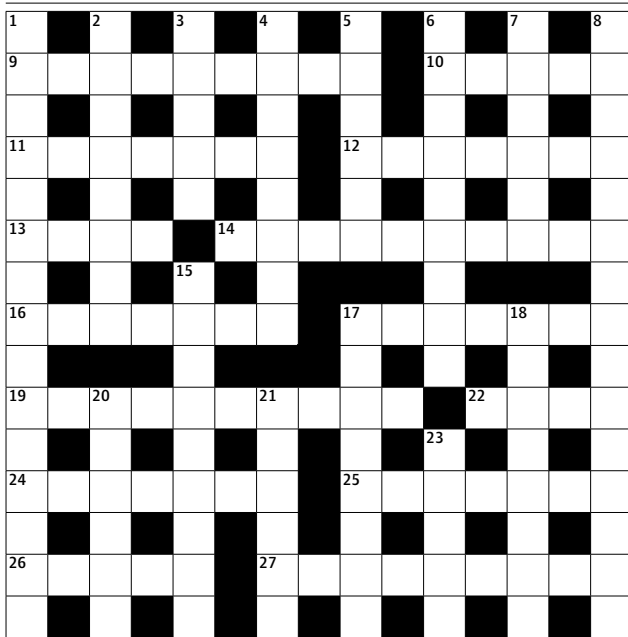


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,244 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 25,244, 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 21 February.

## Across

- 9 See 22  
 10 Inspirer of poetry by lecturer at Oxford (5)  
 11 Firm on fire is causing bellyache (7)  
 12 Brutus, it was said, made good return in case (7)  
 13 A team's centre of revolution (4)  
 14 Wee woolly with springy harness (4-6)  
 16 Runner to behold setter in body cavity (7)  
 17 Wizard with standard return outside (7)  
 19 Alfresco eateries are a bore, regressing into adolescence (3,7)  
 22,9 Fit as a fiddle though heat had nearly killed me (4,3,6)  
 24 Plant and lay out from varied 22 9 (7)  
 25 Religion about half priced? It's my fault (7)  
 26 Like men we won (5)  
 27 Home Christian keeping pet as a sign (9)

## Down

- 1 No holds barred in casual approach to fielding? (5-2-5-3)  
 2 Scenes for 26: (2) crooked deal by assistant ... (8)  
 3 ... (3) forward on horse ... (5)

- 4 ... (1) rise of salts in salt ... (8)  
 5 ... (5) poet and soldier ... (6)  
 6 ... (4) river not ending in mountains (9)  
 7 Call to puke regrettably after state of 3 (4-2)  
 8 Fish turned to bull in Spain when Keith, correspondent of the Queen, gets appropriate degree (6,2,7)  
 15 Religious life is belief in royalty without the royal (9)  
 17 Lack of detectives probing horse is disastrous to race (8)  
 18 Promptness, city style, arresting redhead (8)  
 20 Bisyllabic hooligan meets trisyllabic American (6)  
 21 Scientist additional to 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6? (6)  
 23 Girl coming under the foregoing? (5)

Solution No. 25,243

