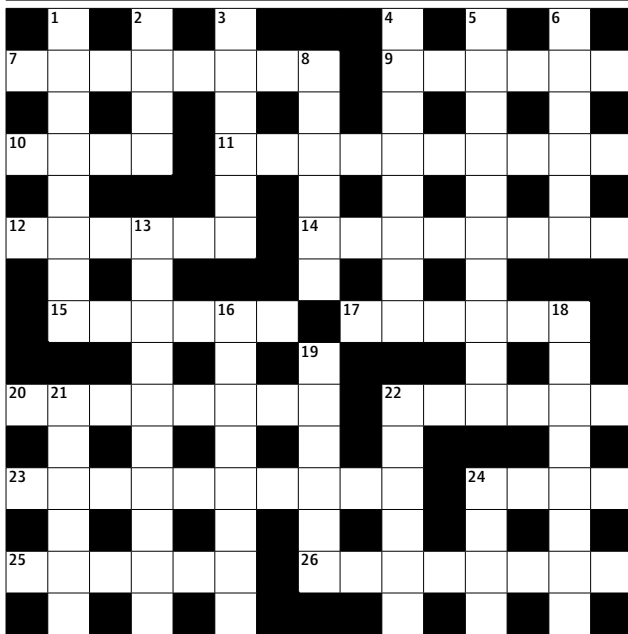


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,268 set by Pasquale

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 25,268, 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 March.

Each across solution has a common definition, which is missing from its clue.

Across

- 7 Trailing badly (8)
- 9 Time to forget about time (6)
- 10 Port running short (4)
- 11 Smoother fish (10)
- 12,22 Slithers badly with pulpy stuff around (6,6)
- 14 Maybe claret's acidic (8)
- 15 An 'orrible place outside port (6)
- 17 Join with partners at card table (3,3)
- 20 Bathe by coastal hazard? (8)
- 22 See 12
- 23 Another broadcast to draw in viewer (10)
- 24 Loud hooter (4)
- 25 Holy dope with nothing to hide (6)
- 26 Brief love affair making female celebrity (8)

- 4 One's present PM's bringing in end for the Left (8)
- 5 Maybe watch mill-stream swirling (5-5)
- 6 There's a place in Middlesex for bowler but not opener (6)
- 8 Fun to be had around a new town (6)
- 13 Irish politicians always imbibing booze? That's an inhuman complaint (5,5)
- 16 John noticed agenda's fifth item: Unfinished business (5,3)
- 18 We'll need women in smart TV show (4,4)
- 19 Girl brought on board to get fish (6)
- 21 Lord upset over rising wickedness (6)
- 22 Ball goes into river somewhere by the sea (6)
- 24 Church congregation to go bust (4)

Down

- 1 Revolutionary soldiers in repeated word calling attention to emperor (8)
- 2 There's nothing good about villain (4)
- 3 Modern miss in upsetting experience – so one in distress? (6)

Solution No. 25,267

