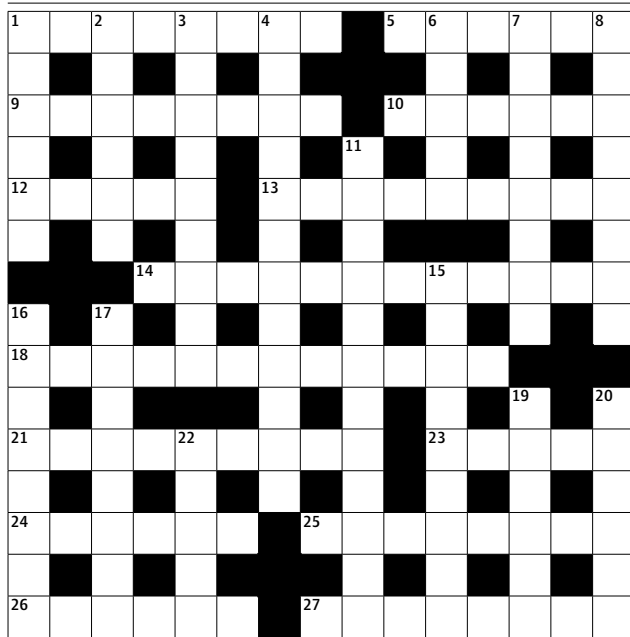


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,274 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 25,274, 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 28 March.

Across

- 1 A raptor or two produces ecstasy – we all go mad (5,3)
- 5 Call from the pink for return of some US unions in the blue (6)
- 9 Cross between painting (with backing) and poetry (8)
- 10 Ship's company thus reported one who left it (6)
- 12 Vulgar and somewhat adhesive ... (5)
- 13 ... doctor is possible criterion (9)
- 14 Unit of energy on first base at old solver among kings (8-4)
- 18 The last at first amid vulgar praise (12)
- 21 Painter of light held by old king Cole (9)
- 23 See 3
- 24 See 3
- 25 Cubic man spoken and translated as red (8)
- 26 Correctly positioned for the pull shot? (6)
- 27 Thank you initially for embracing embracer with brutal violence (8)

Down

- 1 Houses in forest at Epping (6)
- 2 Speedy butchers need good cutter (6)

- 3,4,23,24 Film about light: one thousand sheep, for example, desirable extra concept in which I tell it afresh in old king Cole's words (5,4,2,3,7,1,3,1,6)
- 6 Topless dance has pleasant smell (5)
- 7 Unassailable study about being on the move (4-4)
- 8 Grasses in footwear (8)
- 11 Holiday finished with significant discovery (12)
- 15 Cheating couple with use of stopwatch? (3-6)
- 16 A majority of Juliet's family have company in American resort (8)
- 17 Ex-professor rues time wasted (8)
- 19 24 (note time) (6)
- 20 Holiday appeal (6)
- 22 Dominated with lines (5)

Solution No. 25,273

