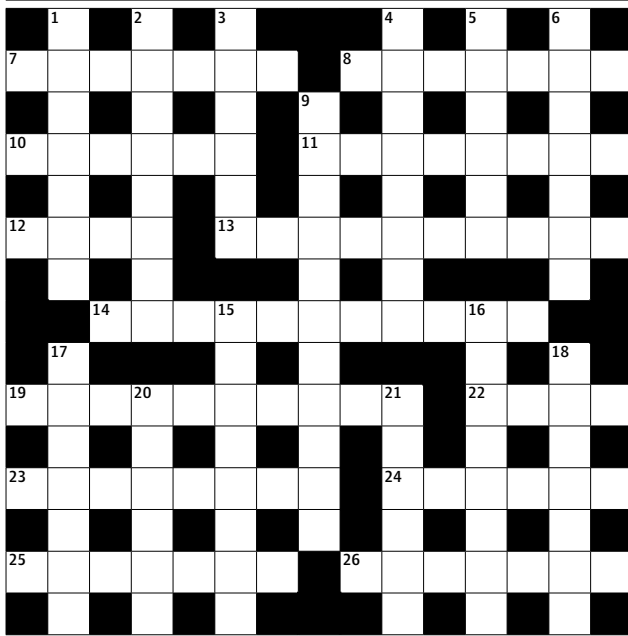


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,286 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 25,286, 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 11 April.

Across

- 7 Prize sheep get going (5,2)
 8 Unconventional country half-swallowed by snake (7)
 10 One who is posh, too (2,4)
 11 16 in French not finished often by Irish (8)
 12 Head of parrot? (4)
 13 Transport homework containing round piece of wood for study of 21 (10)
 14 Skull, maybe, 11 to 3 25 12 (7,4)
 19 Die after fall, invaded by excursionists (10)
 22 Girl from 8 could be heard to start 14 (4)
 23 Preserve drink for 16 (8)
 24 Records of Anglo-Indian currency? (6)
 25 View from work of 10 in 3 house (7)
 26 Surprised comment good guy threw out (7)

Down

- 1 Sternutation at first – go away! (7)
 2 Tory faithful's trouble: that's with Europe – no love (4,4)

- 3 House briefly licensed ... (6)
 4 ... to which appealing, pumps oil out (8)
 5 Take off statute book and ring again (6)
 6 Playwright Henry provides jobs for the clergy (7)
 9 Review in Le Soir left out points made by desks (11)
 15 East – East, not North: North's part takes one down 10 (8)
 16 Nudge concerning bodyguard? (8)
 17 Peer upset – one from the other place has time to get in first (3-4)
 18 Rival bird dead? (7)
 20 Very hot fastener inserted in lump of metal (6)
 21 Preside in court over Eliot's suit (6)

Solution No. 25,285

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