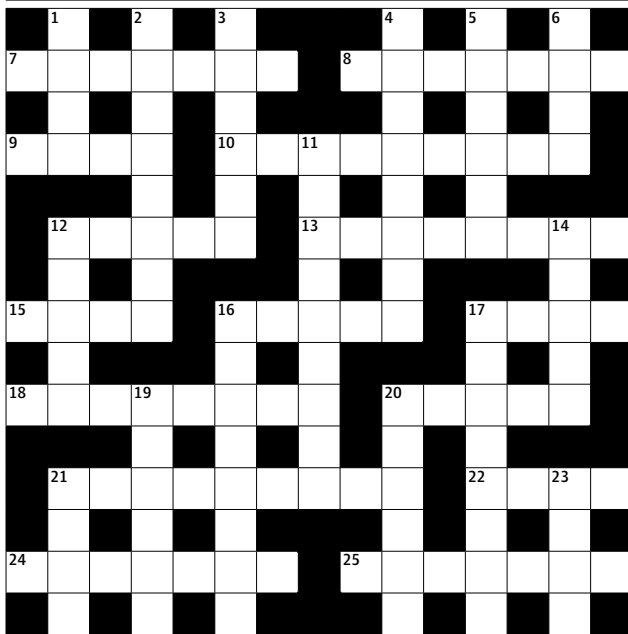


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,340 set by Puck

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 25,340, 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 13 June.

Asterisked clues lack a definition; their solutions share a final destination found elsewhere in the completed grid.

Across

- 7 Town setter enters almost half-cut (7)
- 8 See 24
- 9 Claptrap backed by some lethal blows (4)
- 10 Awards detailed "excellent toilet", except for one holding company (9)
- 12 Head of state leaving wine district very sober (5)
- 13 Place for skis when travelling in small jumper and dress, after change of heart (4,4)
- 15 A female tennis player (4)
- 16 Start forging notes (5)
- 17 Whip with a bit of elastic rope (4)
- 18 See 11
- 20 Vitality low when returning to pub (5)
- 21 Nuptials arranged to accommodate a prolific letter writer (5,4)
- 22,5 Film boy who plaits your hair? (4,6)
- 24,8* Setter in Bavaria brewed ale in a farmyard, getting drunk right away (7,7)
- 25 Porridge and fish dish (4,3)

Down

- 1,23* Principle of retributive justice bags large Republican vote? (4,4)

- 2,17 Number of people admitted to empty carriage on Metropolitan Line includes first to exit after drunk remains there (8,8)
- 3 Bottle lost in a farce (6)
- 4* A fool put wrong setter above measure (4,4)
- 5 See 22
- 6 See 21
- 11,18* First of tall stories about first mate ringing topless joint (9,8)
- 12 Relish belting out Gilbert & Sullivan leads (5)
- 14 Fool with hard material (5)
- 16 Groups of musicians etc in argument turned on its head (8)
- 17 See 2
- 19 Forge some money? It tops your "previous" (6)
- 20 Young ones in love with bartering system (6)
- 21,6 Piers Morgan's head gets turned by a lady's bottom in underwear (8)
- 23 See 1

Solution No. 25,339

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