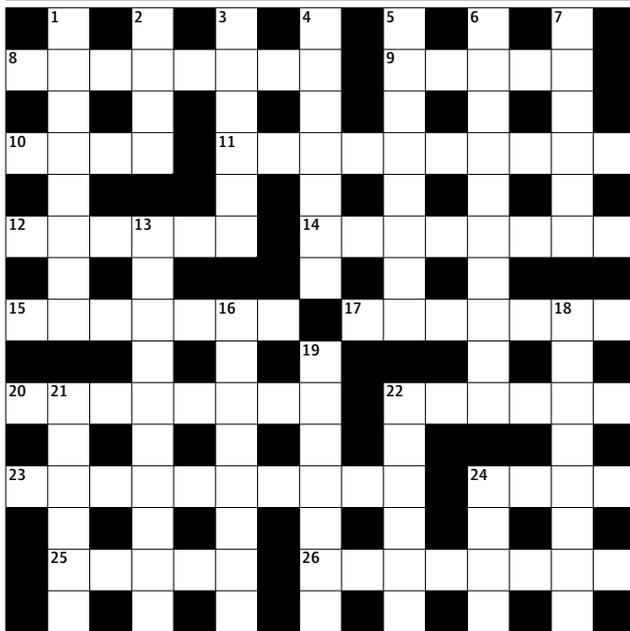


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,478 set by Paul

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 25,478, 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 November.

Across

- 8** A compound to the east of British hall (8)
9 Food for 13, 3, 25 and 2 etc, cryptically? (5)
10 See 24 down
11 Picture battleaxe as flower (10)
12 Brown clothes unusual for US president (6)
14 First William's home and not the Prince of Darkness (8)
15 Pity hopeless state is standard (7)
17 Void serial number with dexterity (7)
20 Contrary part of the brain welcoming naughty word, the blooming thing (8)
22 Amusing chap's decay (6)
23 Dear divorcee upset about publicity (10)
24 Sharpen weak sounds (4)
25 Welshman with the balls to leave company (5)
26 Drop in price for 9 (8)

Down

- 1** PMT, did you say? (4,4)
2 Fish dish with grand filling (4)

3 See 7

- 4** Drop in route for 9 (7)
5 Drag artist about to fade, turning up for number (8)
6 Increase a lot in case requiring negotiation (10)
7,3 PMS in doll, now hair ruffled (6,6)
13 3's leader's publication to protect in struggle at home (10)
16 Perfect game concealed by bank, hard to improve image (8)
18 Employ female to feed the blessed insect (8)
19 State's agent holding up fine diamonds (7)
21 Brave old islander surfacing (6)
22 One's felt the Iron Lady (6)
24,10 Brew Welsh tea – why choose another? (4,4)

Solution No. 25,477

