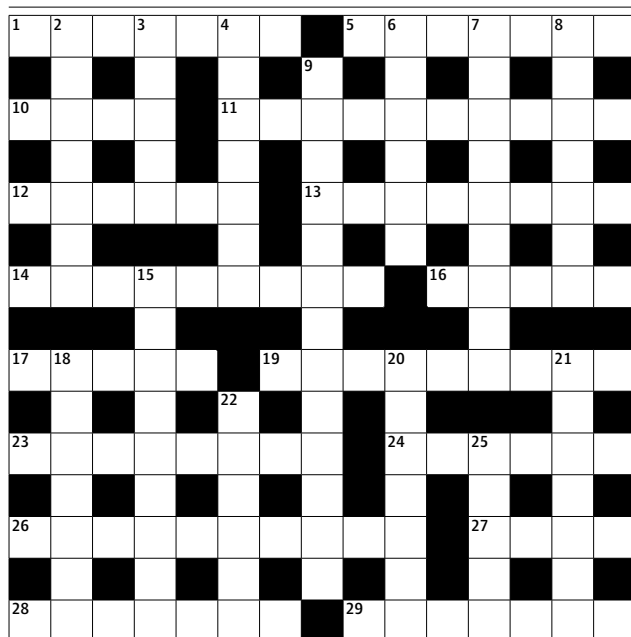


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,490 set by Shed

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 25,490, 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 5 December.

Across

- 1 Sculptor of decay (7)
- 5 Right of officer to be wrong about court (7)
- 10 Setter's introduced to supersoft exploiter of women (4)
- 11 Potential butcher filleted scraggy piece of meat en route (10)
- 12 Fool – character from Lear – carrying monarch round (6)
- 13 Natural defence for small boy absorbing brief life in retrospect (8)
- 14 Falling, with drink unfinished, in pub before church (9)
- 16 Ill-humour about book, or a collection of them (5)
- 17 In Africa, barter over counters (5)
- 19 Relate to mate shipwrecked before end of voyage (9)
- 23 Crowds catching an unpleasant whiff of 9 (8)
- 24 Spoil argument for vegetable (6)
- 26 Cheerful chime making little sense (10)
- 27 Penetrators of the mysteries of origami coming from the East (4)
- 28 Belittle qualification endlessly receiving publicity (7)
- 29 Play nurse first? (7)

Down

- 2 Very short distance to pursue love letter (7)

- 3 Flower having risen, nothing's rising outside (5)
- 4 Go off and trudge into river (7)
- 6 Stone-baked hot pie (6)
- 7 Once more bring out of watering hole in delight (9)
- 8 Helen's mother's habit – erecting fortress (7)
- 9 Abnormal growth of company? A nasty image, needs refashioning (13)
- 15 Promoter of early growth in state raised 1 (9)
- 18 Bank of Scotland provides home for unhealthy type-founder (7)
- 20 Squire's Alfa Romeo gets government almost overthrown (7)
- 21 Military leader securing time with firearm (7)
- 22 Do what must be done, slicing ends off butt (3-3)
- 25 Appointed tasks concerning US seat of learning (5)

Solution No. 25,489

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