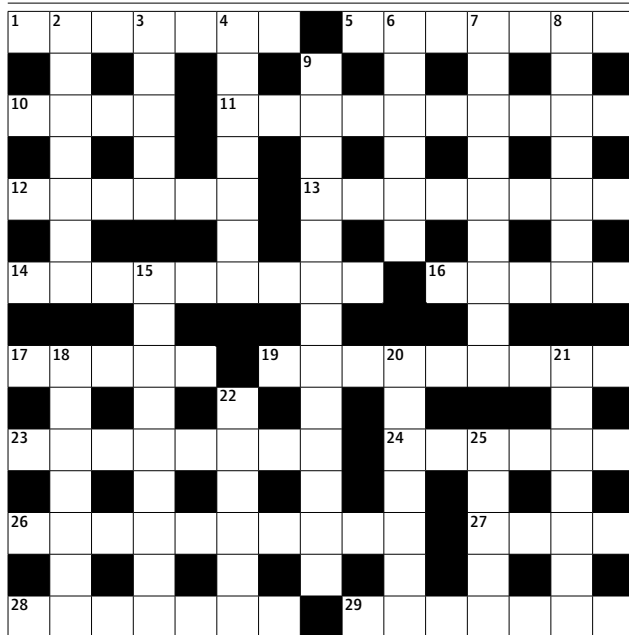


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,508 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 25,508, 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 26 December.

Across

- 1,5** Game, this riotous nonsense breaking free in toilet (7,7)
10 Game, Jack in this number? (4)
11 Bent clip, ivory, moulded round first of teeth (10)
12 Germ doctor tracks in videoing heart (6)
13 Spanish in contrast to her serenity? (8)
14,24 Game to have a go at, blue then red (5,4,6)
16 See 27
17 General having fit behind Churchillian salute (5)
19 Broad agreement on sloppy leadership in survey (9)
23,26 Game with two hammers felt frantic (5,3,4,2,4)
24 See 14
27,16 Game – not entirely important around one's school, as following (4,5)
28 Dazzling charmer, big hitter? (7)
29 Is it just for cooking pancakes? Good question (7)

Down

- 2** Paramount directed, for Spooner, a film (4,3)
3 Cut stolen by Tory, regularly – he'll take the money (5)
4 Inner area of plant identified retaining power,

(zero) before party turning up (7)

- 6** Not bright to ignore capital, making saving (6)
7 This contemplated surfacing to bandage hit, a rabid sea monster (9)
8 Monarch, abandoning sinking boat at sea, comes by (7)
9 Don't stop till you've finished – try trotters and all? (2,3,5,3)
15 Solver primarily in support of clues, not foreign legion (9)
18 A rival to us concealing one's disbelief (7)
20 Italian chap claiming fine to accept the delivery (4,3)
21 Spoon perhaps required, as classy figure is raised on lager, initially (7)
22 Go without watch – about five? (6)
25 Defenceless clergyman upholding Mozart's character? (5)

Solution No. 25,507

