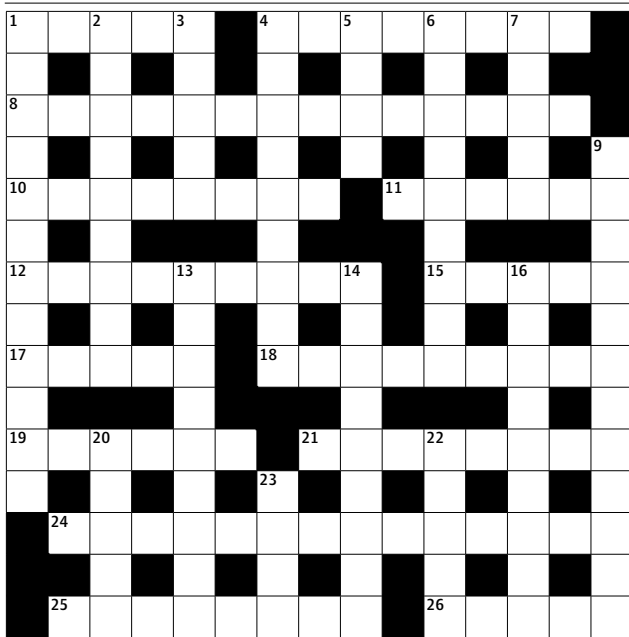


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,511 set by Pasquale

Across

- 1 A sparkling side, Spain, in truth (5)
- 4 Foothold established by Nonconformist church in stage of development (8)
- 8 Animated salesman is into overdramatic presentation (14)
- 10 Sarcastic boss who'd be obsessed with LSD? (8)
- 11 Opener for Essex will get in favourite shot (6)
- 12 Putting off financial problem, no bank initially admitted going wrong (9)
- 15 Suffer from invasions, not half (5)
- 17 Henry, totally heartless and ultimately wicked king, a monster (5)
- 18 Some needy drunk in the capital to begin with (4,5)
- 19 Slaughter brute briefly in short ceremony (6)
- 21 Almost recognise bear in gap in the wood (8)
- 24 A rude call in January shortly diverted – it doesn't fit in with our current timetables (6,8)
- 25 Last bit of soap on ear – something you may see in bath (8)
- 26 Flowery bit found in park with others (5)

Down

- 1 One short drink in football club to get in before the start of some hot food (4,3,5)
- 2 Scam that gets two men found guilty (9)
- 3 The skin problem he dismissed as nonsense (5)
- 4 Proper stars feature at the start of the US electoral process (9)
- 5 Split the cost (4)
- 6 Old culture of torment associated with working mines (9)
- 7 Ropy stuff is offered in shop's special promotion for the most part (5)
- 9 Pretty morsel put out for bird (6,6)
- 13 Mental activity of each boy in group (9)
- 14 Something fruity from Graham censor suppressed (9)
- 16 Signed agreement attached to ribbon held by queen? (9)
- 20 Savage is given new starter – liquid grub (5)
- 22 Idiot we encountered during journey putting one off (5)
- 23 Wreck's sunk into ground, obviously (4)

Solution No. 25,510

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