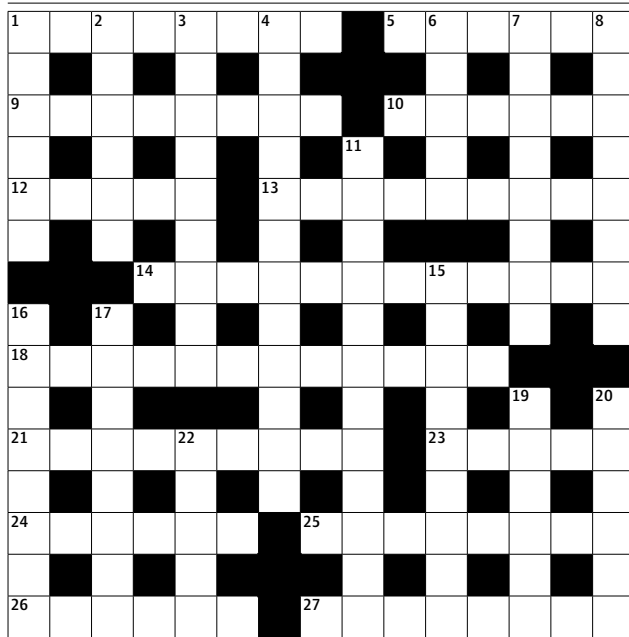


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,526 set by Araucaria

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 25,526, 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 16 January.

Across

- 1 Choose to keep quiet time in smoker's assembly (4,4)
- 5 Sailor to accomplish his aim (6)
- 9,10,12 Programme of talent-spotting, being rubbish? (8,3,3,5)
- 13 Painters etc in suitable accommodation (9)
- 14 Celebratory explosive devices put in sack – barmy! (12)
- 18 In the centre, order to repair a model of the statue that came to dinner (12)
- 21 Annoyed about combining styles? (9)
- 23 Provide joke with point (5)
- 24 Priest turned farceur sought by alchemist (6)
- 25 Person from Riga in unpleasant surroundings – is it Brussels? (8)
- 26 Strong possibility that you could start? (6)
- 27 Time Rugby Union's Tiger played with genuine resolution (4,4)
- 3 On holiday the setter's been far from dominant (9)
- 4 Bird is captured – where? – in Italy (8,4)
- 6 A place for such as 4 in the rigging (5)
- 7 See 19
- 8 Learned work on pacts needing little change (8)
- 11 Barker puts pile of stones on land register (5,7)
- 15 American playwright about to receive into the Church of England a French one (9)
- 16 Jewellery and stuff, including English food (3,5)
- 17 Dominant monkey to get large gin cocktail (8)
- 19,7 Watch American gun being used in Britain by king that's no agriculturalist (6-8)
- 20 Optimistic – don't come in yet! (6)
- 22 Satirist, one of the 12 (5)

Down

- 1 Don't go to the Pays Bas without a translator (4,2)
- 2 Proper way to specify delegated correspondent (3,3)

Solution No. 25,525

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| B | E | W | I | T | C | H | A | D | M | I | R | E | R | | | | |
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| I | N | T | O | E | B | A | E | | | | | | | | | | |
| S | T | E | P | H | E | N | F | R | Y | A | N | T | S | | | | |
| E | R | B | | | | | T | S | T | I | | | | | | | |
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