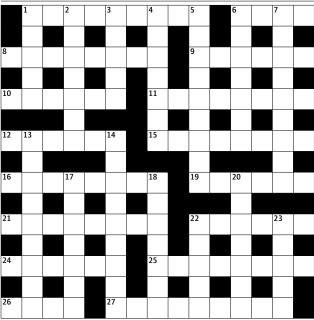
Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,550 set by Crucible

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 25,550, 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 13 February.

Across

- 1 Back Nesbitt with one pound over beers here
- 6 How to work with the foreign "author" of a 23 (4)
- 8 Fruit beds oust loss leader in springtime (8)
- 9 Capital is Bonaparte's core Iberian destination in Fielding's 23 (6)
- 10 Fixed savings account originally lacking insulting double-digit rises?
- **11** As a favour, twice aim non-stop to turn over vote
- 12 Note shabby clothing for subject of a 23 (6)
- 15 Made quick call, ordering Kindle loaded with nofrills book (6,2)
- **16** Men in civil partnerships in 4's destination? (8)
- 19 Opposition wise, say, to implicate gravity after Soyuz regularly lost bits
- 21 Writer is in Paris holding talks about Italy (8)
- 22 12 like inferior wine? (6)
- 24 Draper perhaps, subject of a 23 (6)
- 25 Take some credit for ward? (8)
- **26** Interminably long time covered by Defoe's 23 (4)
- **27** Correspondent's last word after bank closes (9)

Down

1 Various happy events haven't escaped author of a 23 (5)

- 2 Fielding's heroine's doctor tried to pen good book first (7)
- 3 Hagiolaters adore these pieces I set on top (5)
- 4 Author of a 23's small intestine cramps (and large) (7)
- **5** I walk round institute beset by ground rules? (9)
- 6 Subject of a 23 in dubious arms deal one cut (3,4)
- 7 I confess supporting new painting upset treatment of star (9)
- 13 Blow up at least 12 deliveries to gallery (9)
- 14 Huge stars in Man Utd, as fans describe them? (3,6)
- **17** Scale of river water in Seine lifted spirit (7)
- 18 Strike isn't designed to comfort Jones's Wall Street colleague (3-4)
- 20 On TV he breezed about absorbing energy for rear end (7)
- 22 Relative makes odd noises these days (5)
- 23 Daily Record's inflammatory? Not half (5)

Solution No. 25,549

