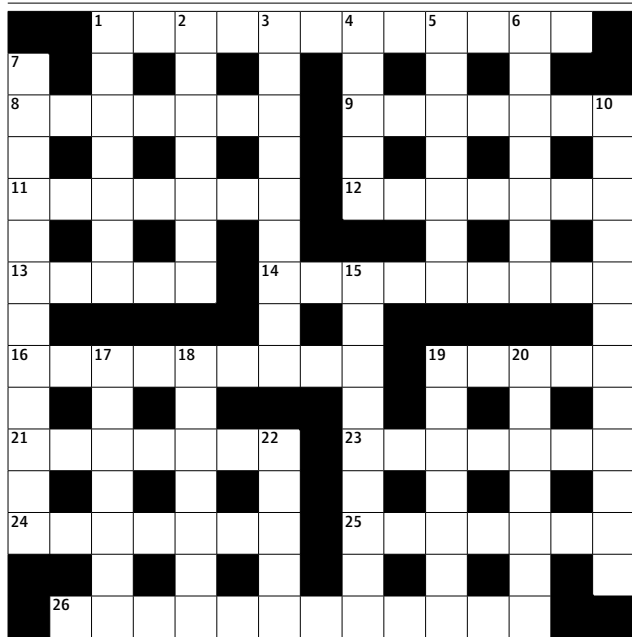


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,622 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 25,622, 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 7 May.

Across

- 1 Endless alcohol added to the cold mixed drink (3,9)
- 8 City managed to continue (7)
- 9 Rose proves less than coherent speaker (7)
- 11 Get a grip on girl's head in support of ritual murder (7)
- 12 Bitter (twisted) about exile's old car (7)
- 13 Invest last bit of revenue in cream (5)
- 14 Tourist and prophet pursuing vision (9)
- 16 Home team in not entirely recent reshuffle (9)
- 19 Bird is good in bed (5)
- 21 About time to adopt compiler's candidate (7)
- 23 One cretin floundering near the coast (7)
- 24 Attempt to match bird no longer with us (7)
- 25 Shed is *en voyage* in colour (7)
- 26 Interrogate and masticate, independently entering Devil's Province (12)

Down

- 1 Type of degree obtained during working hours? On the contrary (7)
- 2 Bright idea, albeit Diderot's last (7)
- 3 Female's male progeny welcoming death of Bellow's hero (9)
- 4 He painted avian bearing right (5)
- 5 Pan of meat and wine I dropped (7)
- 6 Farm work for the pre-senescent? (7)
- 7 It sticks out of rolled gold pipe stuck into strut (12)
- 10 Cuter knitter producing something to get one thither and hither (6,6)
- 15 Novice hag wasting time where it's monitored? (9)
- 17 A youngster, by degrees, raised drink (7)
- 18 Country retreat given notice (7)
- 19 Scope to wire up 5, ineptly (7)
- 20 Oracular snake dropping round for 1A? (7)
- 22 Hard up? (5)

Solution No. 25,621

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