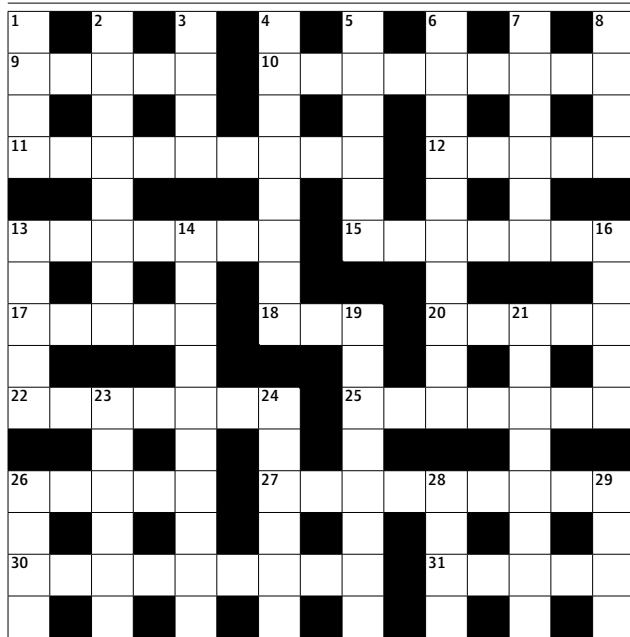


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,646 set by Brummie

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 25,646, 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 4 June.

Eight clues lack a definition; their solutions, suitably paired, make four examples of a 28 down 1 down (unclued). [Note added 26 May 2012: the word 'Hear' was inadvertently omitted from the clue to 13 down, as originally published.]

Across

- 9 Furthermore, a knight is missing a wife (5)
- 10 Nation in trouble recruiting "performing" international director (9)
- 11 Fliers eat fluff: bananas, stuffed with tungsten (9)
- 12 Bit end of pie (5)
- 13 Love, love the sports body (5,2)
- 15 Level of society wanting creative activities backed by corporation (7)
- 17 Make free with girl's top by end of the watershed (5)
- 18 Sulphur taken out of pit (3)
- 20 Live volts on city railway slope (5)
- 22 Duck clasped by floppy winged duck (7)
- 25 Charm to make water without hydrogen (plus LED device) (7)
- 26 Flying knickers pointless (5)
- 27 More enlightened, classy establishment? (3,6)
- 30 Drunk imbibing last of Martini and, later, last of wine, having no master (9)
- 31 Like a nuclear reactor made a bird sound heard (5)

Down

- 1 [See instructions]
- 2 Ready to drop D-E or A-D? (4-4)

- 3 Spades getting bagged up (4)
- 4 Italian Archbishop of Canterbury (Latin), a name associated with old money (8)
- 5 Pressure point on lock (6)
- 6 Responsible Guardian editor finally wears a new fur (10)
- 7 Fashion follower's tearful, clutching Dior top (6)
- 8 Back to front, mid-month (4)
- 13 Hear broadcast about book entry (5)
- 14 Temperature present more towards the back from then on (10)
- 16 Scrap steel employed internally on the rise (5)
- 19 My word! Perversely constraining lives produces yobbish behaviour (8)
- 21 Moving imagery of Monte leaving the city, taking a right (5,3)
- 23 Republican embraced by Cousteau? (6)
- 24 Agreed Homer did so carelessly? (6)
- 26 Two lengths below what a flier might go by (4)
- 28 [See instructions]
- 29 Radio's heart is in song (4)

Solution No. 25,645

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