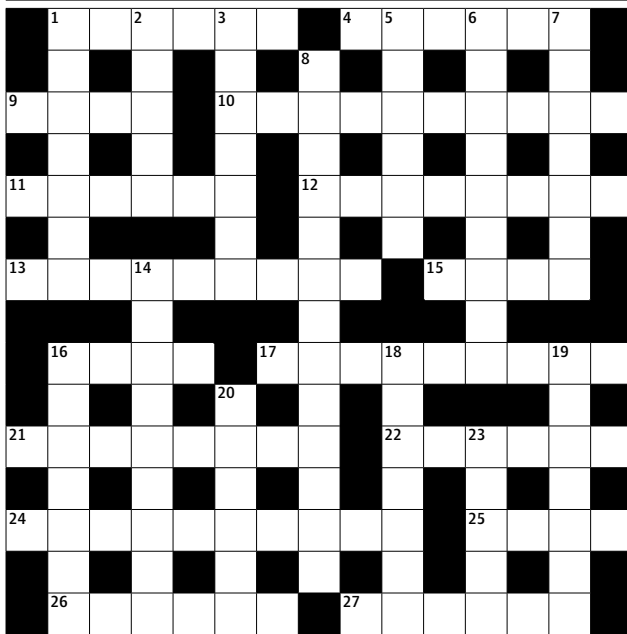


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,658 set by Paul

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 25,658, 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 18 June.

Across

- 1 Crosses behind old English city (6)
 4 Tree where laid-back snake bitten by half-cut monkey (6)
 9 Alcoholic drink improved, less teetotal (4)
 10 Socialist leader, despite amazing success initially, unfortunately resigns (5,5)
 11,16down 13's simian pri or leading princi? (6,7)
 12 See 15
 13 Writer taking you back in play – that's service! (9)
 15,12 Howard, perhaps, mild – if eccentric – cleric (4,8)
 16 Sweet sucker (4)
 17 Familiar bore, oddly kind and personal (4,5)
 21 See 5
 22 Second corner knocked over ending in space, head back (2,4)
 24 Act of containing people not starting with Roger (10)
 25 See 19
 26 Figure out old East/West divide? (6)
 27 See 5

Down

- 1 Spend too much where in France, admitting

something to do with money, ultimately (7)

2 See 7

3 Short bone under Italian dish (7)

5,27,21 13's praise and long runs? (6,6,8)

6 Bovine to eat etc, mashed with one fork (9)

7,2 13's boredom? (7,5)

8 Warm bottom among three rated wobbly (6-7)

14 Shop over which bird weed (9)

16 See 11

18 Heading for aggro between supporters, one succeeds (7)

19,25 13's Brashein? (5,2,4)

20 Top of shaft (6)

23 Rotten thing, swimmer's heart not in dip (5)

Solution No. 25,657

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