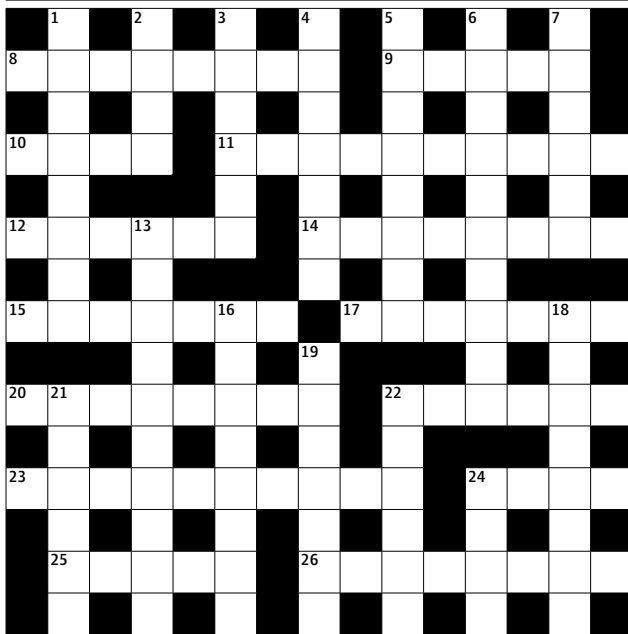


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,718 set by Paul

The first five correct entries drawn each week win Guardian Style and Secrets of the Setters, worth £28.99.

Entries to: The Guardian Crossword No 25,718, 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 27 August.

## Across

- 8** Covering back, a politician given to stalling (8)  
**9,19,20** I am changing plan, spiel being incomprehensible, as people asking for its clarity? (5,7,8)  
**10** See 24 down  
**11** Last of vile smell behind wind sensor disappearing (10)  
**12,14** Party members needing permission to travel without limo, London's conclusion: Olympic site not for backing (6,3,5)  
**15,18** Put in meat processor, shame brought on old crone, as busybody (7-8)  
**17** Bishop, say, adding page to report (7)  
**20** See 9  
**22,3** Old car drives, finding mystery man (6,6)  
**23** Film director provides the ultimate in comedy, then everyone's lumbering about (5,5)  
**24,5** Farmer's assistant, filthy gossipmonger? (4,8)  
**25,2** Step on people, passing first of stars – in this competitive exploration? (5,4)  
**26** Great Greek, Greek island recoiling at tax (8)

## Down

- 1** Sweet Irish author interrupting tour, regularly (8)  
**2** See 25  
**3** See 22 across  
**4** Casual habits causing leader in police force to break state up (7)  
**5** See 24 across  
**6** Cash rarely jazzy – his genre soul (3,7)  
**7** Heading off to bed, never once being loose (6)  
**13** An oceanic movement to screen Teletubby before an Australian, say? (10)  
**16** Topless operatic heroine said to have no top taken off (8)  
**18** See 15  
**19** See 9  
**21** Stimulate a ploy to ensnare love (6)  
**22** Plant no cost to country importing necklaces, primarily (6)  
**24,10** Mum eats a feast, eating store of food (4,4)

Solution No. 25,717

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