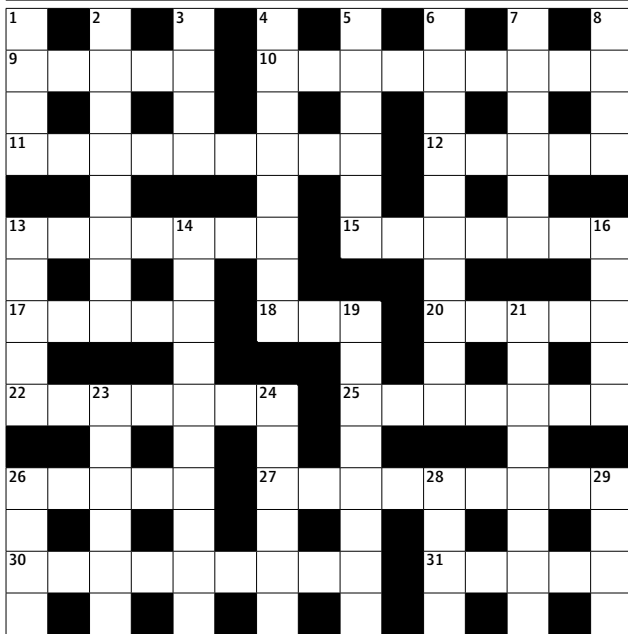


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,754 set by Qaos

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 25,754, 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 8 October.

Across

- 9 Economic region's currency traded for no gas (5)
 10 The rabble's hard work turns into double oil spill (3,6)
 11 Saucy maid breaks brute's toe (9)
 12 South American comedy series is a hit (5)
 13 Opening numbers: 500,000,000,000? (7)
 15 See 13 down
 17 Bearing rubbish and litter (5)
 18 Say, good clue for O? (3)
 20 Silly production of Annie (5)
 22 Orbison returns to cover UK singer, not a US-Swiss singer (7)
 25 English composer or hit-man? (7)
 26 Loveless tabloid hack dismisses boss's head girl (5)
 27 Strong man possesses single talent (9)
 30 Cameron (he vacillates) changing sides like this one? (9)
 31 Foreign film (5)
- 5 Excite Formula One's pure racing (4,2)
 6 Coalition party finds Greek character's upset after angry riots (10)
 7 Gangster and murderer reportedly manufacture paraffin (6)
 8,26 Vocal peak? By 'eck, that's advanced (4,4)
 13,15 Might they pry or sneak about to gain small exposé, ultimately? (5,7)
 14 Chief lecturer quaffs gin cocktail with student (10)
 16 Female 31's film (5)
 19 Member promoted in Tea Party? It might raise the thickness level (8)
 21 Profanities unfold when spoilt son leaves drink (8)
 23 Soap dish upended over top of legs (6)
 24 Talented man on screen in Surrey village? (6)
 26 See 8
 28 Prophet discarding most of the bread (4)
 29,1 Pine shop condemned for bad deliveries (4,4)

Down

- 1 See 29
 2 Concentrated Scouse stew follows fine starter for dinner (8)
 3 Writer of real nonsense (4)
 4 Spooner's fair question leads to polite deception (5,3)

Solution No. 25,753

