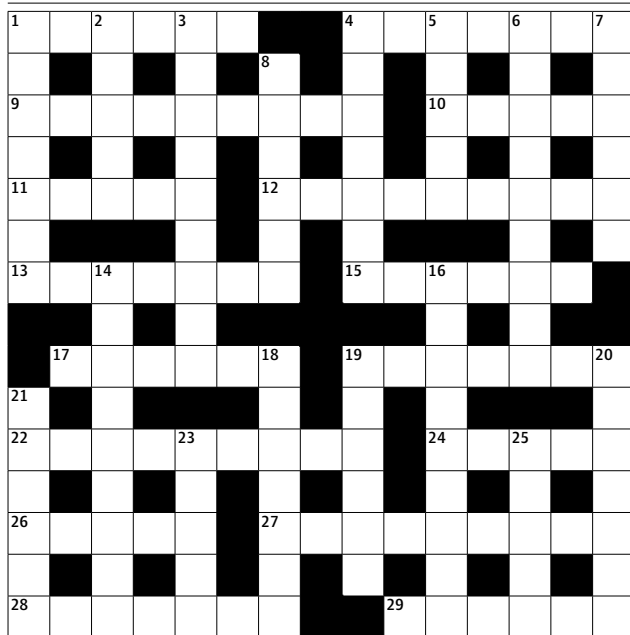


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,778 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 25,778, 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 5 November.

Across

- 1 Note down something in bed (6)
- 4 1 across finding fault with bully (7)
- 9 Medium discharge, maximum in obstreperous camels (9)
- 10 1 across's Antarctic expedition? (5)
- 11 Strongly maintain small 1 across (5)
- 12 1 acrosses border river in places (9)
- 13 A conspirator twisted at first, seeking plant (7)
- 15 1 across having to kiss a redhead (6)
- 17 The way to have a relative balance (6)
- 19 1 across experienced UN's absence at the front (7)
- 22 Tiredness certainly in use of retina? (9)
- 24 1 across more likely to win, leader dropping off (5)
- 26 Just around the corner, diet? (5)
- 27 1 across one's to discover behind new line (9)
- 28 Skill of a tennis player pinches prize on the backhand? (7)
- 29 Open unimaginative starter, prawn cocktail (6)

Down

- 1 1 across lets ya out, say (7)
- 2 Bizarre off and on (5)

- 3 1 across risen, there's a cuckoo circling (9)
- 4 1 across, hero missing rugby posts (7)
- 5 1 across gets to stitch up monarch (5)
- 6 Prided hair is on male that's wild, covering top of neck (5,4)
- 7 Study the country's economy, primarily (6)
- 8 Joint where tenor almost swallows piano (6)
- 14 1 across's bottom half set on a stool, we hear? (9)
- 16 1 across for motor race (9)
- 18 1 across being quiet in the year, forlorn ultimately (7)
- 19 Man with a tough guy image ironed pants (2,4)
- 20 More than one vessel among sheep arrives (5,2)
- 21 Drink problem out of season, fate ensuing (6)
- 23 1 across, everyone can see, left in dump (5)
- 25 Clip from Bardot, a serious stunner (5)

Solution No. 25,777

