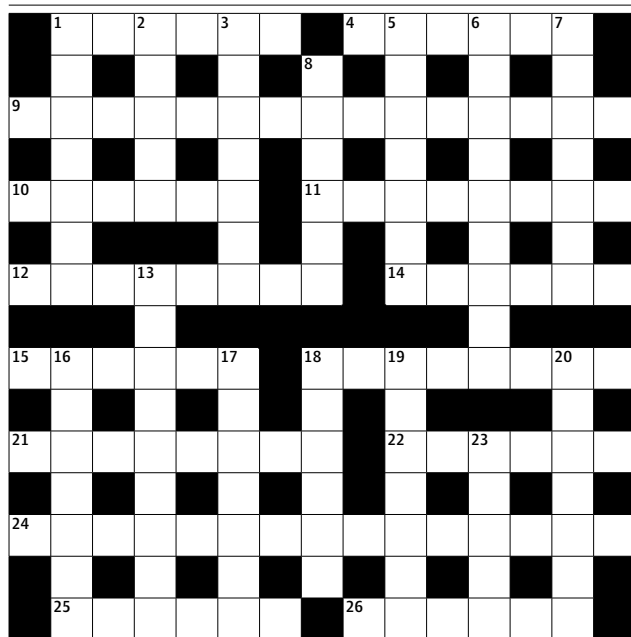


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,796 set by Araucaria

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 25,796, 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 26 November.

Across

- 1 Guardian of scouts at sea (6)
- 4 Complete failure of 17 bottle? (6)
- 9 18 down 14 coming round Royal Ulster Constabulary (Scottish, hard) (9,6)
- 10 Foot's part right for marching (6)
- 11 See 19
- 12 Minion coming in to be ... (5,3)
- 14 ... light for corgis' owner after bone (6)
- 15 Piece of chalk for a pupil, a destroyer (6)
- 18 High-ranking soldier entertaining champion to request disguise (4,4)
- 21 Top half fireplace to leave the country (8)
- 22 Tell doing well (6)
- 24 Being temperate to achieve splendid life (sic) (4-11)
- 25 Gale swirling around in place of films (6)
- 26 Unusual issue very likely? (4,2)

Down

- 1 Portmanteau that's taken on 18 down visit with queen and lieutenant missing (7)
- 2,16 18 down 14 like this catcher, decoy when around road east (3,2,7)
- 3 Couplet arranged four times? (7)
- 5 Setter's favourite American push (7)
- 6 Fissiparous tendency of wayward miss holding on to letters page (9)
- 7 Russian flower situation is indecent (7)
- 8 Nonsense about 50 being less than half 3 (6)
- 13 Protean church getting a lot of fun in spirit (9)
- 16 See 2
- 17 Fixer at first turning up next to 18 down (7)
- 18,23 Dawn on short day points to ... (6,5)
- 19,11 ... damaged vessels, with single digit inserted, providing food (7,8)
- 20 Sudden increase happening with cutter (7)
- 23 See 18

Solution No. 25,795

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