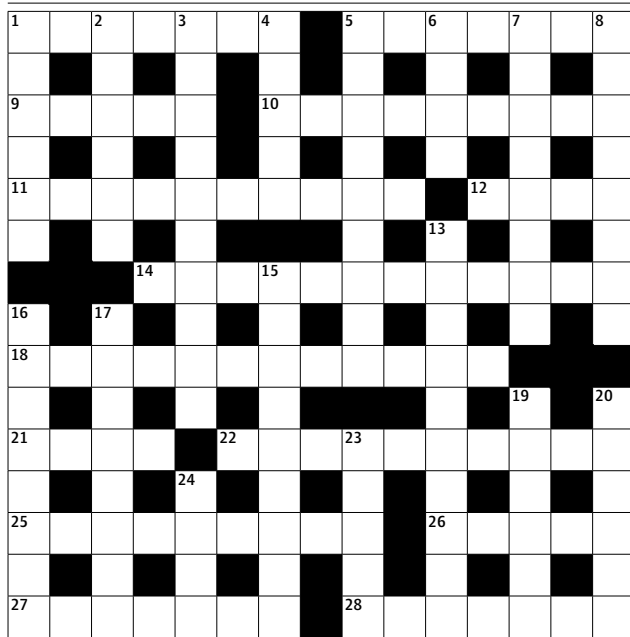


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,802 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 25,802, 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 3 December.

Across

- 1,11** Talk in which girl says she rambles, as 6 complains about cooking ingredient (7,2,8)
5 Enjoying oneself? Good man! (7)
9 Lady requiring oxygen for something catching? (5)
10 Family trips not starting, I abandon path (9)
11 See 1
12 Grouse to swallow? (4)
14 Impairments stabilised, one doubly mobile (12)
18 Get-together – in what way a hive of activity, did you say? (5-7)
21 Bouncer releasing king from impossible choke (4)
22 Suspicious-looking, fishy, yet astonishing journalist (6-4)
25 Bird perhaps, given malicious gossip, hit back (9)
26 Old key for lift (5)
27 Male fed a bit of corn oil primarily, where cakes available? (3,4)
28 Star turn in a star (7)

- 6** Partial to pavilion, as Hanoverian architect (4)
7 King held up by goddess for nationals (8)
8 See 20
13 Pulse -- bendy sort – pulse, ultimately, one gobbled by family (6,4)
15 Sea with exclamation of discovery about bats being upside-down – or, perhaps, 6 on 23? (4,3,2)
16 20 8 by 6, perhaps, or from the poet Whitehead? (2,3,3)
17 Happy house passed around by rising river – that's extreme happiness! (8)
19 Bully's heartless right-wing bombast (6)
20,8 Good deal of this ornate creation of 6, perhaps (3,2,1,8)
23 Unwelcome visitors, first of aliens being upset about it (5)
24 Three's crowd trouble, if head to toe (4)

Down

- 1** Part of the body, the sound of Peking? (6)
2 Step down first of stairs to break rule (6)
3 Love all? Take less time and skill – mixed doubles (10)
4 Poet finds the mark of a leech on food (5)
5 Poking bottom, I react badly, finding *E coli*, perhaps? (9)

Solution No. 25,801

