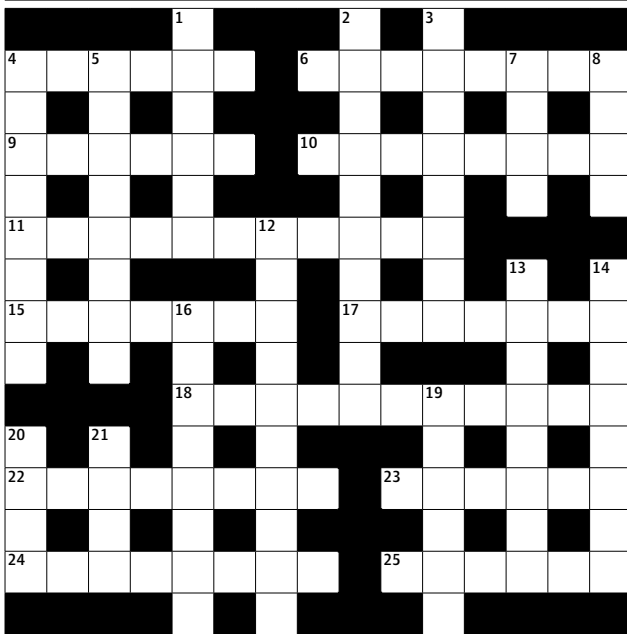


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,808 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 25,808, 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 10 December.

Across solutions are 11, when it comes to the subsidiary parts of their clues

Across

- 4 Beginner's gold (6)
- 6 Five turn into shelter with fine prospect of Manchester (5,3)
- 9 Ancient city objects to be crossed (6)
- 10 Standard for upstarts (8)
- 11 Desolate, being so far out with knowledge (11)
- 15 Prince as officer (7)
- 17 Young child's young animal born after morning (3-4)
- 18 Witches' sabbaths start with topless mounts (11)
- 22 Finished catch (8)
- 23 Subject of notice to coastguard (6)
- 24 Pestered by unsettled shades (8)
- 25 Number of girls that sing and dance (6)

Down

- 1 Fuss about the French city in Spain (6)
- 2 Open to reassessment of grade, which is extraordinary (10)
- 3 Country baker is unwell, though up and about (8)

- 4 Girl with posh Roman garment going in for hermaphrodite reproduction (8)
- 5 The smell of America on English boy's name (8)
- 7 Life in France (outside the north) can provide liquor (4)
- 8 Stop? No problem (4)
- 12 All a person needs to heat the house? (5,5)
- 13 Swampy in comparative involvement with Harris and me (8)
- 14 A vehicle gets older due to inappropriate treatments (8)
- 16 Top secret ("... whisper who dares!") (4-4)
- 19 Don't talk – manage climb in periods (6)
- 20,21 Disdainful expression to support one of very small brain (4,4)

Solution No. 25,807

