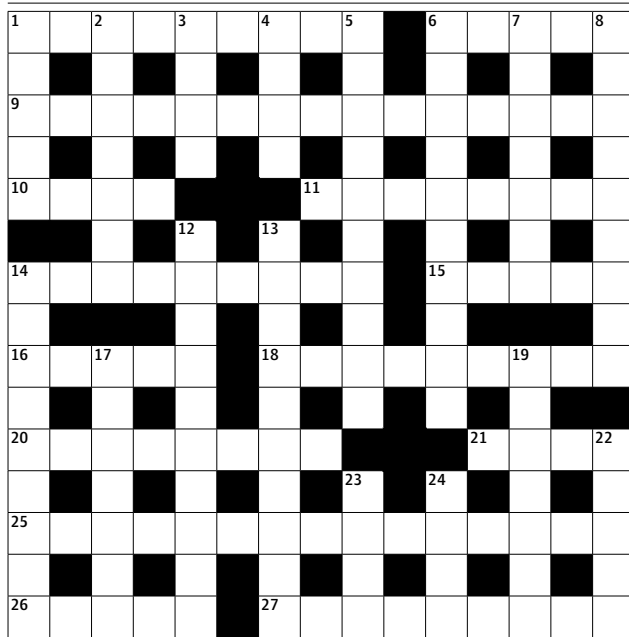


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,849 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 25,849, 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 28 January.

Across

- 1 Very warm keeping distance, almost very cold being instructive (9)
- 6 I faint without love, in a manner of speaking (5)
- 9 Exact number: is it held by Christian social worker? (8,7)
- 10 Remove protection from 18 (4)
- 11 Fast girl first in Georgian city (8)
- 14 Dishonesty at the front applied to string (6-3)
- 15 Lock showing tension with top removed (5)
- 16 Shakespearean character going round without error? About right (5)
- 18 Article follows lives by top cat and top soldier, where house has keys (4,2,3)
- 20 Quarters that can survive – that one wishes one had (8)
- 21,24 Dessert cooked by tramp last month (4,4)
- 25 Having a strong local accent? More or less (7,8)
- 26 Dormice are oddly more dehydrated (5)
- 27 “Land of Hope” formed ari – run it (9)

Down

- 1 Brought before the bench, end of which said to make sense (3,2)
- 2 Err in interpreting lost letter from novelist of village life (7)

- 3,23 Then are cats heard to soar in 14 down? (8)
- 4 Food for friar (4)
- 5,6 Outlaw civil analyst in exchange for heating aid (6,4,10)
- 7 Concentrated in Tennessee, so to speak (7)
- 8 One of seven Taliban leaders imprisoned by Egyptian leader at Pole (6,3)
- 12 Historical sitcom, possibly worse without something missing (10)
- 13 Pray church leader with bible to give us another look (3,7)
- 14 Bottom of river at border? (6,3)
- 17 Meat wrapped by artist with most of 14 across, part 1 (7)
- 19 Scottish island, one – nearly one – in part of window (7)
- 22 Volcanic stuff in periodical, most of it (5)
- 23 See 3
- 24 See 21

Solution No. 25,848

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