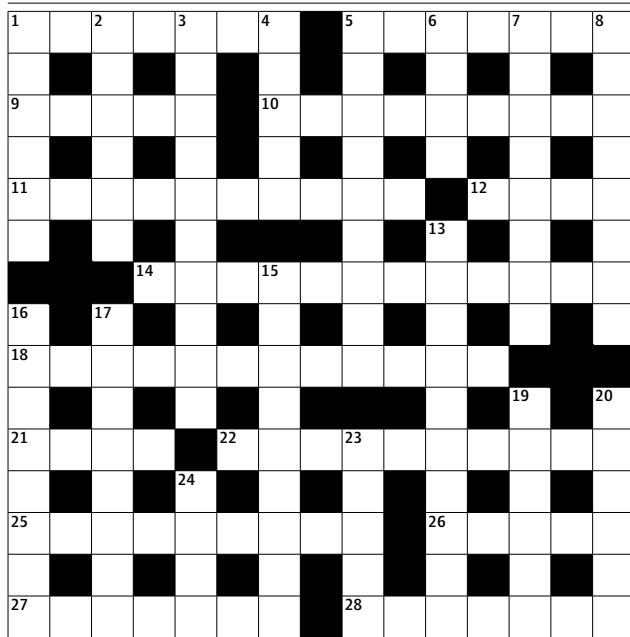


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,879 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 25,879, 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 4 March.

Across

- 1 Positionally, the word "flexible" has __, I see? That's what it is! (7)
- 5 See 12
- 9 Reported pale food (5)
- 10 Finally, once or twice, page-turning Cosi Fan fan? (5-4)
- 11 A dose of Ebola's safe? Very contagious disease! (5,5)
- 12,5 24 a 19 20 1 across 21 6 15, say – from this? (4,7)
- 14 This peak's claimed by old heretic for the master of the works? (3,9)
- 18 Discuss in some detail setting out the gallant knight's limits (4,2,6)
- 21 Less peeled skin for horse food? (4)
- 22 Knockers are wobbly – and sore, too! (2,4,4)
- 25 In a questionable manner, call promissory note deceitful (9)
- 26 Smith knocked over, was sick (5)
- 27 Solver's companion is seizing up, coming across as complex character (7)
- 28 That'll teach you it's different in the Home Counties! (2,5)

Down

- 1 At all centres, sweaty brassieres analysed just like that! (6)
- 2 After a chorus is opposed? (6)
- 3 Entering wood, a king and woolly bear have a cuppa, perhaps? (4,1,5)
- 4 Under surface of compost, dig deeply for aromatic bud (5)
- 5 Footballers' July, when there was no water on? (3-6)
- 6 Food content of an alphabet 24, say? (4)
- 7 Is the president a degree less affluent? That's not entirely suggesting consistent pressure (8)
- 8 Among grass, something flat getting lost (8)
- 13 Player, brilliant player cut short, in essence (10)
- 15 Relative beneath highlight inhaling it, not a breath of fresh air (9)
- 16 Treat a foot breaking three times, getting old (6,2)
- 17 Double deoxygenated gas exploding in bum (8)
- 19 Dog that's mine, untracked? (6)
- 20 Beginning to feel on edge, getting cooler (6)
- 23 Vacillating poet? (5)
- 24 Food not taken down then? (4)

Solution No. 25,878

