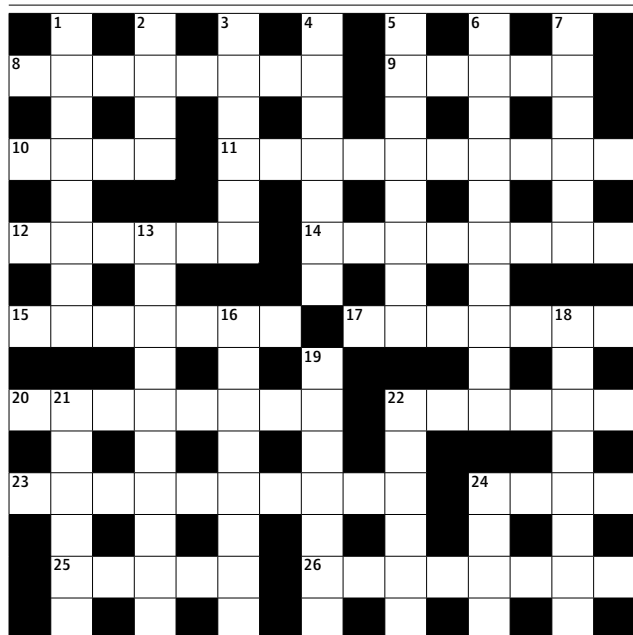


## Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,881 set by Paul

### Across

- 8 Sweet Spooner's to plunder headquarters (8)  
 9 See 10  
 10,9 Sweet nothing, passion about right (4,5)  
 11 Sweet Queen Elizabeth, perhaps, protecting herself, Elizabeth and daughter (7,3)  
 12 See 22  
 14 Done with credit? Then idle (4,4)  
 15 Doctor meeting fate lacking in reserve (7)  
 17 Special gift, flower, for support (7)  
 20 Sweet to speak of brace and bit (4,4)  
 22,12 Sweet evidence of bull in china shop? (6,6)  
 23 Bird hosting party let off, as sweet (4,6)  
 24 See 25  
 25,24 Carrying drugs primarily, a suspect not to be trusted popping sweet in mouth (5,4)  
 26 Top bird nursing full stomach (8)
- 4 Figure something happening in outskirts of Sydney (7)  
 5 Eye from Magdalene, Trinity and Clare – this area? (3,5)  
 6 Burps, one coming up through taste for fine dining (10)  
 7 Discovery – vehicle on which Scott's setting out (6)  
 13 Cassius claims Van Gogh's surgical instrument possibly makes things tidy (6,4)  
 16 Work routine going up, strange being in plane (8)  
 18 Evil in punching nun (8)  
 19 Sound of rain at leaving an inscription in what provides the final tribute (7)  
 21 'E with oversized head in essence? (6)  
 22 Weak charge down, uranium dropped (6)  
 24 Christian partial to Hindi, ordained (4)

### Down

- 1 Above zero, oxygen and radium in frozen state (8)  
 2 You after vacated seat? This for a viewing restriction (4)  
 3 Great military leader, one driven to catch marine up (6)

Solution No. 25,880

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