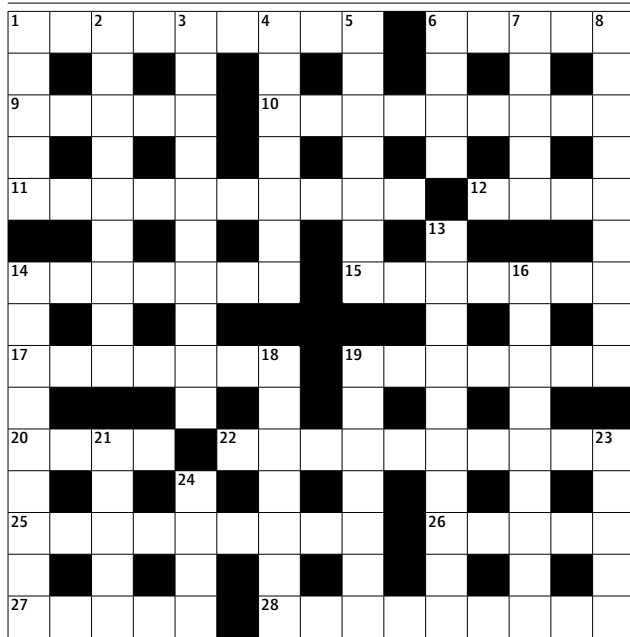


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,891 set by Shed

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 25,891, 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 18 March.

Across

- 1 Set aside for being hopelessly ecstasy-addicted (9)
- 6 Dominant sort of chap attaining high altitude, initially, on mountain (5)
- 9 Turned green, receiving a message (5)
- 10 Simple question aristocrat put to top 23, reportedly (2-7)
- 11 A rat coming out on an unequal social footing (10)
- 12 Intend to get tight (4)
- 14 Carry on with fabulous bird in receding ocean (7)
- 15 Get into trouble with sibling in heartless 9 (7)
- 17 Backward spooks damage a tongue (7)
- 19 Way of learning to crack code for dietary essential (7)
- 20 Well able to dump odd characters in river (4)
- 22 Versatile player getting chubbier everywhere? (3-7)
- 25 Recipient of 9 from dead seers, weirdly (9)
- 26 Land one left in flower (5)
- 27 What happened in the seventies? (5)
- 28 An aquatic bird absorbing backbeat before birth (9)

Down

- 1 Vision of 500 sheets (5)
- 2 Medical problem said to make a bird change colour (9)

- 3 Security subsequently left over amid black stuff (10)
- 4 Vessel finding capital curtailed within borders of Thailand (7)
- 5 Express contempt about bedhead being clean (7)
- 6 A passage out (4)
- 7 Almost wrote "Noodles" (5)
- 8 A racket involving kidneys' secretion (9)
- 13 So into cleaning and clearing! (10)
- 14 Toponym constituting source of "Love and peace, man" (5,4)
- 16 Unduly foolish to cover banker's last debt (9)
- 18 Instrument for brewing ales etc (7)
- 19 Sign left carrying 10 (7)
- 21 Show 19 involving good or bad workmanship (5)
- 23 Go to bed with common soldiers; get up with VIP (5)
- 24 Hide pepper (4)

Solution No. 25,890

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