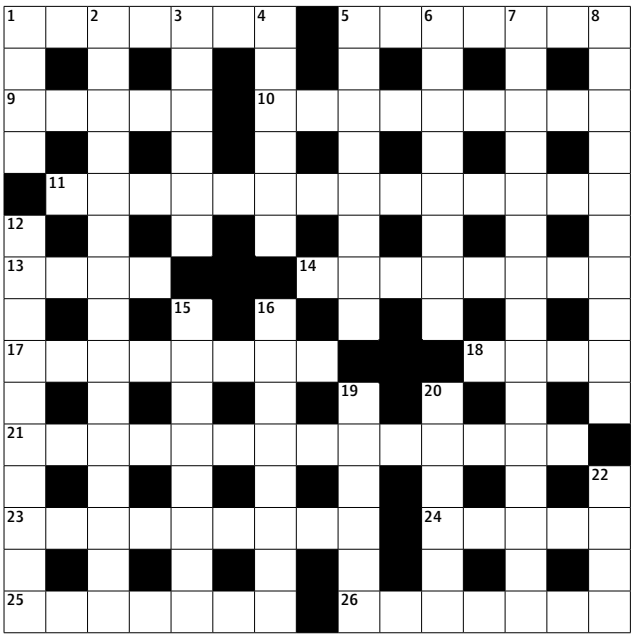
Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,957 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 25,957, 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 3 June.

Across

1 Neutered drink at work sent back without a smile (2-5)
5 Concealing weapon, did stretch (7)
9 Present monarch on holiday? (5)
10 Gelignite initially captive entered under explosive (9)
11 30 – lime duck (sorry!) after two failures? (5,4,5)
13 Dubious topping of little moment (4)
14 Miles of Longfellow came in first and is heroic (8)
17 One working in theatre becomes redder in the face about corporal punishment (8)
18,22 Erode resistance of upland under river (4,4)
21 Actor (no Scot) to study old comic in US-signed pub (3,6,5)
23 Dress with skill having scope for residence (9)
24 Refuse collector to leave house (5)
25 Student's first request for insecticide? (7)
26 Time and cause that never prospers? (7)

Down

1 Piece of land as pawn to fate? (4)
2 When to 16 10 26 and 1 down and fob off the vermin with tinkering (5,2,8)
3 Copper finds unusual poison (6)
4 Fingers said to be missing third? (6)
5 Explosive speech showing possibilities of one in restaurant? (8)
6 White area over here for second bird in 9 (8)
7 Dormice with heart reduced cooked in country's blood suppliers (9,6)
8 Racehorse in place of rams? (10)
12 They may mention kills (10)
15 Work with strings attached on dog, nothing less than the best words (8)
16 Bring to mind what concerns parliamentarian? (8)
19 What will publicise opening of season (6)
20 Chance of good walk? (6)
22 See 18

Solution No. 25,956