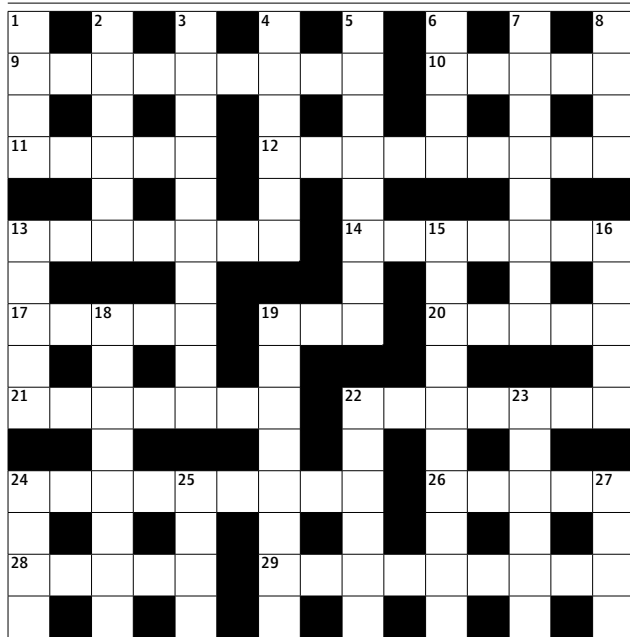


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,963 set by Brummie

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 25,963, 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 10 June.

In seven of the clues the definition element does not lead to the whole solution; a 14 27 needs to be added first to produce the required grid entry.

## Across

- 9 Love, old – nevertheless getting into punt (9)
- 10 Part of poem's affected style of speech and poetic interjection (5)
- 11 Endless row backing housing chief's main descendant (5)
- 12 Dyed-in-the-wool Conservative spiking Labour, ie swapping nitrogen for oxygen (9)
- 13 Disturbance makes state chamber musicians tense (7)
- 14 Like a male ballroom dancer requesting "no piano"? (7)
- 17 Two Russian doll-like articles between freeman and noble (5)
- 19 See 8
- 20 Slight inversion round fang tip preferred by Dracula (5)
- 21 Student's touching approach? (5,2)
- 22 Be thankful for indulgent sort at bar (7)
- 24 Little animal, little weight, littlest one attended by Erica? (9)
- 26 The beast within lives for a sartorial feature (5)
- 28 Doctors reckon thousand lost (old money) (5)
- 29 Lloyd who dithers about love deal? (9)

## Down

- 1 Leggy creature's independent musical direction (4)

- 2 Before court cut short stir-crazy tough (6)
- 3 Flowers, jar version, collapsed (4,6)
- 4 Prejudicial to those getting on revolving stage without electric current (6)
- 5 Line taken by persistent sort (fusspot) (8)
- 6 Slasher's legacy: second estate? (4)
- 7 Flash stuff in Bengal circles (8)
- 8,19across,24 Finished taming ego of Gordon (4,3,4)
- 13 Pressure put on naff chat shows piece (5)
- 15 Lebanon produced and raised New York State's ultimate old queen (4,6)
- 16 Good shot sorted out invaders (5)
- 18 Article: neuter cat for a fraction of a pound (8)
- 19 Window nut, easily moved (8)
- 22 Keep recycling articles as an entertainer? (6)
- 23 Take on Scouse MP, loyalist at heart (6)
- 24 See 8
- 25 Salt neutral lake (4)
- 27 Title song about diamonds (4)

Solution No. 25,962

