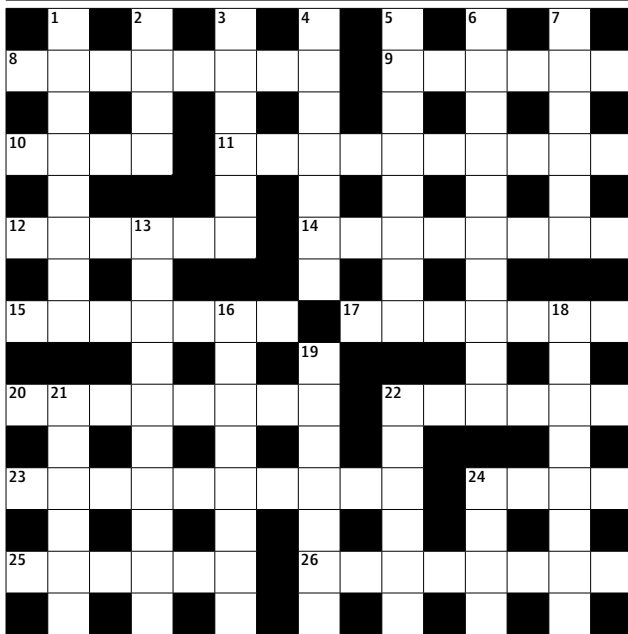


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,987 set by Philistine

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 25,987, 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 8 July.

Across

- 8** Lover gives a stuff about rain? On the contrary (8)
9 Work and overwork for European Union entry (6)
10 One contributing to lunch, effortlessly (4)
11 Barely in, left to express the appropriate term (2,3,5)
12 Half-bloods end badly – that's fair (6)
14 Prince has no right to upset Buddhist spectacles (5-3)
15 2 – master together with criminal (7)
17 Moore's city is rather sweet (4-3)
20 It's cheap reproduction (8)
22 Graceful and selective when mixed with crushed ice (6)
23 It could be the outline's forgotten name (10)
24 Transcribe author's 8 (4)
25,26 I've sworn academic men fry bananas dry on the outside (6,2,6)

Down

- 1** Single composer's part is on the rise (8)
2 Youngster's muscles are essential to physical fitness (4)
3 Perhaps one from the border, with railway leading to mine (6)
4 Cleaner pines for tool of the trade, or so it's said (3,4)
5 Last unit once used (8)
6 Reincarnation of alternative culture does not begin in part of Scotland (6,4)
7 Legal document served on the man makes us squirm (6)
13 Eight and awfully quiet in there (could be deadly) ... (10)
16 ... having lost colour, the source of such music (8)
18 Charm of arrival (8)
19 Dark type of story (7)
21 A difficulty reported at the top (6)
22 Witness the departure of defeat (3,3)
24 Buzzer with quiet warning sound (4)

Solution No. 25,986

