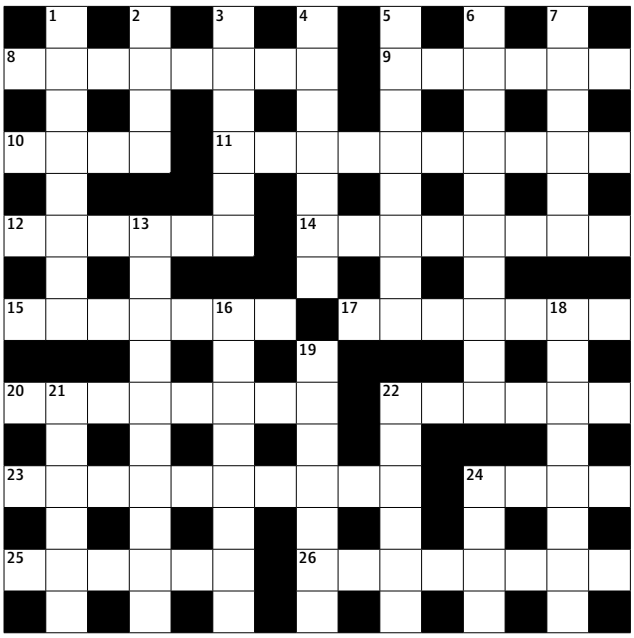
Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,993 set by Crucible

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 25,993, 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 15 July.

Thirteen answers contain the same three-letter word, which is not in their clues' wordplay.

Across

8 Side's phoney complaints (8)
9 Extremely happy and sensible around animals (6)
10 Eg Newcastle and Liverpool matches (4)
11 Singer may help her trace of Mancunian accent (10)
12 Key for Anglo-Saxon instrument (1,5)
14 See surgeon in cosy armchair (4,4)
15 Sirenians frighten divers ultimately (3,4)
17 Seamen set out across Spithead together (2,5)
20 Tea was brought back home inside cutter (8)
22 Drive enemy back into grass (3,3)
23 Catch embarrassed paparazzo (3,7)
24 Not one of 5 2 Mussorgsky carried about (4)
25 It braces one during a run (3,3)
26 Painter appears in sombrero, usually (8)

Down

1 Hangers-on seen off by local manager (8)
2 See 5
3 Exhausts cause supercharger's casing to drop off (4,2)
4 Blue liquid ready to be applied (7)
5,2 No match in the '70s for ancient mariner's domain? (3,5,4)
6 Bloomer made by Scottish team at bottom of table (6-4)
7 Naval apprentice upset initially by this? (6)
13 Short item about cold northern swimmer (6,4)
16 Cable tackles Conservative know-all (8)
18 New candidate prefers this group to include a female (4,4)
19 Work during conflict in Times shown on successive days? (3-4)
21 What the Observer did, he did to the Listener (6)
22 Neckwear that's almost too risqué is banned (6)
24 Spots rook on tree (4)

Solution No. 25,992

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