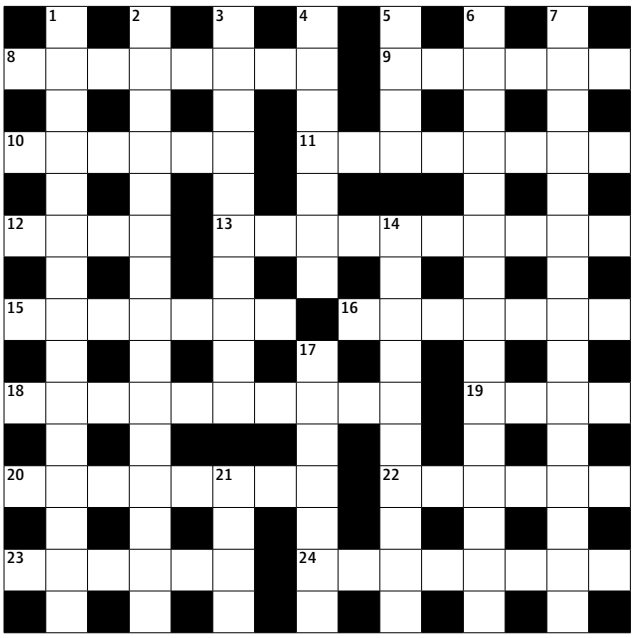
Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,999 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 25,999, 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 22 July.

Across

8 Priest with no right to entertain the Queen taking on little blue flower girl (8)
9 Nasty stuff first accepted by flower boy (6)
10 Left centre gala to degenerate (6)
11 Buck – if it does, it won't be with grasshopper (8)
12 More than one animal as ten-to-one chance (4)
13 Timeless impasses cover the road to good wishes (10)
15 Having catkins gives one bananas (7)
16 Second person to apply electronic restraint to reel? (7)
18 An arrest appropriate for one's mega heresy (10)
19 Somewhat unconvincing appeal for love? (2-2)
20 Notes of sums to be paid on horses may be connected with lengthy answers (8)
22 Auxiliaries do what they are supposed to do (6)
23 Secret business on green (6)
24 Break down to earth in an insincere way (8)

Down

1 Mating without spirit leads to minimal exchange of letters in spirit as spiritual exercise (4-11)
2 Educationalist, misguided 'n' boring, passes on to those in charge of 6 etc (9,6)
3 Learns adjustment on road, politician being light on headgear (6,4)
4 Holy man has degrees encompassing headgear (7)
5 See the point? (4)
6 Little Christian and his log twice produced by ladies' seminary (5,4,6)
7 Through and through rather than by 6 etc? (15)
14 Transport from gold to bay (10)
17 Sentimental individual leaving Sikh city disturbed (7)
21 Goatherd's comment on unpleasant surprise? (4)

Solution No. 25,998

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