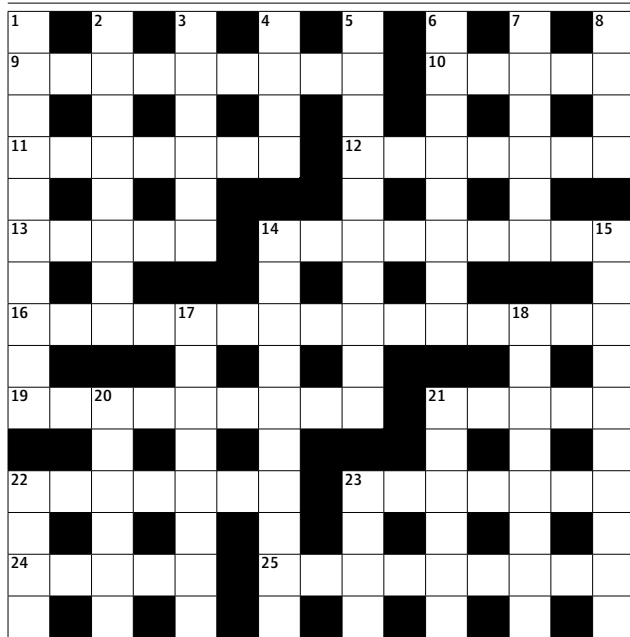


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,125 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 26,125, 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 16 December.

## Across

- 9 Put formally, tennis great with appropriate round decoration (9)
- 10 Large island reduced by a gas (5)
- 11 Hot on the heels of swinging single people (7)
- 12 State tennis legend's song and dance (7)
- 13 Desirable girls generally try to put out – time for resistance? (5)
- 14 Made acceptable, the thing breathes in windy Andes (9)
- 16 Blowing the whistle on football team's once popular number (7,3,5)
- 19 Battle location having small advantage: opportunity to retreat (9)
- 21 Down with ... what did you say about holy man? (5)
- 22 Ostentatious flâneur one's seen off on this occasion (7)
- 23 Vast area ripe for development – look into it (7)
- 24,23down Rock band gets job making important roof timber (5,4)
- 25 Female, put coarsely, eg "sheila" or "bird" (4,5)

## Down

- 1 Disease, when linked to top quality outstanding, lives (10)
- 2 Get lighter energy for nothing in English resort (8)

- 3 Guy from Fife turning guy inside out (6)
- 4 See 20
- 5 Western character Daisy's smitten by? (10)
- 6 Support for camera, yet turned up as old clothes washer (5,3)
- 7 See 20
- 8,21 As the hourglass figure went (and so the modelling career)? (4-6)
- 14 Movement, if impaired with sloe gin, embracing fellow? (4,2,4)
- 15 Sequined, it's designed to be unsettling (10)
- 17 Milliner ran two houses free from error (8)
- 18 Swimming nude over foam, so not allowed alcoholic drink? (5,3)
- 20,4,7 The big picture shows balls in the possession of football side (6,4,6)
- 21 See 8
- 22 Musical note (quarter-second) often posed by web site visitors (4)
- 23 See 24

Solution No. 26,124

