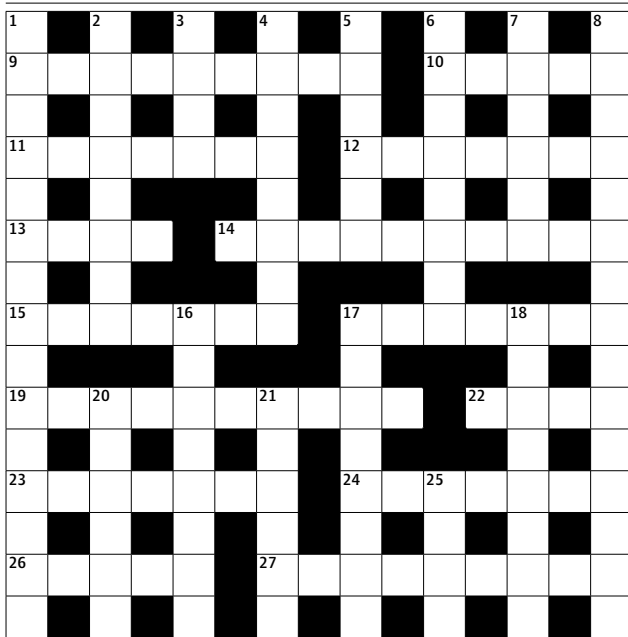


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,190 set by Paul

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 26,190, 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 3 March.

Across

- 9** Fancy rogue and tall yob (5,4)
10 One despising another mad character half-heartedly (5)
11 Herb that's trendy with duck wings on rosemary (7)
12 Word used in separation – “a snip”, say? (7)
13 Con man (4)
14 Unit chatted about outstanding soldiers (10)
15 Make roughly a hundred rowers minus a thousand (7)
17 Fish to eat by river while lying back (7)
19 University on the border studying speech (3-7)
22 Half of house missed (4)
23 A city doubled in number? (3,4)
24 Carol, after a drink, flirting (7)
26 Company crushed by priest, a sickener (1,4)
27 A risible dickhead floundering as Mandela interpreter (5,4)

Down

- 1** Exciting total one's charged for heating (8,7)
2 Rowling character shaving head and bottom, sparkling stuff in general (8)

- 3** A proportion of popular vote for Australian PM (4)
4 Popular political veteran an insubstantial figure, according to Spooner? (4,4)
5 Mark, Athenian character shackling Turkish leader (6)
6 Sex neither this nor that? (3,5)
7 Secure horses (6)
8 Author writing about men – his weren't gay (6,9)
16 Crush something underfoot – hurry up! (4,2,2)
17 Hygienic topless bar – madness? (8)
18 Poisonous jerks lie in bed (8)
20 Work having arisen, duck into internet meeting (6)
21 Antelope bringing up a couple of children (3-3)
25 A capital's musicians on top (4)

Solution No. 26,189

