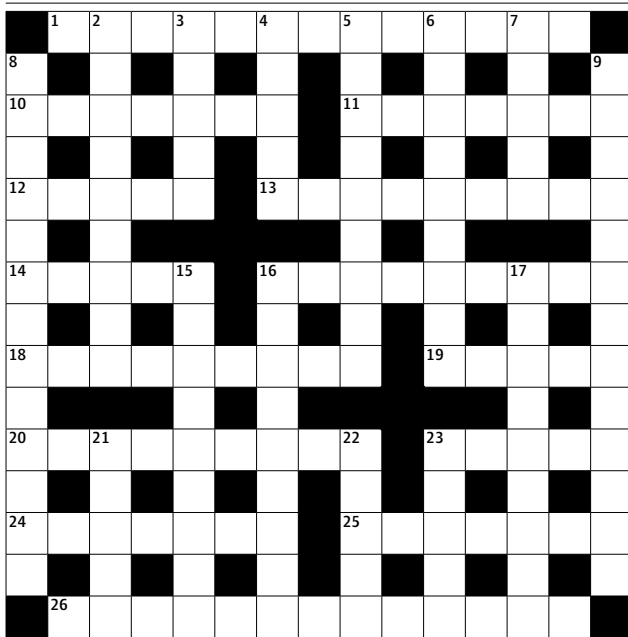


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,232 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 26,232, 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 21 April.

## Across

- 1 Beat other bass drum – these too loud? (7,6)
- 10 Old seat almost in line (7)
- 11 Snake something disconcerting? (7)
- 12 Seek to secure a visit (5)
- 13 Plant's home oft cultivated to accommodate cow parsley, primarily (9)
- 14 Eye old Egyptian heading off (5)
- 16 Some retro films I miss, epitomised in negativity (9)
- 18 Logorrhoea not entirely nonsense, in truth (9)
- 19 Army after good spirit (5)
- 20 Container for drink, short box with purple back (6,3)
- 23 Reason smoke ring beginning to loom over (5)
- 24 Means of transport I'm certain, essentially based on Arctic territory for starters (7)
- 25 Insect should take queen from behind, one feels (7)
- 26 Torticollis – or a headache? (4,2,3,4)

## Down

- 2 Come across contents of menu on bar (9)

- 3 Deliberate straddling of pole by flesh (5)
- 4 Revolutionary looked at something less stimulating? (5)
- 5 Very honestly? (9)
- 6 Flying down the touchline? (2,3,4)
- 7 Clue covering case of unusual plant (5)
- 8 Tailor has info on two boys' names, then one stuck on labels? (7,6)
- 9 Certain I am unsure about it, hard I reckon? (13)
- 15 Shut top of coop, then moult? (5,4)
- 16 Harry not up for university (9)
- 17 Spray can with origin that's artificial (9)
- 21 Goddess in prayer, fed up (5)
- 22 Take game or fish for cook (5)
- 23 Words once spoken - about time rested (5)

Solution No. 26,231

