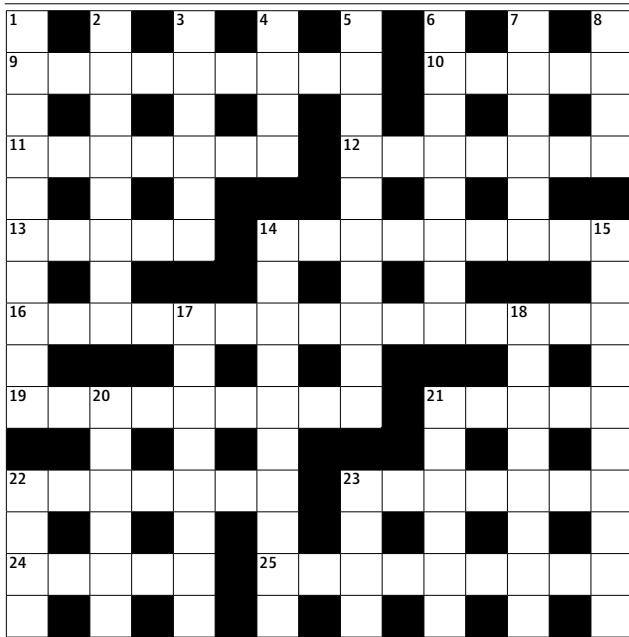


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,233 set by Rufus

## Across

- 9 They're paid for services rendered (9)
- 10 Shown to be unfit during a gym session (5)
- 11 Games period (7)
- 12 Undisclosed military rank (7)
- 13 Three points go to my opponent (5)
- 14 Good ones can always grow better (9)
- 16 Sporting event one's bound to compete in (5-6,4)
- 19 Cricket finalist? (4,3,2)
- 21 Guide back to border (5)
- 22 It reminds chaps to give me priority (7)
- 23 Gift for the poor – a welcome gesture (7)
- 24 A student on board having a dance (5)
- 25 Haricot bean, for example, not a starter (3-6)

## Down

- 1 Fortuitous bit of scoring? (10)
- 2 Noel's tower of strength (8)
- 3 It won't play a principal part (6)
- 4 Novelist makes friends across the Channel (4)
- 5 Photograph monster that's seen in the garden (10)

- 6 Benefit from investment is cut about a quarter (8)
- 7 Site includes a splendid residence (6)
- 8 Something troubling your eye, initially (4)
- 14 Young and inexperienced musicians? (10)
- 15 They watch sport etc as recreation (10)
- 17 Set me up with intellectual? Hard cheese! (8)
- 18 Nothing lost, having everything provided (3,5)
- 20 Naive politician caught in a web of lies (6)
- 21 Enclosure sheep is held in (4,2)
- 22 Just think, she may inspire you (4)
- 23 Animal quarters? (4)

Winners of prize puzzle 26,226

