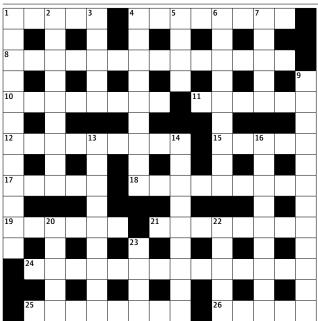
Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,259 set by Picaroon

Across

- 1 "Sun" follows this year's compulsive bed-hopper
- 4 Break down without cover for Skoda vehicle? Correct! (8)
- 8 Listen, Picaroon needs treating like a caring person (2,4,8) **10** Ballsier, free progres-
- sives (8)
- **11** Polish rejecting English entertainment (6)
- 12 Two items of clothing for person in field (9)
- **15** Italian footballers spend cold months without women (5)
- **17** Tennis champ's trophy
- 18 Nirvana's rock, blaring, has kicking intro (7-2)
- **19** Doctors put elementary wrapping around breaks (3-3)
- 21 Pan what a drug supplier may do (8)
- 24 Cheeky sort of paparazzo pursuing person tanning (14)
- 25 Carpeted with soft design over boring crimson (8)
- 26 Member of religious sect can prove who he is (5)

Down

- 1 Falter with asinine witticism when drunk? (6-6)
- 2 Half-cut, Tony Blair's wife hides £50 where payment is due (9)

- 3 Bishop holds good service, one that flies by (5)
- 4 Strips down and regularly does gentle exercise (9)
- 5 We're told the coast is clear (4)
- 6 Man, lousy bum, gin's making insensitive (9)
- 7 More self-conscious person having a fling? (5)
- 9 Subdued Balls and Miliband welcoming upright head of state (12)
- 13 Rubbish penned by cryptic setter - it should make you think (4,5)
- **14** Forced to admit routine is rehearsed (9)
- **16** Dogs consuming bit of fruit – beginning to eat, they expel gas in America (9)
- 20 It's said tea garden borders a US lake (5)
- 22 Don't go with change, defending Latin (5)
- 23 Fuel very Marxist uprising (4)

Solution No. 26,258

