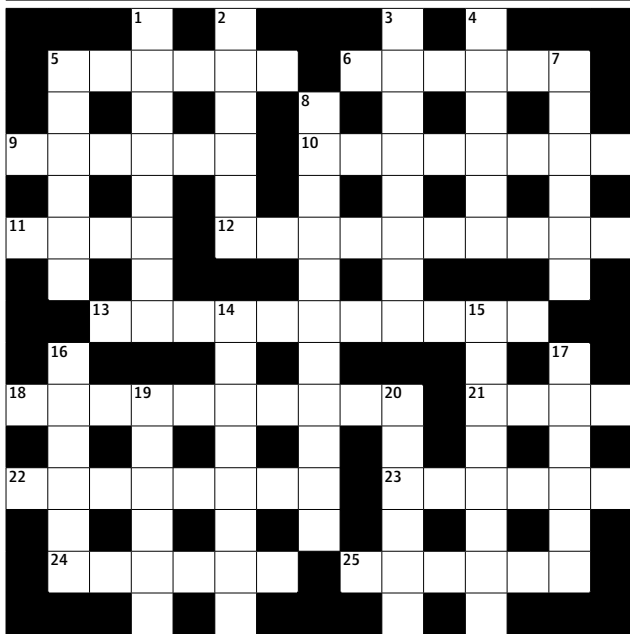


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,280 set by Pasquale

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 26,280, 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 June.

To mark the 60th anniversary of the death of 24. All across clues lack a definition; the solution to one of them indicates what links all the others.

### Across

- 5 Worker in firm first to retire (6)
- 6 Crowd is hanging round front of university (6)
- 9 I love being embraced by slovenly woman, rolling over (6)
- 10 Expression of surprise when meeting poet? (8)
- 11 Cleric's title put in front of name (4)
- 12 Cleese, Idle et al, legless around old marketplace (10)
- 13 Dull chemist in difficulty penning article (11)
- 18 Host unpaid for working (10)
- 21 Old tower losing its facing (4)
- 22 Very famous bunch of engineers (8)
- 23 The latest fashion (6)
- 24 On a trip missing nothing (6)
- 25 Not completely happy, learner being pushed to the back (6)

### Down

- 1 Home thus dealt with psychosis, removing a nightly problem? (8)
- 2 Soak up drink and talk too freely? (6)

- 3 Little pile of soil? Briefly come out with straw (4,4)
- 4 On-the-up Irish singer in Italian city district (6)
- 5 Cable meeting with journalist is flattered (6)
- 7 It's hard work getting a new set of punchy words (6)
- 8 Theme worked out with art and wit? Brainy stuff (5,6)
- 14 Keeping a facility for large-scale ads (8)
- 15 Around sailor crew is moving sideways (8)
- 16 Strip club of sleazy nature on street (6)
- 17 Start to find "black gold" under playing field (6)
- 19 Favourite lines about love in this, maybe? (6)
- 20 Yellow orb over county incompletely visible – as it becomes this? (6)

Solution No. 26,279

C	H	U	M	P	C	H	O	P	S	W	I	F	T	
L	N	U	A	O	E	N	O							
E	X	C	O	N	L	A	P	L	A	N	D	E	R	
A	O	C	O	P										
R	E	V	T	A	G	L	I	A	T	E	L	L	E	
U	E	U	E	E	A	G	D							
P	E	R	T	A	I	N	S	U	B	Z	E	R	O	
J	A	M	A	I	C	A	V	I	E	T	N	A	M	
A	A	O	P	I	T	A	A							
C	U	T	A	N	D	P	A	S	T	E	N	O	D	
K	I													
P	U	L	V	E	R	I	S	E	N	O	I	S	E	
O	D	G	E	R	I	N	S							
T	W	A	N	G	S	T	A	R	S	I	G	N	S	