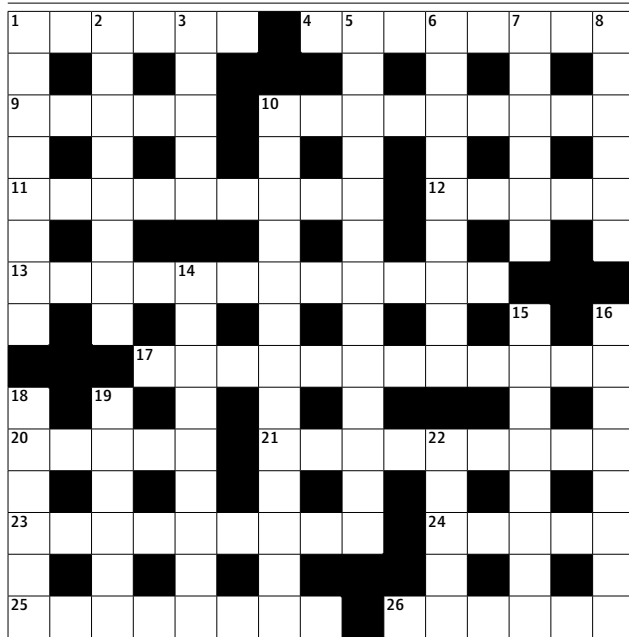


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,334 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 26,334, 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 18 August.

Across

- 1 Tongue spoken, cause of the slurring? (6)
- 4 Solid figure hard, during various periods (8)
- 9 See 21
- 10 European conversion of Gaul accepted by reluctant Messiah (9)
- 11 Hundreds initially stuck in toilet and half of them drunk, completely (2,3,4)
- 12 Bird black in colour, tail invisible (5)
- 13 Young lady was a German viniculturist, I gathered (12)
- 17 Photographer's subject so informed? (2,3,7)
- 20 Explode, putting head in furnace by mistake (2,3)
- 21,9 Female in the postal union? (4-5,5)
- 23,26 Model like her, in secret, a contributor to the affairs of government? (9,6)
- 24 Crackhead invested in European trip (5)
- 25 Yellowish fluid gets to float in breeze (8)
- 26 See 23
- 5 Shock of a chicken, say, getting award in America (8,5)
- 6 Leaving disarray within the Church, standing as a gosseller (9)
- 7 Musical gilt-edged, as it happens (6)
- 8 See 19
- 10 A power no longer, in French produce 'tis going to pot, I fear, in the end (7,6)
- 14 Chap I decorate, that's not on as a declaration of intent (9)
- 15 Wind unloaded from one's guts (8)
- 16 I agree to try and try again (4,4)
- 18 Filled with goods, up-ended dark red food container (3,3)
- 19,8 Santa's reindeer attached to old motor, one with bells on? (6,6)
- 22 Veteran during apartheid, locked up (5)

Down

- 1 Doctor by tool, holding second the wrong way for surgical procedure (8)
- 2 Calm study under which person at the Sorbonne? (8)
- 3 Very large topless garments embarrassing, initially (5)

Solution No. 26,333

