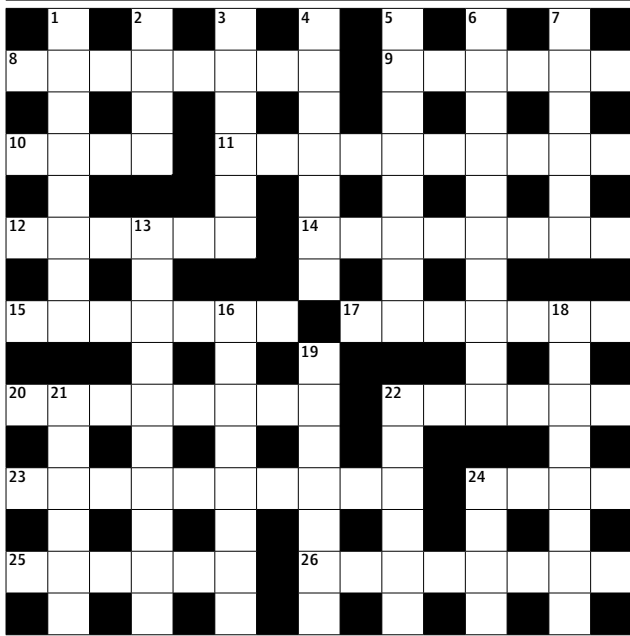


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,340 set by Picaroon

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 26,340, 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 25 August.

## Across

- 8 Whitehall edifice once rigged to bug Leader of House (8)  
 9 Theatrical monarch right to delay appearance in dress with no back (6)  
 10 An unknown number on transport that's crowded (4)  
 11 Kind of 24 down's producer phones girl, speaking like Spooner (5,5)  
 12 One writing in 24 down note in jazzy score (6)  
 14 Dumped sport journalist outside court – it's not out of the 24 down (8)  
 15 Grimy English accommodated by a foreign family (7)  
 17 Forest and city gutted in fire (7)  
 20 Special pair of queens in 24 down (8)  
 22 Teacher going over French that's 24 down (6)  
 23 Spirit imbues leader of ceremonies with sacred 24 down (10)  
 24 Party in retreat – Liberal Party (4)  
 25 Agree there's no damage done by the postal service? (6)  
 26 Setters wearing old headgear could be saps (8)

## Down

- 1 Church canon with article that's kind of 24 down (8)  
 2 A tip for trickery from one 24 down, politically (4)

- 3 Criticise novel rejected inside 60 minutes (6)  
 4 Argentinian red on sale drunk in 24 down club (7)  
 5 A chatterbox, salesman is therefore good for promotion (8)  
 6 Rakes used with energy – beach churned up (10)  
 7 24 down force cut up rocks (6)  
 13 Latin America's revolutionary reserves behind Muslim nations (10)  
 16 Two leading characters given heartless command to step down (8)  
 18 Such lines of verse as here are found Allow great deeds to go around (8)  
 19 Uplifting narrative about love, one using 24 down language (7)  
 21 Inclined to chuck wandering herd out of Hardy-esque novel (6)  
 22 Partner of 24 downs spinning coats for modish, trendy hipster (6)  
 24 22 across or down (4)

Solution No. 26,339

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