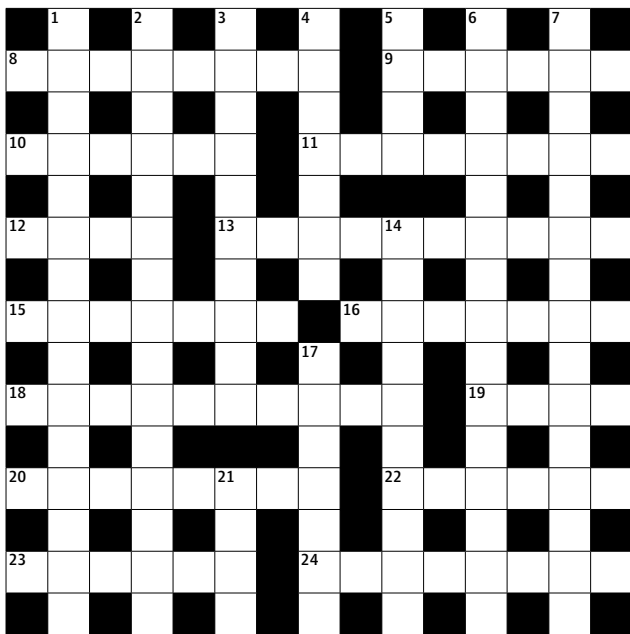


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,394 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 26,394, 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 27 October.

Note added 10 November 2014: The clue for 4 down has been changed from that first published.

Across

- 8,10,7** Around the third of January, today it's cold for our dance marquee – so play begins (3,2,3,6,2,3,10)
- 9** Ram and monkey finally getting close (6)
- 10** See 8
- 11** Beginning to disprove negative principle, disease on the decline (5,3)
- 12** Bound to find drink laced with drug (4)
- 13** Informal correspondents retain a day to send letters (10)
- 15** Unhappy to concede a stroke as a player (4-3)
- 16** Spar with Cameron amid cheers, perhaps (7)
- 18** Entering Fido's ground, sign has got significance primarily in this part of London? (4,2,4)
- 19** Please continue to be a thug (2,2)
- 20** Transport around a cold, getting sick – that's a bug (8)
- 22** Tell supporter at the back to cheer (6)
- 23** See short man in woman's hat (6)
- 24** Jack, queen, king and ace not extremely unusual (8)

Down

- 1** Force man to study in the law firm (6,9)
- 2** Some silver providing class in epic fence off (5,5,5)
- 3** Rioting from troops resistant to the force of powerful elements (10)
- 4** Gauge measurement for Berkshire town (7)
- 5** Wine tipped up into fruit salad (4)
- 6** Musicians welcoming five hundred dancing emus gatecrashing concert, as not much on when swimming in Australia? (6,9)
- 7** See 8
- 14** Partition in church, where orders once carried out (4,6)
- 17** Hole in small chamber where bread absorbs much water (3,4)
- 21** Say something to spring vegetable (4)

Solution No. 26,393

