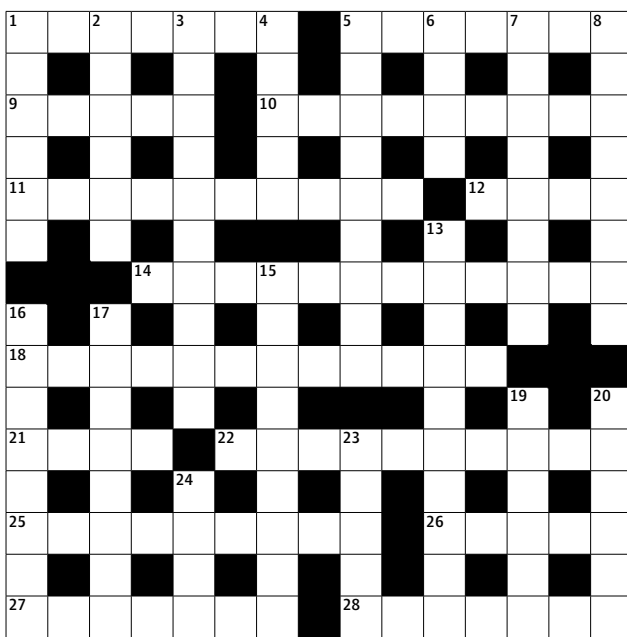


## Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,621 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 26,621, 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 20 July.

### Across

- 1 I, possibly, poke chicken with a piece of wood (7)
- 5 Idiot finding ludicrous flaw in success (7)
- 9 President Thingamabob, partially recalled (5)
- 10 Saw worker with president embracing writer (9)
- 11 President no wiser, he stumbles past close of tenure (10)
- 12 Country where I was a candidate (4)
- 14 Gerald's guards in that position with company, private (3,3,6)
- 18 Cheat knocking back a drop, happy to put on weight (4,1,4,3)
- 21 President back in combat after treatment that's harmful (10)
- 22 Good bandages nicer after treatment that's harmful (10)
- 25 First in geophysics confirmed, so pleased (9)
- 26 Forget to secure ring that's likely to come off (5)
- 27 Perhaps one's kid gloves made from this? (7)
- 28 Serious attention given to tree house (7)

### Down

- 1 President, one gathering dust? (6)
- 2 Something to set up, holding information primarily on enemy leader, cooperate (6)
- 3 Annexe where president maintains standard, not

entirely beneath the state (6,4)

- 4 Hot container lifted over bottom of potato chip (5)
- 5 A rest home prepared to offer beef substitute? (9)
- 6 Symbol of a nation, some ship capsizing (4)
- 7 Vital thing, having little room for big defeat (8)
- 8 Kebab served up during your old dirge (8)
- 13 Very mysterious lord in bloody uprising, appearing common (10)
- 15 Dopey leader in Reagan, it being laughable for an actor (9)
- 16 Model put with Degas stole the show (8)
- 17 Love left tainted if ends, unsatisfactory relationship now extinguished? (3,5)
- 19 Monroe unfortunately is as she is (2,4)
- 20 A trail, an upward slope (6)
- 23 Coax Nixon to admit lying in the end? (5)
- 24 Second one sucks (4)

Solution No. 26,620

