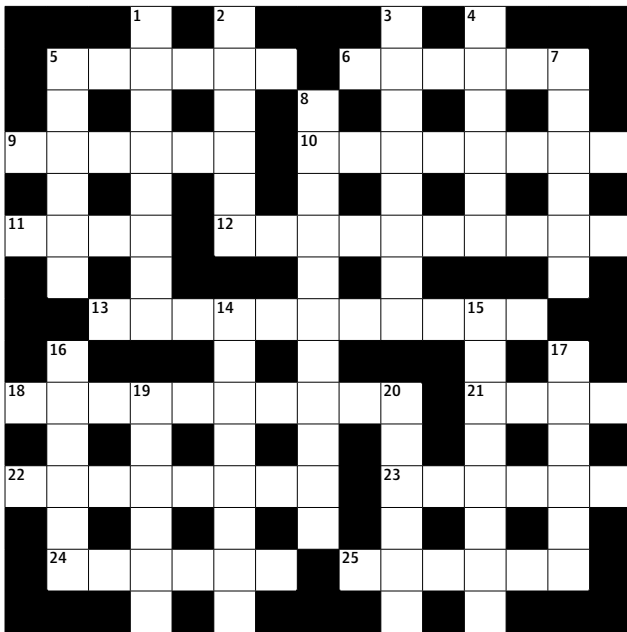


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,687 set by Qaos

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 26,687, 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 5 October.

Six solutions are characters, not further defined, from 18's work about 5 down 21 across.

Across

- 5** Fabulous creature like a transvestite? (6)
6 Endless traffic problem leads to toll (6)
9 Perhaps gorillas eat less fruit (6)
10 Entrance with drawback? (8)
11 Captured by CCTV – a neutrino! (4)
12 Licence for each business (10)
13 “Tenses up pecs” left Rita’s head giddy! (11)
18 O, much wit, then led astray? (5,5)
21 See 5 down
22 Change key after party rejected music (8)
23 Arsenal’s French striker misses one, takes new position (6)
24 Accent disguises government’s posh language ... (6)
25 ... with books by the hundred (6)

Down

- 1** Soup maker? (8)
2 Penny is very good to counter rumour (6)
3 Stop talking on the phone? (8)
4 It’s funny having looked over children’s TV programme (6)
5,21 Worshipping a lower light (6,4)
7 More upset in France (6)
8 Cooked tea right? It’s to be seriously questioned (11)
14 Mighty intense (8)
15 Main towers? (8)
16 Guard caught stealing gold after drugs (6)
17 It’s mostly hiding in red wine (6)
19 Pretending to stand in (6)
20 Drink, say, on lifting trophy (6)

Solution No. 26,686

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