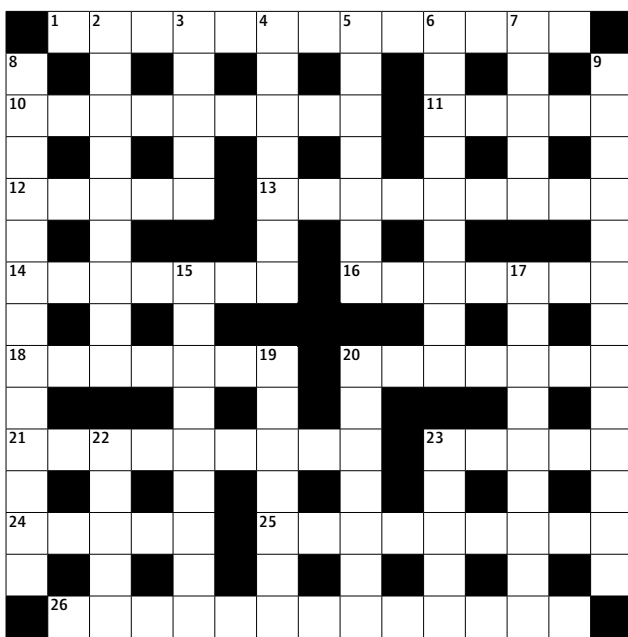


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,711 set by Shed

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 26,711, 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 2 November.

Across

- 1 Charged boundary with pick and staple to secure cold bog (8,5)
- 10 Scholar spooks patriarch hidden in nut tree (9)
- 11 Young man with it, turning, ebbing and flowing (5)
- 12 Assistant catching second stage whisper (5)
- 13 Instrument welcoming holy man to US city (9)
- 14 Degrade pile penetrating scent's centre (7)
- 16 Hot spot for Puritans dropping one off (7)
- 18 Mother hedgehog belonging to "boys only" club? (7)
- 20 Unruly teen absorbing reflux in African town (7)
- 21 First bit of evening paper let loose by fruit-bearer (5,4)
- 23 Expression of regret about time range (5)
- 24 What's to be ground by King George I? (5)
- 25 Officer finding one sort of fly in pipe (9)
- 26 Part of speech with which to make firm declaration (13)

Down

- 2 French evangelist with cattle on ship making fortune (9)
- 3 Bum finds penny in prison (5)
- 4 Gods of victory and war mostly overturned dish (7)
- 5 Drink tea with endless delight (7)
- 6 Bomb in with a will (but without limits) to cafe (9)
- 7 Jessica dizzily drinking port (5)
- 8 Magic Parmesan recipe for political skulduggery (5,8)
- 9 Blue door curiously concealing crush – stress may increase it (5,8)
- 15 Butterfly catcher with clipper gaining weight? (9)
- 17 Boxer, maybe, with electronic phone featured in retrograde film genre (9)
- 19 Animals getting a bone circle copper-plated (7)
- 20 Doleful, the Spanish setter interrupts rising composer (7)
- 22 Allegedly nose-y sort of churchman (5)
- 23 Startle, Madagascar-style? (5)

Solution No. 26,710

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