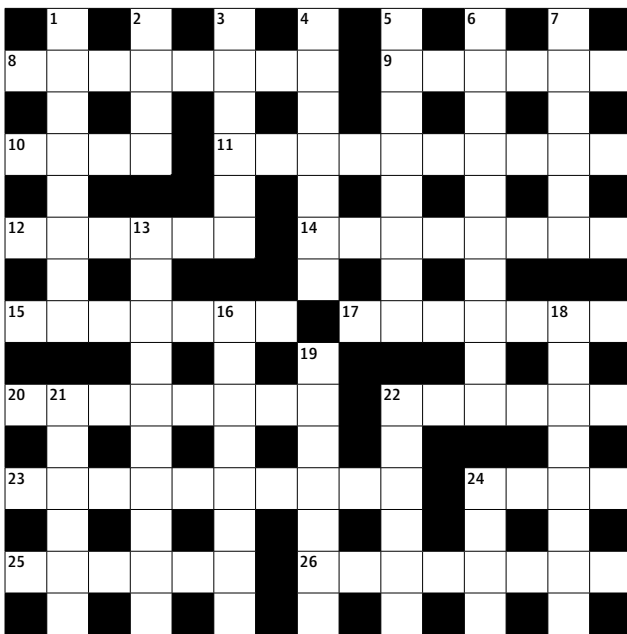


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,830 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 26,830, 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 21 March.

Across

- 8** Fanciful art of sheep-dog training is mine? (8)
9 Trick after a backflip nailed by European dog (6)
10 Meals for a dog (4)
11 Extraordinary stature, I am in shock (10)
12 Cat, a killer losing tail in conflict (6)
14 Opera in a borstal extremely unusual (8)
15 A junior officer in green, unsurpassed (3-4)
17 Dutch painter capturing cat in a neat way (7)
20 Fine wine, relative filth finally coming first (5,3)
22 Something felt to protect female suffering loss (6)
23 Girl running round borders in garden to catch some balls, runs the wrong way (10)
24 Large cutting tool's shaft (4)
25 Eat a lot – good taste! (3,3)
26 Poisonous compound not designed to impress one in particular (8)

Down

- 1** Entering shopping centre, both bananas put aside for later use (8)
2 Run when philanderer turns up (4)
3 Dog in the evening sun, perhaps? (6)
4 Case of puppy, 3, as the best thing with the cat? (7)
5 See 24
6 Old singer saves half of soup for dog (3,7)
7 State, I'm sorry to say, kicked around for starters (6)
13 Top dog unsurprisingly stealing spectacles, misbehaving (2,2,2,4)
16 Cat literarily a degree above hole (8)
18 Cat drops on cat as a means of survival (8)
19 Dog hugging Rover, totally gutted in sounding like a cat (7)
21 Fruit is eaten by cats and dogs, perhaps? (6)
22 Keeping dry, fragment split in half (6)
24,5 Cat partial to nastiest sort of drink (4,8)

Solution No. 26,829

