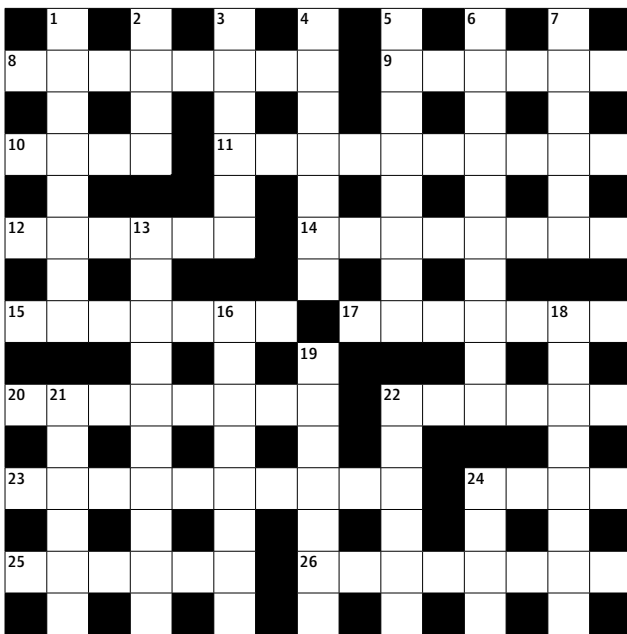


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,818 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 26,818, 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 7 March.

Across

- 8** Army building plastic toy to entertain wife in Texas game (5-3)
9 Revulsion has a benefit in North America (6)
10 Tree, redhead behind one (4)
11 Commemorative elegy finally written after actor died, sadly (10)
12 Archer's game (6)
14 Balderdash, feature defining itself, nothing less, with name (8)
15,4 I shine brightly in game as author (7,7)
17 That woman's order to collect is for valour (7)
20 At lunchtime, change clothes for game (8)
22 2s in the Church heading off commoners (6)
23 Rotten melons once dropping off in such a state (10)
24 Card in 7, perhaps? (4)
25 Like 8 on board game (6)
26 Game in Cluedo set straight (8)

Down

- 1** Bruckner's Fourth, then moving to nicer orchestral works (8)
2 Leading traitors promoted (4)
3 Heavy food, say ... brought up (6)
4 See 15
5 Hide in 25 concealed (8)
6 Game, passing over to boxing judge, leaves at the count of four? (10)
7 Scottish team game (6)
13 Ultimately short-lived relationships? (10)
16 Chronicler writing article on Stalin inaccurately (8)
18 Scottish island in very cold game (8)
19 Man I mind, as hateful (7)
21 God swallows up Australian island group (6)
22 Grip top fish under edges in creel (6)
24 Cheat in game (4)

Solution No. 26,817

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