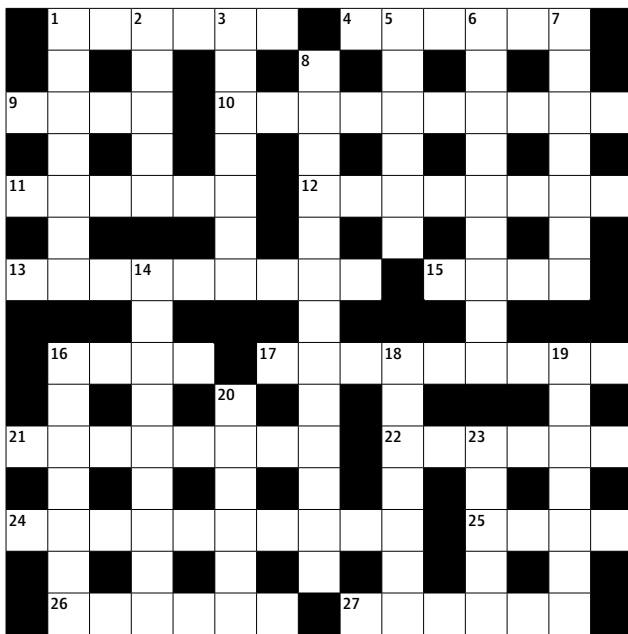


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,681 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 26,681, 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 28 September.

Across

- 1 Wind up close to Stonehenge, stone almost blown over (6)
- 4 Start high, then go down (6)
- 9 "Please send money urgently" or "Click here to claim your prize" are plots to be rejected (4)
- 10 About two hundred bananas eaten up – three hundred more despised! (10)
- 11 House for the fifth primate? (6)
- 12 Most bizarre, keeper's header has beaten Stoke 1- 0 (8)
- 13 Concert at which I perform karaoke likely to improve? (9)
- 15 Hero going after rebel in uprising? (4)
- 16 Busy route going over across yacht (4)
- 17 Self-indulgence thus with kissers is beginning to mount (9)
- 21 Interrupting date, parent wearing nothing returns in checks (8)
- 22 Revolutionary musical director's opening a case (6)
- 24 Drunk, I'm at peace swigging last of gin, set free (10)
- 25 Bloody career's ending, time to retire (4)
- 26 Series of tests on small items of clothing (6)
- 27 Positive thing about old network (6)

Down

- 1 See 2
- 2,1 One is among divine royalty, as leader (5,7)
- 3,16 Throne's occupant left in 2011, according to a 2 1, initially upset with Augustus (7,7)
- 5 Cap for football player, a contribution (6)
- 6,19 Pietism aggravated split in the Americas for 2 1 (9,7)
- 7 In conclusion, royalist thinking it's an offence (7)
- 8 Place snail owns spiralling, as a working rule (10,3)
- 14,23 2 1 saw in the Guardian a burden retaining human resources (9,5)
- 16 See 3
- 18 Be permanently present at the bottom of a shaft, drinking ditchwater, primarily (7)
- 19 See 6
- 20 One new face serving porridge? (6)
- 23 See 14

Solution No. 26,680

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