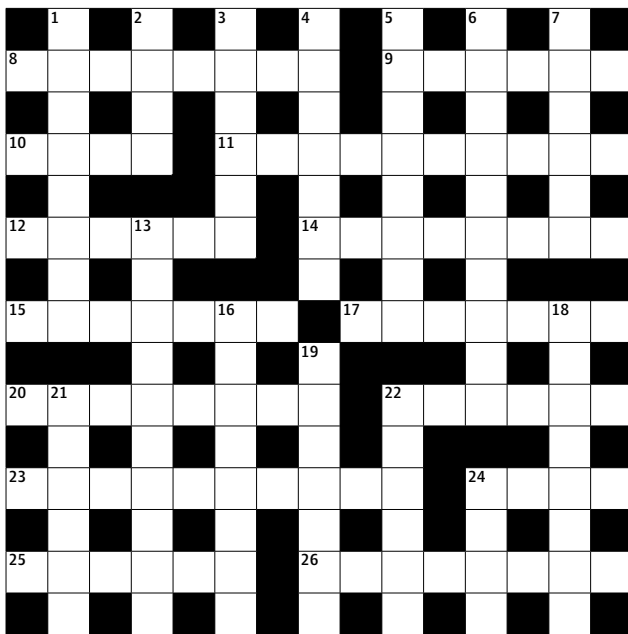


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,788 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 26,788, 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 1 February.

Across

- 8** Good, if one is a saint (8)
9 Nanny doubly immersed in cookbook, did you say? (2,4)
10 Scorer a little flabbergasted (4)
11 Complain about superior line taken by Conservative in competitive association (6,4)
12 Bird caught by end of bill (6)
14 Bread done, more dough for the better? (8)
15 Killer instinct's back in Asian commander (7)
17 Cover very exposed lesion for starters in open wound (7)
20 Last of the jam with remarkably outstanding coffee (8)
22 Bird with chicken's head, chicken (6)
23 At sea, triple-pace vessel (3,7)
24,2 Success with organ encapsulated by member for Labour? (4,4)
25 Ornament journalist found in stream (6)
26 Judges nailing down contracts (8)

Down

- 1,18** In disgust, leave town to thieves out to steal money (4,4,4,4)

- 2** See 24 across
3 Good reach for opening move (6)
4 Depravity in plain mischief (7)
5 Flag bearing African, not an anteater (8)
6 Aesop caper rewritten as sci-fi story (5,5)
7 Paul's salamander said to be microscopic (6)
13 Bird, singularly doubly cuckoo? (10)
16 Flying bats move (2,6)
18 See 1
19 Appear to claim prize money – sweet! (7)
21 Reportedly, a route north for the country (6)
22 Tilt dangerously always, when placed upside down in container (6)
24 Behind roofing slab, roof missing (4)

Solution No. 26,787

