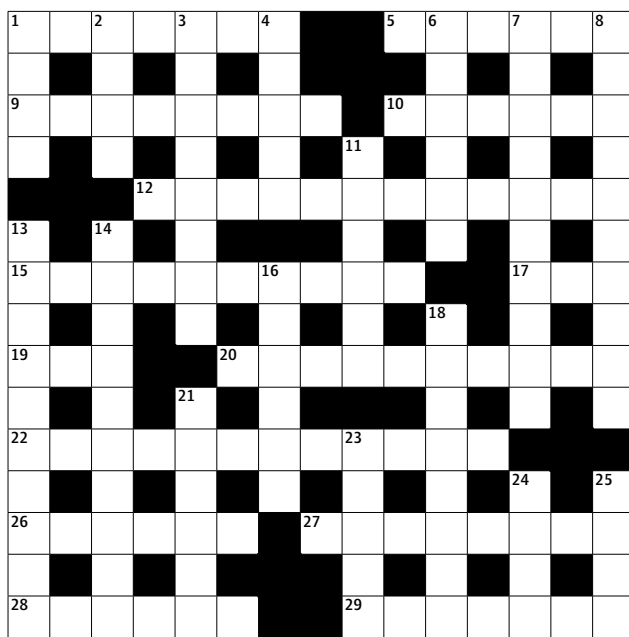


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,735 set by Arachne

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 26,735, 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 30 November.

Across

- 1 Poet, to right of centre, founder of cult (7)
- 5 Demanding university hospital admit prince in poor health (6)
- 9 Plod round Luton with one of the underworld (8)
- 10 Charlie recollecting words of hippopotamus? (6)
- 12 A number of marriages? (7,5)
- 15 Gee, Sinatra excited these Republicans! (10)
- 17 Twitch regularly observed (3)
- 19 Female in the nude (3)
- 20 Methuselah, perhaps, voiced misgiving and lost nerve (7,3)
- 22 Head waiter tolerated him behaving badly (6,6)
- 26 Random old people in megalithic tomb (6)
- 27 Groups of cyclists pootle around Nova Scotia (8)
- 28 Son heard audible step (6)
- 29 I used to be stupid and boring (7)

Down

- 1 Hard work, energy and optimism (4)
- 2 Melancholy, rude Conservative sportsman (4)
- 3 Better than expected, though not on course (5,3)
- 4 Airdrie district nurses like prunes? (5)

6 Posh, like Victoria? (6)

- 7 Becoming callous and cool over time (10)
- 8 They comply, duffed up in cell (10)
- 11 Sexually excited male inhibited by nagging (2,4)
- 13 Principled Greek, close to Syriza, agreed to be bound by resolution (10)
- 14 It lessens suffering of old man held by assassin (10)
- 16 Arachne broke drugs law – she took love potion (6)
- 18 Lower limits removed, therefore start to dawdle (8)
- 21 Greasy sandwiches start to nauseate mate (6)
- 23 Public poverty after banks fail (5)
- 24 Ma clipping lout twice (2-2)
- 25 Employs European aboard American naval vessel (4)

Solution No. 26,734

