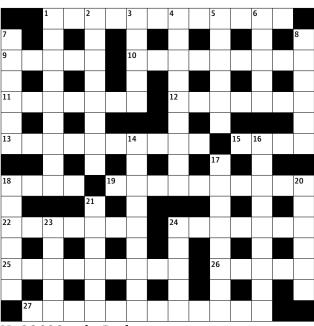
## **Guardian cryptic crossword**



No 26,896 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 26,896, 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 6 June.

## Across

- 1 Pound loss with a new drop in ounces (4,8)
- **9** Article, pretty sharp (5) **10** Drinking loads, fish has a
- drink (5,4)

  11 University central to artier Bohemian region of
- old Italy (7)

  12 Is in the past defining present, however? (7)
- **13** Skiing gear for Shropshire dance troupe? (10)
- **15** Test period complete (4)
- **18** Feeling party heading for government, politician not beginning to embrace it (4)
- **19** Old actions right after western in American broadcast (7,3)
- **22** Confused mixture coming from newspaper published in the Algarve? (7)
- 24 Double agent finally caught by spy, then daughter spotted (7)
- **25** Scrooge broke banks in US state (9)
- **26** Firm rear (5)
- **27** Large mammals eating duck, bloody little one, less than excited (5,2,5)

## Down

- 1 Position dinosaur's taken on stage (6,3)
- 2 I reprove wrinkly, as going to seed (8)
- 3 Material heading for comet in small constellation (5)
- **4** However unlikely, lame odds for defeat (9)

- 5 After uprising, I'm inspired by belligerent god, fighting multitudes (6)
- **6** Queen's partner cooked outstanding royal starter (5)
- **7** Light touch for a lady driver? (6)
- **8** Egyptian leader participating in revolution, as serene (6)
- 14 Sin is in midst of battle, as enemy of freedom? (9)
- **16** Myth is so very old, old actor beginning to slumber (9)
- 17 Wonderful work ending for magician in land of huge, huge proportions?
  (8)
- **18** Stupid remark after online discovery? (6)
- **20** Unpleasant noise breaking gear on a bike (6)
- 21 Spirit phenomenal, when up for puzzle (6)
- 23 Greek character welcoming home a pachyderm (5)
- **24** Ultimate in excitement in bubbly composition (5)

Solution No. 26.895

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