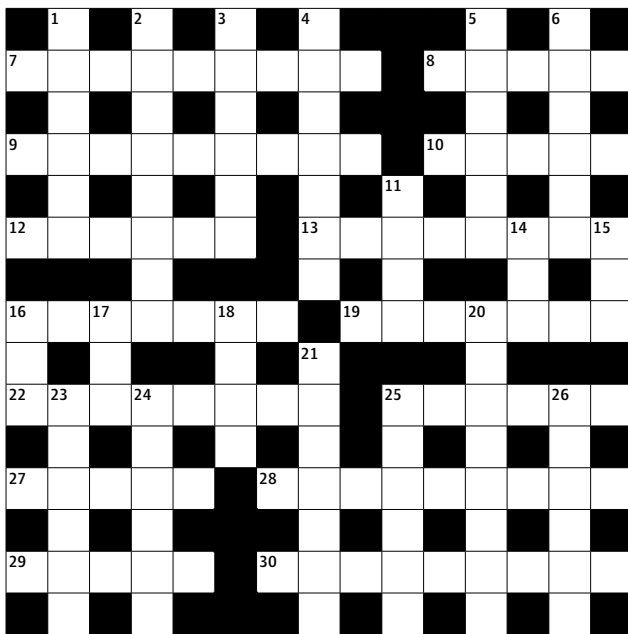


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,866 set by Puck

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 26,866, 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 2 May.

An anniversary puzzle

Across

- 7 One way to get 30 American instead of English cows (9)
 8 Pester 25 across's uncle (5)
 9 Awfully sad deed? King Lear's first to beat it (9)
 10,25 No posh car for Ringo Starr? Gee, bad day for him today (5,6)
 12 Topless females on tail of 30's killer? They tremble and quiver (6)
 13 Wrongly coin "leg-over" as a new word (8)
 16 Sudden outburst from EU, after right is in panic (5-2)
 19 Sounding tired? Yes, when collecting for charity (4,3)
 22 Changing gender is a new plan (8)
 25 See 10
 27 Unit 3, nervy? Oddly not (5)
 28,30 Play opposite male, missing a knight finally captured by queen (6,3,9)
 29 Some relief, if thinking 27 quoted elsewhere (5)
 30 See 28

Down

- 1 One now remembered going, having heard fellow go for drinks (6)
 2 27 agreed about carrying a hat? (8)
 3 A Fleet Street barber's out of step (2,4)
 4 Country with good local network, finally? (7)
 5 Much Ado About Nothing, including 2 from the beginning (2,4)

- 6 Bard regularly worked in EU country (6)
 11 Touchstone, say, with length under 9 inches? (4)
 14 Follow up what's said in shock (3)
 15 Lament, if only about 43% like this crossword (3)
 16 Pro golfer's last by start of final hole (3)
 17 Joiner from A Midsummer Night's Dream, initially not primarily mechanical (3)
 18 One you texted before 11 (4)
 20 Rubber users, making love during day, go red when almost found out (8)
 21 One child's granny goes to see how 11s act (7)
 23 It'll make you bring up quote Puck brought up (6)
 24 Having drunk eight pints, negotiated River Tees in waders (6)
 25 Huge number shot in East Yorks town after docking (6)
 26 Eldest daughter's missing Israel – they've left for good (6)

Solution No. 26,865

