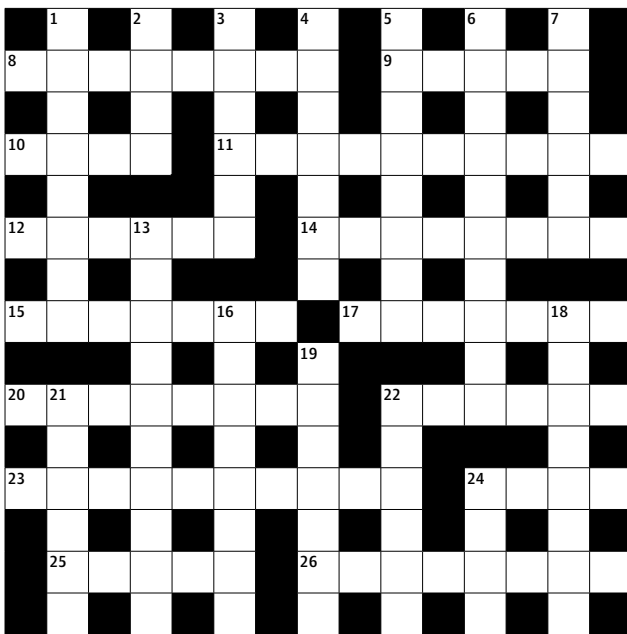


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 27,058 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 27,058, 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 12 December.

Across

- 8 Bird, passionate duck (8)
 9 Cardinal from Brisbane perhaps, a gas (5)
 10 Not many to speak of, what a relief! (4)
 11 Respond to baroque around entrance to manor, reflecting the very latest styles (10)
 12 Lark catching worm, finally – being intent, did you say? (6)
 14 Disheartened lady behind queen in Mary, oddly courteous (8)
 15 Shag caught countless oysters, initially behind boat at sea (7)
 17 Cuckoo shaggers (7)
 20 Excessively large priest in decline, unfortunately born for eating? (8)
 22 Well-groomed tree (6)
 23 Coffee-maker doctoring report about drink (10)
 24 Swift feeding off a starling (4)
 25 Modern imagery around gold, a royal favourite? (5)
 26 Embarrassing slips, as endless agony compounded among birds (3,5)

Down

- 1 Chapel organ eventually starts after arrangement for a song (2,6)
 2 Seagull's after small duck (4)

- 3 Bird first to reveal concealed assailant (6)
 4 Swallow, bird coming up after rook and gull, say? (7)
 5 Mark here, Don elsewhere, as soldier (8)
 6 Bird, one kissing the driver? (10)
 7 Parrot possibly genuine, though not a bird (6)
 13 Piece of music, prosaic one jazzed up (5,5)
 16 Change around a switch in lamp to see rail or grouse? (8)
 18 Mythical bird talks outrageously, coarse stuff (4,4)
 19 Gannet left to fill stomach with a lot (7)
 21 Fracture in bone, one's not required to stretch (6)
 22 Quail bone adorning one king and another (6)
 24 Turkey farm's prime cut (4)

Solution No. 27,057

