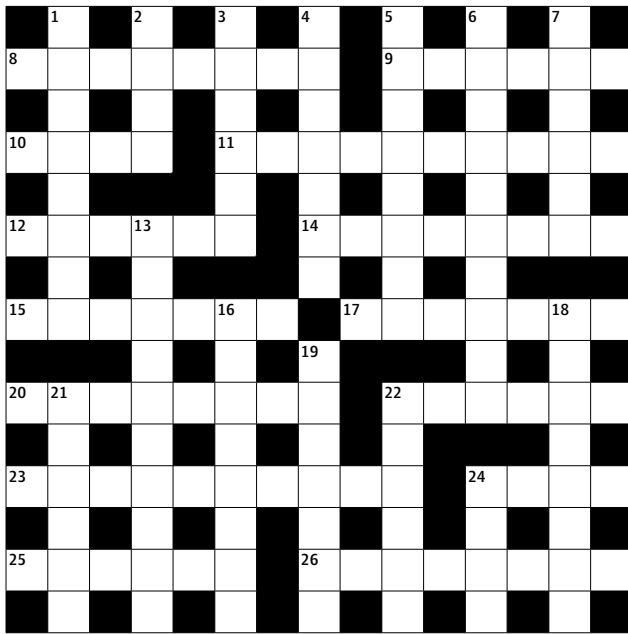


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 27,040 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 27,040, 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 21 November.

Across

- 8** Type of 25 cross, not entirely rejected (8)
9 Scrub over a regular report (6)
10 Time that flies (4)
11 East End houses don't have the credentials to accommodate white 25 (5,5)
12 Disaster – "failure" is another synonym, completely obvious for starters (6)
14 Fine man for philosophy (8)
15 Eternal fool poked by stick with malice in the end (7)
17 25, left defender? (7)
20 Start reviewing it with caveat (8)
22 In goal, attempt catches (6)
23 One going down for a long time, a reviled criminal in prison, is on for release (5,5)
24 A type of 25 in ebbing stream (4)
25 Do what you do endlessly, 17? That's you! (6)
26 25 hasn't uncoiled, moth initially trapped (8)

Down

- 1** Behind barrier, little time to go over it (8)
2 One perhaps eyed second dessert (4)
3 Cutting reserves, a mistake (3-3)
4 Distance across door-step, perhaps, that's halved (7)
5 Bet party gets seat (8)
6 Unspecified number, crime in the Spanish capital going up, never going down? (10)
7 Bloke captures Aussie native in desert (6)
13 25 that can jump – rating one degree (10)
16 Model son to give father a thrashing? That's about right! (8)
18 Scoundrel I summon up in US car (8)
19 Lift tool, say, the axe (5-2)
21 Keen to bury leak, header deleted as sinister (6)
22 Bottom disappearing, the king is upon one! (6)
24 Innermost part of bowel remains clean (4)

Solution No. 27,039

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