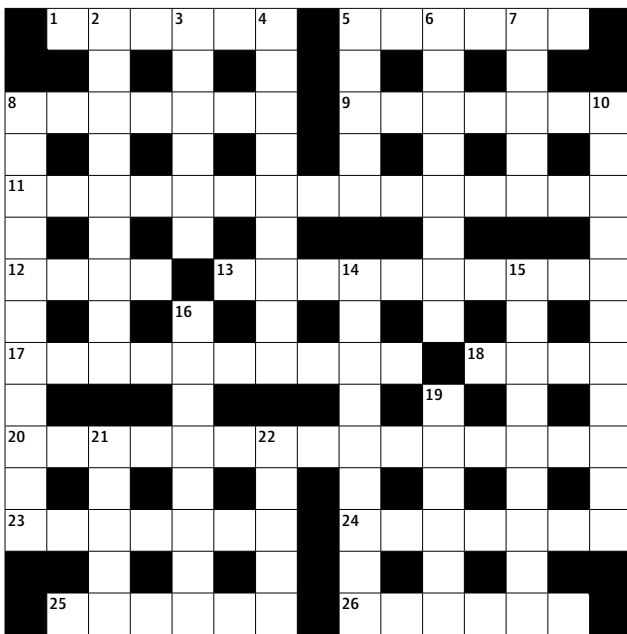


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 27,118 set by Shed

The first five correct entries drawn each week win Guardian Style and Can You Solve My Problems, worth £34.99

Entries to: The Guardian Crossword No 27,118, 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 20 February.

Across

- 1 Deft men retreating into mine entrance (6)
- 5 Prison officer coming back to pick another ticket (6)
- 8 Poet putting priests in first (7)
- 9 Supply information about organ that's hot (7)
- 11 Religious code of Butterfly State gets guys encamped (3,12)
- 12 Getting on, secured one's rank (4)
- 13 Something in the wardrobe provoking fury after child's first expletive (4,6)
- 17 Insertions into headless French right-winger's works of scholarship (10)
- 18 Veer to north and look ready for bed (4)
- 20 Revolutionary 1 24 or not, Mao and Stalin engaged in it (15)
- 23 Turned free to shroud recess in gloom (7)
- 24 Characteristic yellow rat (7)
- 25 Drum that may contain seafood? (6)
- 26 Toast, or something to put on it, mostly containing trace of rennet (6)

Down

- 2 Waist's let out, reportedly, by one sort of trousers (9)
- 3 Prayer for star eclipsing sun (6)
- 4 Religious structure presented to another, with nothing inside (5,4)
- 5 Product of sap to go wrong again? (5)
- 6 Date made off with purchase from shambles (4,4)
- 7 Like a winger, one in a vehicle (5)
- 8 Shy dog races round, having eaten topless outside (11)
- 10 Bon vivant given introduction to Galileo Galilei, maybe (11)
- 14 Heavy drinker snaffling Scandinavian funds on time? It's not proven (9)
- 15 Rubbish opera, La Gioconda, initially upset combatant (9)
- 16 Dependable cooking salt applied to growth (8)
- 19 Cost of performer in panto receiving silver (6)
- 21 Suspicion of discrimination (5)
- 22 Clipped end of secret language (5)

Solution No. 27,117

