



**RULES AND REQUESTS**

Solutions to 13 clues include sequences of letters of varying lengths not indicated in the wordplay. These sequences are all of a kind.

Deadline for entries is 23:59 GMT on Saturday 5 March. You need to register once and then sign in to theguardian.com to enter our online competition for a £100 monthly prize.

**ACROSS**

- 1 Turning head, see about top issue (6)
- 4 Good, Devon and Cornwall overturned action (2-5)
- 9,23 Women on stage overdoing hoax savage in act (4-3)
- 10 Circus in school (10)
- 11 Old ruler conspiring with night owl cries off (4)
- 12 Thick-skinned types take in hot drink (10)
- 14 Admitted to "retro" University, one's exhibiting cunning with wickedness (12)
- 17 Commander cracks on the subject of something finely poised (7,5)
- 19 Perhaps SPECTRE agent is an oddball, wearing dodgy syrups (7,3)
- 21 Business centre revolutionised by ticking boxes (4)
- 22 Prison sentence's upper limit (10)
- 25 Leak: phosphorus beginning to appear (4)
- 26 Attempt to evacuate corrupt politicians (7)
- 27 Order something that's silvery-white on the table (6)

**DOWN**

- 1 Sort of acid (blah, blah, blah) (8)
- 2 Day visiting Greek island? They'll likely be drawn (11)
- 3 Way to waste time that is contemptible! (3)
- 5 Architectural feature's old, very old, look! (5)
- 6 American's apparently neutral deity (3)
- 7 Greer's kind in pool not making either end? (6)
- 8 Calculating pair admitting love, opening whisky dispenser (13)
- 12 \$100 on head of sex god's a sizeable wedge (5)
- 13 "Part of Campania" is sign over football club on day of pranks (4,2,5)
- 15 Withdraw organisation with HQ in New York, perhaps (5)
- 16 What lifts non-Christians? (8)
- 18 Gold stars ... (6)
- 20 ... for separating an area, of course (5)
- 23 See 9
- 24 The taxman's covering letter (3)