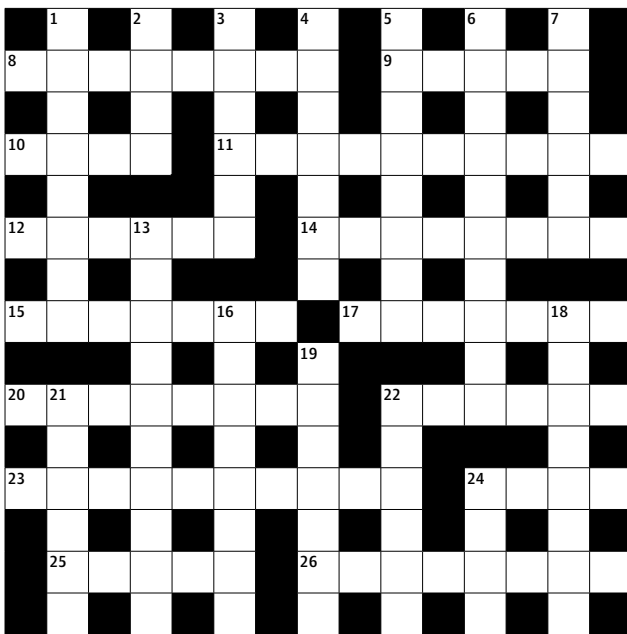


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,860 set by Shed

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 26,860, 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 25 April.

Across

- 8 Turns up by river with great self-confidence (8)
 9 A temptation said to diminish (5)
 10 Astonish with unfinished trick (4)
 11 Runner, having consumed pork pie, first to go into spasm (10)
 12 Aristocrat getting substantial return from ape (6)
 14 One supplying information that E = R, maybe? (8)
 15 Cause unrest? A crowd suppresses it (7)
 17 Less vivid second city (7)
 20 Flagship bearing right? (8)
 22 Back unknown plant (6)
 23 Receiver receiving dodgy, initially rum, deal from snake (3-2-5)
 24 Strike a light! (4)
 25 Date to vex proverbial patience? (5)
 26 Investigator's ploy involving hollow cats and dogs? Hardly (8)

Down

- 1 Unduly upset, getting into brief liaison of little significance (8)
 2 Like to participate in streaking (4)
 3 Fashionable hand warmer on top of cake (6)

- 4 Prolix poetic production penning personal problem (7)
 5 Tyrant's glacial university reform (8)
 6 Pop perhaps returning letters received from legislators (10)
 7 Insect let loose on another (6)
 13 Incomplete tea set Darby smashed, revealing what he and Joan have seen? (6,4)
 16 Sacred building sheltering a priest's last model (8)
 18 Second Greek letter inscribed in memorial (8)
 19 Salty islanders losing heart to Norway (7)
 21 Score one less than this? (6)
 22 Piece about monarch's proposed divorce (6)
 24 Reluctant to sin? Not initially (4)

Solution No. 26,859

