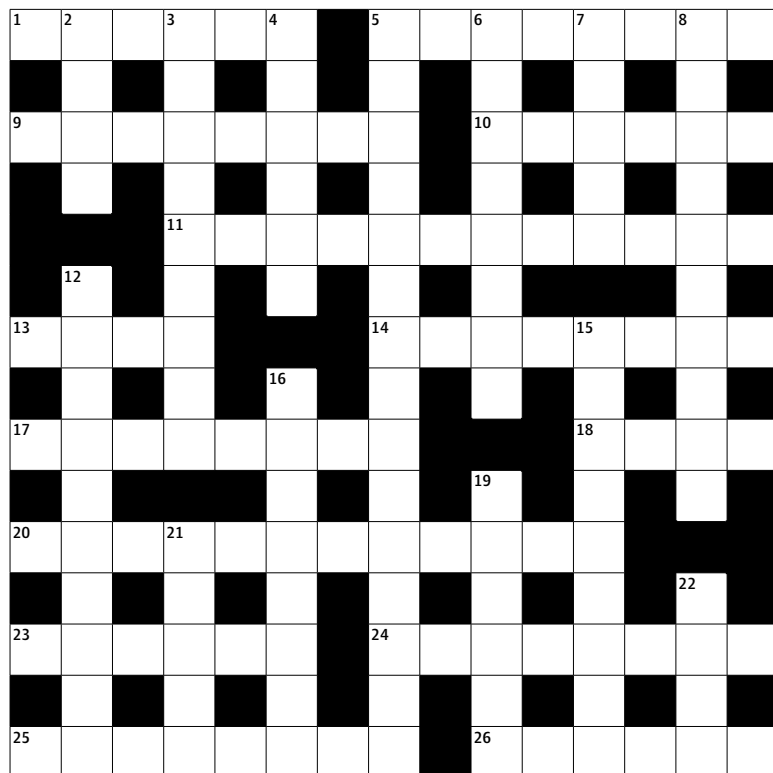


Guardian cryptic crossword No 27,776 set by Crucible



1 April 2019: Errors in the clues for 17 across and 3 down have been corrected

Across

- 1 Do up theatre about five in the morning (6)
- 5 Pope briefly hosts American twice in private (4-4)
- 9 OK to take drink after hitch? (6,2)
- 10 Guide without staff or work (6)
- 11 Initiate bold moves in weak state (12)
- 13 A worn-out old loco initially missing from station (4)
- 14 Express knows about unit that makes flight easier (4,4)
- 17 Mike tours English zoos from a bygone age (8)
- 18 Millions extracted from newspaper unions (4)
- 20 Result of ten drums Thor hammered? (12)
- 23 Fruit in perfect condition around island state (6)
- 24 Reserve the best dessert (3,5)
- 25 Furtive little paddler with time to board launch (8)
- 26 Bet Europeans pursue tug (6)

Down

- 2 Fine choreographer tackles forerunner of foxtrot (4)
- 3 Animal found by learner driver in winding Lima road, squashed (9)
- 4 Ignore idiot in lead over 26 (4,2)
- 5 Cowboy spoils gaps in school day (8,7)
- 6 Small bed on this irritated Caledonian (8)
- 7 Frequent hard worker steals uniform (5)
- 8 Overcame stable director injecting horse (10)
- 12 Good man holding tiny bottle loved one (10)
- 15 Tin protects a river craft (9)
- 16 Author is on TV, restless about Spanish article (8)
- 19 Humour Buffalo Bill lassoing writer (6)
- 21 Animal in Africa, one invading cities (5)
- 22 Philanthropist's thank-you note (4)

Solution No. 27,775

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

The first five correct entries drawn each week win Can You Solve My Problems?

Entries to: The Guardian Crossword No 27,776,
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on Friday. Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday 1 April.