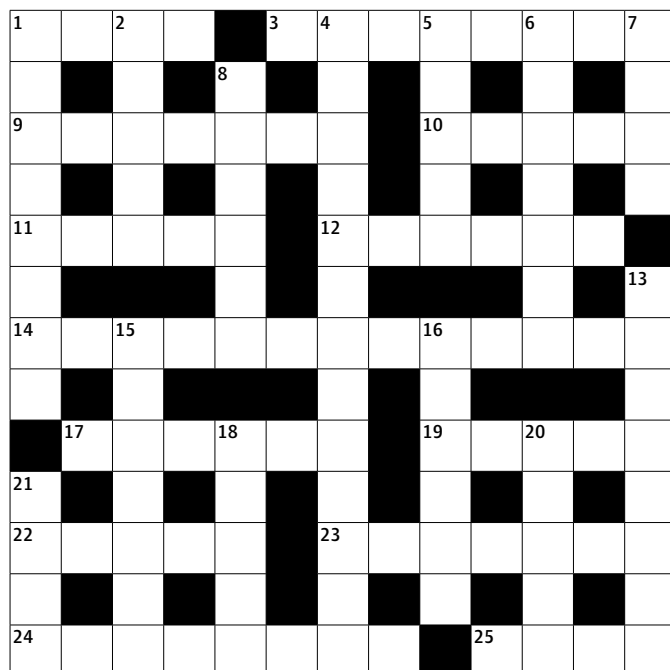


Quick crossword no 17,553



Across

- 1** Toy, target or top (4)
3 On the other side of the page (8)
9 Cockle or mussel, say (7)
10 One goes to the polls (5)
11 Support - acceptance (3-2)
12 Rectangle (6)
14 Sober - as OAP insisted (anag) (13)
17 Soluble substance which can neutralise acids (6)
19 It's raised in support (5)
22 Layered vegetable (5)
23 Small waterfall (7)
24 Forte or Fawlt? (8)
25 Top of the range? (4)

Down

- 1** A person of consequence (8)
2 Ornamental garden building (5)
4 Where one problem leads to another, compounding the original difficulty (7,6)
5 Competitor (5)
6 Baltic state bordering Russia and Latvia (7)

- 7** Plant which reproduces via spores (4)
8 South American plant grown for its rice-like seeds (6)
13 Time for a drink (3,5)
15 One plays alone (7)
16 Slow on the uptake (6)
18 Cancel (5)
20 Treatment (5)
21 Heavy hitter? (4)

Solution no 17,552

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