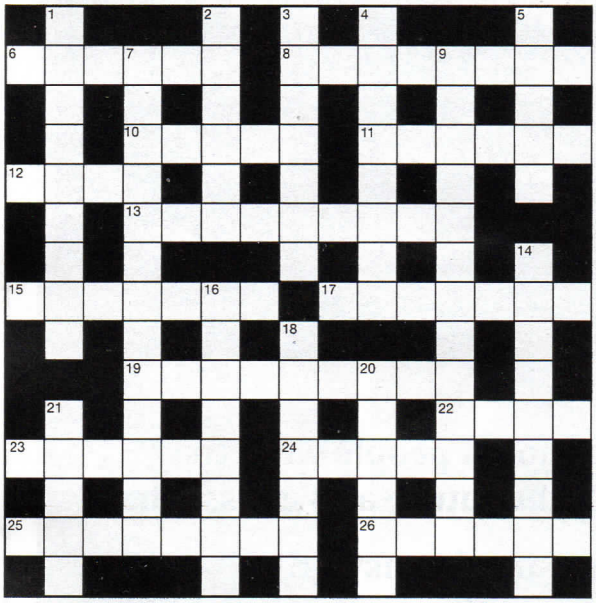
£500 TO BE WON ★ NO 1,724

TO ENTER Complete the crossword and count how many times the letter 'A' appears in the grid. Text YOU followed by a space, your answer (the number of 'A's) and name to 65700, eg, YOU 9 Sue Smith. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network rate. Or telephone 0905 652 2141 and leave your answer and details. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Or post your entry to YOU Crossword No 1,724, PO Box 3451, Norwich NR7 7NR. Entries will be accepted until 11.59pm on Friday 20 November. One random winner from all correct entries will win £250 and five runners-up will win £50 each. If you enter after the closing date you will not be included but may still be charged. Phone and text helpline: 0330 100 0601. Winners will be notified by phone within 14 days. Solution in two weeks.



NUMBER 1,724

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

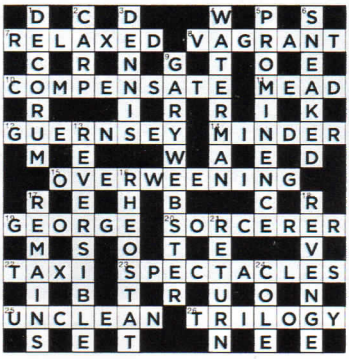
TEL.....

YOUR ANSWER.....

ACROSS

6 (and **15, 22 across**) Irish playwright (1856-1950) (6,7,4)
8 Naturally, inherently (8)
10 Complete, absolute, entire (5)
11 Traditionally associated with third place (6)
12 Coterie, group, crowd (4)
13 Overbearing as **18 down** could be to **5 down** (9)
15 See **6 across**
17 Sleep (7)
19 Send someone down from university as a punishment (9)
22 See **6 across**
23 Principles of behaviour in accordance with standards of right and wrong (6)
24 Snatches, seizes (5)
25 Make little or light of (something) (4,4)
26 Serious disease of wood – as found in some houses (3-3)

DOWN

1 Miguel De _____, the author of *Don Quixote* (9)
2 Frantic, chaotic, frenzied (6)
3 Venom, vituperation (7)
4 Snooty, stuck-up (8)
5 First name of the heroine in **14 down** (5)
7 Unpolished, hastily prepared (5,3,5)
9 Unthinkingly, carelessly (13)
14 1913 play by **6, 15, 22 across** (9)
16 Electrical component designed to introduce opposition to a flow of current in a circuit (8)
18 Surname of the professor in **14 down** (7)
20 Prizes, trophies (6)
21 Coastal town in Dorset (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1,722