

The Crusader's clues

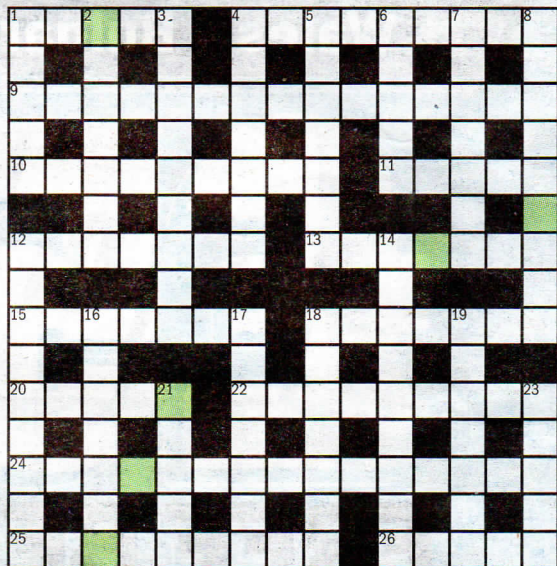
ACROSS

- 1 Dirty flap linked hoops (5)
- 4 Real gold and so on a little bit 'icky'? (9)
- 9 Ex-management, ineligible? (3,2,3,7)
- 10 Unattractive neckwear hides a neckline, so sad (9)
- 11 Popular record, though initially unsuccessful (5)
- 12 Note added to help a musician (7)
- 13 Beam dropping from behind a passage (7)
- 15 A city is home to a little cat (7)
- 18 Turned away, substandard... (4,3)
- 20 ...country singers part with pet, we hear (5)
- 22 An actress cast without reading is a liability (9)
- 24 Rare item has not damaged a gas ring (4,2,3,6)
- 25 Boorish criminal sides with judge given first sign of leniency (9)
- 26 Man possibly after large cloth (5)

DOWN

- 1 Bad time around March (5)
- 2 Think sunshine deceives (7)
- 3 It's gross from start to finish (9)
- 4 Freethinker during robbery? (7)
- 5 Flowing water split by a hill (7)
- 6 Dissatisfaction about small utterance (5)
- 7 Toady opening entrance as backer stands (7)
- 8 Thought about, a diet got changed (9)
- 12 Mad Polish characters tucked into a curry, note (9)
- 14 Nothing on a lure, tuna scattered (2,7)
- 16 Wild time one had making wine (7)
- 17 Alarm found loud enough initially (7)
- 18 Large cups, small mouths? (7)
- 19 Footwear scoundrels put on before commencement (7)
- 21 The best part of an old county was evacuated, states... (5)
- 23 ...creep left in a border region (5)

Cryptic clues from our knight, and quick clues from his squire, lead to the same answers in the Crusader's Sunday joust



The Squire's clues

ACROSS

- 1 Forbidden (5)
- 4 Genuine (9)
- 9 No longer in contention (3,2,3,7)
- 10 Mournful (9)
- 11 Bungling (5)
- 12 Musician such as Sting (7)
- 13 Act of travelling across (7)
- 15 French city (7)
- 18 Spoiled (4,3)
- 20 ___ ink (5)
- 22 Large oceanic bird (9)
- 24 In short supply (4,2,3,6)
- 25 Egalitarian (9)
- 26 Fine cotton thread (5)

DOWN

- 1 Cavalry unit (5)
- 2 Does dirty (7)
- 3 Insulting (9)
- 4 Unbeliever in God (7)
- 5 Deluge (7)
- 6 Boredom (5)
- 7 3-legged supports for hot dishes etc. (7)
- 8 Reflected (9)
- 12 Of projectiles (9)
- 14 Naked (2,7)
- 16 ___ cake (7)
- 17 Take aback (7)
- 18 Drinking vessels with a stem and base (7)
- 19 Stout walking shoes (7)
- 21 Asserts (5)
- 23 Edge furtively (5)

For your chance to WIN £100 read down the letters in the highlighted squares to reveal the mystery word.

TO ENTER CALL: 0904 161 1610

and leave your answer and details, or text SXCUS followed by a space, your answer, name and address details to 84915 or send your grid containing the answer in the shaded squares to: Sunday Express Prize Crossword, September 6, PO Box 12578, Sutton Coldfield B73 9BT. Competition closes Thursday, September 10 at 23:59pm.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTCODE: _____

Winner will be selected at random from all correct entry routes after the closing date. Calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1.50 plus your standard network rate. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390.

LAST SUNDAY'S SOLUTION: Across: 1 Slang, 4 Separates, 9 Undercover agent, 10 Troubling, 11 Spars, 12 Bungles, 13 Speckle, 15 Tactile, 18 Setback, 20 Erase, 22 Half-baked, 24 Confrontational, 25 Polythene, 26 Hyena. Down: 1 Stunt, 2 And so on, 3 Garibaldi, 4 Stories, 5 Pledges, 6 Reams, 7 Tie rack, 8 So to speak, 12 Buttercup, 14 Establish, 16 Channel, 17 Enhance, 18 Salvage, 19 Askance, 21 Egret, 23 Delta.
Prize word: Turkey

*SP: Spoke - Helpline 0333 202 3390