

The Crusader's clues

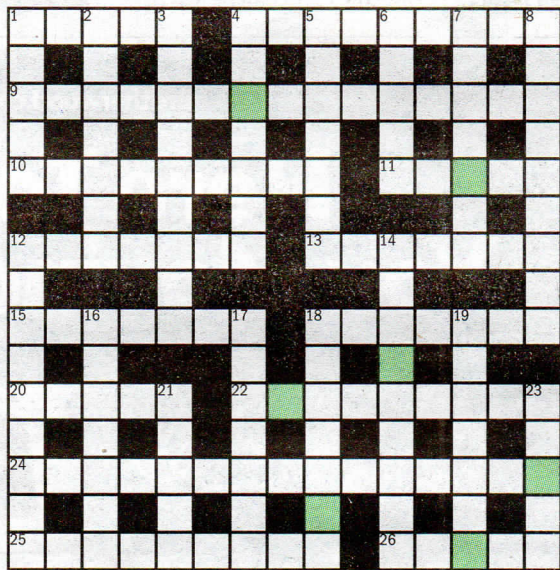
ACROSS

- 1 Rough number (large number... (5)
 4 ...poor after second grade) (5-4)
 9 Foot in mouth? Disappointing (1,4,2,3,5)
 10 Girl porter cross with god (9)
 11 Mark goes off about charge (5)
 12 OK pantry unexpectedly releasing a gas (7)
 13 Drink some publicans dry, so to speak (7)
 15 Alternatively, metal animals (7)
 18 Part of a church window facing a pound (7)
 20 Cereals getting hard - curses! (5)
 22 Ancient bible resides in a loft (9)
 24 Most likely solution of older whodunnits (1,8,6)
 25 A person in trouble after getting leader committed (4,3,2)
 26 Eyes opening, peeks miss politicians (5)

DOWN

- 1 Play - the first shot? (5)
 2 Agree to stand aside (5,2)
 3 Escort wanting favour (4,5)
 4 Ned tangled with it, admitting not listening (5,2)
 5 An outcast, like he said (7)
 6 Fruit cored and lifted over plant (5)
 7 A letter about a key plant (7)
 8 Brief optimism about less circular cut gem (9)
 12 Over £2000 to be paid - it brings one low (9)
 14 Bell-ringer seeming complete after a little while (9)
 16 Fastener attached to twig (5,2)
 17 Adders part with nasty snake (7)
 18 A bird alit, oddly, in a bed (4,3)
 19 Quote about cad not opening large fortress (7)
 21 Things hard to say with a straight face initially (5)
 23 Concerns about a warmonger (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 Conscript (5)
 4 Inferior (5-4)
 9 An unexpected setback (1,4,2,3,5)
 10 Queen consort of Edward VII (9)
 11 Tempest (5)
 12 Chemical element 36 (7)
 13 Strong sweet alcoholic spirit (7)
 15 Tungsten (7)
 18 Area around a church altar (7)
 20 Swear-words (5)
 22 Exhibiting primitivism (9)
 24 In all likelihood (1,8,6)
 25 Taken the plunge (4,3,2)
 26 Leers at (5)

DOWN

- 1 Excitement (5)
 2 Observe (5,2)
 3 Resemble (4,5)
 4 Watched or listened to (5,2)
 5 Son of Abraham and Hagar (7)
 6 Goes out with (5)
 7 Plant (7)
 8 Transient (9)
 12 Being obsequious (9)
 14 The Hunchback of Notre-Dame (9)
 16 Grasp firmly (5,2)
 17 Follow a winding course (7)
 18 Small songbird (4,3)
 19 Stronghold in or near a city (7)
 21 Belongings (5)
 23 Worries (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 SXCRUS 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, June 7 2020, PO Box 12578, Sutton Coldfield B73 9BT. Competition closes Thursday, June 11 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 Rowed, 4 Desperate, 9 Go out of business, 10 Testament, 11 Eider, 12 Quartet, 13 Draws in, 15 Illyria, 18 Muddled, 20 Edges, 22 To speak of, 24 Father Christmas, 25 Winsomely, 26 Dodgy. Down: 1 Right, 2 Woodsia, 3 Detractor, 4 Deflect, 5 Shunted, 6 Elite, 7 Agendas, 8 Enshrined, 12 Quite a few, 14 Addressed, 16 Lighten, 17 Article, 18 Miserly, 19 Like mad, 21 See to, 23 Fussy.

PRIZE WORD: Scimitar

*SP: Spoke - Helpline 0333 202 3390