

The Crusader's clues

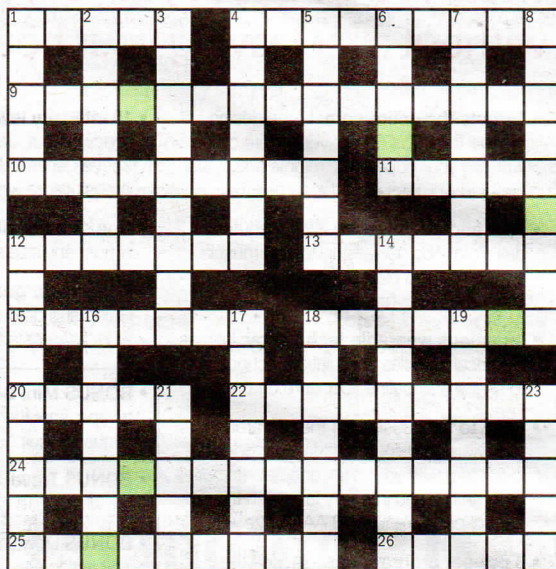
ACROSS

- 1 Nervous senate ordered a cut (5)
- 4 Church entered, praise began (9)
- 9 Words in a play? They're worked on (10,5)
- 10 A few split with earls, knowing what they're like (4-5)
- 11 Reflective squaddie ending short ceasefire (5)
- 12 A temporary cessation of malice (7)
- 13 Bar entered by indoor back passage (7)
- 15 Token closer to an agitated oilman (7)
- 18 Dancer in a backstreet in France (7)
- 20 Governor commonly having heart of glass has peeled fruit (5)
- 22 Pre-eminent person feeling less? (6,3)
- 24 Different treatment of duplicate flags (6,9)
- 25 Lumps rising in front of someone saving face (9)
- 26 Come back to bank accepting copper (5)

DOWN

- 1 Some pretty pessimistic people (5)
- 2 Food that's in unopened bags (7)
- 3 Following bird when it's caught by a cat (9)
- 4 What gets contractor going - too much time building! (7)
- 5 Swimmer low on money going back east (7)
- 6 Dash around a city seen in a film (5)
- 7 Prisoner with a question almost overcome (7)
- 8 A rebel ship with a cop on board (9)
- 12 Perhaps Magritte and Degas used to be mavericks (9)
- 14 Note about sensitive competitor (9)
- 16 Unruly farmers use it taking first step (7)
- 17 Lady with child strikes from above (5,2)
- 18 Dive ending way after depth lowers (7)
- 19 Key turned by a reprobate as an act of narcissism (3,4)
- 21 A radical associate with an angle (5)
- 23 Paper read after Express disheartened (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 Edgy (5)
- 4 Started (9)
- 9 Factory conveyors (10,5)
- 10 Cognisant of one's own nature (4-5)
- 11 Armistice (5)
- 12 Reprieve (7)
- 13 Extracted part (7)
- 15 Existing in name only (7)
- 18 Male ballet dancer (7)
- 20 Pear-shaped tropical fruit (5)
- 22 Top (6,3)
- 24 Hypocrisy (6,9)
- 25 Bulges (9)
- 26 Respond (5)

DOWN

- 1 Sorts (5)
- 2 Thin strips of pasta (7)
- 3 Copying (9)
- 4 Small house (7)
- 5 Shad-like fish (7)
- 6 Flair (5)
- 7 Vanquish (7)
- 8 Person who disagrees (9)
- 12 Apostates (9)
- 14 Person in the running (9)
- 16 Yardstick (7)
- 17 Alights atop (5,2)
- 18 Belittles (7)
- 19 Vanity-feeding action (3,4)
- 21 Garlic oil component (5)
- 23 Treatise (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, January 24, PO Box 12578, Sutton Coldfield B73 9BT. Competition closes Thursday, January 28 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 Stuns, 4 Protester, 9 Take advantage of, 10 Similar to, 11 Drone, 12 Put away, 13 Lament, 15 Echidna, 18 Bustard, 20 Throb, 22 Spineless, 24 Facts and figures, 25 Literally, 26 Ruddy. Down: 1 Sites, 2 Unkempt, 3 Swallowed, 4 Poverty, 5 Own goal, 6 Eland, 7 The Pope, 8 Reflected, 12 Plentiful, 14 Messenger, 16 Hancock, 17 Arsenal, 18 Briefly, 19 Averred, 21 Baser, 23 Sassy. Prize word: Goblet

*SP: Spoke - Helpline 0333 202 3390