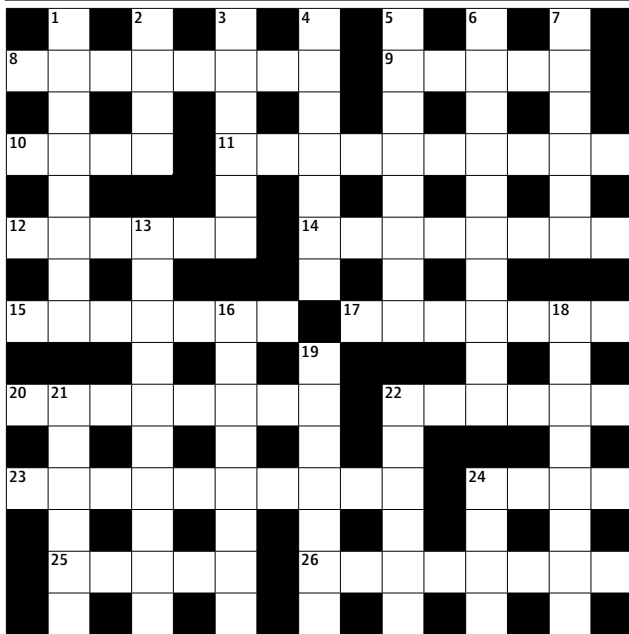


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,020 set by Audreus

## Across

- 8 Old chap with passion for news reporting (8)
- 9 Time in reverse is hard to deal with (5)
- 10 Notice a bit of acne (4)
- 11 Given the slip for aspiring to be a self-helper (10)
- 12 In France water temperature gets by without having a particular quality (6)
- 14 A don's way strange for these times (8)
- 15 Little about student clubs, a short time back, could be acceptable (7)
- 17 Eccentricity of old clergyman seen by Scottish lake (7)
- 20 Lose one's cool with girl subordinate (8)
- 22 Plump little flier with a bit of a headache – rubbish! (6)
- 23 Mum arranged rash delivery of ales to old prison (10)
- 24 Almost never returned to flat (4)
- 25 Marked absence of favourite toy (5)
- 26 Test soldiers in good way to travel (8)

## Down

- 1 Liberal entering contest will be made to follow through (8)
- 2 Botheration! 'e comes in to attract attention (4)

- 3 Contrary girl claims south's hot and squelchy (6)
- 4 Kind of popular music prods smallest of the family to get up again (7)
- 5 A recent union member? (5-3)
- 6 Study Kipling's poem about Italian poet's bosom pal (10)
- 7 Asthmatic American's last letter returned in the form of a question (6)
- 13 Recut county suit, showing a slick style (10)
- 16 Not very bright about estates forming part of the UK (8)
- 18 Tues: earn enough to afford wine (8)
- 19 Quietly start again to take liberties (7)
- 21 Got to know books, originally Shakespearean (6)
- 22 Subtle service to replace one in city (6)
- 24 Leaders to end up running off with the money (4)

Solution No. 25,019

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