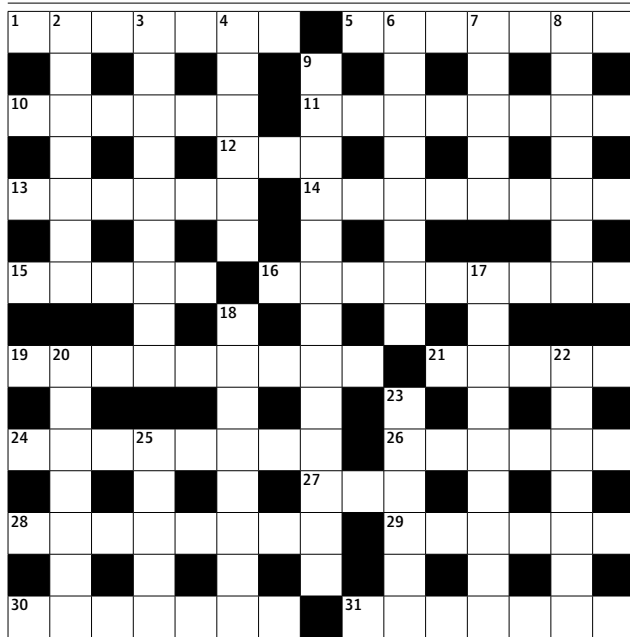


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,973 set by Qaos

## Across

- 1,27** Canine's unhappy about handling: "Walk backwards!" (7,3)  
**5** Firm, top chef beginning to cook gluten? I can't stomach it (7)  
**10** 100 + 1 + 10? A connected series (6)  
**11** Knitting pattern created by the first artisan? (8)  
**12,21** Old flyer: "The start of rationing: no bread rolls" (3,5)  
**13** Ran and played the ball (6)  
**14** Crooked Democrat's in gaol with a criminal (8)  
**15** Wise monarch's regularly unwise (5)  
**16** Start eating – it's served up (9)  
**19** Heather's after raunchy flip-flops, or maybe flats (9)  
**21** See 12  
**24** Angry trade unions striking? It'd be nonsense (8)  
**26** Escaped fool's head-over-heels (6)  
**27** See 1  
**28** Doctor tries to cut back pain and disease (8)  
**29** A Latin translation for "air pump" (6)  
**30** I'm out of guesses – are they cars? (7)  
**31** Private Eye, say, infiltrates combine (7)

## Down

- 2** Ham: a processed meat to preserve without its skin (7)

- 3** Drug set-up might help reduce calling time (5,4)  
**4** Newspaper has 50% off Nintendo console screens (6)  
**6** Rejects old TUC assembly as extremely tedious (8)  
**7** Slow left-arm – good over, but not maiden (5)  
**8** Wine Foreman is able to drink but \_\_\_ ? (7)  
**9** Ulterior motives revealed here laterally? (6,7)  
**17** Passed a drug around to deliver 8d (9)  
**18** Hymn ends with one listener doing a somersault! (4,4)  
**20** Cricket team to get side out (7)  
**22** Former clue for IT? (3-4)  
**23** Smooth limb at end of torso (6)  
**25** Another aspect of sex trafficking? (5)

Solution No. 25,972

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