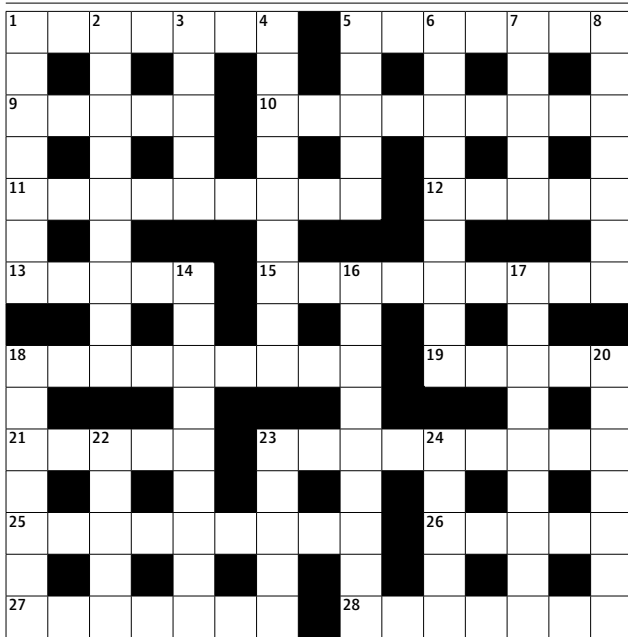


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,004 set by Bonxie

## Across

- 1 Flower from Colorado, white one in field (7)
- 5 Insect crosses screen over swallow (7)
- 9 Old king finds duck among some swans (5)
- 10 Shorten it – otherwise it's most unpleasant (9)
- 11 Large bird covers one with masonry (9)
- 12 Catch criminal flicking a tree creeper (5)
- 13 Seal is backing a short breather (5)
- 15 They turn hummingbirds jaws without resistance (3,6)
- 18 Reptiles moving around end of Pompey's colonnade (9)
- 19 Locates it among uneven steps (5)
- 21 Uniform with medal and large cluster of flowers (5)
- 23 Undressed by coffee counter, being shameless (9)
- 25 Grouse about main part with legend (9)
- 26 It's self-evident – Douglas here wants a kiss first (5)
- 27 After a little rotation, sharpen the file (4,3)
- 28 Oriental seabird follows stormy sea (7)

## Down

- 1 Charlie shoots wildly at a pair of anchors (2-5)
- 2 Hawk is close to finding headless fish (9)
- 3 Dipper left in Scottish stream (5)

- 4 Exercise book found in ancient battlefield rocks science (9)
- 5 Bear with blackbird (5)
- 6 Local bosses catch doctor propped up in Rising Sun (9)
- 7 René Magritte's behind purge (5)
- 8 Catches footloose spouse climbing pole (7)
- 14 Battle to plug deficit at American research facility (3,6)
- 16 Turkey might be let out of oven (4-5)
- 17 Lark calling beneath arched fold of rock (9)
- 18 Chose to be decorated with feathers, parrot's head included (7)
- 20 Backing musician attaches wing on rook, say (7)
- 22 Crow shot inside court (5)
- 23 It follows a heron out of river to breed (5)
- 24 Bunting runs out of energy (5)

Solution No. 26,003

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