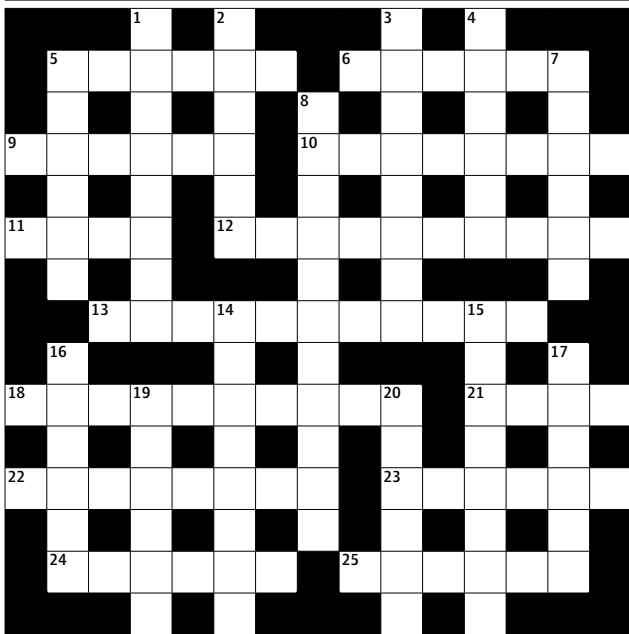


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,019 set by Picaroon

## Across

- 5 Mandarin may thus appear in power, holding office around international city (6)
- 6 Card game is tense after sour grapes (6)
- 9,10 Passenger initially spared as plane crashed in flight from East London (6,3,5)
- 11 Some Christmas gifts returned? They aren't given indifferently (4)
- 12 Trying to find date, getting complaint following relations (7,3)
- 13 It involves married guys embracing cute girl – something a sleazy politician may experience (11)
- 18 Useless person declines sweets (5,5)
- 21 Letter capturing heart of Harry Lime, perhaps (4)
- 22 Want to go after a fifty-pound kiwi (3,5)
- 23 One keeping cherry liquor accompanies very disheartened innkeeper (6)
- 24 One's bananas coming from Norway, say (6)
- 25 Sport, by choice, ancient Greek attire (6)
- 2 Dutch or American expat may do this (6)
- 3 Female with hesitation embracing one's belief (8)
- 4 Guardianistas turning up for each grand skiing event (5-1)
- 5 Spasm follows on from ginger digestive (6)
- 7 Something black sheep is to decorate (4,2)
- 8 John, maintaining remarkable rate, fixes timepieces (5,6)
- 14 Almost finished, a ruby is made precious (8)
- 15 Musical notes showing range after beat is raised (8)
- 16 Philosopher in abandoning bin liner gets messy (6)
- 17 Big strikes over mass discrimination (6)
- 19 Alternative components for sockets (6)
- 20 Old red drunkard admitting struggle (6)

## Down

- 1 Topless muscle man prancing in American Idol (5,3)

Solution No. 26,018

