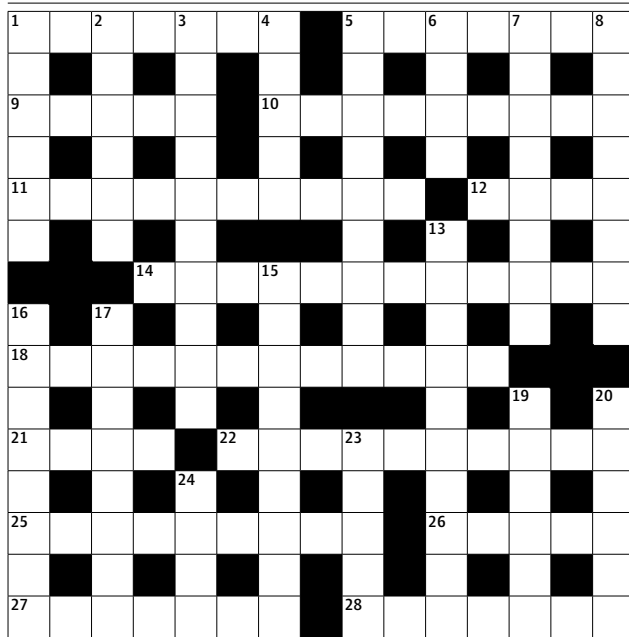


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,020 set by Gordius

## Across

- 1 Poor relationship that could be almost cowardly (4,3)
- 5 Help paper to bed in formal cover (7)
- 9 Shell has vehicle going swiftly (5)
- 10 Note a father with time for what's on TV (4,5)
- 11 Chic lost as turning to bluestocking? (10)
- 12 Area of land would have added value in West London (4)
- 14 Important character – it's heavy (in gravity, not so) (7,5)
- 18 Shriek about owning toiletry (7,5)
- 21 How Israelis used to measure a messy heap? (4)
- 22 Observe band keeping time? (5,5)
- 25 Model glad to work for a symbol of achievement (4,5)
- 26 Priest not soft on crime (5)
- 27 Gin's in season at early evening (7)
- 28 English reader, occasionally getting a choice (7)

## Down

- 1 Base with firm bottom (6)
- 2 Dislike of bad language in the French (6)

- 3 Conveyance preparatory to interment (7,3)
- 4 Wars of heaving sores (5)
- 5 Shopkeeper burst into tears (9)
- 6 Rise makes young man about turn (4)
- 7 Preparation of horse for time under cover (8)
- 8 Go without a garment in parody (8)
- 13 Mrs Mop works after hours without conviction (5,5)
- 15 It's easy to call in doctor with a stroke (3-6)
- 16 Devotion with no right to be allied to autism (8)
- 17 Composer takes part backing single (8)
- 19 Like a time bomb, something given without prior notice (6)
- 20 One begins a test with need for bottle (6)
- 23 Deliver state victory (8)
- 24 Vocative fellows get a warning (4)

Solution No. 26,019

