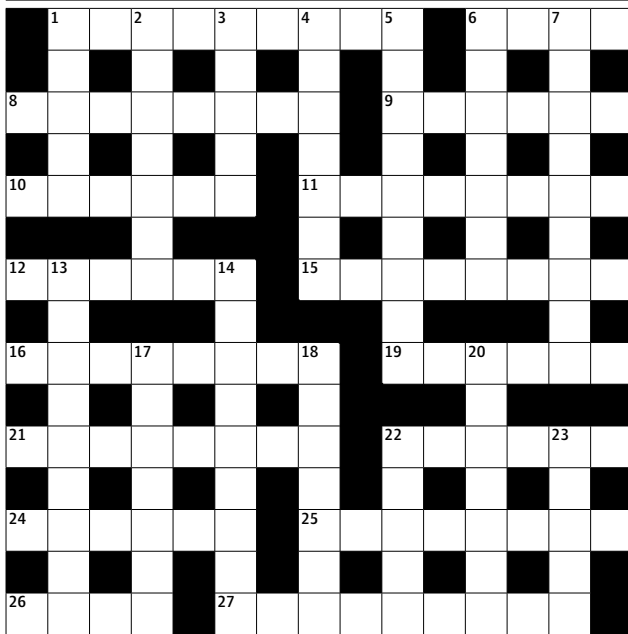


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,021 set by Paul

## Across

- 1 One dying to imprison unknown twins, if not for life – criminal (9)
- 6 Wolves team prepare for trip abroad? (4)
- 8 Optical illusion ultimately illusory, not sensual (8)
- 9 Composer before Liszt sounding note for Sainsbury's? (6)
- 10 Look to hold in belly, being short and thick (6)
- 11 See 26
- 12 An old team with a gas shortage (6)
- 15 Spreading disease of huge proportions, half caught (8)
- 16 Europeans from Asia, if back to front? (8)
- 19 Music award lame – about right? (6)
- 21 Some letters in journalism as the adopted title (8)
- 22 Figure out filling to stop decay (6)
- 24 Cuckoo swimming through Paris, say? (6)
- 25 Succession witnessed cutting hedge technology (8)
- 26,11 Complimentary, as a run-down battery, say? (4,2,6)
- 27 Behind time, setter caught in rainstorm finds something waterproof (9)

## Down

- 1 Uplifting story including chapter for brilliant show (5)
- 2 President going topless to screen movie kiss for old video recording? (7)

- 3 Lively metal, not quite grey at the edges (5)
- 4 Be like Lear's Pobble, say, sweet thing (7)
- 5 Process of renewal with regards to Lance Armstrong's career (9)
- 6 Filthy window around top of house, nothing getting wiped (7)
- 7 Cold fish on record in sticky wrapper (9)
- 13 Head above dark cloud, perhaps, that requires little thought (2-7)
- 14 Shame meat and beans boiled (9)
- 17 Once more, find European president doing a U-turn (7)
- 18 Vicious people up for a cocktail (7)
- 20 Team that's sexy not reaching the top, embodying gutless side (7)
- 22 Short, a work for television, perhaps (5)
- 23 Feature of Cheltenham, perhaps, in the country (5)

Solution No. 26,020

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