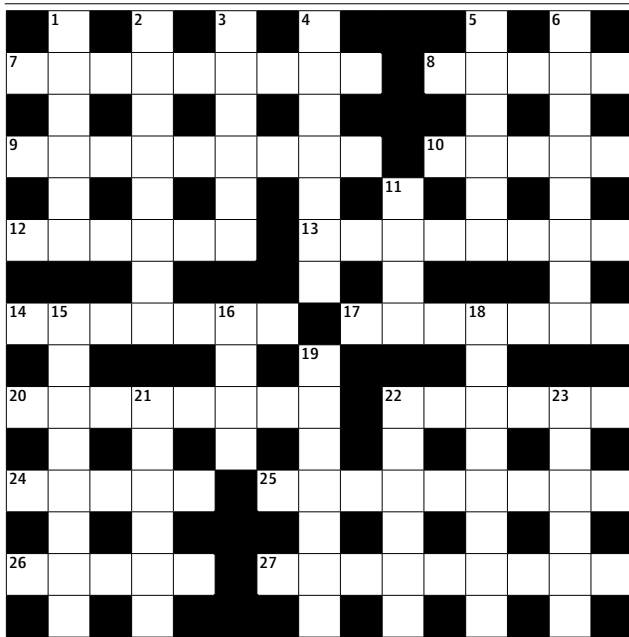


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,024 set by Rufus

### Across

- 7 A crew sick at sea? That's a joke! (9)
- 8 Bait for badger (5)
- 9 Labour to make man-power available (9)
- 10 Transfer between banks (5)
- 12 Sandwiches and drinks (6)
- 13 Obtaining one's degree externally (8)
- 14 Organise crusade for an old vehicle (4,3)
- 17 Church lease runs out in London (7)
- 20 Cool chap with energy for the dance (8)
- 22 Work appointment (6)
- 24 Jet offering return excursions (5)
- 25 Look round for a way to throw a fight (4,5)
- 26 Let in, on or out (5)
- 27 Thinks a great deal of events are badly organised (9)

### Down

- 1 A book Kipling wrote on love – it's popular in Japan (6)
- 2 Gave the call sign (8)
- 3 Is listless, so prod into action (6)
- 4 They're frozen in suspense (7)

- 5 Fraud bound to include city in upset (6)
- 6 Sergeant out to part friends (8)
- 11 Food preparation is part of the service (4)
- 15 Stock reaction to panic? (8)
- 16 Composer and arranger being oddly selective (4)
- 18 In distress, if able to, it will come to the rescue (8)
- 19 Looked for something to eat for the elderly (7)
- 21 Draw in new capital (6)
- 22 Not the "in" crowd for a start (6)
- 23 Produced rising bill and butcher sued (6)

Winners of prize puzzle 26,017

