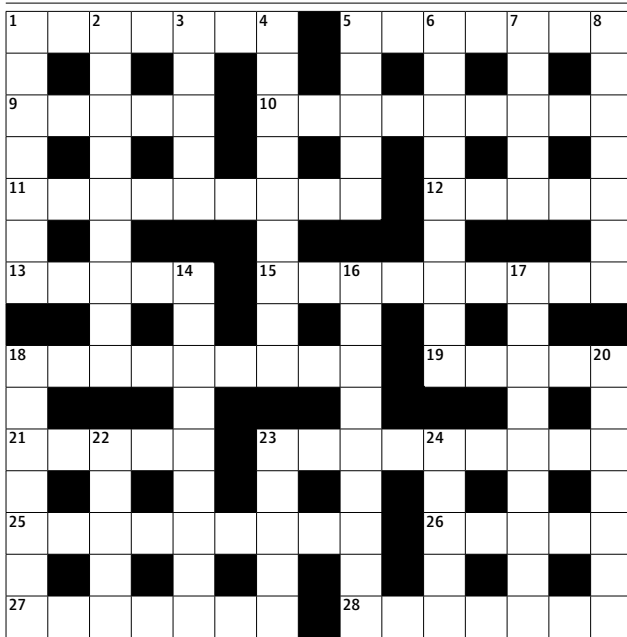


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,026 set by Brendan

## Across

- 1 Provide updated description for insurgent outside US city (7)
- 5 Made nasty statements in second piece (7)
- 9 Part of tomahawk found somewhere on the Missouri (5)
- 10 Coats I see being altered? China uses them to keep warm (9)
- 11 Very fast way to cope with lack of corkscrew? (9)
- 12 Compare Liberal former president with new (5)
- 13 Noise made by chains in prison (5)
- 15 How scholar gains recognition, gradually (2,7)
- 18 Reduce burden at university to become more relaxed (7,2)
- 19 Check writer's material for gap (5)
- 21 European seen in London club, a place that attracts many (5)
- 23 Restricted middle section used to be soft, then it was revised (4,5)
- 25 Musician has material for strings, including one form of sitar (9)
- 26 Epic poem in which one macho man eclipses another one (5)
- 27 Listener stirred with no end of emotion – that's how theatre should be (7)
- 28 Doctor moved carefully and cleared out bed (7)

## Down

- 1 Like diamonds making corrupt mob rich (7)
- 2 Raising dough, pound area in later part of day (9)

- 3 Jet – to get hence to 24 via 5 down, 7 etc, 18 across, 15? (5)
- 4 Garbage collector's brood born at home (6,3)
- 5 Empty space left in row (5)
- 6 Use an axe, I note, to argue contentiously (4,5)
- 7 React with surprise as bachelor's put on tie (5)
- 8 Tansies stewed, making medicinal drinks (7)
- 14 I talk nonsensically about Maori dance, Indian dance (9)
- 16 Unfinished lair located south of river, placed in bank (9)
- 17 Drawing out, for example, about legal measure, briefly (9)
- 18 Alkaline substances holding up attempt to make porcelain (7)
- 20 Insect, at very end, finally caught by child (7)
- 22 Cut of meat in lunch in eatery (5)
- 23 Plaintive cry from husband entering port, perhaps (5)
- 24 Why is tea endlessly combined with milk? (5)

## Solution No. 26,025

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