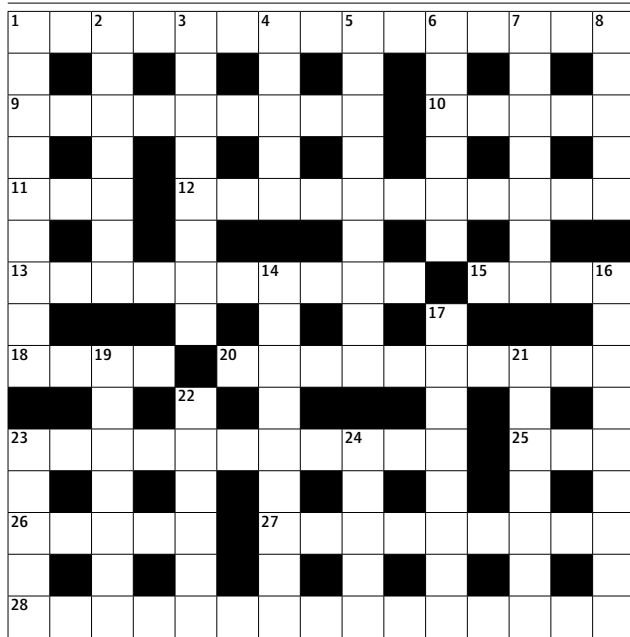


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,027 set by Paul

## Across

- 1 Might a mouse stew do it as a dish of leftovers? (6,3,6)
- 9 Lacking leadership, sly fools, horribly good things? (9)
- 10 One's blooming rates out of order! (5)
- 11 Problem with hose leak (3)
- 12 Combine procreation with some wriggling (11)
- 13 Cleric's target to arrest crook, a religious leader (10)
- 15 Audible drop in harmony (4)
- 18 Long trek ends in Crawley, no quantum leap (4)
- 20 One following chatter incessantly, partial to rubbish, their characters limited (10)
- 23 Once a safe pair of hands, Brown bailed out institutions (6,5)
- 25 Boat with pronounced curve (3)
- 26 Appropriate French square (5)
- 27 Bird during row starts to show some humility (9)
- 28 Original title back in Motown to original children's song (3,3,4,2,3)

## Down

- 1 Life far more than a sentence? (9)
- 2 Going further shaking bottom, extremely cute singer (7)
- 3 One going topless, idol is out to be lauded as a celebrity (8)

- 4 Some heaven-bound nun-cio zapped, lifeless (5)
- 5 Ditch unfaithful lover for soldier (6,3)
- 6 Clam – 50p with a pig? (6)
- 7 Current meeting place set to be switched before end of Jan? (7)
- 8 Change of heart in a little Australian prayer (5)
- 14 Like this clue: "Bowel disorder" – its location? (4,5)
- 16 Little pecker, a tool for the brave (9)
- 17 Change in wavelength, as Shed deciphered during break (3,5)
- 19 Stain on little baby's pot (7)
- 21 California city with an aspiration to accommodate man (7)
- 22 Wine shop where old, old bar's opening up (6)
- 23 Try to outline philosophy that's a contrivance (5)
- 24 Just arrived, like a hopeless situation? (2-3)

Solution No. 26,026

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