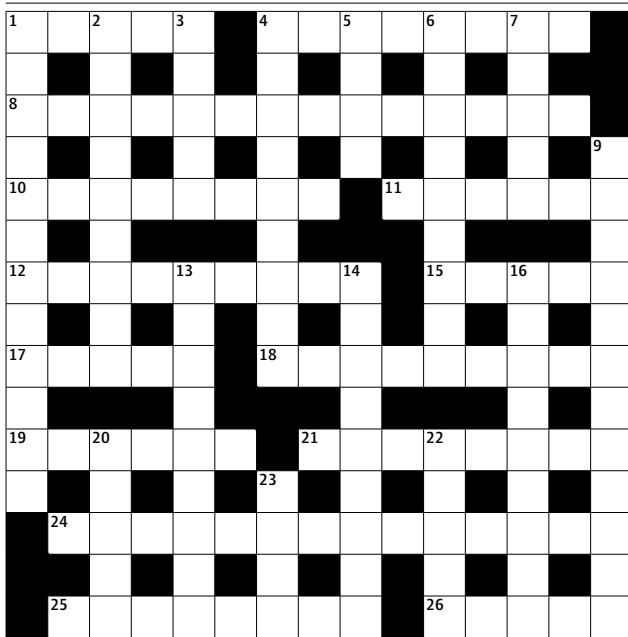


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,039 set by Pasquale

## Across

- 1 Heading west, curve around port (5)
- 4 Moving in the right direction, having several training sessions? (2,6)
- 8 Question asked by someone comparing Christmas presents etc? (3,4,4,3)
- 10 Economist's suggestion for a cannibal's feast? (8)
- 11 Some holy stranger encountered in place on missionary journey (6)
- 12 Security person with hairy bits at the front of University Hospital (9)
- 15 Fine instrument dramatist uses (5)
- 17 Liberal request made by independent political theorist, once (5)
- 18 Guy of 7 in short-staffed group (9)
- 19 Make a killing, maybe, as murderer keeping quiet (4,2)
- 21 High priest's casual greeting, unusual around church (8)
- 24,1down Message from 7 undone by a plod, a graft with sun, gales, ice (5,3,4,2,2,5,5)
- 25 Cooks of now and yesterday? (8)
- 26 Hollow bishop with a thing to be confessed? (5)

## Down

- 1 See 24
- 2 Portions from the chippy? Lunch boxes no longer have them! (9)

- 3 Pest starting off fast, hard to catch (5)
- 4 Exclusion of drunken sot with display of unacceptable bigotry (9)
- 5 Bird to sing, missing note (4)
- 6 See ad and buy product, finally to be cooked now? (3-2,4)
- 7 Explorer beginning to suffer with cold, excessively (5)
- 9 Enjoying fine weather? Something our readers probably won't be doing! (6,3,3)
- 13 Reliable but losing heart – is worker, in terms of self-image? (3-6)
- 14 Sidney had curled up nice and warm, maybe (9)
- 16 It's not just the workers they look after (9)
- 20 Casual society set up in the country (5)
- 22 Therapy that could come from a herb (5)
- 23 Fruit not looking so good, a third wasted (4)

Solution No. 26,038

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