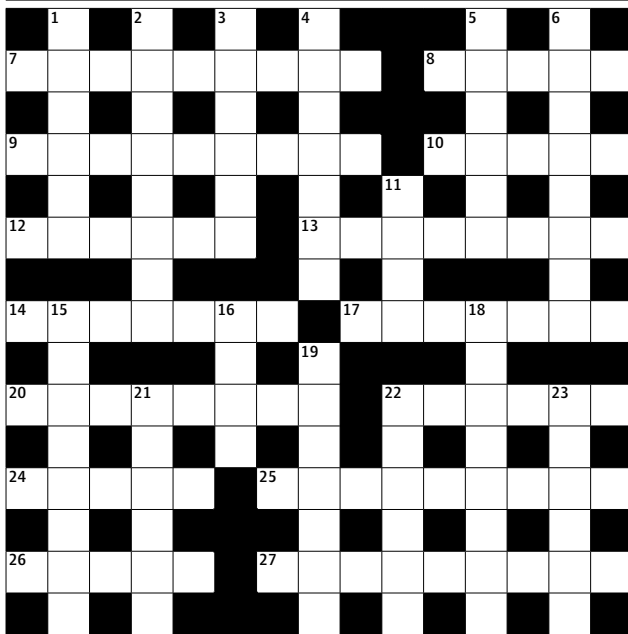


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,077 set by Boatman

The first five correct entries drawn each week win Guardian Style and Secrets of the Setters, worth £28.99.

Entries to: The Guardian Crossword No 26,077, P.O. Box 6603, Birmingham, B26 3PR, or Fax to 0121-742 1313 by first post on Friday. Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday 21 October.

## Across

- 7 Red wine splashed across first cover (9)
- 8 Article about next number (5)
- 9 Base the next on what might be of use – it's flawless (9)
- 10 Next, start to sit on next seats (5)
- 12 Next, in plainsong? (6)
- 13 Extended discussions of next report on backing for beards (5-3)
- 14 Bent corners of next machine parts (3-4)
- 17 Disgust about next type of clothing (7)
- 20 Lover puts weight on next (8)
- 22 Next flight is unusual (3,3)
- 24 Disposed of next beast (5)
- 25 Next, caught in violent gunshot attack (9)
- 26 Free French one embraces next (5)
- 27 Backing miserable sinner taking next and last gram (9)

## Down

- 1 Short piece of music, one of low points (6)
- 2 Performed live, reel produces musical awakening (8)
- 3 Did badly to take vehicle inside pass (2,4)

- 4 Interval between notes that soared in sober hearts (7)
- 5 Moving auditory experience for those that love silence (6)
- 6 One stopped and added: "That isn't ever even" (8)
- 11 Catch some piranha species (4)
- 15 Love binds one's beliefs (8)
- 16 Beast backing into grass (4)
- 18 Clue to IRA high-explosive blast (8)
- 19 Foolish, mad, insane? Boatman's secret (7)
- 21 Perhaps cancer sufferer's last to be included in matter for discussion (6)
- 22 Idle chap taking note where point is lost (6)
- 23 Boatman, uniform (Navy) on, gets release (6)

Solution No. 26,076

