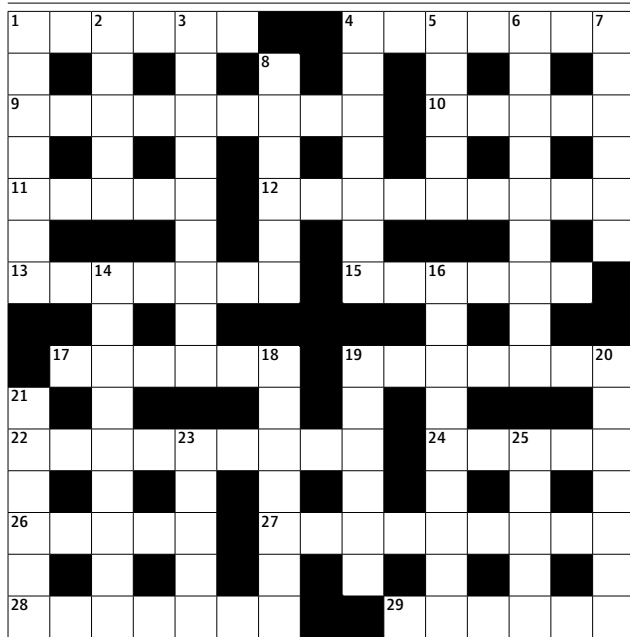


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,086 set by Paul

## Across

- 1 Step down first of stairs to break rule (6)
- 4 Having turned back nearly half way across ocean, explorer leaves from the Americas (7)
- 9 Where glasses sit precisely (2,3,4)
- 10 Thread attaching fringes of lungi and shawl to back of cape (5)
- 11 Shroud city featuring shrouds (5)
- 12 Islanders on Martinique not once seizing vessel (9)
- 13 Snack, Spooner's filth of the filth? (7)
- 15 See 27
- 17 Compassion some weeks after conflict (6)
- 19 Some leaves to make cha? (7)
- 22 Like viruses having a rest, lying back inside maple (9)
- 24 Tidy, maintained without muck for a start (5)
- 26 See 25
- 27,15 Fairy, perhaps, raised just over half a ton of cash to support tree strangled by branch (7-2,6)
- 28 Stop propaganda happening (7)
- 29 The wrong way for TV presenters to pour wine (6)

## Down

- 1 Upper house covering little Australian paperwork (7)
- 2 Dog or worm is up an instrument (5)
- 3 No thanks to Garbo, Monroe wandering in space backstage (5,4)

- 4 Current king in approach to palace, scratching bottom (7)
- 5 Curry from Lithuania? Not quite! (5)
- 6 Nation supporting lead player in Chad every so often (5,4)
- 7 Port, after lid removed, passed round the wrong way (6)
- 8 Thug eating up junket for starters – it's coated in breadcrumbs (6)
- 14 Earth, say, on English sycamore (5,4)
- 16 Setter with water living on fruit (9)
- 18 Fool Oscar but not Wilde? (7)
- 19 Most painful? Then put your feet up (6)
- 20 Somewhere dangerous, exciting to see (3,4)
- 21 Rash appearing as potty put on head (6)
- 23 Contract required while in shelter (5)
- 25,26 Old document, Reform Act (anagram) (5,5)

## Solution No. 26,085

