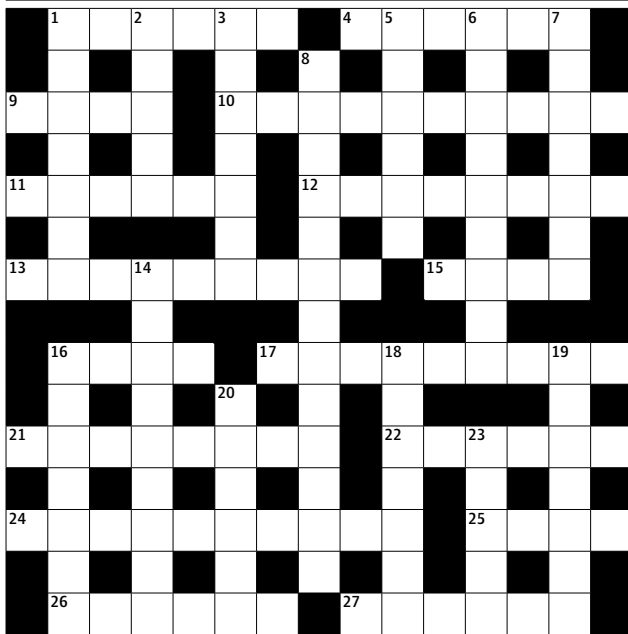


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,097 set by Brummie

## Across

- 1 Second-rate pre-watershed link (6)
- 4 Old republic's sport one's gripped by (6)
- 9 Wood-turning not hard to copy (4)
- 10 Leisure or time initially wasted sitting on the fence? (10)
- 11 Burn energy, conserving electrical resistance? (6)
- 12 Broadcast treated people as an operatic creation (8)
- 13 Current commercial opportunity meetings held here (9)
- 15 Eagerly take slates back (4)
- 16 Medical procedure having returned energy, have a spring in your step (4)
- 17 Diamond version of 12 (9)
- 21 Large body: dieted desperately but no different (8)
- 22 As my internal organs are firm on the inside, pay? (6)
- 24 Worker with fair, tortuous folds covering muscle (10)
- 25 Game requiring two cups and small weight (4)
- 26 Nothing new, nothing old (6)
- 27 Playing cello heartlessly to cat (6)

## Down

- 1 Tube of butter spread with end of knife (7)
- 2 Squeezing bum roughly, that is to permeate (5)

- 3 Hint of good associated with northern rogue (7)
- 5 Wonders at Zermatt housing fake (6)
- 6 Note modulating all nine periods (9)
- 7 To highly regard a national player was to impose a limit in the old days (4-3)
- 8 Oh, topper should be removed before loudly feeling up a pessimist (7,2,4)
- 14 Big city Persian, say, with gold-plated salver? (9)
- 16 Floating supporter quickly right away gets working (7)
- 18 Nuts impair delicate internal leads of the ear (7)
- 19 Drive home and go off Embankment (7)
- 20 Fix sort of case that's curtailed (6)
- 23 Classes of society recruited by state political faction (5)

Solution No. 26,096

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