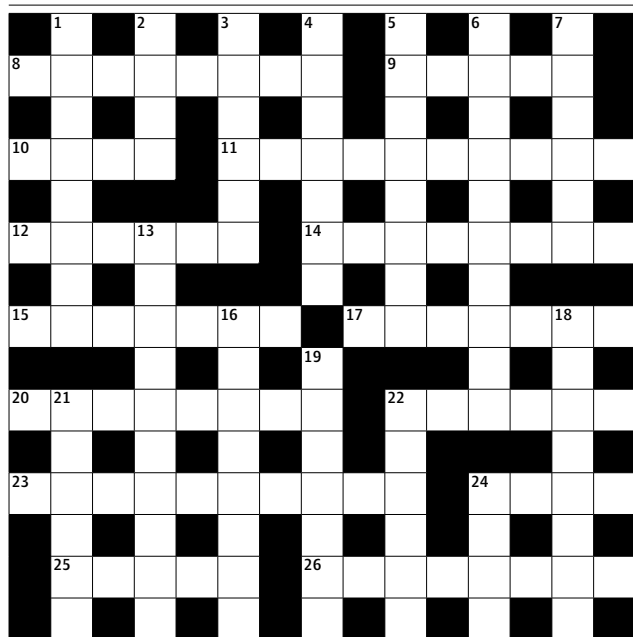


## Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,141 set by Brendan

### Across

- 8 Press employee to have a half of real ale (8)  
 9 Striking achievement of American flier returning to base (5)  
 10 Gallery in New York, for example, unopened (4)  
 11 Constitution's supporter supplied ruler with an agenda, for example (10)  
 12 Seeker of proof getting nothing in maths wrong (6)  
 14 Part of chore very onerous for people, without exception (8)  
 15 Wordsmiths assembled work, in theory, so oddly (7)  
 17 One with shattered nerves? Just the opposite (7)  
 20 Endures being torpedoed by a submarine (8)  
 22 Proposal to bring it back in satellite (6)  
 23 State capital (10)  
 24 Quest, the conclusions of which you can reject (4)  
 25 British vessels in Scottish waters (5)  
 26 Note added to novel Thoreau wrote (8)

### Down

- 1 Rhetorical device encountered once before in speech (8)  
 2 Religious leader as father figure, ultimately (4)  
 3 Lots of teachers in part of England cut (6)

- 4 Links good, when embraced by some forming unions (7)  
 5 Strange rite in earlier time a number regarded as ominous (8)  
 6 Part of problem – ploy men typically use (10)  
 7 Parties regularly selected, happening in place with bars (6)  
 13 Steep mountain presenting dire threat in early part of day (10)  
 16 Lack of care skin problem on head required (8)  
 18 Hoaxed over name, given stuff to swallow uncritically (8)  
 19 False alarm – it is related to war (7)  
 21 Hearing organ bishop in US city installed in neighbourhood (6)  
 22 Record time (6)  
 24 Outlaw or gangster? It depends on the initial case (4)

Solution No. 26,140

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