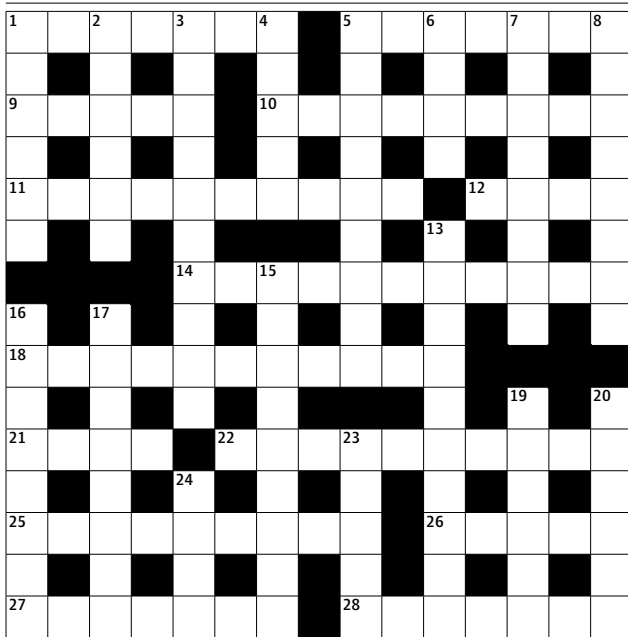


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,163 set by Paul

## Across

- 1** Primates sobbing after conversion (7)  
**5** Time off, stuff punctuated by irregular pay (3,4)  
**9** Smoother bubbles having wiped rear (5)  
**10** A flower was mine, nothing for old actress (3,6)  
**11** A DH our say? (6-4)  
**12** And the others still expected to return (2,2)  
**14** Disproving statements, suspect is fortunate (11)  
**18** Stretcher required, as setter in decline? (8,3)  
**21** Face Arsenal, for example? (4)  
**22** Rolling Stones member, one kissing the drummer? (10)  
**25** Opening cut on source of veal, not entirely fatty (9)  
**26** Faint on moon, one in a state? (5)  
**27** Pussycat's heart lifted, detecting some heart-beat (7)  
**28** With some enthusiasm, front and back to glue in antique (7)

## Down

- 1** A stocking-filler turning to ice (6)  
**2** See 20  
**3** Done with seat of power, say, ousted (10)  
**4** Difficult subject for a pathologist (5)

- 5** Marked by degrees – now possessing one? (9)  
**6,23** Care taken with lad up for bullying, as newspaper editor (4,5)  
**7** Removal van is coming to Istanbul, every capital in time (8)  
**8** Losers of nuts describing unfinished construction? (8)  
**13** Inebriate movement beyond comprehension (10)  
**15** Loud chains of iron, not one little bit? (3,6)  
**16** Chance to keep strike, as inconsistency afoot? (3,5)  
**17** Cat grabbing end of bow, fiddles (8)  
**19** Pin more distorted? (6)  
**20,2** Seasonal fare connecting Blitzen's head with rutting stag? (6,6)  
**23** See 6  
**24** So the hideous thing's erect (4)

Solution No. 26,162

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