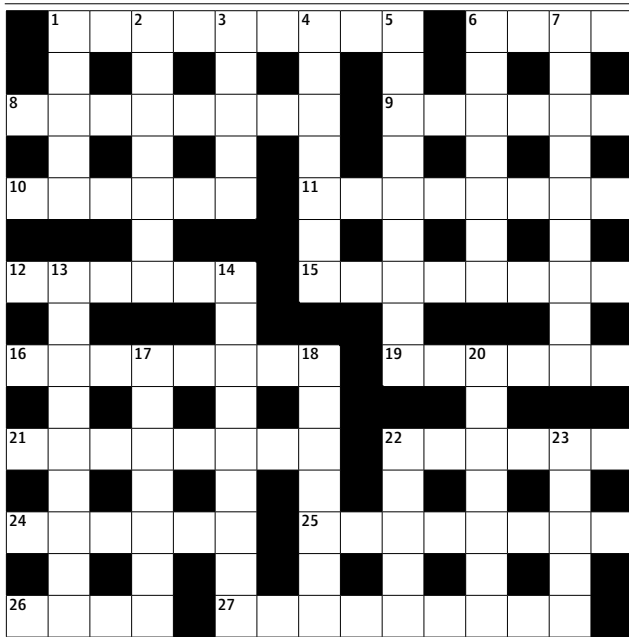


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,203 set by Rufus

### Across

- 1 Drawing equipment arrives without permit (9)
- 6 Piece of meat lion chewed up (4)
- 8 Accidentally catch something, perhaps (8)
- 9 Fine fresh syrup for cooked meals (3-3)
- 10 The balance mounts (6)
- 11 Tiptoe in order to get round robin, perhaps (8)
- 12 Jug can clink (6)
- 15 Strange virus one may pick up on holiday (8)
- 16 Playing pirate in company making a comeback with music (8)
- 19 Injured Royal Marine in head, badly (6)
- 21 Instructor oddly curt, intercepting sexy look (8)
- 22 Often repaired, but irregularly (6)
- 24 Kind of maggot (6)
- 25 It's possible a belief's been shaken (8)
- 26 It guided the Magi around deserts (4)
- 27 Sliced loaf ready – long drink needed (4,2,3)

### Down

- 1 Numbers of Romans about the city (5)

- 2 Game of wits (7)
- 3 Helps beast in distress (5)
- 4 Close shaves? (7)
- 5 One quick to advance caress? (4,5)
- 6 Complete outfit for a small charge (7)
- 7 Popular professional record holder being sidelined? (2,7)
- 13 Act for traveller with grudge (9)
- 14 Terrible reputation, one I try to improve (9)
- 17 A muscle that turns up and down (7)
- 18 Be fond of nurse (4,3)
- 20 Wine served up in canisters (7)
- 22 Philosopher who gets on with soldiers (5)
- 23 Share a hole (5)

Winners of prize puzzle 26,196

