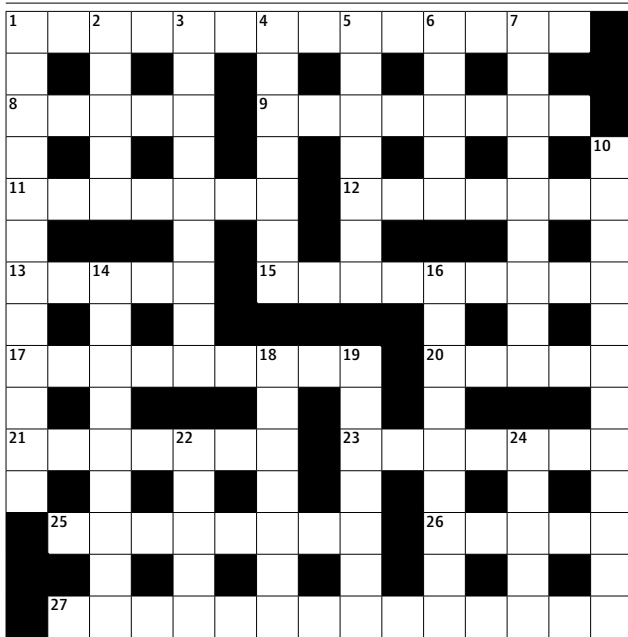


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,207 set by Paul

## Across

- 1 Gun torture for fun remains for downed British companions (7,3,4)
- 8 Felon primarily after article, one getting nicked? (5)
- 9 Useless gaffe that's faced by pubertal boys? (8)
- 11 Do kill (7)
- 12 Albert distanced from royal muse confused for royal spouse (7)
- 13 No girl, not entirely – the reverse, a boy (5)
- 15 Tubes out of shape, I go beyond circle (9)
- 17 Improving on subject, need less stuffing (2,3,4)
- 20 Very big heads in our bankrupt economy spoiling everything (5)
- 21 Cat – or shark, by the sound of it? (7)
- 23 Ring the companion of an inventor, we hear? (7)
- 25 Wee-wee, then sound of explosion dropping rear for baby's amusement (8)
- 26 Red queen hearts? On the contrary (5)
- 27 False prophet's decree, something said, looking back (8,6)

## Down

- 1 Fudge-coated voices, premier of choirs is sweet (12)
- 2 Green brought over into blue via navy (5)
- 3 Blind partner and uncle dancing merengue ultimately is filth (9)
- 4 Unknown quantity in terribly sore bum, almost freezing (3-4)
- 5 Flipping source of life is plague (7)
- 6 Fish in weed (5)
- 7 Kill rowing team from Ipswich, say? (9)
- 10 Path rather difficult claiming benefits in the end for poor Americans (7,5)
- 14 In memo there's extremely infantile language (9)
- 16 Under leader in paper, ring round rubbish as features editor (9)
- 18 Old clip seen after middle of this show (7)
- 19 Tree as source of bark? (7)
- 22 Capital overly protecting the state (5)
- 24 Day trip eventually starts in game (5)



Solution No. 26,206

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