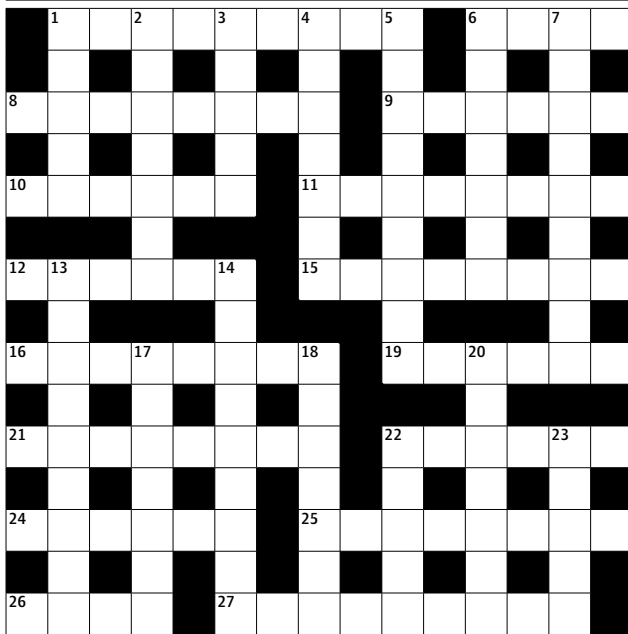


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,220 set by Paul

The first five correct entries drawn each week win Guardian Style and Secrets of the Setters, worth £28.99.

Entries to: The Guardian Crossword No 26,220, P.O. Box 6603, Birmingham, B26 3PR, or Fax to 0121-742 1313 by first post on Friday. Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday 7 April.

## Across

- 1 Beginning of spring? That should get you going (4,5)
- 6 Cool – nothing to add! (4)
- 8 Sack of fruit with old plant (8)
- 9 Arctic resident maintaining temperature – that makes sense (6)
- 10 Statement by filmed divorcee, retracted (6)
- 11,1down 23 in a short run features in Guardian story (8,5)
- 12 Wolves team surrendering lead twice, shooting high (3-3)
- 15 Dear me, my mongrel whined! (8)
- 16 One getting fuel emptied into buttocks, blows up (8)
- 19 Spirited point in wise broadcast? (6)
- 21,20 Spillage of onanist on pioneering physician providing parts for 23 (8,7)
- 22 Reportedly take offence at description of female in union (6)
- 24,3 23 has a wrinkly bum (6,5)
- 25 Comment as a huge amount inside volcano backfires (8)
- 26 See 6 down
- 27 Odd bean, say, for boot-logger (3,6)

## Down

- 1 See 11

- 2 A couple of doctors like a port (7)
- 3 See 24
- 4 An old tree full of life originally, an exceptional thing (7)
- 5 Stick-like and sticky? But the name hasn't stuck! (9)
- 6,26 Love in contrivance of 1 down and a late 23 (7,4)
- 7 Alliance lamenting jerks (9)
- 13 Formerly little money in ransom I set, necessary to rise (9)
- 14 Toy with lift key here – helium unnecessary for toy operator (4-5)
- 17 Rope in ground keeping beam up (7)
- 18 Contemptuous remarks, as bones turned up in the middle of Portsmouth (7)
- 20 See 21
- 22 Stop a couple talking a foreign language (5)
- 23 One taking a part, a part that's uninitiated

Solution No. 26,219

