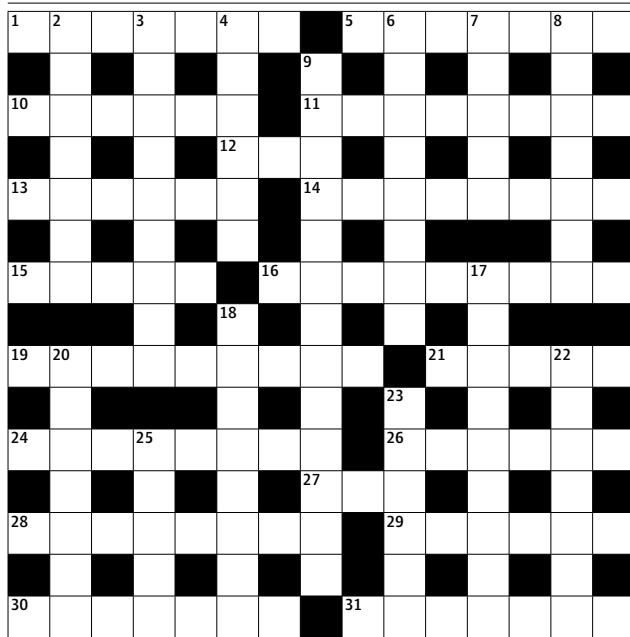


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,234 set by Arachne

## Across

- 1 European Commission about to restrict non-standard dance rhythm (7)
- 5 White copper put black boy in cell without clothes (3,4)
- 10 Big British clearing banks seeing problem (6)
- 11 Cockney was required to make uniform of acceptable quality (8)
- 12 Oddly withdrawn, bitchy and hostile (3)
- 13 Duck died, sounding strange (6)
- 14 Alluring, like a Pole? (8)
- 15 Not clean or suitable for all to see, lust could be good (5)
- 16 Pink, turning red, on dune (9)
- 19 People love to hold back change (9)
- 21 With time to spare, like an aristocrat? (5)
- 24 Ban hare coursing, a Cuban speciality (8)
- 26 Traumatized son left owing money (2,4)
- 27 0-1 in Holland (3)
- 28 Women's groups, ordered to accept married men, refuse (8)
- 29 Box of vibrators? (6)
- 30 Bad priests continue to exist (7)
- 31 Vatican report "entirely groundless" (4,3)

## Down

- 2 Smooth head shaved close (7)

- 3 Have sympathetic understanding for fluid retention (5,4)
- 4 They keep eggs warm, because that's the point of incubators (6)
- 6 Anorak supremely unsuited on floating ice, I'm afraid (8)
- 7 Bestial Caesar's last word? (5)
- 8 Soviet grandmaster returned by way of northern Baltic (7)
- 9 Tax haven is scandal many put to bad use (6,7)
- 17 Are unsure about blood group ahead of extremely messy treatment (9)
- 18 Retreat initially over cutting 75% of benefits for the poor (4-4)
- 20 Starts to express vexation when setter's vague (7)
- 22 Sanction excess freedom for poet? (7)
- 23 In the bathtub I'll yodel like anything (5-1)
- 25 Hard-hearted "fit-for-work" company, one of a combative trio (5)

Solution No. 26,233

