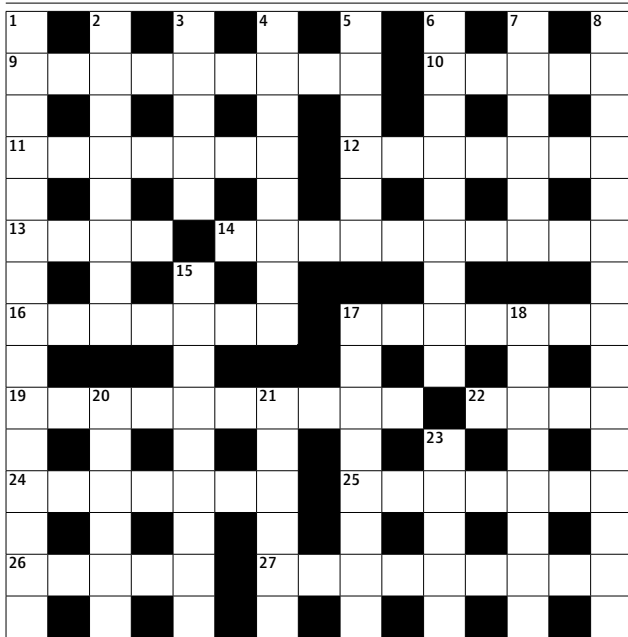


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,261 set by Qaos

## Across

- 9** Cook departs, out!  
Good line and curve (9)
- 10** Strain to hear pitiful creature (5)
- 11** Catholic reportedly hated getting dressed (7)
- 12** Physicist's eccentric old relative grasps mass (7)
- 13** Fruit peeled or peeled? (4)
- 14** Funny Gene's headland is uninhabited (10)
- 16** King George enters: I, mad? A foul plot! (7)
- 17,1**  $3 + 20 = 23$ ? QED! (7,15)
- 19** Romantic man in love, into proposal (10)
- 22** Old retired painter abandons society (4)
- 24** Embarrassed men hate making gas (7)
- 25** Foolish dictator's colourful past is erased (7)
- 26** Monsieur's upset in the finest French town (5)
- 27** Learn about day of victory in small vessel (5,4)

## Down

- 1** See 17 across
- 2** Debauched, unlimited womanising can keep you up at night (8)
- 3** Short match (5)

- 4** Bishop expresses doubt about theologian and his religion (8)
- 5** Grumbled as muscle starts to exercise daily (6)
- 6** They're unclear signs of aging? (4,5)
- 7** Snooker – it's my break with cue tip (6)
- 8** Take away illness? Nice! I'd use acupuncture, perhaps (7,8)
- 15** Prunes can wrinkle with time in constant sun (9)
- 17** Qaos regularly going round the bend: 1/2 to 1/10 ratio? (8)
- 18** Got back the dodgy midfield? The end of Manchester United (8)
- 20** Stuff what's up? (6)
- 21** In general, people possess nothing – royal speculation? (6)
- 23** Fellow lied about area of expertise (5)

Solution No. 26,260

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