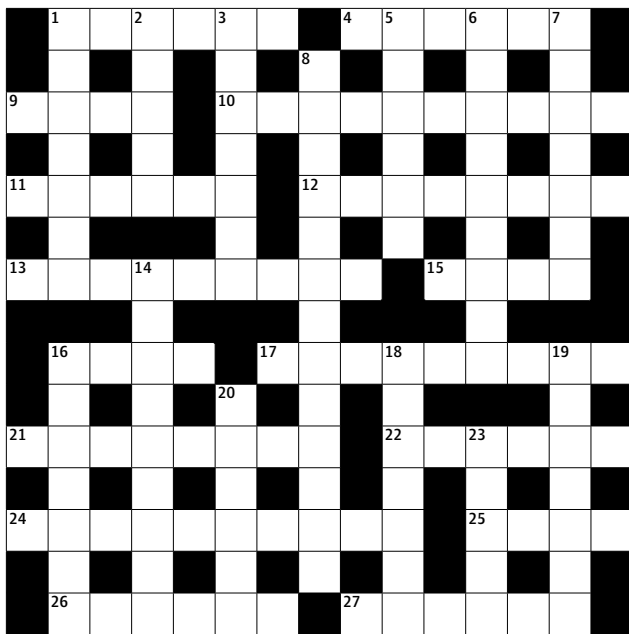


## Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,624 set by Qaos

### Across

- 1** Waffles for starter?  
Poor diets are most extensive (6)
- 4** Nice jogging around sport's track in winter (3,3)
- 9,16** Celebrate like the Jacksons on drugs? (4,4)
- 10** Former PM's heart-broken to discover this dirt (5,5)
- 11** Clubs getting fit: the focus of Aston Villa, perhaps (6)
- 12** Ointment taken after loud party (8)
- 13** A wandering lepidoptera? (5,4)
- 15** Smell detected from 3 km? (4)
- 16** See 9
- 17** About 10 work from this kind of college (5,4)
- 21** Angry trade unionist abandons revolutionary ideas to become ... (4,4)
- 22** ... one old confused simpleton (6)
- 24** Spooner's equipment for heavy drinkers? More drink! (6,4)
- 25** Couple from China? (4)
- 26** Oppose terrorists invading others (6)
- 27** 100,501,500 from 100,501,500? (6)

### Down

- 1** Serious question as husband leaves for piece of silver? (7)
- 2** Initially dishonest prosecutor holds invalid law degree (5)
- 3** Tailless mammal returns to eat another very small thing (7)
- 5** Dog with bite? (6)
- 6** Food for tea be cooked over Sunday (5,4)
- 7** Cryptic clue for 10's grid? (7)
- 8** Cheap bread? (8,5)
- 14,23** Shakespeare's words may last a lifetime (5,4,2,3)
- 16** Mathematician: "4 + 1? Um ..." (7)
- 18** The Strand building I'd rent by the pound (7)
- 19** Said to be family (7)
- 20** Catches criminal, earns bonus at last (6)
- 23** See 14

Solution No. 26,623

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