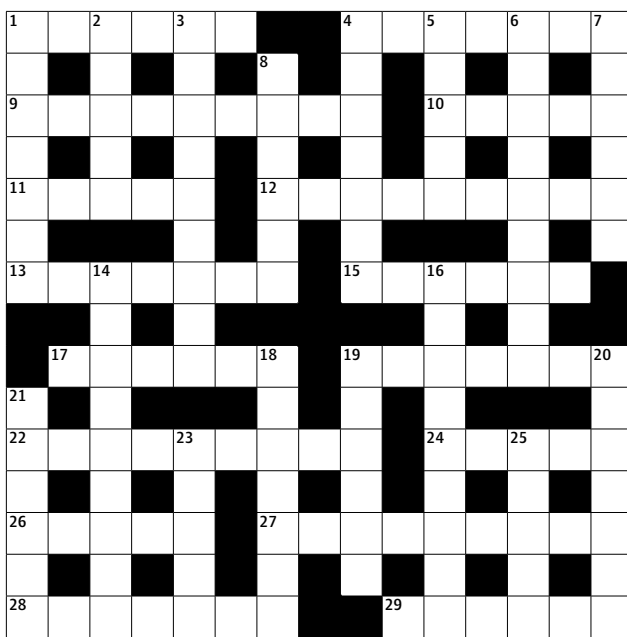


## Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,710 set by Qaos

### Across

- 1 To overcome Labour, Conservative turned blue (6)
- 4 Reportedly mean birds (7)
- 9 Weak tea? Never brew Darjeeling to begin with! (9)
- 10 Opportunity follows the debut of Basil Brush (5)
- 11 500 join in tour round royal house (5)
- 12 America's main problem? Moving into action (9)
- 13 Ponders complicated answer (7)
- 15 Cigar ignited over top of light bulb (6)
- 17 Beamed Scotty initially a long way down (6)
- 19 Old Liberals accept national (and English) complaints (7)
- 22 Man stole diamonds in the East Midlands (9)
- 24 Cook delivers off-break (5)
- 26 A dash of orange liqueur or spirit? (5)
- 27 Gap: "Everything Must Go!" (9)
- 28 Bit of evidence Piers M. shredded for large organisations (7)
- 29 Admiral's sole upset is in the news (6)

### Down

- 1 City street to shout about (7)
- 2 3 sitcom produced by 24 (5)

- 3 Royal fund backs rise of corrupt City (9)
- 4 Sweet prince is promising bachelor no more (7)
- 5 Yummy barman regularly seen in shadow (5)
- 6 Is using more than one stopwatch cheating? (3-6)
- 7 Arabian soldiers first pursue the old (6)
- 8 Two ways to describe article or piece (6)
- 14 Review of doing 1 + 2 + 3? (7-2)
- 16 Give back pound from mouldy mulberries (9)
- 18 Bear up and manage etc, before society notices (7)
- 19 Struggle about new maze (6)
- 20 Scottish minister no longer has temperature, doctor (7)
- 21 Chelsea fan also rioting on Tyneside (6)
- 23 Mathematician keeps things working smoothly, they say (5)
- 25 Rulers engagements attract not a single word of disapproval (5)

Solution No. 26,709

