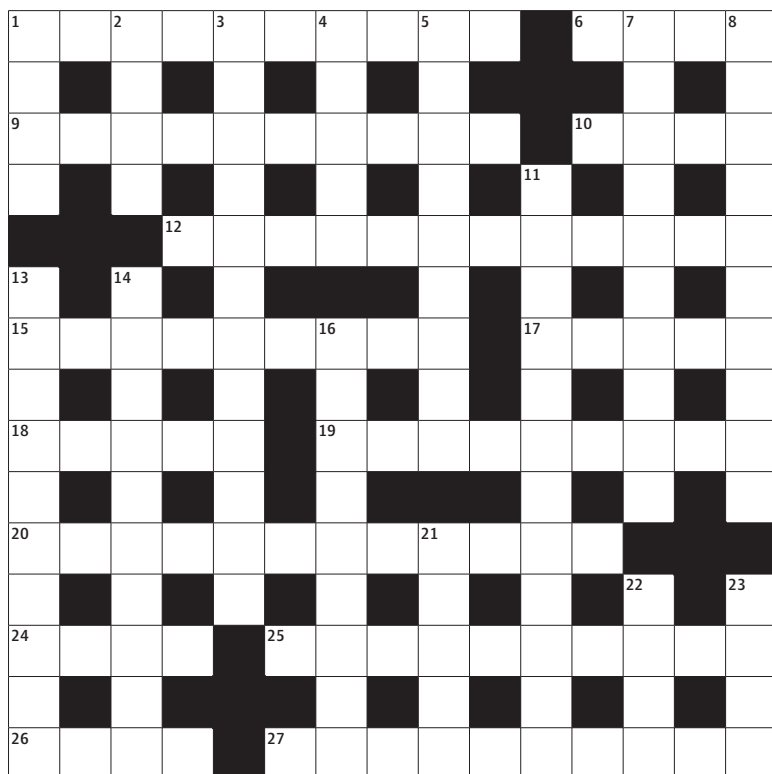


# Guardian cryptic crossword set by Sphinx



## Across

- 1 After substitution, go use ball on one Hungarian player (4,6)
- 6 No oriental regulations about libel (4)
- 9 Colour plasmas for the aristocracy! (10)
- 10 *Catastrophe* is the return of humour (4)
- 12 Unscrupulous doctor deployed tanner's knife (12)
- 15 Exposes footloose trainee in Norfolk town (9)
- 17 Ratty's ship follows crow non-stop (5)
- 18 Sponge rear of foot round about first sign of carbuncles (5)
- 19 Criticise actors before mid-point entrance (9)
- 20 Drain life force from nauseating ex-criminal (12)
- 24 Mountain dweller to be found in 9 (4)
- 25 Four competing in political party before sharing the spoils (8,2)
- 26 Eats bananas - gorge! (4)
- 27 'Early closing' relative pronounces, 'makes more room' (10)

## Down

- 1 Wee one has thumb tip in mouth (4)
- 2 Powerful backing-duo opening for Lulu (4)
- 3 Twisting ends of tidal flora, in the briny, all at sea (12)
- 4 Matriarch imbibes fourth of *Famous Grouse* (5)
- 5 The German recalled small city on the Ruhr reversing sorrows (9)
- 7 She's easy, ladies, to attach to old chap! (5,5)
- 8 Reviewed vehicles with lead chassis in plant (10)
- 11 Does doctor pry at his tics? (12)
- 13 Men and women gather round lake for infidelities (10)
- 14 Fools Saturday workers, on time for appraisal (10)
- 16 One is devastated about pointless clues in team elimination (9)
- 21 New *Strangelove* story? (5)
- 22 Every other conger eel is a monster (4)
- 23 Musical work sounds like catcalling! (4)

## Solution

