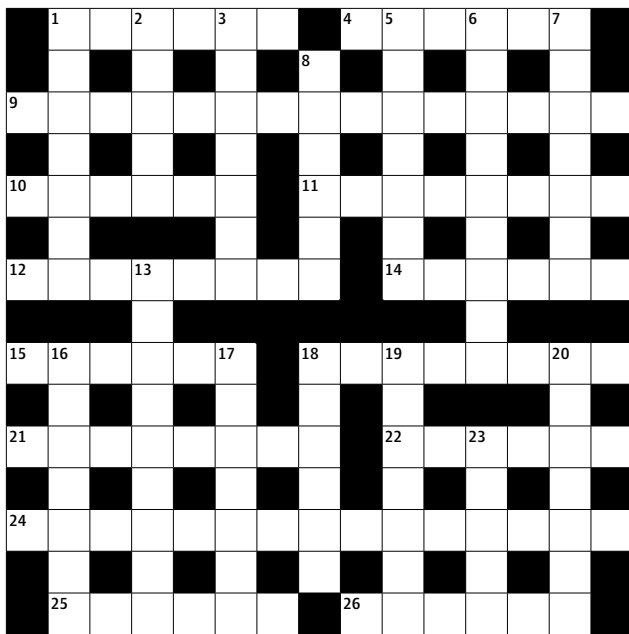


## Guardian cryptic crossword



No 27,133 set by Picaroon

### Across

- 1 Power-mad criminal (6)
- 4 Like some drinks, talking with old therapist (6)
- 9 Doctor Liam Fox in a tense scrutiny of motives (4-11)
- 10 Monarch's hot, tearing finery with an "eff off"! (5,1)
- 11 Ex-minister meeting resistance – and not a leader (8)
- 12 Ruling nationalist's way to encourage progress (8)
- 14 Carmen is close to perfect for discriminating fellow (6)
- 15 Two coppers arresting a small group of politicians (6)
- 18 Muslim country in revolt, having to convert to Catholicism (8)
- 21 Piano star drunk on beer, where classical training took place (8)
- 22 Banks maybe withdraw a false statement (6)
- 24 Seeking academics to engage somewhere near Cambridge (15)
- 25 Brandy drinks before church (6)
- 26 American wears top out of bed or stuck in it (4,2)

### Down

- 1 Bar where spin doctors congregate? (7)
- 2 Joint Head of Enterprise leaves for transfer (5)

- 3 Material from humorist ultimately old hat (7)
- 5 Chinese race finished in George's house? (7)
- 6 Settled down with your picture book from Rome (9)
- 7 Humming note, run round America with nothing on (7)
- 8 One dope hugs second daughter in Shakespeare (6)
- 13 Governess's favourite eggs are picked up without box (9)
- 16 A rubbish country welcomes right modernising leader (7)
- 17 Popular turns adopted by a cast working like hell (7)
- 18 Painter captures something magical in land (8)
- 19 Two spies together with a red (7)
- 20 Republican brought in to agitate gets a foothold (7)
- 23 What a doctor has, catching current bug (5)

Solution No. 27,132

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