

## The Crusader's clues

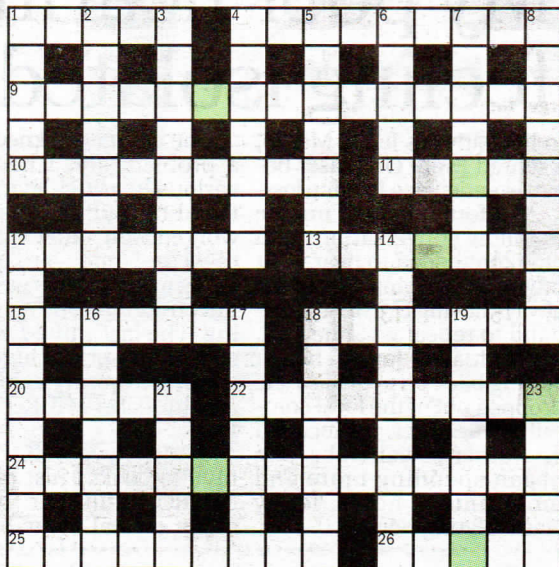
### ACROSS

- 1 Maybe a sycophant gives shade (5)
- 4 Senseless drive back from a plant (9)
- 9 Not getting wages, grasping pair alternatively started pension (15)
- 10 Perhaps a French tabloid has the scent (9)
- 11 The audacity, beginning to speak! (5)
- 12 A German city centre lacks heart and soul (7)
- 13 Great lover once married in a part of a forest (7)
- 15 Rabbit on top of carrots - he's mad! (7)
- 18 Heartless guy takes a composer seriously (7)
- 20 Far side of room outspoken beast ridicules (5)
- 22 Scattered emus are happy to be okay (7,2)
- 24 Close post that's late redirected with no time to spare (2,3,4,6)
- 25 Aide taking uranium from safe after lead during bash (9)
- 26 Gluttony almost overwhelming British diver (5)

### DOWN

- 1 Cheese and fish starter update (5)
- 2 They believe in magic water and fires, like before (7)
- 3 Artist some foremen make tense (9)
- 4 Ace soldiers getting called to order... (7)
- 5 ...get hurt besieging one on a day of victory (7)
- 6 Beasts with ambition back aboard tugs (5)
- 7 Inactivity guaranteed by a garland (7)
- 8 As before, count in good faith (9)
- 12 Cover from agitated cop men fool (9)
- 14 Insulting deals without much content (9)
- 16 Abstemious wizard catches small twitch (7)
- 17 Cake crumbs inside some teabags? (3,4)
- 18 Awful gluttons beginning fast without losing face (7)
- 19 A flower and sweet to carry out (7)
- 21 Material taken to court before case's conclusion (5)
- 23 Patty and Charlotte unloaded a gun (5)

Cryptic clues from our knight, and quick clues from his squire, lead to the same answers in the Crusader's Sunday joust



## The Squire's clues

### ACROSS

- 1 Arbour (5)
- 4 Belladonna lily (9)
- 9 Failure to understand (15)
- 10 Perfume (9)
- 11 Dressing (5)
- 12 Intrinsic nature (7)
- 13 Radical (7)
- 15 Prattle (7)
- 18 In a solemn manner (7)
- 20 Derides (5)
- 22 Make the grade (7,2)
- 24 In the nick of time (2,3,4,6)
- 25 Personal assistant (9)
- 26 Loon-like bird (5)

### DOWN

- 1 Short (5)
- 2 Witches (7)
- 3 17th-century Dutch painter (9)
- 4 Organise (7)
- 5 Accomplish (7)
- 6 Pulls, jerks (5)
- 7 \_\_\_ centre (7)
- 8 Genuinely (9)
- 12 Encircle (9)
- 14 Speaking badly of (9)
- 16 Austere (7)
- 17 Small alcohol-infused cake (3,4)
- 18 Horrendous (7)
- 19 Perform, do (7)
- 21 Velvety leather (5)
- 23 Component (5)

For your chance to WIN £100 read down the letters in the highlighted squares to reveal the mystery word.

**TO ENTER CALL: 0904 161 1610**

and leave your answer and details, or text SXCRUS followed by a space, your answer, name and address details to 84915 or send your grid containing the answer in the shaded squares to: Sunday Express Prize Crossword, April 18, PO Box 12578, Sutton Coldfield B73 9BT. Competition closes Thursday, April 22 at 23:59pm.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE: \_\_\_\_\_

Winner will be selected at random from all correct entry routes after the closing date. Calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1.50 plus your standard network rate. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390.

LAST SUNDAY'S SOLUTION: Across: 1 Mused, 4 Spoken for, 9 Nearsightedness, 10 Offspring, 11 Decor, 12 Scenery, 13 Namaste, 15 Towards, 18 Solvent, 20 Satay, 22 Radicchio, 24 I shouldn't wonder, 25 Struggled, 26 Sways. Down: 1 Mango, 2 Snaffle, 3 Disappear, 4 Signify, 5 Octagon, 6 Ended, 7 Fleeces, 8 Resurgent, 12 Satisfies, 14 Malicious, 16 Watcher, 17 Strudel, 18 Sedated, 19 Echidna, 21 Young, 23 Ogres. Prize word: Lechwe

\*SP: Spoke - Helpline 0333 202 3390