

## The Crusader's clues

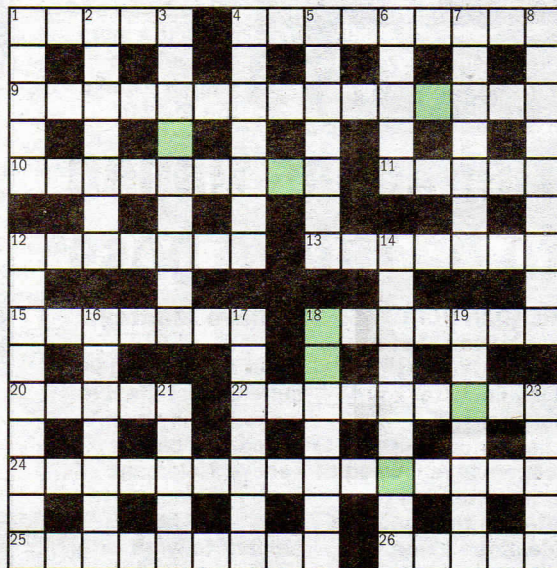
### ACROSS

- 1 Nerves behind a muscle group (5)  
 4 Open people making suggestions (9)  
 9 Simply giving cover to some will annoy (9,2,4)  
 10 Pains leaving before instruction (9)  
 11 Steak meal gone bad like chops (5)  
 12 Cringing teacher sounded horrid! (7)  
 13 Wail with reduced intensity about crack (7)  
 15 Odd reactions to missing a killer (7)  
 18 Fellow American entering hot plant (7)  
 20 Long row exited by posh broad (5)  
 22 Funny chief hides key - girls start conducting a search (9)  
 24 About clumsy fencer: he tore postcard (4,9,2)  
 25 Round barrel George received for free (9)  
 26 Dry insider made somewhat attractive (5)

### DOWN

- 1 Mark tangled clumps up quietly (5)  
 2 Relative by marriage somewhat dim (7)  
 3 Dreadful tonic ruined a course (9)  
 4 Gold and diamonds, when over a hole (7)  
 5 Promised good time, in conclusion (7)  
 6 Equipment left sooty given back (5)  
 7 Youth leader with stuff on not about to cancel (7)  
 8 Talk revealed one's not involved (9)  
 12 Heads of state were OK, it's believed (9)  
 14 Confined prisoner worked out, taking runs (9)  
 16 Cloud layer small rather than medium (7)  
 17 Like wheels, metal turned round and round (lead only) (4,3)  
 18 Some rogues taking a bishop's hat after taking one's plant (3,4)  
 19 Rene's here on a cape getting cold (7)  
 21 Clod putting bottle's top beneath it (5)  
 23 Praise of parrot mistaking tail for head (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 Team (5)  
 4 Additional meanings (9)  
 9 Right (9,2,4)  
 10 Sermons (9)  
 11 Ability (5)  
 12 Fawning (7)  
 13 Translate from code (7)  
 15 Toxic chemical element (7)  
 18 \_\_\_ violet (7)  
 20 Sizeable (5)  
 22 Rooting (around) (9)  
 24 On the subject of (4,9,2)  
 25 Release from hospital (9)  
 26 Good-looking (5)

### DOWN

- 1 Trample (5)  
 2 Vague (7)  
 3 Heading (9)  
 4 Opening (7)  
 5 Affianced (7)  
 6 Implements (5)  
 7 Negate (7)  
 8 Unpartnered person (9)  
 12 Ingested (9)  
 14 Had within (9)  
 16 Low-level cloud (7)  
 17 Look after (4,3)  
 18 Eucalyptus, e.g. (3,4)  
 19 Frigidity (7)  
 21 Dirt, soil (5)  
 23 Splendour (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, February 21, PO Box 12578, Sutton Coldfield B73 9BT. Competition closes Thursday, February 25 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 Snaps, 4 Subscript, 9 Lighththeadness, 10 Thrashing, 11 Drake, 12 Madness, 13 Startle, 15 Revoked, 18 Chalets, 20 Cynic, 22 Steadfast, 24 Misapprehension, 25 El Alamein, 26 Dandy. Down: 1 Split, 2 Angered, 3 So to speak, 4 Species, 5 Bodegas, 6 Ceded, 7 Inexact, 8 Tasteless, 12 Morecombe, 14 Abandoned, 16 Vanessa, 17 Deserve, 18 Chechen, 19 Elation, 21 Capra, 23 Tangy. Prize word: Healing

\*SP: Spoke - Helpline 0333 202 3390