

The Crusader's clues

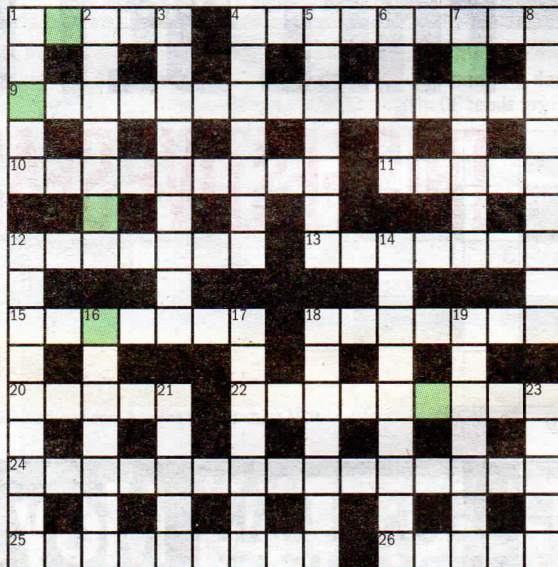
ACROSS

- 1 Large beer a politician imbibed (5)
- 4 Checking off no longer being done (5,4)
- 9 Forgiving mates hurt unloading... (7,3,5)
- 10 ...metal boxes once behind post persuaded to continue (7,2)
- 11 Spotted coats having initial gloss (5)
- 12 A channel still mostly acceptable (7)
- 13 Rounds on game schedule are true firsts (5,2)
- 15 Committed Plymouth lad making a border... (7)
- 18 ...got shot behind some cowgrass (7)
- 20 An order to carry out delivered by officer back in command (5)
- 22 Aggressive sort of chat with tutor (9)
- 24 Gin not drunk with laity bumpkin, being too much (6,2,2,5)
- 25 Tunnel collapse trapping male following and not entirely ending (9)
- 26 Empty cupboards beginning to tip (5)

DOWN

- 1 A guidebook finally abridged (5)
- 2 Bone of the head fully raised (7)
- 3 A man making reference to evocation (9)
- 4 Gas nearing content spaceman (7)
- 5 Babes wearing cooler things cleared out... (7)
- 6 ...spaces occupied by small pants (5)
- 7 Audience of six sitting on vessels (7)
- 8 Drum insiders struck without a thought (9)
- 12 Tree, say, pruned poorly after seedcase was shelled (9)
- 14 Sad following awaiting leader without enthusiasm (9)
- 16 Noble title that follows quickly (5,2)
- 17 Last month, a time before Italy admitted to trick (7)
- 18 Bag left empty by a paragon beat it (3,4)
- 19 Biographical information for a dossier (7)
- 21 A little chica named Lola opening something locked (5)
- 23 Orderly upset about kid's face being drawn (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 Plenty (5)
- 4 Running through (5,4)
- 9 Venting (7,3,5)
- 10 Persevere (7,2)
- 11 Lustre (5)
- 12 Stop on a railway line (7)
- 13 Talks to angrily (5,2)
- 15 Promised (7)
- 18 Understood (7)
- 20 Of the Dorians (5)
- 22 Dog-eat-dog (9)
- 24 Exaggerating (6,2,2,5)
- 25 Voiding, cancellation (9)
- 26 Dirt-free (5)

DOWN

- 1 Map book (5)
- 2 Kneecap (7)
- 3 Drawing forth (9)
- 4 Yuri ____, cosmonaut (7)
- 5 Toddlers (7)
- 6 Sharp intakes of breath (5)
- 7 Watchers (7)
- 8 Pondered (9)
- 12 Chiclé-yielding tree (9)
- 14 Listless (9)
- 16 Right at the beginning (5,2)
- 17 Mislead (7)
- 18 Clear off (3,4)
- 19 Side view (7)
- 21 Artificial waterway (5)
- 23 Removed (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, December 27, PO Box 12578, Sutton Coldfield B73 9BT. Competition closes Thursday, December 31 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 Flour, 4 Costa Rica, 9 Definite article, 10 Sangfried, 11 China, 12 Observe, 13 Obligated, 15 Platter, 18 Make for, 20 Eat up, 22 Pentagon, 24 Shoot from the hip, 25 Rehearsal, 26 Terse. Down: 1 Fades, 2 Offends, 3 Runs for it, 4 Cathode, 5 So-and-so, 6 Attic, 7 Itching, 8 Alexander, 12 Oppressor, 14 Like a shot, 16 Antioch, 17 Reports, 18 Minimal, 19 Further, 21 Patna, 23 Maple.
Prize word: Saddle

*SP: Spoke - Helpline 0333 202 3390