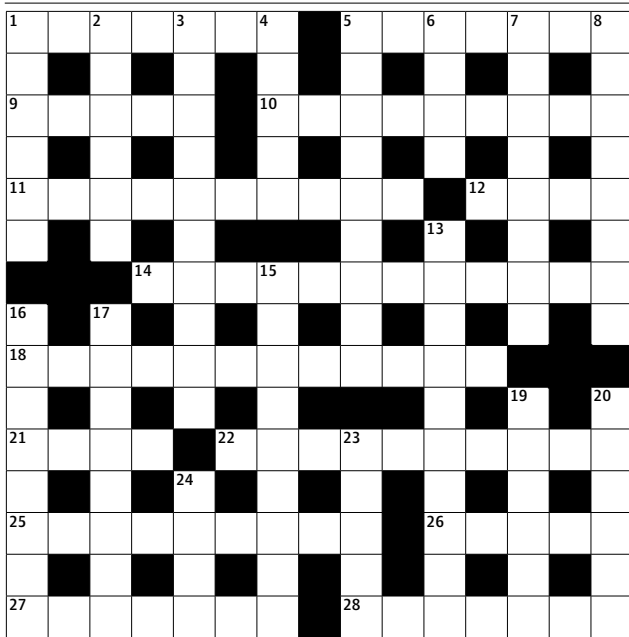


# Guardian cryptic crossword



No 24,931 set by Paul

## Across

- 1 Food and wine sent back for soup (7)
- 5 Standard size, consuming a dessert (7)
- 9 Towel ensures virgin's top not seen in wood (5)
- 10 Munch on shag endlessly with a 21 24 character (9)
- 11 Flamboyant nature excels through endless bottle (10)
- 12,25 Rules we three kings lay out for 21 24 character (4,9)
- 14 21 24 character needing wash after inoculation, Shed said (5,3,4)
- 18 Those who might be letting last in race into lead, senior citizens, ultimately (12)
- 21,24 Picture what the cooking connoisseur would never serve up? Sloppy starter (4,4)
- 22 Feeling present delivered by post, ma excited (10)
- 25 See 12
- 26 French city opens only on Saturdays (5)
- 27 Crime, given time, partner of rhyme (7)
- 28 Expected to lose heart before second minute – is it inevitable? (7)

## Down

- 1 Catalogue in which tail of puppy dog caught up (6)
- 2,19 Pale red politician once wearing sashes, 21 24 character (3-3,6)

- 3 Flash heard lunatic boxing against 21 24 character (5,5)
- 4 Poisoner has the guts of American, Frenchman and Amerindian (5)
- 5 One forming attachment with lothario in the news? (5,4)
- 6 The Stones' Tuesday stone? (4)
- 7 Ursa Minor finally cut off star (8)
- 8 Carrier bearing something worn, poor imitation (8)
- 13 Cut into lesion, hopelessly, where life absent (10)
- 15 Parting gift, beatnik's last puff on spliff – uninspiring present? (4,5)
- 16 Fool admitting London area seen twice, not far apart (5-3)
- 17 To disable soldier, the solution to capture first of supplies (8)
- 19 See 2
- 20 Warmer, lower island (6)
- 23 As a boat perhaps flew, top flying off (5)
- 24 See 21

Solution No. 24,930

