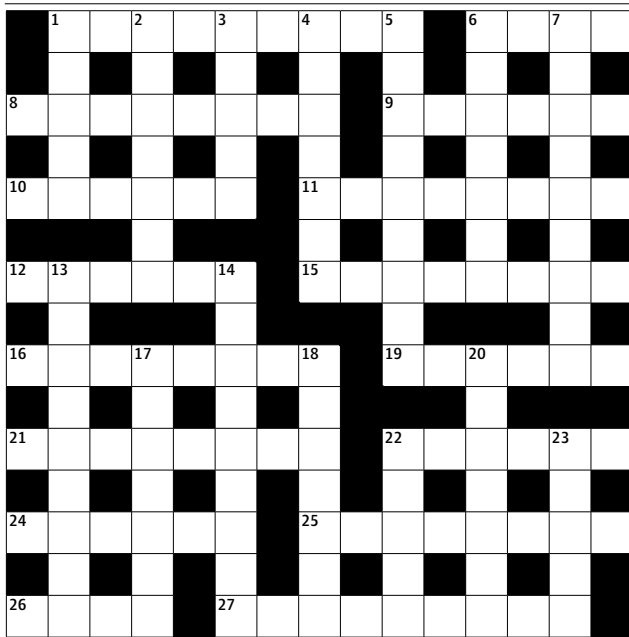


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 24,940 set by Rufus

Across

- 1 Band of gold put on box by artist (9)
- 6 Part of a window dresser's flamboyant attire (4)
- 8 Turmoil and ferment heard before laughter (8)
- 9 Mark, the sailor, is a six-footer (6)
- 10 Provide company car (6)
- 11 Dance band instruments (8)
- 12 Took advantage of American in a plot (6)
- 15 Mockingbird with tips of tail blue or grey (8)
- 16 Natural aptitude demonstrated this month in court (8)
- 19 Hoover, for example, sets me back about £25 (6)
- 21 Carpet a university residence, say? (8)
- 22 Summer, almost fall (6)
- 24 Guess what the poet Donne was by profession (6)
- 25 A bodybuilder showing a heavenly body (8)
- 26 Silver-headed editor, getting on a bit (4)
- 27 Vessel needing a mast to be at sea (9)

Down

- 1 Imagined monsters and rose about midnight, upset (5)

- 2 Knocked out, so no cup tickets required (7)
- 3 Pass one bill in ten after amendment (5)
- 4 A paid informer (7)
- 5 Insistent it's averse to change (9)
- 6 Clasp loose on the Spanish knife (7)
- 7 All men do (4,5)
- 13 Bring round advance payment? Just joking! (9)
- 14 Guard seen changing overalls (9)
- 17 Agreed everything was bound to come out (7)
- 18 Cultivation that's up to date (7)
- 20 Rings about train smash in Canada (7)
- 22 Image to carry to top of mountain (5)
- 23 Be quick! (5)

Winners of prize puzzle 24,933

