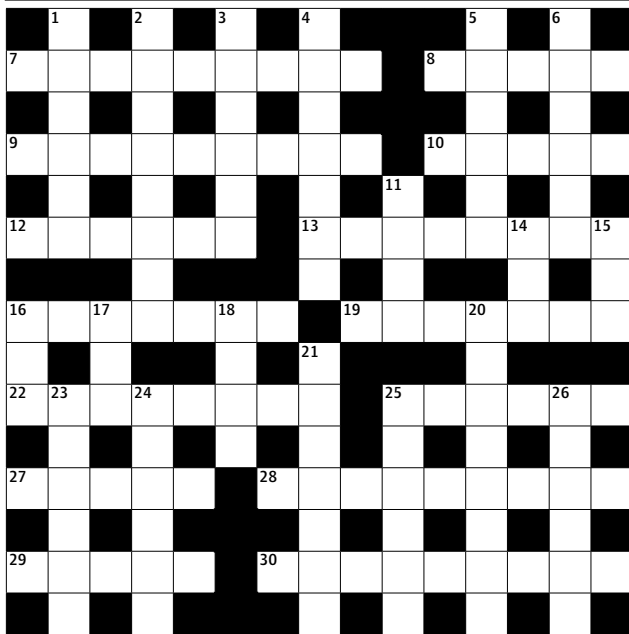


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,004 set by Puck

Across

- 7 Staggeringly small beer I left out for ... (9)
- 8 ... US agent on horseback that's ... (3,2)
- 9 ... perhaps mostly despising ... (6,3)
- 10 ... what retired men could be ... (5)
- 12 ... as some old men are good at casual sex? (6)
- 13 Target wacky Italian bird (5,3)
- 16 Welshman chasing year-end orders (7)
- 19 Came round with a couple of boys (7)
- 22 Nurse with large breasts now sadly put away (4,4)
- 25 One container within another that's ... (6)
- 27 ... £10 in yet somehow ... (5)
- 28 ... shelters a criminal that's cruelly cold ... (9)
- 29 ... like apples baked by fellow revolutionary ... (5)
- 30 ... from a group I'd given up and left (9)

- 5 Greens possibly not allowed to indulge in mindless activities (3,3)
- 6 Hesitation in shortening hip bones (6)
- 11 Setter's half-mad? Great! (4)
- 14 See 16
- 15 See 16
- 16,17,14,15 Underworld criminal to catch up with chap that's unhappy over here after vacation down under (12)
- 18 Partial to reggae? Go straight for I-and-I (4)
- 20 Close pal cooked clam dish (8)
- 21 African town you'll have no right to go in, having turned to go out (7)
- 23 Former African area in the southwest (6)
- 24 Regularly doubt diverse obligations (6)
- 25 City visible from river on arrival (6)
- 26 Horse conks out, then eats (6)

Down

- 1 Foreign minister in magazine? That's right (6)
- 2 Back-up engineers following female engineer (8)
- 3 Writer's about 50? I shouldn't think so (6)
- 4 Flood upset extremely grey ageing Conservative? (3,4)

Solution No. 25,003

C	I	C	E	L	Y	C	O	N	S	O	R	T	S
O	L	I	R	A	E	H							
P	E	A	R	L	Y	E	C	C	L	E	S	I	A
T	M	L	H	O	P	R							
H	O	W	I	S	T	H	E	E	M	P	I	R	E
U	P	E	S	E	T	D							
P	E	R	Q	U	I	S	I	T	E	R	E	N	O
A	T	T	R	P									
R	A	G	E	I	M	P	A	L	E	M	E	N	T
A	R	U	A	T	R	N							
G	E	O	R	G	E	T	H	E	F	I	F	T	H
R	G	R	C	S	R	B							
A	I	R	T	I	G	H	T	H	R	O	N	E	
P	A	A	E	E	P	D							
H	U	M	A	N	I	S	T	G	R	O	Y	N	E