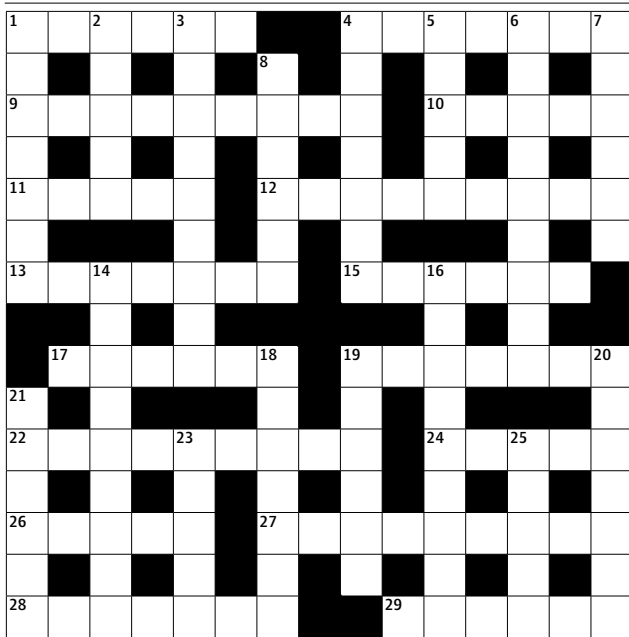


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,375 set by Paul

Across

- 1** Four, minus our two points, equals the bottom number (6)
4 See 17
9 29-land's oath (9)
10 God, victorious leader in a branch of Islam (5)
11 Old fool defaced cat (5)
12 Where talk may be cheap, laugh out loud about the state of Hollywood, doubled up (5,4)
13 Time locks securing home into which one might vanish (4,3)
15,27 False sense of security disheartened rabbit protecting warren, ultimately, and the others outside trapped by frog ... (6,9)
17,4 ... whose friend notices more new cages acceptable (6,7)
19 Warped members, say, blocking game (3,4)
22 Discover pickles in car seat (9)
24 Relative of the weasel even more outrageous? (5)
26 See 29
27 See 15
28 More than one holiday destination makes further arrangements? (7)
29,26 2 8 – funny sort of joke! (6-2-3)

Down

- 1** Dying sound causing clairvoyant scepticism, when heard (4-3)
2 Western country discovering Hamlet's frailty? (5)

- 3** Lick, in message from the lips, for an out-of-this-world experience (9)
4 Caribbean island canceling party, book taxi (7)
5 Nosy people into rocket science, fifty (5)
6 Asian flag in East Indian capital, fluttering (9)
7 Jolly ambience's ending, entering meeting (6)
8 Mass murderer punched ballerina in the midriff (6)
14 Is shape close? Equilateral? Scalene? A little of each – or the other! (9)
16 Lift a lid to poke something proverbially soused, round vegetable (3,6)
18 Totals are up for old scholar (7)
19 First of broken articles, might one be split? (6)
20 Its output fine speech initially, then supplication (7)
21 Grace, I suspect, is more careful (6)
23 One shouting furiously for sportsman (5)
25 Finally, skirt hitched up, perhaps – so this revealed? (5)

Solution No. 25,374

