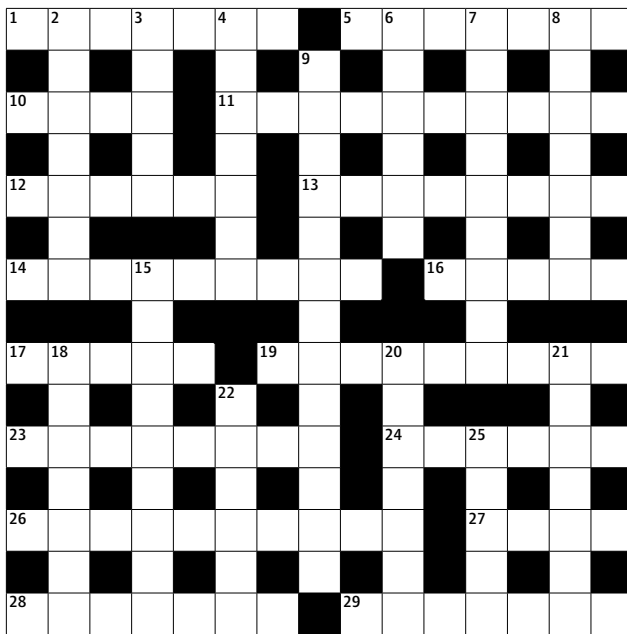


## Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,492 set by Araucaria

### Across

- 1** Second fall, or nearly so (7)  
**5** Demo at expert game in 9, say (7)  
**10** See 27  
**11** See 21  
**12,14** Teacher's first to state last of 9 was leader in school, not 21 pub (6,2,3,4)  
**13** HQ for expedition to find Cambridgeshire ape (4,4)  
**14** See 12  
**16,17** Work during curfew for Essex town member among reactionary readers (5,5)  
**19** Fire starting on haystack engulfs busted dam of European monarch (9)  
**23** Cause bewilderment to prisoner unable to hide (8)  
**24** Would-be 15, one taking vehicle to America (6)  
**26** 11 sounds completely pulverised (4,6)  
**27,10** Bad guy in book hit off when there's a fiddler about (4-4)  
**28** Tell us, with skill, where you live (7)  
**29** Gilbertian Dick in block for rigging (7)

### Down

- 2** Rose to be an author and stay after time (7)

- 3** Big beast sounds little in Scotland (5)  
**4** Most of 12 with Danish king for security (7)  
**6** Niche for holiday? (6)  
**7** Good guy in 9 has youth clubs quivering with terror (3,6)  
**8** Part of 9 setter's is delicious (7)  
**9** Warmer student in perfect example caught up in recent event (5,5,3)  
**15** Ambitious person with leaflet on drugs? (4-5)  
**18** Sign page with former European monarch (7)  
**20** Reduce amount of woodwind left in orchestra (7)  
**21,11** Scene of 16 17 for Archy with cod and curry hunt (7,10)  
**22** One shrub to be trimmed before the fall? (6)  
**25** Prize for one being protected (5)

Solution No. 25,491

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