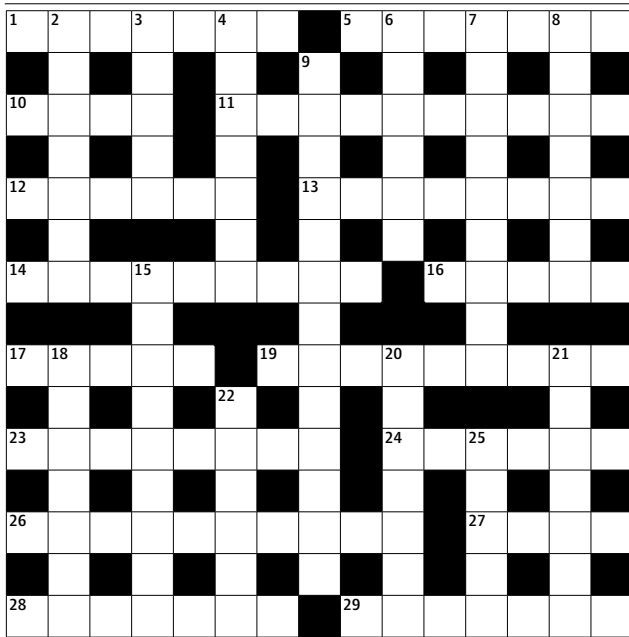


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,827 set by Rufus

Across

- 1 Head off disaster, having a party with fruit (7)
- 5 They hold the shooters' ammunition before the shelling starts (7)
- 10 She takes part in a Victorian nativity play (4)
- 11 Happy 16 across turns out to be unauthentic (10)
- 12 Warming drink that takes some beating (6)
- 13 Crying, small boy rejects gift (8)
- 14 They put a word in when required on stage (9)
- 16 Girl's name on many people's lips at Christmas (5)
- 17 Cause embarrassment at a party (5)
- 19 Many awakening us with their 28 across (9)
- 23 Touch of viral infection? Shiver! (4,4)
- 24 Marital relations welcomed over Christmas? (2-4)
- 26 Tonic water possibly keeps you warm over Christmas (6,4)
- 27 Drink at Sheba's place? (4)
- 28 Noisy celebrations in back bar at the turn of the year (7)
- 29 They're to be found in the stable at the inn (7)

Down

- 2 In grave trouble, certainly in a pickle (7)
- 3 A paper decoration from China (5)
- 4 Drink to give us the shivers? (7)
- 6 Organ swell may affect one's hearing (6)
- 7 Apt phrase to describe party wear? (5,4)
- 8 Attracted by inconclusive result in game, not settled (5,2)
- 9 16 across that provides glad tidings of rest with happiness (7,3,3)
- 15 A Christmas overhead? (9)
- 18 No deviation from a working party policy? (7)
- 20 Mince pies to include a number of drugs (7)
- 21 Occasion for facing the future with resolution (3,4)
- 22 New route right for sight-seeing visitors (6)
- 25 A bell-shaped attachment to the Christmas parcel (5)

Winners of prize puzzle 25,820

