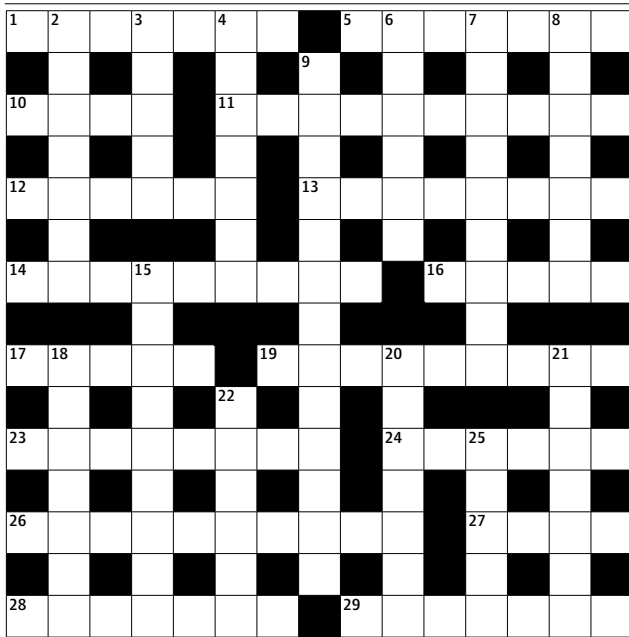


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,964 set by Rufus

Across

- 1 Counter-productive defeat (7)
- 5 They may be pack animals – not mink! (7)
- 10 Bond, an agent with sticking power (4)
- 11 Game boss producing good position for expansion (10)
- 12 Islam's enigmatic religious book (6)
- 13 Indian state capital (8)
- 14 A setback – very sad to get upset about it (9)
- 16 Musical box for a sailor? (5)
- 17 Facilitated a seed's germination (5)
- 19 Pen and fold into an envelope (9)
- 23 Stretches toward us, in a way (5,3)
- 24 An extra modest sort of dance? (2,4)
- 26 A brave line to adopt (6,4)
- 27 For centuries they ignored America (4)
- 28 Stupidity of trying to alter destiny? (7)
- 29 Had ambitions for a high place in the church in the Christian era (7)

Down

- 2 Got together and improved (7)
- 3 Drug addicts employ various ruses (5)
- 4 Roughly repairs shoes or roads (7)

- 6 What water pipes should be kept behind? (6)
- 7 His cattle wandered on the track, perhaps (9)
- 8 Not a word for a win on the way (7)
- 9 State it is lent, hence restitution is required (13)
- 15 Highly-sought after rock plant (9)
- 18 Fix the score to suit the players (7)
- 20 Steps taken by riders meeting in a point-to-point encounter (7)
- 21 A cause of repeated ill-feeling (7)
- 22 One may play it – and one may get licked (6)
- 25 Animated youngster in book given limited scope (5)

Winners of prize puzzle 25,957

