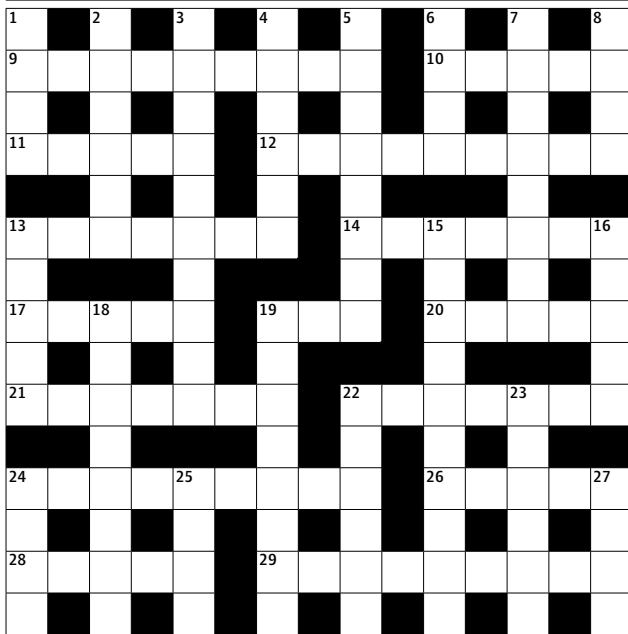


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,008 set by Brendan

Across

- 9** Intermediary's game gamble with small gain, ultimately (2-7)
10 Arab returning very shortly (5)
11 Container for drink – physicist dropping his first one (5)
12 Work of German long involved with Rhine (9)
13 Person serving is 24 across in terms of 1 in play (7)
14 President, embracing conflict, put in post again? (7)
17 Lassie's way of operating newspaper (5)
19 Line to support the 24 across of this puzzle (3)
20 Honour, or bestower of one (5)
21 Return of gold craze in this country (7)
22 Caught by flexible vine, say (7)
24 Part of 10 or 21, or 22 down 14, or 4, 9, 23, or 28 (9)
26 Maiden appearing in one garment or another (5)
28 Spy, perhaps, engaged in gathering information (5)
29 Infernal paintings are in one shade of brown (9)

Down

- 1** Times and Guardian editors selected leaders therefrom (4)
2 Is able, stupidly, to let oneself down (6)
3 Acting as locum in partnership, where it's often requested (8,2)
4 In school, person who gives out wooden ruler (6)
5 As one proceeds aboard the stagecoach (2,3,3)

- 6** Rent that's held by mediator, normally (4)
7 Union initially increasing cost of transport tenfold (8)
8 Majority shareholder put up new work of art (4)
13 City's co-founder turned up in ancient region (5)
15 This leads in pace in races, quite strangely (10)
16 Benefactor's name inscribed in entrance (5)
18 English doctor cut into cardinal, say, and effected cure (8)
19 Insect making good tomato awfully hard (4,4)
22 Minimal change in US in relation to moderate position (6)
23 Negotiator crushed spirit of resistance (6)
24 Substance team-mate, before or after break, abused (4)
25 Take part, more than once, in theatrical Othello, though reluctant (4)
27 Religious leader, follower of Martin Luther (4)

Solution No. 26,007

