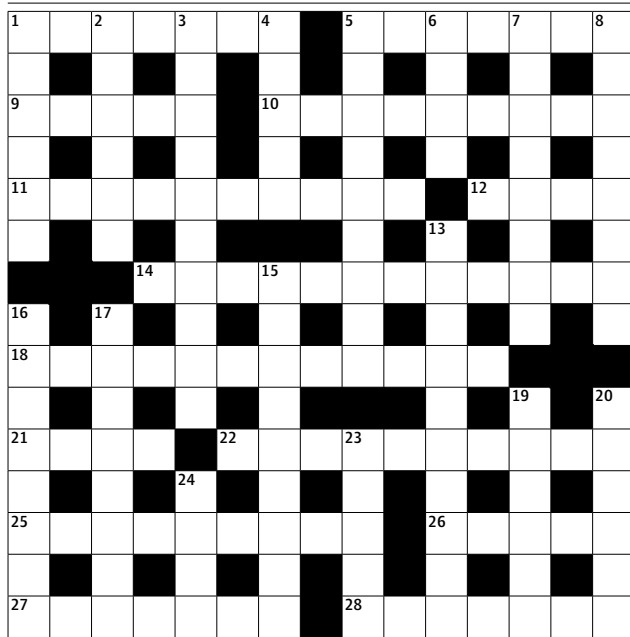


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,040 set by Paul

Across

- 1 Island with flipping immaculate religious sects (2,5)
- 5 Flash not very bright, introducing copper for a bit (7)
- 9 Dye covering very tiny bone (5)
- 10 Openers in on a sticky wicket, one perhaps 65 not out? (9)
- 11 Conservative reform curtailed, it's reported (10)
- 12 Half-cut, take before eleven – one of these? (4)
- 14 No getting out of it? (4,8)
- 18 Housing payment squeezing poet, then one accommodated by friend, so lucky (12)
- 21 Injected into moose, the seed of Adam (4)
- 22 My love test, we hear, has failed (10)
- 25 Pure girl a bit square, ultimately (4-5)
- 26 Smooth and clean before rear wiped in conclusion (5)
- 27 Reserve occupies bench by ten Tranmere Rovers defenders, all the backs (7)
- 28 Bishop drinking whiskey with solver, unemotional (3-4)

Down

- 1 Meeting welcoming late arrivals? (6)
- 2 Uniform worn for looking after horses? (6)

- 3 Cute lips break up, it is subcutaneous inflammation (10)
- 4 I see record's broken for classical character (5)
- 5 Make team, perhaps, a pie filling (9)
- 6 Murder racket, ring implicated (2,2)
- 7 After a catastrophe, sanction shelters (8)
- 8 Bird with extremes of effort becoming disciplinarian (8)
- 13 Certainly small hot cakes after a turnover for Scottish dance (10)
- 15 That blooming song from The Sound of Music! (9)
- 16 A topless orgy for Paul and his mates (8)
- 17 Resort shortly welcoming English inn (8)
- 19 Passed cold wind maybe (4,2)
- 20 High as a cherry? (6)
- 23 Change country, heading off over Germany (5)
- 24 Root removed from flower, too dainty (4)

Solution No. 26,039

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