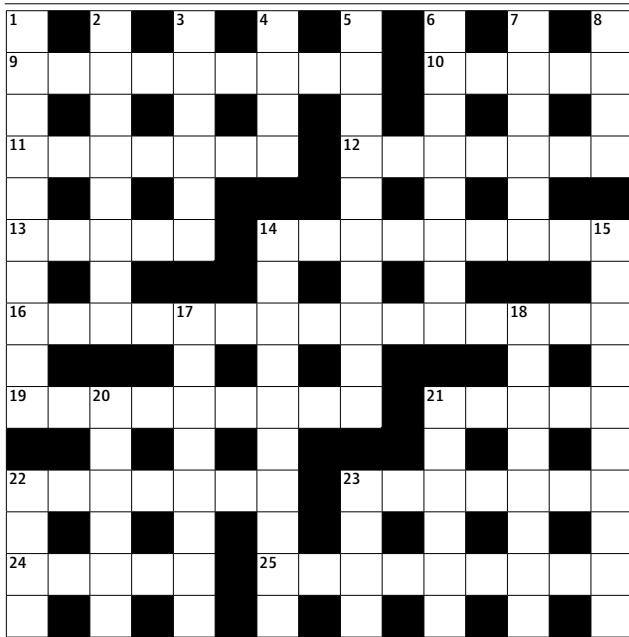


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,084 set by Brendan

Across

- 9** What yachtsmen hoist, getting drunk in this local? (9)
- 10** Back only positive part of 24 – that’s curious (5)
- 11** They’re used to create curls and waves (7)
- 12** Aim the wrong way in total stupidity (7)
- 13** First part of Julius Caesar, for example, as opposed to 21 down (5)
- 14** Doctor read notes and responded sympathetically (9)
- 16** Government official’s rewritten trite manifestos (8,2,5)
- 19** Partnership in company – a majority shareholder secures it (9)
- 21** Conclusions of inquiry the press judge ridiculous, as opposed to 4 (5)
- 22** Short of editor at work, cutting back information (7)
- 23** Former tennis star, as seen repeatedly falling into net, oddly (7)
- 24** Poet who *might* have written “Do I contradict myself?” (5)
- 25** Catches, say, in safer nets at sea (9)
- 5** How to say “no”, using digital signal? (6,4)
- 6** They avoid controversy? Yes and no, possibly (8)
- 7** Saying “yes” in the form posted (6)
- 8** Regards as English, indeed (4)
- 14** Language used by female in bank, speaking rapidly (7,3)
- 15** Fashionable judgment shown by doctor on a lot of points (5,5)
- 17** Extremely polished attempts written about in time (8)
- 18** Relieved when artist turned up outside university (8)
- 20** Nocturnal animal, as opposed to 22 down? (3-3)
- 21** They never oppose head of state in republic (3-3)
- 22** 4, something to be avoided (2-2)
- 23** As we hear, the opposite of 8 – it’s between them (4)

Winners of prize puzzle 26,077

Down

- 1** Like a great number that’s so romantic being ruined (10)
- 2** Queen provided lover for soldier (8)
- 3** Show? Yes and no (6)
- 4** Having odd deficiencies, uncovers negatives (4)

