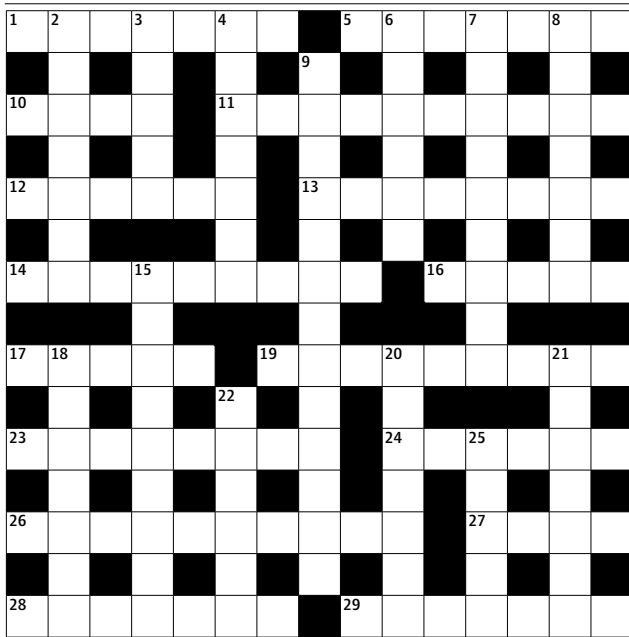


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,179 set by Rufus

Across

- 1 Essay is about old play by Shakespeare, for example (7)
- 5 Squander food (7)
- 10 Jet fighters? (4)
- 11 He's likely to look out for inexpensive fish (10)
- 12 Work hard to complete a butt (3,3)
- 13 Soundest form of exports (5,3)
- 14 A good place to see the stars come out (5,4)
- 16 Prevent animal swallowing the tin-opener (5)
- 17 Separate audition is held for a role (5)
- 19 The Easter Rising? (9)
- 23 Surprise shots in a melee (8)
- 24 It's normally found at the foot of the column (6)
- 26 He hasn't made the First XI (7,3)
- 27 Celebrity of American extraction (4)
- 28 Removal time guaranteed (7)
- 29 Carriage axle bush, for instance (7)

Down

- 2 An animal must have some means of defence (7)
- 3 We'd be lost without him! (5)
- 4 Determined detectives in action (7)
- 6 Regret past evil or heartless present, perhaps? (6)
- 7 Make moves to raise one's standing? (4,5)
- 8 Appear very interested, then change employment (7)
- 9 Firm plan for retirement? (7,6)
- 15 Mouth-watering church decorations (9)
- 18 Following hostilities, struggle after job (4-3)
- 20 Cost of stocking river with birds (7)
- 21 Old Empire which, lacking arms, lacks backing (7)
- 22 Surgeon reveals inclination about getting a rise (6)
- 25 What could be finer to conclude? (5)

Winners of prize puzzle 26,172

