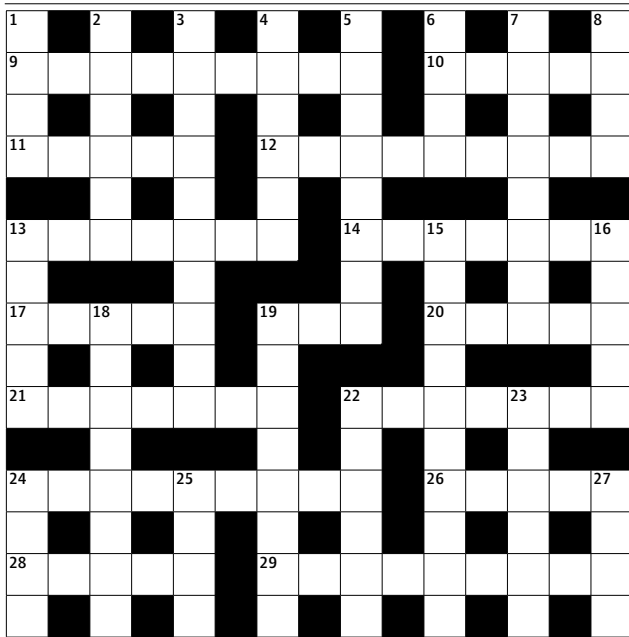


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,209 set by Brendan

Across

- 9 Old verse penned by some rulers in parts of Ireland (9)
 10 Bird's nest found in country area put back (5)
 11 Duke, libertine, sailor, MP and knight (5)
 12 Rascals taking naps sleep badly (9)
 13 Left thrown in fight – Paddy's harmless nonsense (7)
 14 Appointed as agent, as expressed in legal document (7)
 17,22 Legendary snake handler, in past, contrived a deception (5,7)
 19 So-called teacher of Irish trimmed back (3)
 20 Piece of jewellery one found in ancient site near Dublin (5)
 21 Queen preserved, in a way – turned into mythological heroine (7)
 22 See 17
 24 Emerging forcefully from hot Irish capital in fall (9)
 26 Limerick's next for this English poet (5)
 28 Incensed as Irish scoffed (5)
 29 Poverty observed, going west – has food taken in (9)

- 6 Cheer up with piano that's traditionally played in Ireland (4)
 7 Teenager's drunk non-alcoholic drink suitable for today? (5,3)
 8 Irish tax that's somewhat excessive (4)
 13 Attached to foundation since being retired? (5)
 15 Piece of 1 in container – cooked it with a chop (6,4)
 16 Row after daughter had a Guinness, say (5)
 18 For instance, Shaw creating non-U flower person (8)
 19 Irish pubs feeling incomplete without barmaid (8)
 22 Illicit stuff has power over young person (6)
 23 Statement Dorian Gray didn't make put in picture (6)
 24 Guardian, for example, hasn't finished making house in Ireland (4)
 25 Traditional Irish dish in Wild West (4)
 27 Conversed in old language? Just the opposite (4)

Winners of prize puzzle 26,202

Down

- 1 Staple food in second and last course reduced (4)
 2 Boy present for a musical performance (6)
 3 Remained dormant in Ireland after one's left with Edward (10)
 4 Indication of agreement a company set up for playwright (6)
 5 18, for example, I malign (8)

