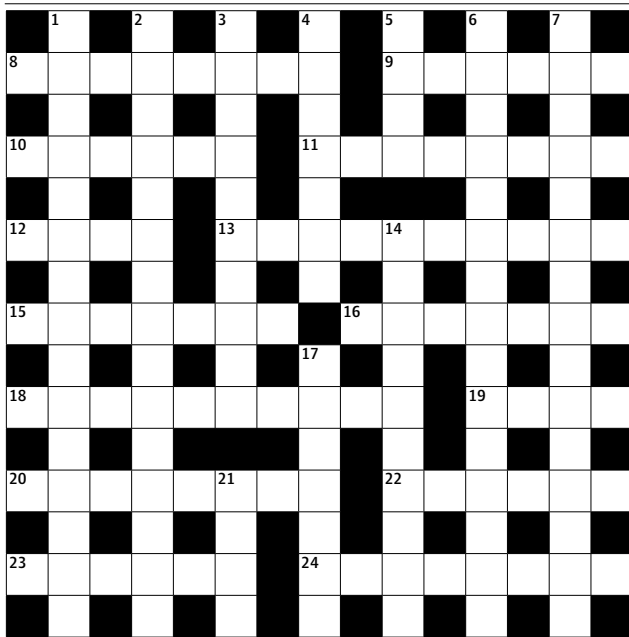


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,239 set by Rufus

Across

- 8 In-joke about Southern rustic (8)
- 9 Sound conductor of works by Schubert (6)
- 10 He joins up in the heat of the moment (6)
- 11 A copper-lined box produced with precision (8)
- 12 Thrash in return game (4)
- 13 Royals in Chinese capital surrounded by crowds (10)
- 15 They're often cast as tug-of-war team members (7)
- 16 Leisure period gets cancelled (4,3)
- 18 Appropriate change of accent is made (10)
- 19 Port in a bottle (4)
- 20 Beaten by Noah's son and only daughter (8)
- 22 Aunt about to get a distinction in Indian dance (6)
- 23 They are in the market for theatre seats (6)
- 24 Think again about seas breaking over ship (8)

Down

- 1 How returning space travellers have to

- adjust to reality? (4,4,2,5)
- 2 Leader of the house? (4,2,3,6)
- 3 Uncast replacements? (5,5)
- 4 Unrecognised but no doubt patient (7)
- 5 State obstruction to an alliance (4)
- 6 Further instruction in drinking? (9,6)
- 7 "Variable after a shower" etc? (7,8)
- 14 Airman and crew involved in conflict (7,3)
- 17 Criticise girl for releasing the evils of the world? (7)
- 21 Speed of light (4)

Winners of prize puzzle 26,232

