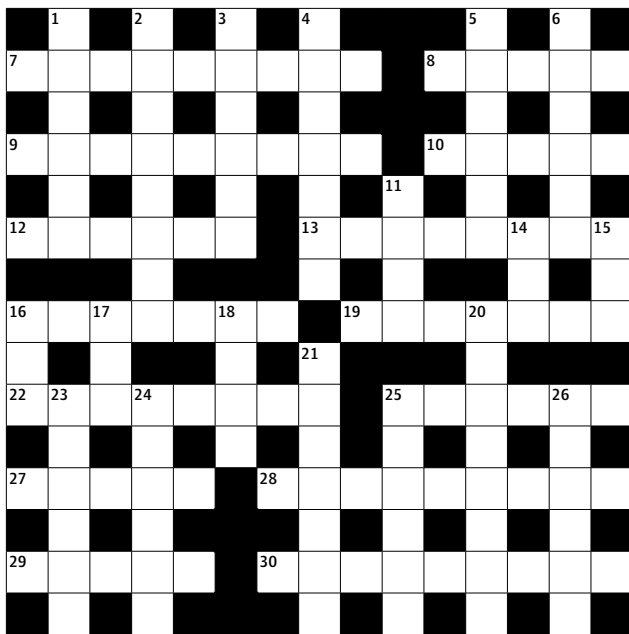


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,859 set by Arachne

Across

- 7 Letter from Scotsman in POW camp returned (9)
 8 An hour and two thirds to dress Posh Spice (5)
 9 Erotic dancing over seven month time period aiding childbirth (9)
 10 It should be impossible to pick husband largely on chum's tip (5)
 12 Ignore wife in labour, longing to be back in Scottish islands (6)
 13 Cockney retained or kept old soap from the '90s (8)
 16 Antlers composed of bone (7)
 19 Taken aback by a boring legal document, one listing goods (7)
 22 More 3 in job scene, reportedly (8)
 25 One in pursuit of raw meat dish (6)
 27 Runs off and weds, unclothed and hungry (5)
 28 Clue 9 as "eccentric economist's acolyte" (9)
 29 Run away from stiff brush (5)
 30 Church loves to plug support for education (9)

Down

- 1 Sheepish labourer, first to bathe in the sea at Calais (6)
 2 Perhaps catch nothing, upset about cricket practice (8)
 3 Despicable file they have finally redacted twice (6)
 4 Ban organisation over rackets involving drug and spirits (7)

- 5 Source gold after gold filling falls out of tooth (6)
 6 Partly believes in Badger, storybook hero! (6)
 11 Thought Gide gag no good at all (4)
 14,17 Like inhaling air in northern French city (6)
 15 Cry for attention close to waterfall animated Olive (3)
 16 Anti-corruption agency as of now regularly failing (3)
 17 See 14
 18 Article read aloud for Queen (4)
 20 Loveless lad is left confused and alone (2,6)
 21 County evacuated after historic forest fire (7)
 23 Judge supporting embargo on outsize instruments (6)
 24 Bottom of league in Cheshire and East Lancashire? (6)
 25 Pointless snooker shot from John Higgins's sixth frame of Open (6)
 26 Got to know sailors in leathers, half-cut (6)

Solution No. 26,858

