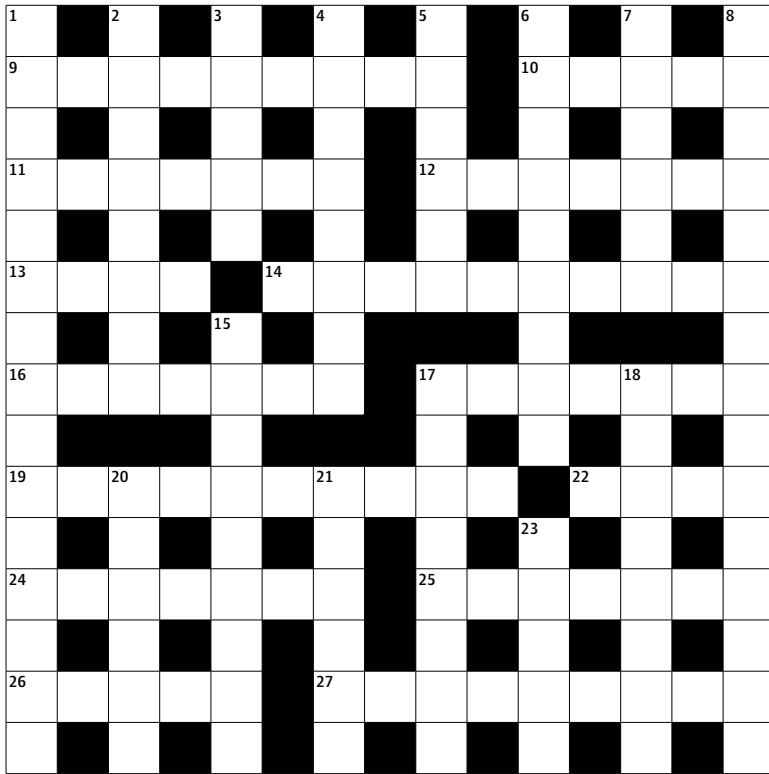


Guardian cryptic crossword No 29,990 set by Brummie



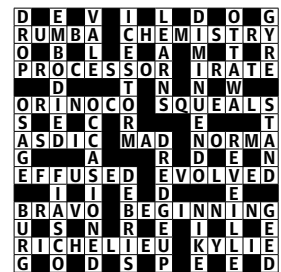
Across

- 9 Zero protection for organ (not ball) - almost a disaster? (4,5)
- 10 Relation following victory parade (5)
- 11 Reward of author, King and his ilk? (7)
- 12 English river on right of coach party (7)
- 13 Male circle backed out of fancy ball ceremony (4)
- 14 One who might not, however, buy the idea they were compulsive? (10)
- 16 Curved air passage round centre of Slough (7)
- 17 Blunder, caging wingless bird as a zoo attraction? (7)
- 19 Songfest combining money with fantasy (10)
- 22 New York's bottom, turning humble (4)
- 24 Boxer supports another course? (7)
- 25 Wine means the world to the French (7)
- 26 Elbow's exposed outside gown's opening (5)
- 27 Address of poor mug with one loo (9)

Down

- 1 Plain stewed prune being like spirit? (15)
- 2 He fancies his chances as a version of Dylan Thomas (tho' lacking) (5,3)
- 3 Lifted a garment (5)
- 4 Offender of Zeus's son is grimly pushy (8)
- 5 Say doctor's confiscated copper breakfast container? (6)
- 6 Past Hirst works that might be put on (9)
- 7 Misuse of umlaut is common (6)
- 8 One who exaggerates agent's role in getting player off the pitch (9-6)
- 15 Party competed to secure East Coast state? Sure (9)
- 17 Look into playing online after sundown (8)
- 18 Cooler and relaxed? Try dance (8)
- 20 Old advice about concealed earthworks entrances: 'Get back!' (6)
- 21 Picture framing mother's climbing plant (6)
- 23 Sailor finally is into top sea food (5)

Solution No. 29,989



The first five correct entries drawn each week win a copy of **The Language Lover's Puzzle Book** by Alex Bellos

Entries to: The Guardian Crossword No 29,990,
P.O. Box 17566, Birmingham, B33 3EZ, or Fax to 0121-742 1313 by Friday. Solution and winners in The Guardian on Monday 4 May.