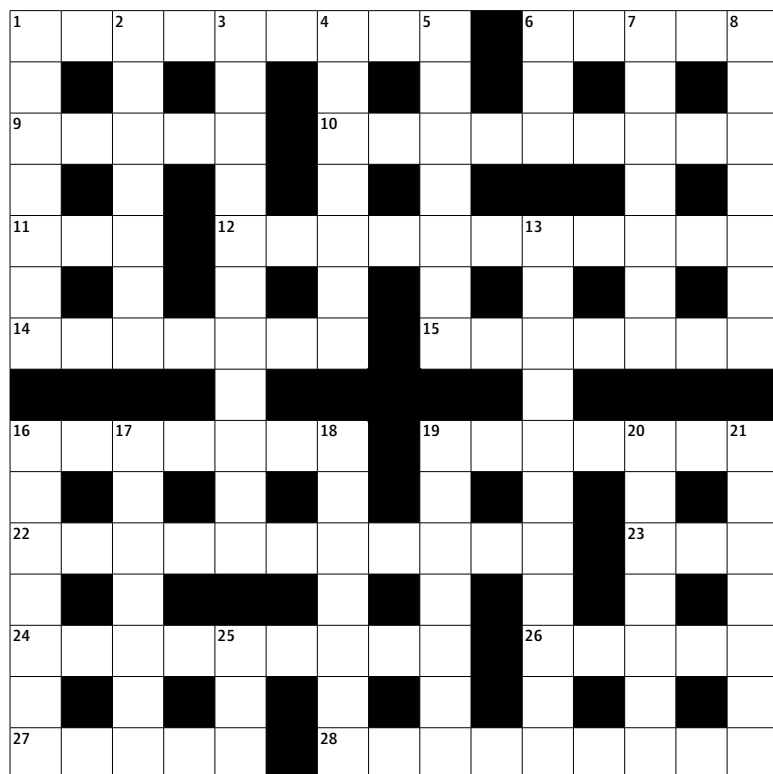


Guardian cryptic crossword No 30,046 set by Imogen



Across

- 1 Congratulations, having lofted sixes, almost? (4,5)
- 6 Tease bird a small distance off (5)
- 9 Disaster, going after black bear (5)
- 10 Manipulate voting arrangement, cancelling all-out rally in plant (9)
- 11 Princess on stage may sound like a duck (3)
- 12 Unfortunately still barely functioning as an example (11)
- 14 Academy halved deficit in grand house (7)
- 15 Detectives are liable to exaggerate (7)
- 16 More grim to be nearly naked (7)
- 19 Youngster with *Guardian* wanting whiskey in pubs shows guts (7)
- 22 Bizarrely we envy almost all that's horrible in author (6,5)
- 23 One checks whistleblower in French department (3)
- 24 Wendy's theatre? (9)
- 26 Under way a short distance (5)
- 27 Foreign character doctor found in shape (5)
- 28 Opposite of gauche, that missing husband in spa town (9)

Down

- 1 Ferret wounded small creatures in a hole (7)
- 2 Try united batter and stew (7)
- 3 Social gathering vital for one

- usually on laptop (8,3)
- 4 Selective eaters may have struggles to eat this protein? (7)
- 5 Had accommodation across river, then wandered off (7)
- 6 Agency's brief goodbye (3)
- 7 Bail due to be reviewed in hearing (7)
- 8 Having crossed river, shot by arrow in the head, and left like this? (3,4)
- 13 Despairing, how 'miserable' becomes me (6,5)
- 16 Spy's simple earring (7)
- 17 Way back, wise guy's first to drop a board game (4,3)
- 18 Turned back, taking opposite directions in circle (7)
- 19 Happening before delivery to change routine (2,5)
- 20 Run a brief fiddle making pasta (7)
- 21 A way to heave and strain (7)
- 25 Partner dropping by in centre of activity (3)

Solution No. 30,045

