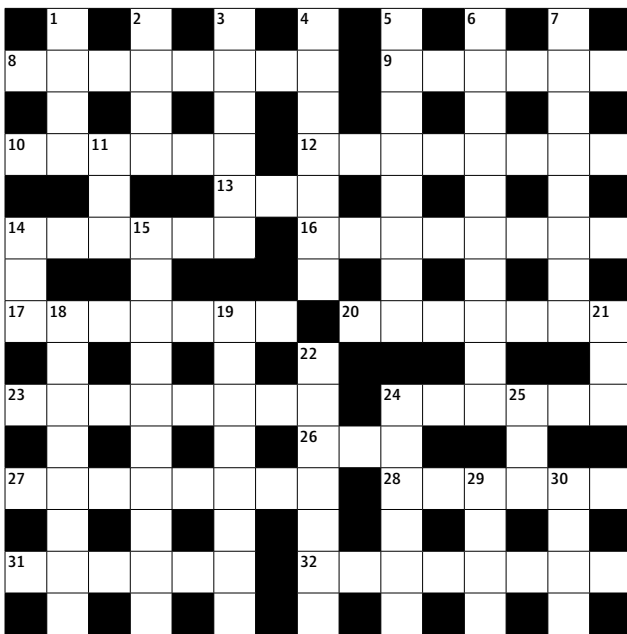


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 27,004 set by Puck

The first five correct entries drawn each week win Guardian Style and Secrets of the Setters, worth £28.99.

Entries to: The Guardian Crossword No 27,004, P.O. Box 6603, Birmingham, B26 3PR, or Fax to 0121-742 1313 by first post on Friday. Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday 10 October.

Across

- 8 Clean sheet after playing against City (8)
 9 Fish in sea, side by side (6)
 10 Hospital ring doctor in Iran about lozenges (6)
 12 Bridges, perhaps, behind schedule crossing a river (8)
 13 See 14 down
 14 Tiny bit drunk (6)
 16 Extensive opus is a composer's first output (8)
 17 Film about composer's grave (7)
 20 With this gym equipment, starts working out? (7)
 23 Bloomer made by demure female (8)
 24 Puck's mate, a horny beast (6)
 26 See 14 down
 27 Last rites performed by a third curate in short time (8)
 28 Row about daughters' scam? (6)
 31 Puerto Rican gang has former bodyguards to listen in (6)
 32 Reporter recalled rubbish article paper finally published (8)

Down

- 1 Cut top off gum tree (4)
 2 Halt baseball team's rise (4)
 3 Motherless cat's reason for visiting dentist? (6)
 4 Wild sex, so heartlessly cruel this pair might have been rowing (7)

- 5 A friend keeps motherless cat with tip of tail cut off (8)
 6 Native American penguin population starts increasing slowly in number (8,2)
 7 Reservations to see film Red (8)
 11 See 14
 14,11,26,25,13,21 Book Pam's meeting with Ed? (3,3,3,3,3,3)
 15 Men stray? I'd suspect explosive outcomes from their goings-on (10)
 18 Tune by drunk, having no weaknesses (8)
 19 Display sort of cow, as seen in novel (8)
 21 See 14
 22 Three males in Gabon, skirting the border? On the contrary (7)
 24 Weak batting partnership? (6)
 25 See 14
 29 Uninteresting fish? That's about right (4)
 30 John Major's beginning to appear vaguely threatening (4)

Solution No. 27,003

