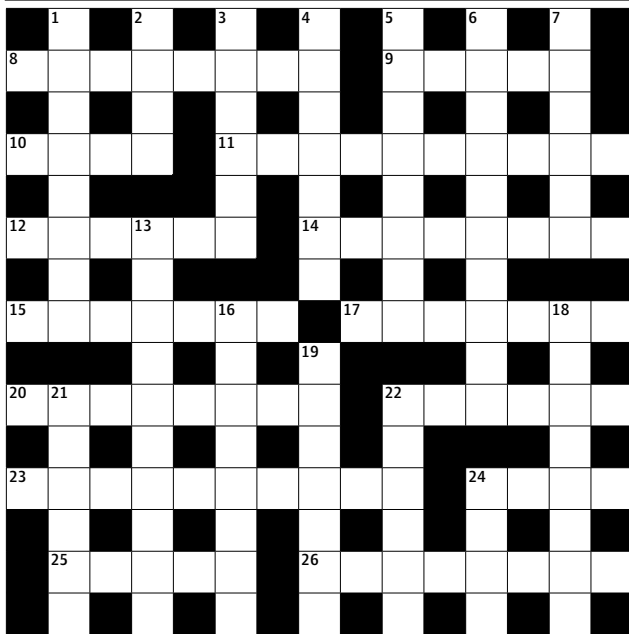


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 24,997 set by Paul

Across

- 8** Supporting front of tarpaulin, gets filthy stick out (8)
9,14 Girl looking at something saucy (5,8)
10 Move quickly, bringing first of contraband into the south of France (4)
11 Within such, the madness of maniac fits? (10)
12 Dog's coat (6)
14 See 9
15 Old joke starts to get embarrassing, so delete (7)
17 Spray a painful back with cold contents (7)
20 Right to enter claim with name which provokes a reaction (8)
22 Imagine holding pose, showing box (6)
23 What the very thin girl eats – to get fat? (10)
24 Patient's chest (4)
25 While hidden, shoot bird (5)
26 Note on flier, inconsequential communication (4-4)

Down

- 1** Cross about mongrel showing up, if one must get cross (8)
2,3 Boss taking the cake, as man on Muscle Beach? (10)

- 4** Important to retain office, standing under new US president (7)
5 Sweatier pants, so to speak (2,2,4)
6 Primarily baker can't cook, perhaps, where accidents waiting to happen? (5,5)
7 Inventive mind is working under Rusbridger, say (6)
13 Purpose in very warm weather to ensure no squatting indoors? (5-5)
16 Giant character decapitated ambitious type (2-6)
18 Old poem, like "Far Away"? (8)
19 Turkish city drifting to China (7)
21 Sumptuous, like a throne room? (6)
22 In which old prostitutes going about upside-down clinches (6)
24 Tilt item with hands, dropping left (4)

Solution No. 24,996

O	F	F	E	N	S	I	V	E	I	S	L	E			
V	U	O	C	Q	B	P	U								
E	N	D	O		E	R	U	D	I	T	I	O	N		
R	G	I	B	A	N	T	I								
C	L	E	A	N	S	E	T	R	A	F	F	I	C		
O		S	R	O	R	I	E								
M	O	R	N	I	N	G	P	R	A	Y	E	R			
E	E	T					N	E	P						
			D	O	U	B	L	E	C	R	O	S	S	E	R
O	S	A	A	O	T										O
F	I	E	S	T	A	S	C	H	A	T	T	E	R		
F	T	I	A	O	T	A	O								
C	O	T	T	O	N	G	I	N	I	C	I	N	G		
U	E	N	N	U	O	G	U								
T	I	R	E				E	X	T	E	N	U	A	T	E