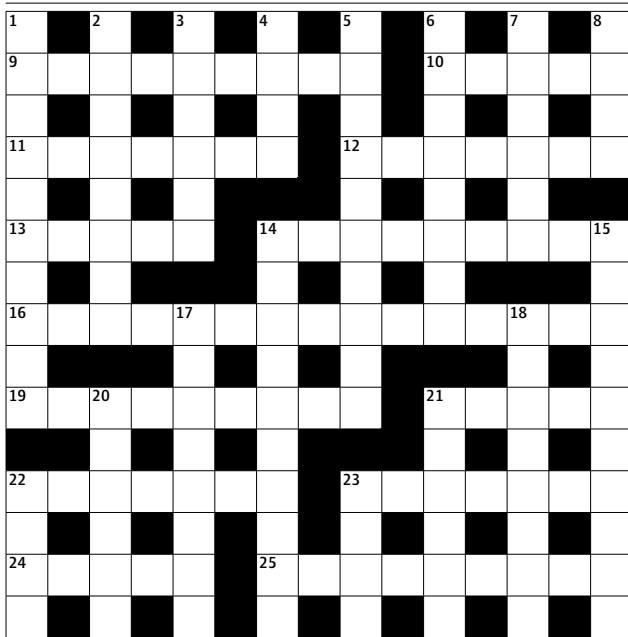


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,448 set by Paul

The first five correct entries drawn each week win Guardian Style and A Clue to our Lives, worth £23.98.

Entries to: The Guardian Crossword No 25,448, 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 17 October.

Across

- 9 Old, posh eejit, blaspheming father, duped (9)
 10 Tory leader once, Howard's only leader fit (5)
 11 Hit, ears may be glowing (7)
 12 South American author's ultimate brand? (7)
 13 The stealing individual, first to filch? (5)
 14 Chinese eating a McDonald's in North America runs for the country (3,6)
 16,15 Unusual story done with usual hero, defined as work of 12 (3,7,5,2,8)
 19,3,22 Work of 12, novel with heroic theme, if a lot tormented (4,2,3,4,2,7)
 21 Bit of a bloomer sending dead penguin's head back (5)
 22 See 19
 23 Cry about vacant top event (4-3)
 24,22down What one should put on English ship, fish among red nuts (5,4)
 25 Book taken (9)

Down

- 1 Author's written up hideous creation, paper not for reading! (6,4)
 2 Male in agony, drug is poison (8)
 3 See 19
 4 Let it be bitten by priest, ethically (4)
 5 Couple with little on credit (4,3,3)
 6 Drug dealers taking heroin into Italian city, then Cyprus (8)
 7 Topping French dish, ideal starter – large rodent! (6)
 8 Motor manufacturer taking up the second area, nothing less (4)
 14 Team numbers achieving draws away (10)
 15 See 16
 17 Everything is about heaven-bound clergyman in melody, save the introduction (8)
 18 Primate glugging Pinot madly, not the official pontiff! (8)
 20 Plant I fed to rodent, ending in cat (6)
 21 Upper chamber all zonked out, rather pitifully, all starting to rise (6)
 22 See 24
 23 Odious chap having a pop (4)

Solution No. 25,447

