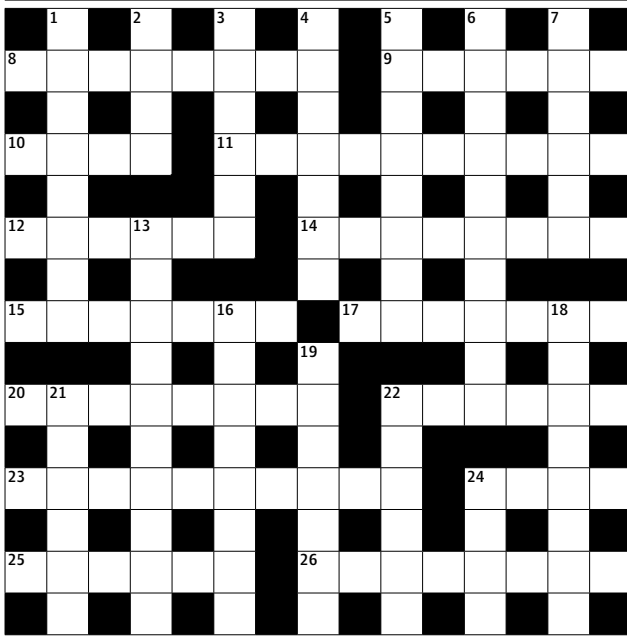


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,690 set by Bonxie

Across

- 8** Aide to Republican Party previously giving capital (4,4)
9 One taking turns to provide new machinery (6)
10 Confuse leader moving tool (4)
11 Provoke rage placing old tree in van (10)
12 Current directors sign agreement in backwater (6)
14 Late rush to find a course where there are no trees (8)
15 Cooked himself tongue (7)
17 Giant pig carries dog back (7)
20 Does tail wag when cut off? (8)
22 Shoot Nationalist leader inside vault (6)
23 Scotch is complex and sweet without ice (4,6)
24 Speculator making first trade during slump (4)
25 Texture of a brick bridge (6)
26 Business ladies take Circle Line to river (8)

Down

- 1** Most important queen the last to be beheaded (8)
2 Stray dog lacks tail (4)
3 Skips pickled food (6)
4 Boot out airman caught entering Virginia, say (7)
5 Close friend given key before move (5,3)
6 Crowd round pub ride off with soldier (10)
7 He rings bell running through Essex to Norfolk (6)
13 Top speller led elephant outside lesson (10)
16 Team work on free kick routine (3,5)
18 Sat and drank round holding these (8)
19 Pretend to pack smart dress with a foreign rider (7)
21 One might pick this to set a red gem (6)
22 Constitutional paper needs second amendment (6)
24 Red Army unit once trapped ringleader (4)

Solution No. 25,689

J	A	C	K	A	S	S	K	N	U	C	K	L	E
P	A	T	M	E	H	U							
S	P	A	R	O	V	E	R	C	H	A	R	G	E
L	M	K	A	T	R	S							
R	A	V	A	G	E	L	E	A	P	E	A	R	
U			R	S	R	B	I						
A	D	M	I	S	S	I	O	N	A	D	U	L	T
			L										
A	G	I	L	E	O	W	N	E	R	S	H	I	P
L	G	A	H	M									N
C	A	N	O	D	L	E	P	E	R	I	S	H	
C	T	O	E	O	A	U							
B	I	T	T	E	R	B	L	O	W	T	E	L	L
E	E	E	S	E	I	A							
G	R	E	N	A	D	E	A	R	M	O	U	R	Y