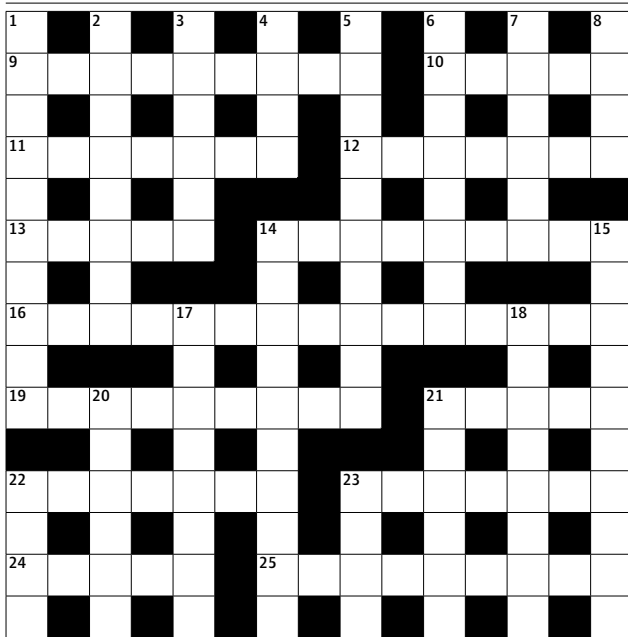


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,734 set by Paul

Across

- 9** Row – create waves, the key to come first (9)
10 Expected to fail in record time (5)
11 Loot published before bed (7)
12,22 23 24's year? (3,4,7)
13 Ambition to cut the crap (5)
14 Someone picking half a nut with mint coating, herb at the centre (4,5)
16 Great lyric, trad song, not a new song by 23 24 (3,5,4,3)
19 Reserve shown by setter, perhaps, as speaker (9)
21 Bull gutted about bloody fight (5)
22 See 12
23,24 Singer managed capital held by one of 12 22, yours truly (7,5)
25 Conservative sold off hospital, aloof about it (3,6)
- 5** Southpaw fifth, if not punching rowing crew? (4-6)
6 See 4
7 The Lone Ranger, perhaps, on popular horse (6)
8 Beginnin* (4)
14 Hypothetical nuclear reaction, if no clouds generated (4,6)
15 Two little boys and setter finding workers' product (5,5)
17 Describing an athlete's drink one drunkard kept for later? Not entirely (8)
18 Impractical brain-warping couple? (8)
20 Bird inferior to budgie's top dog (6)
21 Breakfast food taps arm (6)
22 Island capital, sort of light in it (4)
23 Dog gets to lie with dog, both bottoms wiped (4)

Down

- 1** Wild seabird is stealing heart of dicky bird (6,4)
2 Gorgeous purpose of a taser? (8)
3 23 24's song has the nation on the radio (6)
4,6 In stereo, Eisenhower in Hollywood, song by 23 24 (4,4,1,3)

Solution No. 25,733

