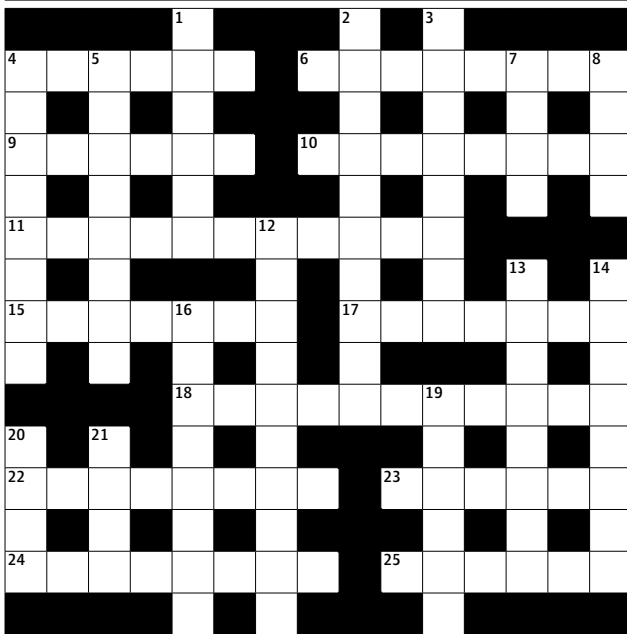


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 25,739 set by Paul

Note added 12 September 2012: The clue for 18 across has been changed from that originally published to correct an error.

Across

- 4 Writer's dog (6)
- 6 Writer is greeting spiritual leader, not entirely old (8)
- 9 Writer, a figure in the red (6)
- 10 Flier, deserter, or a deserting flier? (8)
- 11 Shot directly at a number of farm animals (5,6)
- 15 Writer needs race to stop (7)
- 17 Writer in a cryptic crossword setter (7)
- 18 Attendants semi-dressed, including daughter in plaits (11)
- 22 Dark gold, reversible hat (8)
- 23 Writer's report of fast food (6)
- 24 Aversion evident ultimately in almost total catastrophe (8)
- 25 Writer's report of farm buildings (6)

Down

- 1 School breaks near plant (6)
- 2 Swimming round ship, cat in sea requires help (10)

- 3 Old statesman is taking regular slices of bread into shop (8)
- 4 Bags from which beer initially runs (8)
- 5 Editors, furious about review, finally becoming most unruly (8)
- 7 No more than four, not for opt-out (2,2)
- 8 Writer took risks, to some extent (4)
- 12 Improve material with one gutless novel (10)
- 13 Finally submitting account the wrong way, drinks from Paris and London follow (6,2)
- 14 Luton's foremost orchestra breaking into music etc, a hotchpotch (3-5)
- 16 Dog gets to perform with parent in capital city (8)
- 19 Writer's rodents, one less pale (6)
- 20 All concluding sudoku is done and spent (4)
- 21 Writer improperly abridged (4)

Solution No. 25,738

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