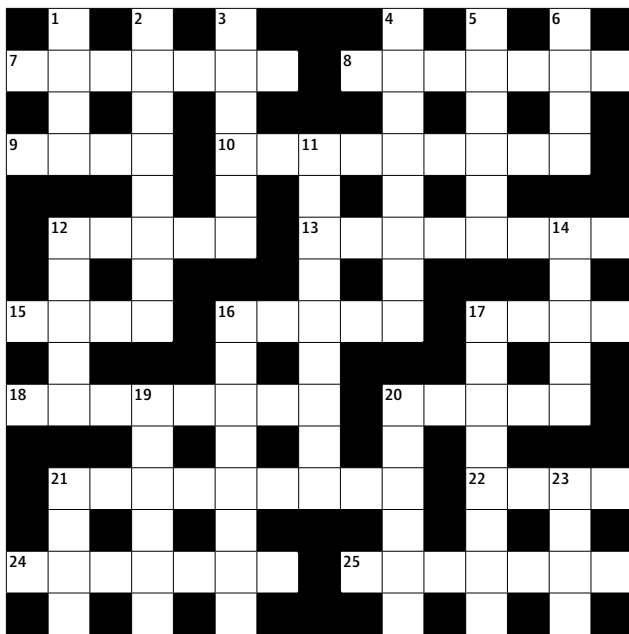


Guardian cryptic crossword



No 26,994 set by Qaos

20 September 2016: at 4 down the spelling has been changed to 'Gardner'

Across

- 7 Cliff diver: "I've taken off backwards on wobbly chair" (7)
 8 '70s prog rock band books castle (7)
 9 Sugar, part of a balanced diet? (4)
 10 European husband, one in Paris again, swims across river (9)
 12 Day cleaning out interior of antechamber gets one in order (5)
 13 Former football manager of Villa and Forest? (8)
 15,23 To restrict opening of safe, secure with key (4,4)
 16 Boy: "Wonder about nickel, boron and gold?" (5)
 17 Gas inhaled by heavy-duty criminal (4)
 18 Dolls waiting in line to be delivered a meal? (8)
 20 See 20 down
 21 Over 90? Badly attired? Get state support! (3,6)
 22 Might he have starred in Carry On Up The Valley? (4)
 24 Southern refined claret is a brilliant red (7)
 25 Exaggerated walk after 1/20th of a pint? (7)

Down

- 1 Last document by Shakespeare (abridged) (4)

- 2 Solo time that's involved in Sunday school songs (8)
 3 Sportsman asks Russian cheats: "Help expose ringleaders" (6)
 4 Gardner's head bears fine American plant (4,4)
 5 About 6, we retire to study (6)
 6 Boy heads? (4)
 11 Complaint? Fans want Spoonerism (9)
 12 Special style of loud hot rock (5)
 14 Some atmosphere at wizard's postcode? (5)
 16 One takes notes, one plays notes (8)
 17 Professional hitter from Edinburgh dismissed – bowled out (5,3)
 19 Fighting dogs? (6)
 20,20across '80s double act taken to extremes? (6 and 5)
 21 No starter with fast food (4)
 23 See 15

Solution No. 26,993

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