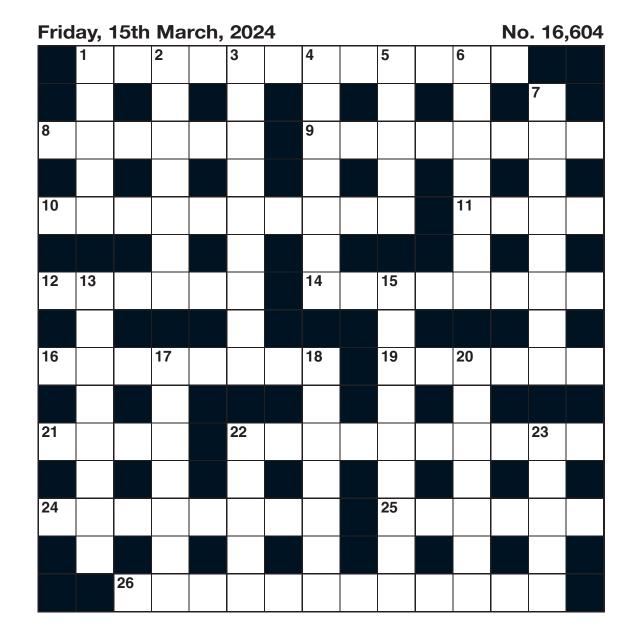
ACROSS

- **1** Poker hand gone immediately (8,4)
- 8 Peasant is curt, unfortunately (6)
- **9** Severe reprimand carried out by chef (8)
- **10** Simplify current job (10)
- **11** French priest always sought at Lourdes (4)
- 12 One old silly fool (6)
- **14** Editor of trash that's extremely desirable (2,3,3)
- 16 Make one melt with a drink (5,3)
- 19 Thief's unusual obsession (6)
- 21 Interior decorator fed fish (4)
- 22 Catch a taxi to get articles on distant beach (10)
- 24 Create confusion after film and so on (2,6)
- 25 Demand part of thin sister (6)
- 26 Unofficial location at the end of 45? (3,3,6)

DOWN

- 1 Dangerous action to impede growth (5)
- 2 Once more take steps to improve the tyre (7)
- **3** Current holder required (9)
- 4 Dwell with first musician (7)
- **5** Saying American lawyer is in time (5)
- 6 Traffic jam announced by newsreader's assistant (7)
- 7 Huge emus on or off (8)
- 13 Give too much praise when gorged, it's said (8)
- **15** Faulty iron, evicted, thrown outside (9)



- 17 Person inwardly breaking nose, pixie (7)
- **18** Calm down primate eating vegetables (7)
- 20 Hot stuff black as wrapped in pancake (7)
- 22 Leading climber has breather on the summit (5)
- 23 Investigated knobbly nodes (5)