CLUES

Across
5  Double rounds ordered primarily by establishment serving drinks — that’s a programme (5–2)
7  Sloppy cowpat in hood (6)
9  Crop, case of beet for contest (8)
10 Communicating concern about country lacking leadership, one visits capital (6)
12  PM somewhat drained, economy in recession (4)
13  Cause to inflate? (4,4,2)
15  Old people, as a precaution, dropping back (5)
16  Drink made from tea leaves (3)
18  Kid sheltering cold duck in apartment, Asian animal (7,3)
19  African confined, borders closed off (4)
21  Well and river running over, producing white tissue (6)
22  Visit Indian river, embracing Ganges finally (2,3,3)
23  Huge trading association ending in liquidation, queen closing large British retailer (6)
24  Fluff — something unspeakable about it harbouring fleas, ultimately (7)

Down
1  Writer died south of French city — brood about it? (7,7)
2  Have relations assuming upset and close to desperation at home in Italian city (11)
3  Briefly stop bird filmed on island — try ringing it (4,3)
4  That study supports paper about gold fibre (12)
6  Hit hard in mouth, getting comeuppance? (4)
8  See 17
9  Religious rite — in essence, bones put on biblical text (3,9)
11  Wry smile about dance, end of tango seeing giant sprawling? (11)
17,14,8 Neighbours in a state caring to admit impatience initially — burdened with mother a saga unfolding (7,3,14)
20  Red Planet discernible in detail, all basically looking to the skies? (4)

Instructions
In Victor Borge’s Inflationary Language ‘four’ and ‘for’, for example, became ‘five’. Eight solutions here contain numbers (or homophones of numbers), which need to be treated in the same way before entry in the grid; the wordplay in their clues is also ‘post–inflationary’.

Deadline for entries is 23:59 GMT on Saturday 4 April. You need to register once and then sign in to theguardian.com to enter our online competition for a £100 monthly prize.