

ACROSS

- 1 Dissertations (6)
 5 Fireguard (6)
 8 Army group (4)
 9 Burst, pierce (8)
 10 Large flat fish with a long barbed tail (8)
 11 Cryptogram (4)
 12 Edible root (6)
 14 Female water-sprite (6)
 16 Bacon fat (4)
 18 One followed by twelve noughts (8)
 20 Heed (4,4)
 21 Adrian ____, Sue Townsend's diarist (4)
 22 Hammerheads, eg (6)
 23 Dialect of Liverpool (6)

DOWN

- 2 Singer nicknamed 'Old Blue Eyes' (7)
 3 __ Villa, Midlands soccer club (5)
 4 Having an irrational fear of the unknown (13)
 5 Dodgy goings-on (5,8)
 6 Observed (7)
 7 Went astray (5)
 13 Britain's largest wild land mammal (3,4)
 15 Asian spaghetti (7)
 17 Almost submerged (5)
 19 Intermediate region of the afterlife (5)

