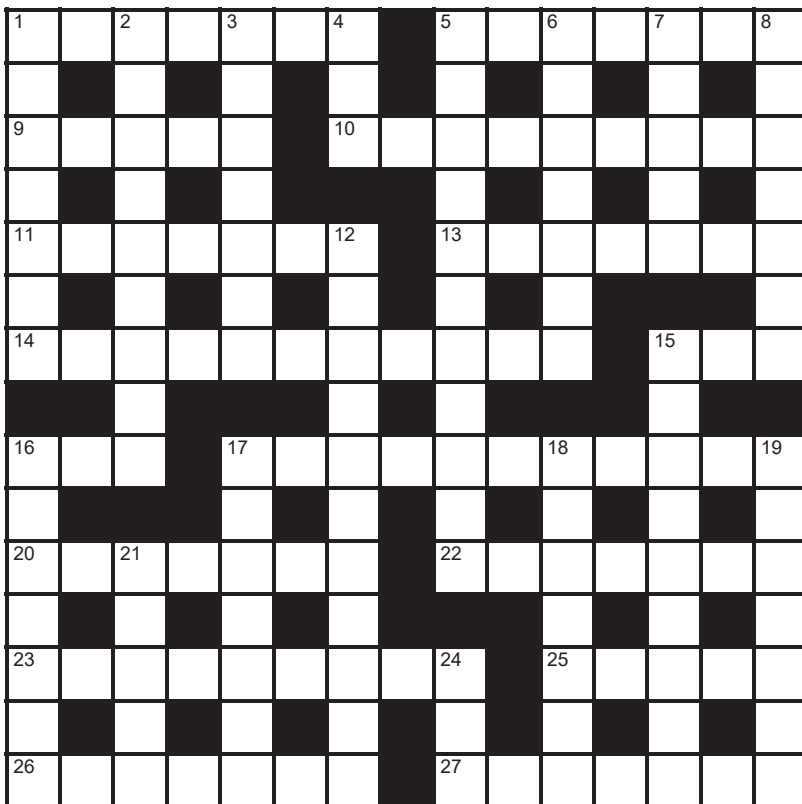


CROSSWORD

No 17,581 Set by MONK



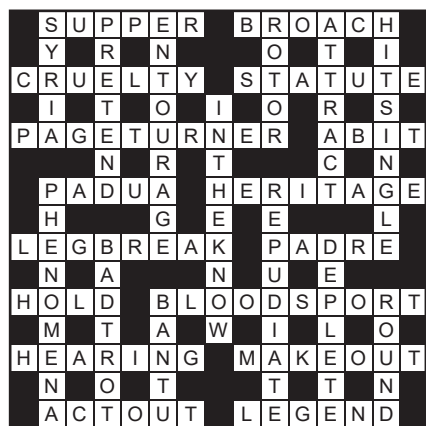
ACROSS

- 1 Bill getting stuck into a trifle — keep going! (7)
- 5 Wingless bird bagged by German and dumped? (7)
- 9 Specialist troops knock back gutted adversaries (5)
- 10 Keen to split what's owed by PE teacher (9)
- 11 Innovation from every direction, three repeatedly (7)
- 13 High-ranking academics, we fear, being denied opening (7)
- 14 Engineer pounds then beats brass (11)
- 15 Nothing at all ultimately gained in passing hobby (3)
- 16 Vast age ends in 127 (3)
- 17 Criminal outraged, ban not repealed in court (11)
- 20 Old film-maker caught in hilly US upland (7)
- 22 Parachutes prankster into Downing Street to begin with (7)
- 23 Irritating nonentity mostly kind about noble status (9)
- 25 Picked up stalls on which pots are made? (5)
- 26 Gets rid of last of felled pines (7)
- 27 Powerful folk, those crowning, inter alia, Charles II and Louis XIV (7)

DOWN

- 1 Draughts possibly holding Peg's bloomers aloft? (7)
- 2 Ruin wrap with feathers (5,4)
- 3 Cut curve around English street (4,3)
- 4 Foolish talk by secretary unknown, on reflection (3)
- 5 Stressed what losing football team must have done (11)
- 6 Stoppages caused by crowd wearing dropped trunks (3,4)
- 7 Woolly complaint undermines Victor (5)
- 8 Force, out of uniform, meeting journalist as arranged (7)
- 12 Mad Manuel regularly sings sad medleys (11)
- 15 Cut it fine, boiling pasta (9)
- 16 Pardoned former leader of cartel took drugs (7)
- 17 Dig up uranium close to thorium (7)
- 18 In which you could plant second line, arguably in silence (4,3)
- 19 Vagrants dress so badly (7)
- 21 Living in America, in a vacuum of sorts? (5)
- 24 Progressive characters seen in 'March for Labour' gathering (3)

Solution 17,580



JOTTER PAD



Scan the QR code to access FT crosswords over the last 30 days — cryptic, Polymath, Weekend and Sunday puzzles — or go to ft.com/crosswordapp