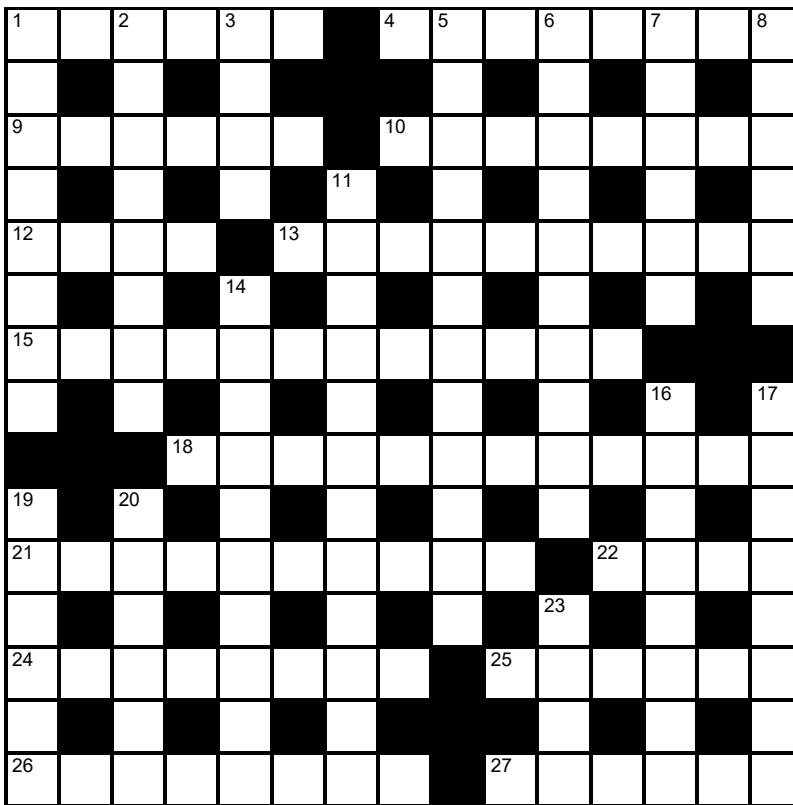


CROSSWORD No 18,262 by MUDD



Solution 18,261



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

ACROSS

- 1 Ascending series, someone increasing number by fifty? (6)
- 4 Vegetables: tots eating every one (8)
- 9 Medicine, assuming in decline, for pick-me-up (6)
- 10 Top place for high-fliers, most like coffee (8)
- 12 Reportedly abandon gesture (4)
- 13 Where dusty old bottles kept, new, I recall, drunk (4,6)
- 15 Never cut by feller in the end, immaculate tree (6,6)
- 18 Variety of large drinks served in court battle (5,7)
- 21 Independent individual behind payment finally invested in footwear (5-5)
- 22 Political movement bites back (4)
- 24 Flying robin with ear that's damaged (8)
- 25 Spice raw, by the sound of it? (6)
- 26 Pounds invested in failing side, put out (8)
- 27 Axe elected scorer (6)

DOWN

- 1 Not eaten, bit of chicken red (4-4)
- 2 Ultimately, daddy hated turning up for childbirth (8)
- 3 Wicked, wicked character needs no introduction (4)
- 5 Pitiful trash ignored in secret negotiations (5-7)
- 6 Rare element warm, nuclei tickled (10)
- 7 Gorgeous topless dresses right too (6)
- 8 Comedy show settled on anger (6)
- 11 Girl admitting magic words gone wrong? (12)
- 14 One is in top spot (10)
- 16 Shoe's failure to turn over? (4-4)
- 17 South American capital warmer in effect, though temperature's dropped (8)
- 19 Key is with locks in first of luggage (6)
- 20 Old Indian city, crazy and wild for the most part (6)
- 23 Old religious leader entering parish, a hermit (4)

JOTTER PAD