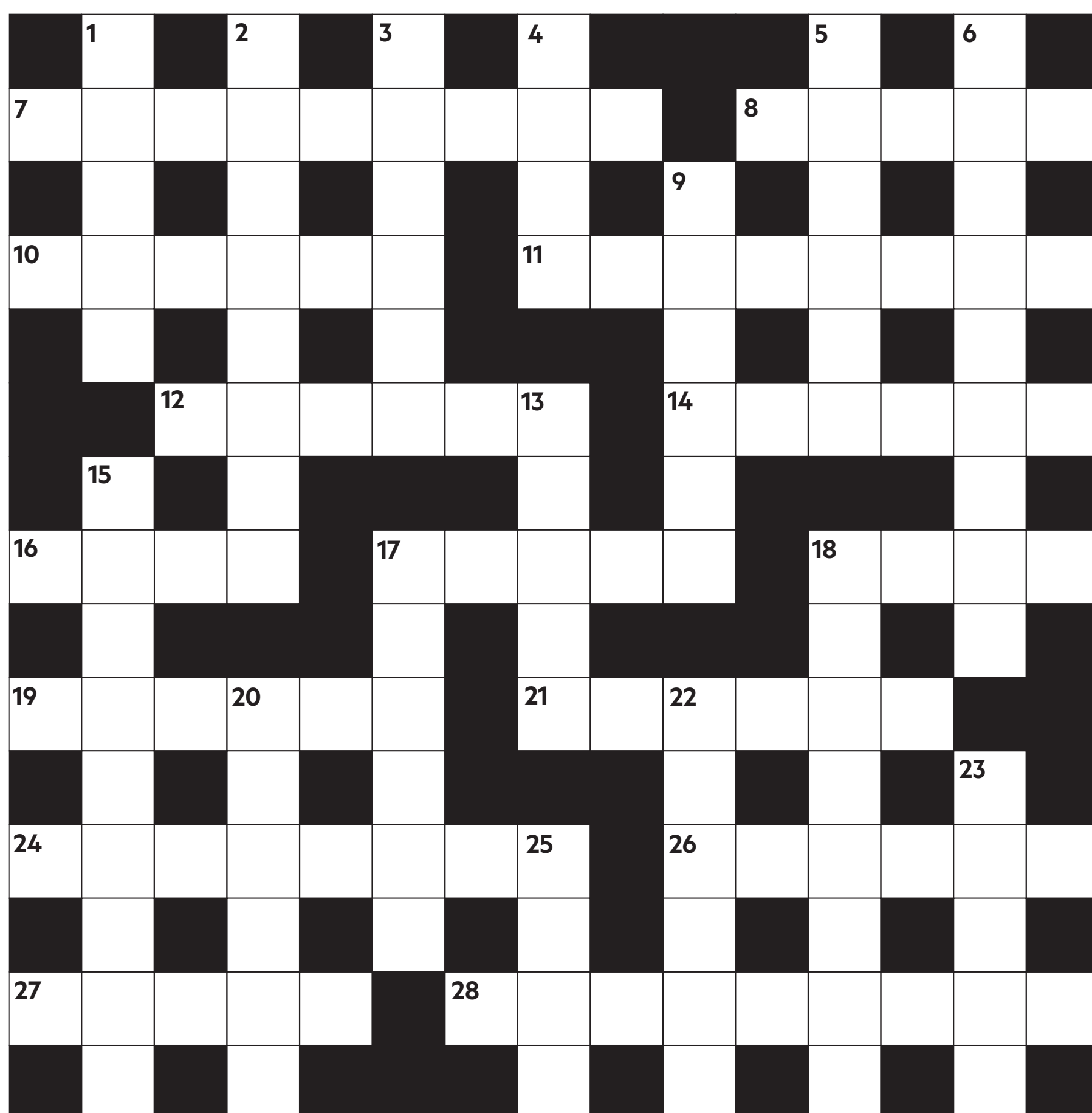


FT Crossword: Weekend Magazine number 542

Set by: Aldhelm



The Across clues are straightforward, while the Down clues are cryptic.

ACROSS

- 7 Animal with horny plates (9)
- 8 Benefactor (5)
- 10 Mind, spirit (6)
- 11 Countrywide (8)
- 12 Social standing (6)
- 14 Fold, pleat (6)
- 16 Travel document (4)
- 17 Vague, unreliable (5)
- 18 Lily-like flowering plant (4)
- 19 Black eye, colloquially (6)
- 21 Abrade (6)
- 24 Teach (8)
- 26 Black-and-white bird (6)
- 27 Midday meal (5)
- 28 Enrage (9)

DOWN

- 1 Raised part of that surcharge for coating (5)
- 2 Bacon and chopped pecan – dry one (8)
- 3 Archaeological investigation set out to understand (6)
- 4 Pastry dish for side losing 6 (4)
- 5 Gruff animal with antlers gets right in (6)
- 6 Metal spout aims badly (9)
- 9 Awkward atmosphere envelops leaders of the industry conference (6)
- 13 Old underwear lasts (5)
- 15 One's quiet, working in dismal shame (9)
- 17 Amazing stout incorporating our blend (3, 3)
- 18 Set of notes for opera that's orchestrated around gig, perhaps (8)
- 20 Small number cite edited bulletin (6)
- 22 Noise from strange Manx cat? (6)
- 23 The same party includes getting it on time (5)
- 25 Large vehicle's to go down in value (4)

Solution 541

P	R	O	B	A	B	L	E		C	L	A	U	S	E
	I		R		E		C		R		R		U	
A	S	P	I	R	E		H	E	A	D	G	I	R	L
	Q		E		F		I		C		E		E	
S	U	F	F	U	S	E	D		K	U	N	G	F	U
	E				T		N				T		I	
			D	I	E	T	A	R	Y	F	I	B	R	E
	M		E		A				O		N		E	
N	O	M	E	N	K	L	A	T	U	R	A			
	N		P				R		N				S	
B	O	N	S	A	I		R	E	G	U	L	A	T	E
	T		O		C		A		S		O		R	
S	O	L	U	T	I	O	N		T	I	T	I	A	N
	N		T		E		G		E		U		T	
T	E	T	H	E	R		E	T	R	U	S	C	A	N