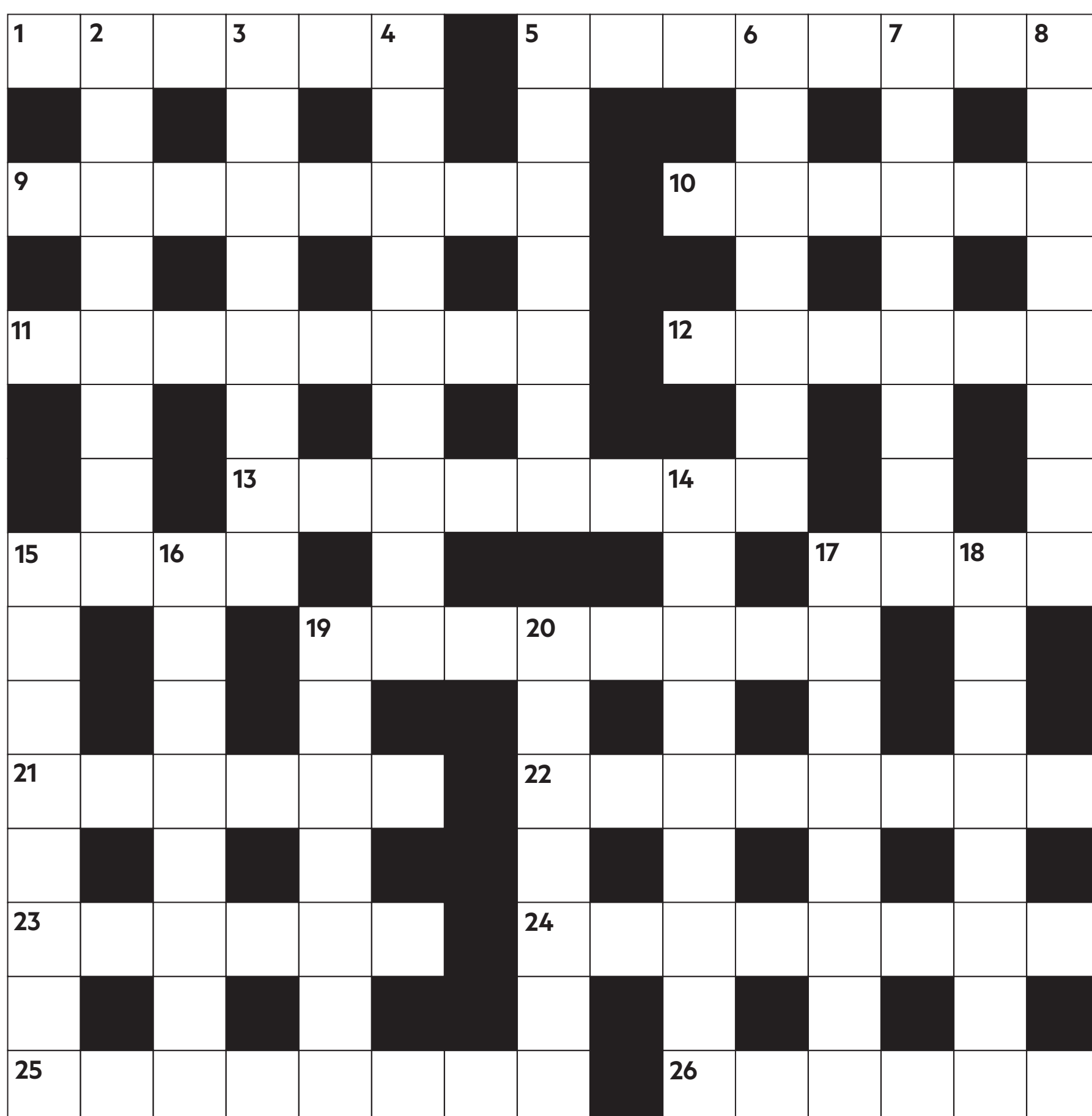


FT Crossword: Weekend Magazine number 697

Set by: Aldhelm



The Across clues are straightforward, while the Down clues are cryptic. Two of the Down clues have no definition element, but their answers spell out a topical phrase.

ACROSS

- 1 Horseplay, frolics (6)
- 5 US federal legislature (8)
- 9 Unusual, out of the ordinary (8)
- 10 Poorly (6)
- 11 Bald (8)
- 12 Thick lubricant (6)
- 13 Refined, cultured (8)
- 15 Cheese-making by-product (4)
- 17 Wear away at the edges (4)
- 19 Sermon giver (8)
- 21 Entry voucher (6)
- 22 Military bloc (8)
- 23 Magic potion (6)
- 24 Traditional, conformist (8)
- 25 Part of a paragraph (8)
- 26 Cad, bounder (6)

DOWN

- 2 Bird naturally found around tumbledown hut (8)
- 3 One military leader's shame about ancient city's contamination (8)
- 4 One following start of spring with wild crocuses (9)
- 5 Select different tone, finally, for musical instrument (7)
- 6 Solar energy's not rosy, unfortunately (7)
- 7 Lift to reveal changes (8)
- 8 Ability to pay small conservative levy's different (8)
- 14 Cover seat for optimistic Liberal protected by others, perhaps (9)
- 15 Server wears out with second computers and so on hidden (8)
- 16 The Spanish notice is amended (8)
- 17 Go crazy and take four bananas (5, 3)
- 18 One acted out story (8)
- 19 Accurate record is found in exercise (7)
- 20 Sea creature sailor meets on his own (7)

Solution 696

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