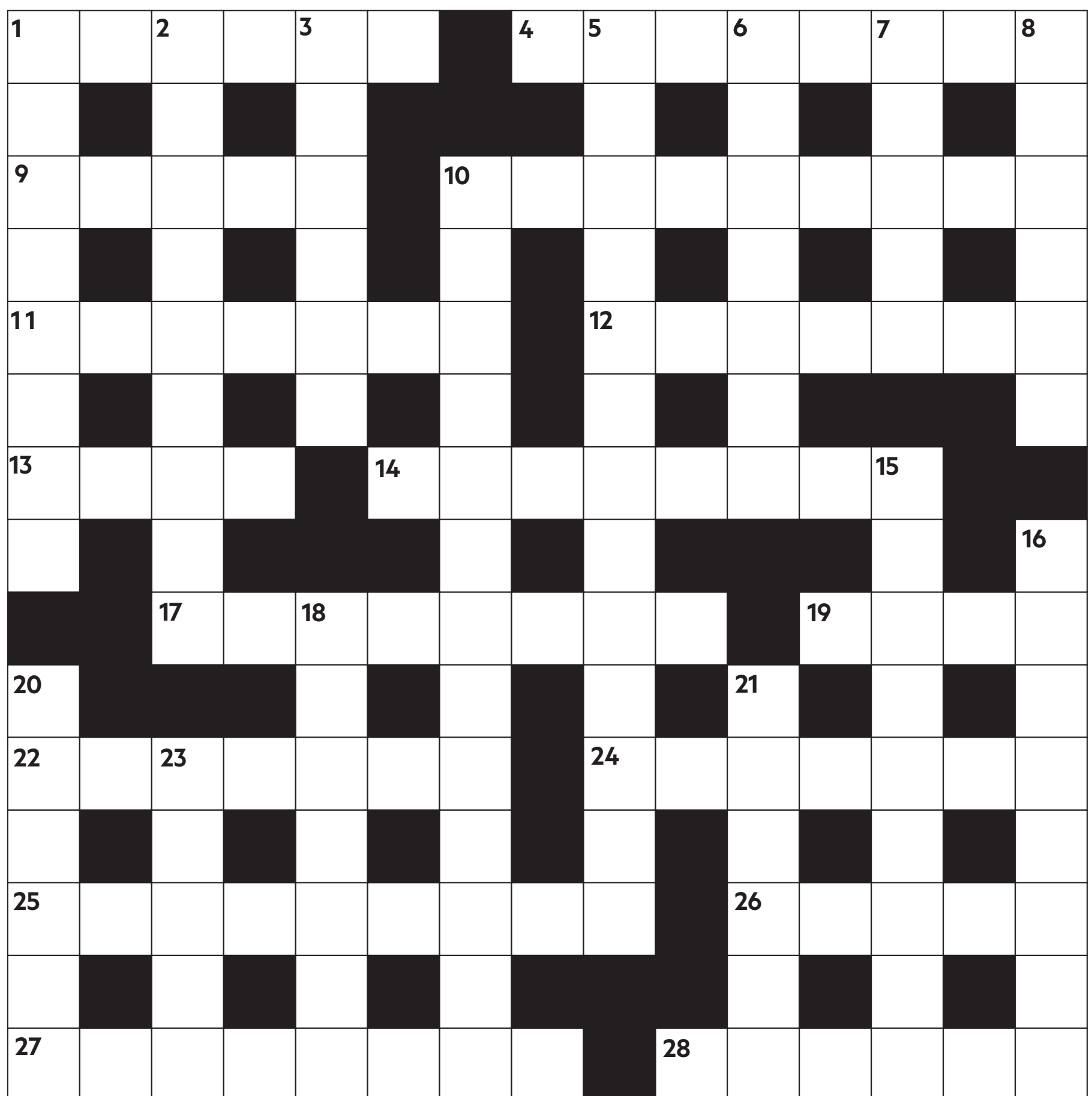


# FT Crossword: Weekend Magazine number 723

Set by: Aldhelm



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

## ACROSS

- 1 Baffle, confuse (6)
- 4 Professor, lecturer, eg (8)
- 9 Desert plants (5)
- 10 Woodworker (9)
- 11 Groom's assistant (4, 3)
- 12 Ceremonial staff (7)
- 13 Metal fastener (4)
- 14 Base, stand (8)
- 17 Ghostly (8)
- 19 Religious picture (4)
- 22 Simple wind instrument (7)
- 24 Tanned hide (7)
- 25 Squeeze, compress (9)
- 26 Deciduous conifer (5)
- 27 Bravo! (4, 4)
- 28 Vast astronomical distance (6)

## DOWN

- 1 Courage to help second-rate one (8)
- 2 Footwear for one ridiculing transgressions, we hear (9)
- 3 Take him for a drink in steamy dance (6)
- 5 Composed bell scored with tap dancers (5, 2, 6)
- 6 Speed up, taking on energy that begins to be most intense (7)
- 7 Piece of sacred pole with the ends switched (5)
- 8 Horribly cruel start of winter for bird (6)
- 10 Attention to swindle not certain to be worked out (13)
- 15 Start conflict with reformed school rank one's left (4, 5)
- 16 An entrance feature I start constructing that's not organised (8)
- 18 Threw out last bits of food etc I've put up (7)
- 20 Without end, some set up company with capital (6)
- 21 Friend embraces Spain and the Spanish dish (6)
- 23 Cancel yearbook when second one's removed (5)

## Solution 722

