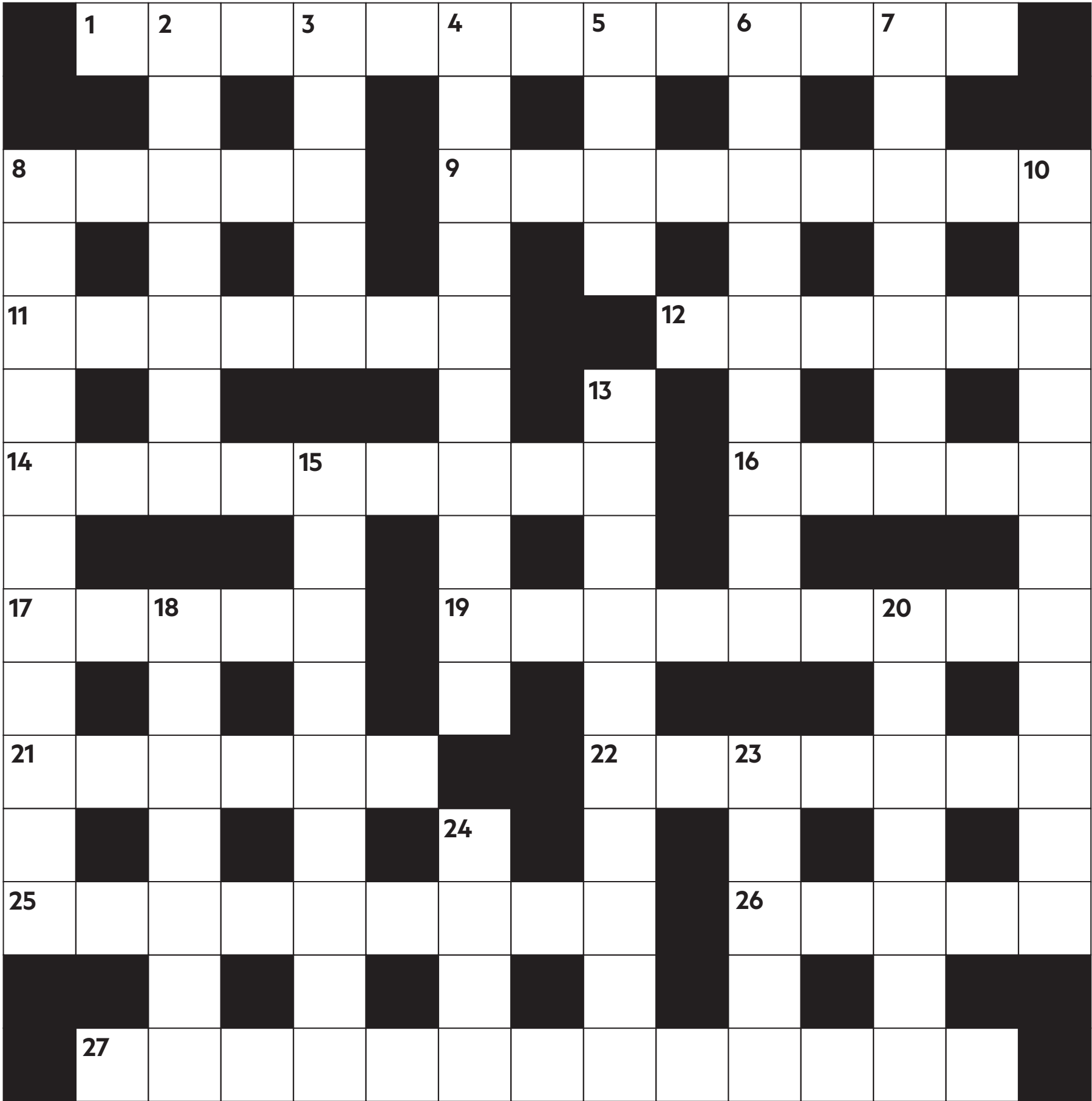


FT Crossword: Weekend Magazine number 778

Set by: Aldhelm



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

ACROSS

- 1 Hard work, industriousness (13)
- 8 Loyalty, faith (5)
- 9 Spotted dog (9)
- 11 Supreme ruler (7)
- 12 Reach (6)
- 14 One given a job (9)
- 16 Lifeless (5)
- 17 Chopped into small cubes (5)
- 19 Perseverance, devotion (9)
- 21 Italian city and *Romeo And Juliet* setting (6)
- 22 Allegorical bible story (7)
- 25 Simple physical comedy (9)
- 26 Push (5)
- 27 Lack of logic, incoherence (13)

DOWN

- 2 Pay must be adjusted over young creature (5, 2)
- 3 Bury in Lancashire ultimately captured by extremes of terror (5)
- 4 Replacement nurse is confused with duty doctor, initially (10)
- 5 Unattractive fruit for the audience (4)
- 6 Lean into terrible anger — that’s a close call (4, 5)
- 7 Exotic mushroom punch in Japanese spirit (7)
- 8 Have unwound with mildest holiday destination (3, 8)
- 10 One’s hens get let out, however (11)
- 13 Refined charm roused for Spooner (4-6)
- 15 State aid one’s arranged after popular start (9)
- 18 Pirate’s rough tune is heard (7)
- 20 Belts out number, at first, that’s most magnificent (7)
- 23 Push away piano in part of film (5)
- 24 Skirt motorway in Italy (4)

Solution 777

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