



A puzzle with two valid solutions. Friday's headlines will reveal which one is correct.

Across

- 1 A dot-com career girl arranged medical procedure (17)
- 9 Hospital gowns - or where they're kept? (9)
- 12 Rings charges (5)
- 14 Partly rewarded if Yorkshiremen provide enlightenment (5)

- 15 Drink last of retsina, spill absinthe (3)
- 16 Winners of 48a take half of 15a with burrito, so confused (6)
- 18 Essence of fake English-like mustard (4)
- 19 "50/50 UK's going backwards" - headcase (5)

- 22 Sticks notice at this place second (7)
- 25 Losers of 48a make a meal of 16a's leftovers (6)
- 26 Bearded folk in embroidered war vests. (7)
- 27/13/47/23 Bowler provides advice, gesture of acknowledgment (3,2,3,3)
- 29/43/37/40A Taking risk once, in a skin-tight arrangement (7,2,4,3)
- 31 Reaction - or container for one? (6)
- 32 Naval vessel, semi-automatic, oddly buoyant (7)
- 35 Rough up 36d, taking nothing? That's cruel! (5)
- 37 See 29
- 39 Sumptuous railway after ten in Irish band follow student (6)
- 40 See 29
- 42 Who is that offering a lift? (5)
- 45 Families initially cultivated land around northern Scotland (5)
- 46 Way to voice box is all ups and downs (9)
- 48 Why big day for American independence might be big day for British independents this year? (2,7,8)

- 7 Depend? Not entirely! (4)
- 8 Rich guy smell (4)
- 10 Union, around fifty, describes victorious leader of 16a (5)
- 11 Starmer has received enquiries initially about border of origami region (5)
- 13 See 27 across
- 16 Fall out of line, star pig, drunk, separating threads (7)
- 17 Way to calculate support after turning, for example, Los Angeles? (7)
- 18 Tangled mess, jotted King, abolishing vigorous activity (7)
- 20 Timespan in a thousand can? It's nail-biting stuff! (7)
- 21 Oban drops letter, flustered, before monarch? Former leader of 25a did a fair bit of this (7)
- 23 See 27 across
- 24 Dark events follow drama after Brexit anguish finally ends (7)
- 28 In favour of - or getting paid to say so? (3)
- 30 Less innocent, sounds golden (8)
- 33 Packaging puts up a fight (5)
- 34 Chambers found in Bermuda Triangle (5)
- 36 Inventor about to pry around papers (6)
- 38 Belittle as average-sounding (6)
- 40 Mesopotamian, one after artists infiltrate intelligence (5)
- 41 Some pale crushed linen (4)
- 42 Suspend change without limits (4)
- 43 See 29 across
- 44 Reptilian footwear (4)
- 47 See 27 across

Down

- 1 Cover musical style following new composition (6)
- 2 Unsettling sounds, like great lake (5)
- 3 Sharp sweet (4)
- 4 Indicate start of ball (3)
- 5 Go under, start losing 60% before editor placed deposit elsewhere (8)
- 6 They measure light refreshment (6)