**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)

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

**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)

**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