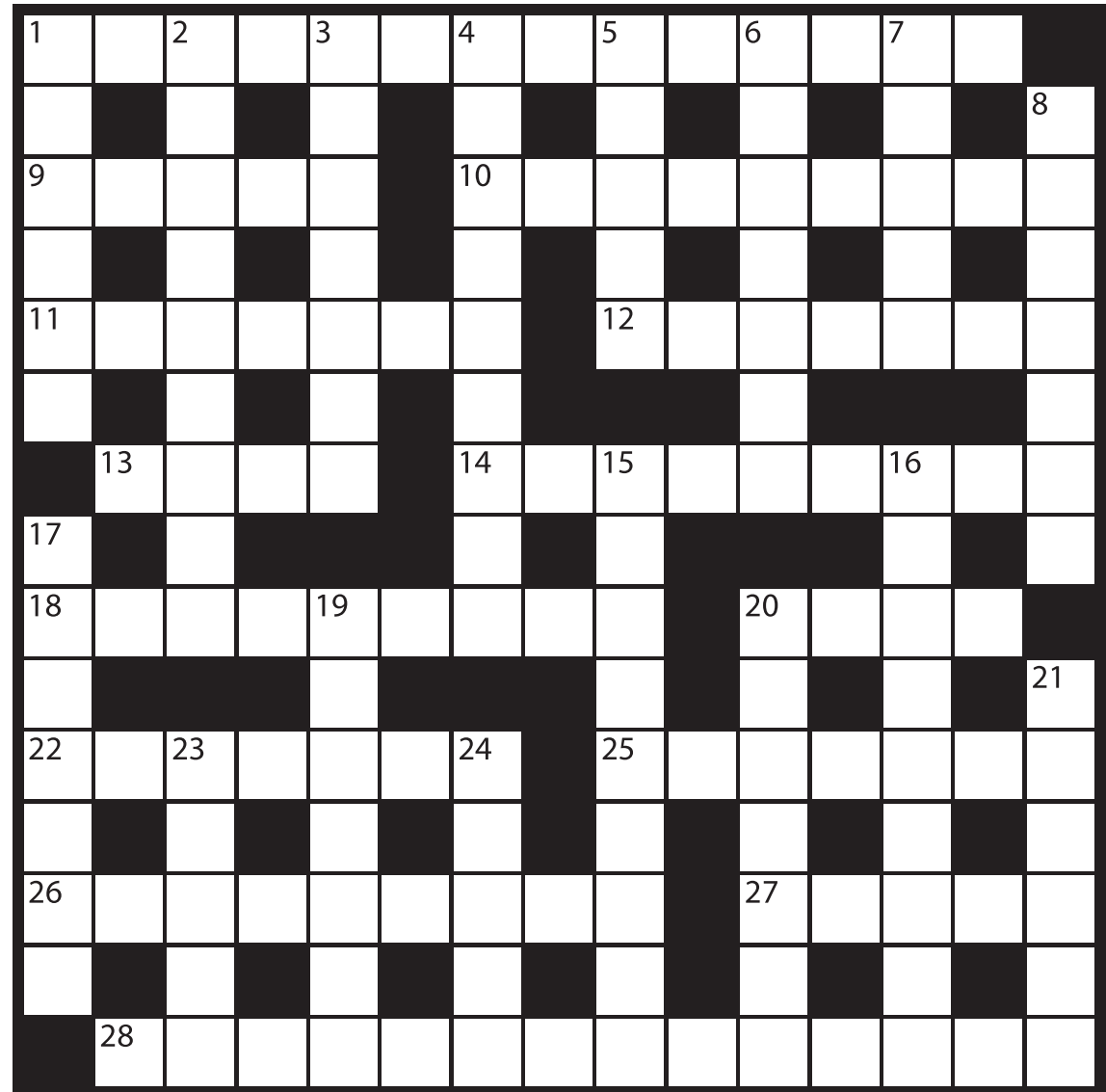


ACROSS

- 1 Creature that can crush cartons with robotic movement (3,11)
- 9 Steals from prisons (5)
- 10 Regularly go to parties, no trouble (9)
- 11 Charm of another name belonging to us (7)
- 12 Vessel going through ring daily (7)
- 13 Politician is about to find mischief makers (4)
- 14 One large city and village in Somerset (9)
- 18 Introduce different drop in price (9)
- 20 Tablet - one at home (4)
- 22 Five set off in party mood (7)
- 25 Awfully dud tape to be modernised (7)
- 26 We, with initial excitement, plan an ambush (3,2,4)
- 27 Copper caught alternative female on island (5)
- 28 Drug to cure tenant's despair (14)

DOWN

- 1 Repartee from Bert, an eccentric (6)
- 2 Bill made an appeal and was praised (9)
- 3 Bony managers not limited by endless river (7)
- 4 Place umpires in car (9)
- 5 Artist Edward assessed (5)
- 6 Ancient city in near shutdown (7)
- 7 Bulb working, one working (5)
- 8 Bank staff who give away secrets? (7)
- 15 Orchestra leader who transmits electricity (9)
- 16 Traitor at new restaurant (9)
- 17 Biographical sketch favouring female going to island area in France (7)



- 19 Wine from China – it being drunk (7)
- 20 Installs fashionable pipes (7)
- 21 Commercial right to change (6)
- 23 Lustre noticed around hospital (5)
- 24 Transport from Edinburgh, initially, behind time (5)