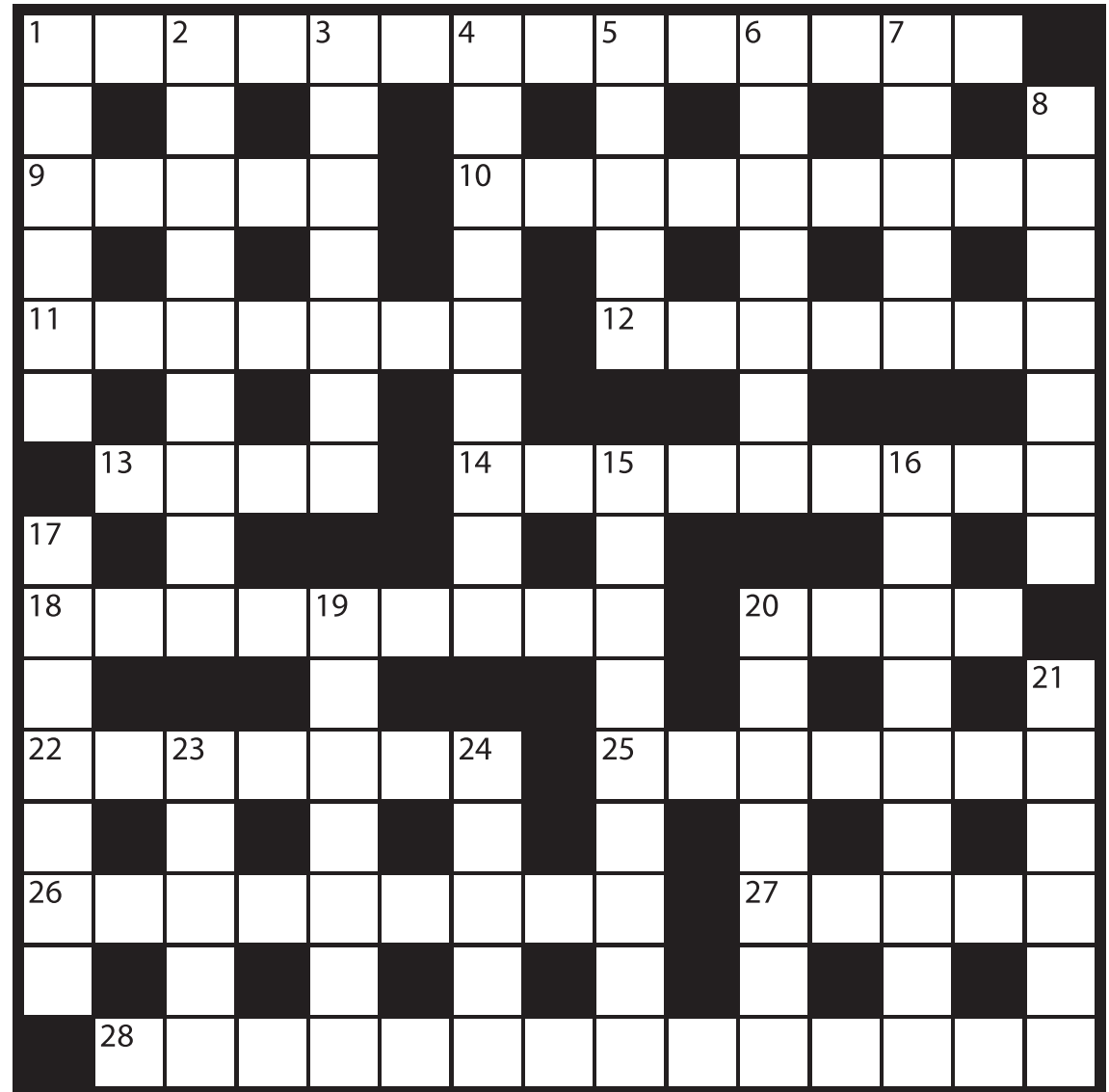


ACROSS

- 1 Great ball includes a cake excess (14)
- 9 Nine in a frenzy after a musical (5)
- 10 Check condition and put back in office (9)
- 11 Intellectual's urge to lead (7)
- 12 Least comfortable boy soldier is French (7)
- 13 Gardener will return to hide the bird (4)
- 14 Poor Nigel, toff, is careless (9)
- 18 Referring to flow of water regularly coming round (9)
- 20 Heartless sport is a gem (4)
- 22 Anteater cruelly chained (7)
- 25 Slight shortage in hormone (7)
- 26 A very quiet London borough is attractive (9)
- 27 Biscuit Errol regularly made cooler (5)
- 28 Natural phenomenon such as the Blackpool Illuminations! (8,6)

DOWN

- 1 Nearly stop soldiers with flower container (6)
- 2 Lose your cool about grey sort of eulogy (9)
- 3 School for girls, terribly dear one (7)
- 4 Prohibit canned rum at hoedown (4,5)
- 5 Green one installed in part of church (5)
- 6 Returning, I take a long time with South African spear (7)
- 7 One lifts a bird (5)
- 8 After the cricket match, tucked in with a will (7)
- 15 Progressing – in years, perhaps (7,2)
- 16 Decorate them briefly, like a ringer? (9)
- 17 Team one learns about (7)
- 19 Art and I, awfully bright (7)



- 20 Composer, somewhat cross in Italy (7)
- 21 Is torn about programmes' musical starts (6)
- 23 Trendy Post Office animal (5)
- 24 Can I see round plant? (5)