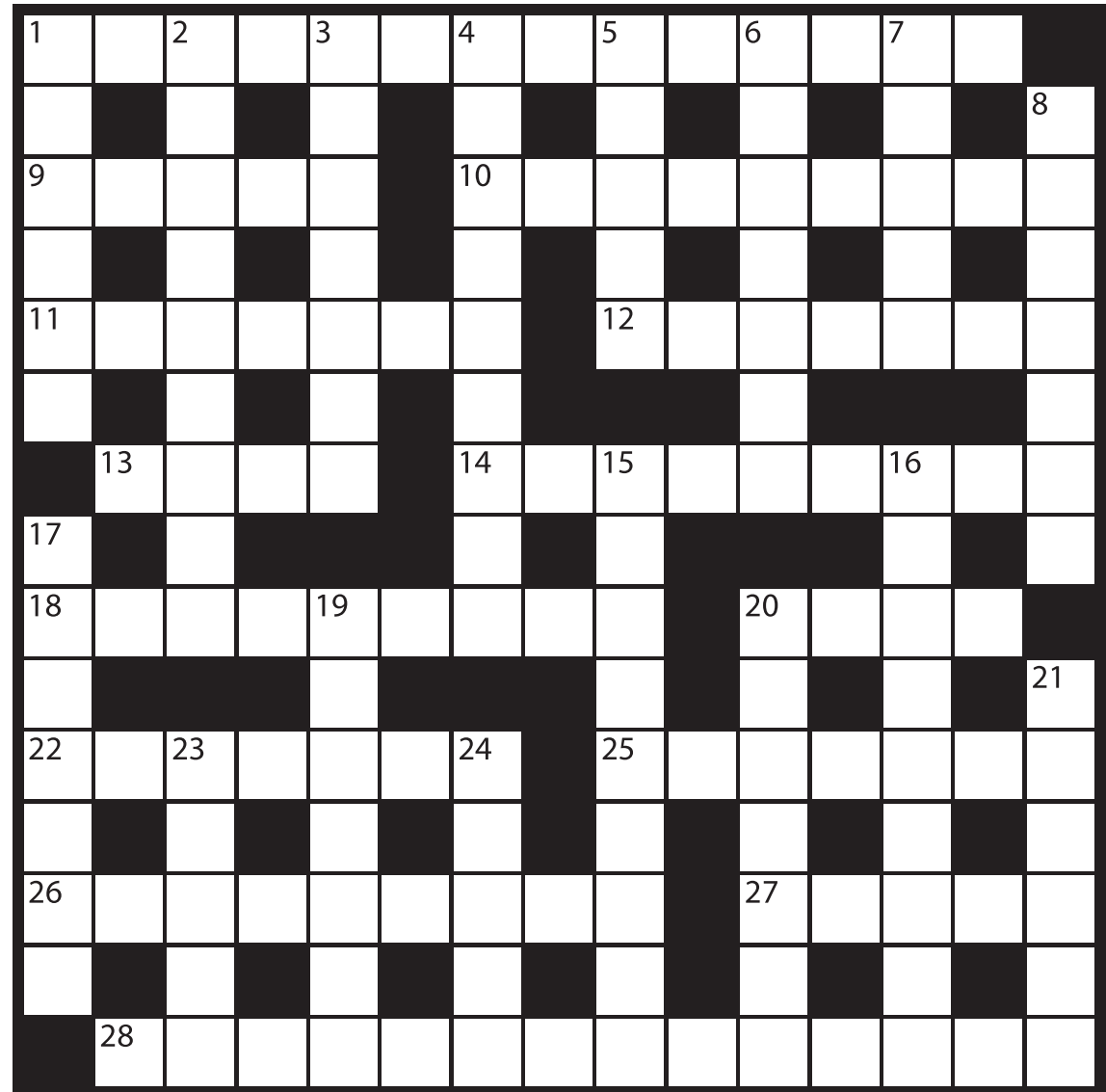


ACROSS

- 1 Retail scam in Egypt? (7,7)
- 9 Ship entering Liverpool in error (5)
- 10 Very good starting speed (5-4)
- 11 Large deer from Rio and Cuba (7)
- 12 Highlights, not initially, locks (7)
- 13 Mat put back before university teacher (4)
- 14 Do farm work beside ancient gateway (9)
- 18 One French police department in act yet to be settled (9)
- 20 Gorge on monstrous eats (4)
- 22 Last offer (4,3)
- 25 Wordy poetry about Derek (7)
- 26 Alert, though dribbling (2,3,4)
- 27 Tests former partner a woman of unknown marital status (5)
- 28 Part he then played to hide colour film (3,4,7)

DOWN

- 1 Friend approaches excellent royal residence (6)
- 2 Manage, more or less, in small car (9)
- 3 Lamar about to hold part of bird (7)
- 4 Failed to pay debts – mistake indeed! (9)
- 5 Poltergeist held back white bird (5)
- 6 Items of post for the leaseholders? (7)
- 7 Approaches with some within earshot (5)
- 8 Disease ruined coastal area (7)
- 15 Embarrassed girl to cut and start again (9)
- 16 Manipulator of hot potatoes (cooked first) (9)
- 17 Soften copper on his round (7)
- 19 Narrow the gap but get defeated in competition (5-2)



- 20 Longing in boy to become a doctor (7)
- 21 One spouting bloke can be heard (6)
- 23 Door fastener found in stall at Chepstow (5)
- 24 Coach team leader before bad weather (5)