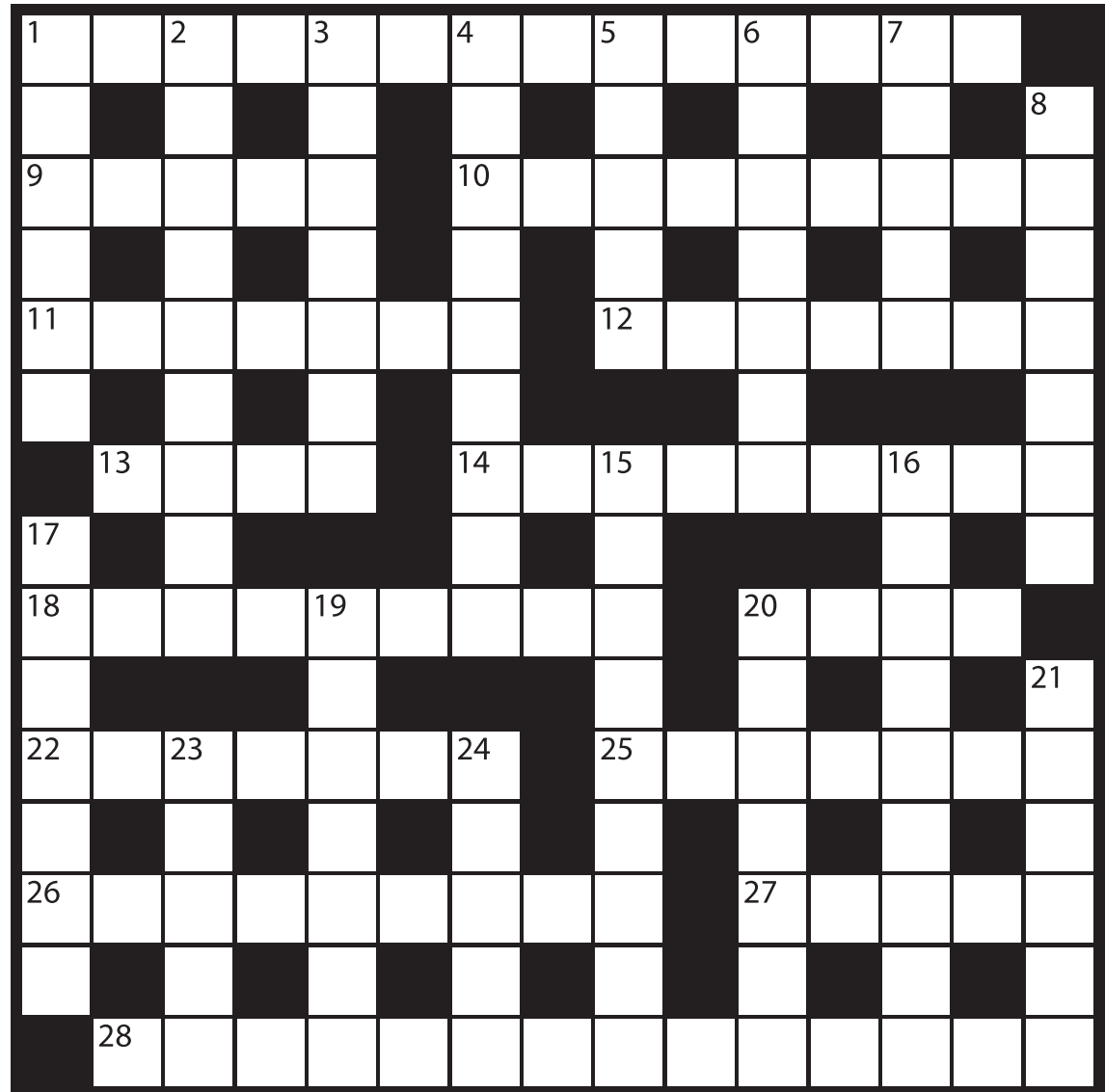


**ACROSS**

- 1 Run dual reserve to offset cancellation payout (9,5)
- 9 Fireplace where sole has head chopped off (5)
- 10 Lower layers of a cake returned following payments (9)
- 11 Golf supporter protects the wet apprentice (7)
- 12 Propose moving guests round Gateshead (7)
- 13 Without means in Aleppo orangery (4)
- 14 Altar base could be a type of gypsum (9)
- 18 Teardrops shed for hunters (9)
- 20 Departed behind time (4)
- 22 Girl and I on an assignment (7)
- 25 Mad cadet or holiday camp entertainer (7)
- 26 Without principles, place clue in hat (9)
- 27 Biscuit Errol regularly made cooler (5)
- 28 Make censorial point by acting as father? (2,4,8)

**DOWN**

- 1 Harsh in topic about religion (6)
- 2 A girl more affected by such a performance (9)
- 3 Among clientele, a Norwegian queen (7)
- 4 Bandit's skirting round wild spree (9)
- 5 Puzzle of engineers going by public transport (5)
- 6 Caribbean island where iguana dances round top of tree (7)
- 7 Employment in circus agency (5)
- 8 Realist designed the cross of St Andrew (7)
- 15 Laura, it's a wild country (9)
- 16 Rubbish – soot, it is removed by permanent marker (9)



- 17 Er, hugged by partner, almost frothy! (7)
- 19 Sound of sneeze – what did you say you require for it? (7)
- 20 Machine-wrecker diluted concoction (7)
- 21 Begins by showing surprise? (6)
- 23 Gloss observed around front of house (5)
- 24 Spinach ordinarily covers Mexican snack (5)