

ACROSS

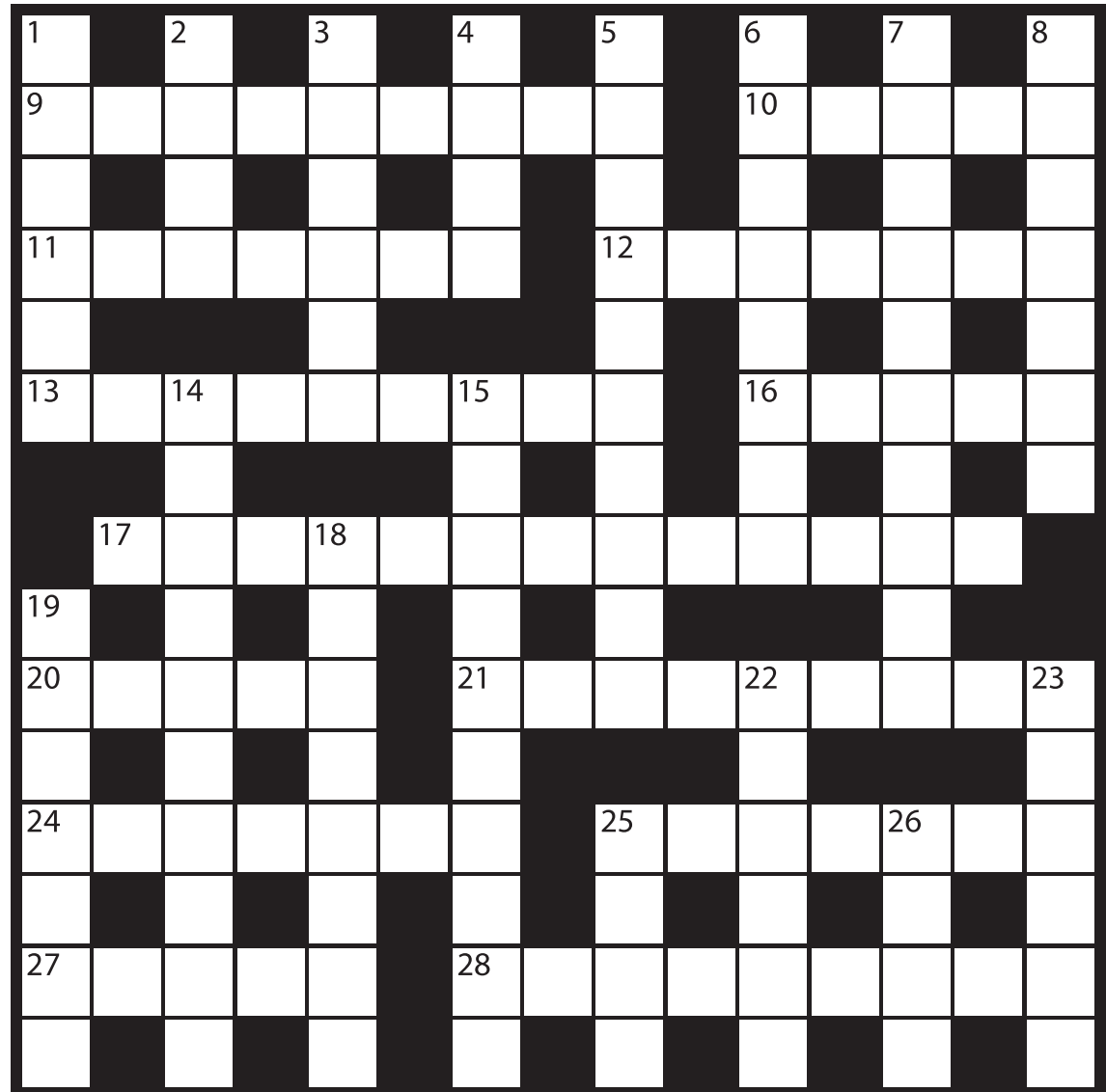
- 9** Placed ideally in conifer (9)
10 Useless, in record time (5)
11 Hesitate about set of steps free from germs (7)
12 Little Dickensian? (4,3)
13 Lost again, wandering, with a feeling of wistfulness (9)
16 Share that is for appealing child (5)
17 See tougher one made diverse in character (13)
20 Pays attention to musical sounds (5)
21 Observe possible hassle, but they may flutter (9)
24 Binged on cricket statistic, minus runs (7)
25 Carried husky within biggest limits (7)
27 Ghostly eastern lake (5)
28 Storyteller managed to take company in? True, sadly (9)

DOWN

- 1** Girl – at the heart of gal is one (6)
2 Kind characters (4)
3 Paper dye held by graduate (6)
4 Tool counts, we hear (4)
5 Item seven, a transfer from Asia (10)
6 Pub in new place on top of a mountain (8)
7 Each put ten into five books (10)
8 Confused, as batsman may be out? (7)
14 Love the sweater to be woven (10)
15 Third person's fruit (10)
18 Confused nan's deer, caught in a trap (8)
19 Salary right for new arrival (7)
22 Puts up decorations, but leads to commotion and rants, oddly (6)

Wednesday, 23rd June, 2021

No. 15,608



23 Roman god has a go after first of September (6)

25 Support for defender (4)

26 Part of the big reward just got bigger! (4)