

ACROSS

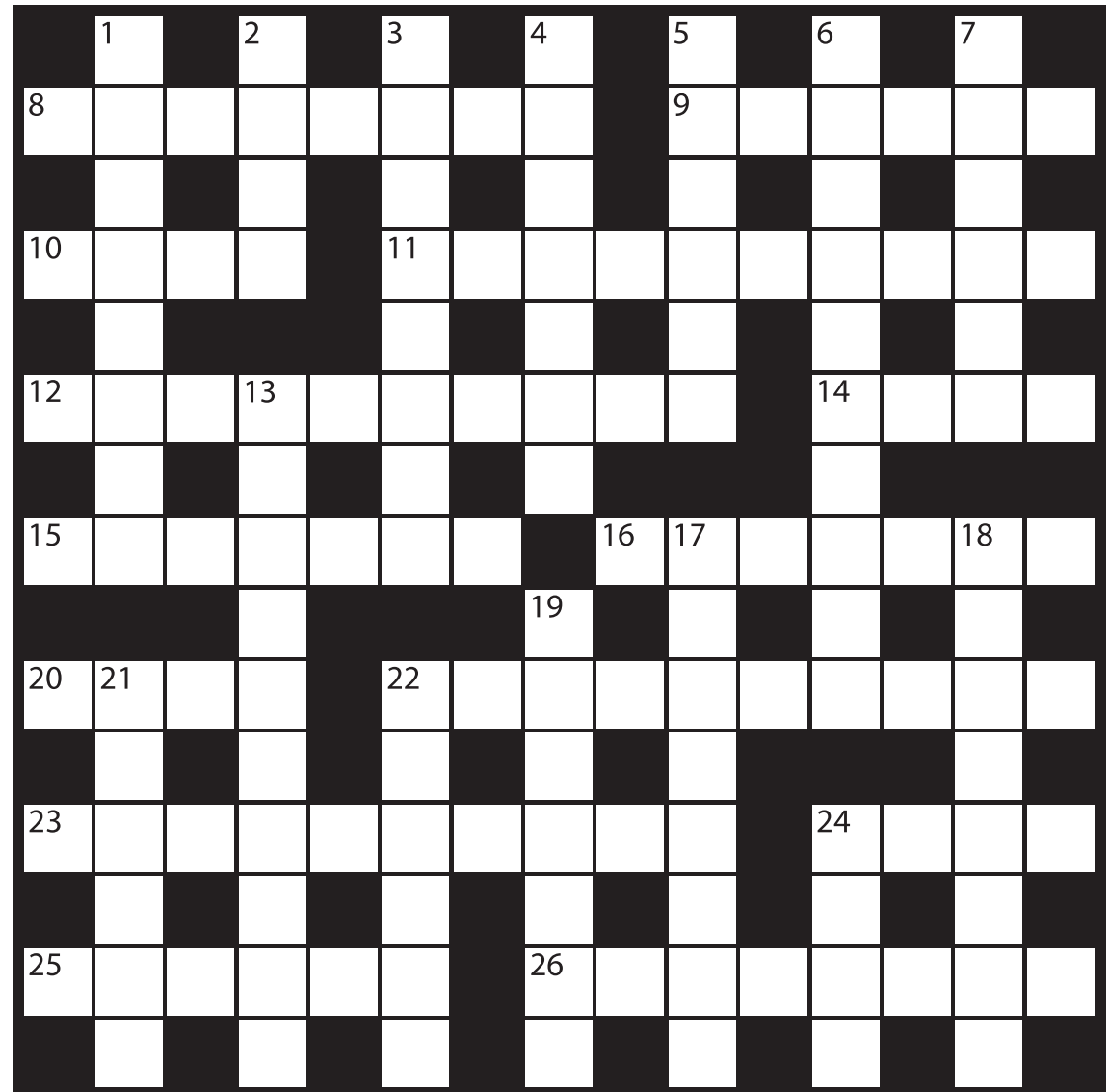
- 8 Study poetry? The opposite (8)
 9 Using maximum effort, gets everyone dismissed (3,3)
 10 Exploit, either way (4)
 11 Boy not backing a dance (10)
 12 Professional adviser continued to take in Muslim ruler (10)
 14 Defeat right away (4)
 15 Calm when bill found in the dish (7)
 16 Cooked protein for hunting dog (7)
 20 Blue feathers (4)
 22 Bird, with end of beak, snapped his finger (10)
 23 Old man with a lot of bottle? (10)
 24 Long account given by male (4)
 25 Jump softly with little weight (6)
 26 Make notes about wine being fair (8)

DOWN

- 1 Girl on pitch getting flower holder (4,4)
 2 Eager, famous female singer turning up (4)
 3 Pair allowed to see band (8)
 4 Understand there's a passage, and escape (3,4)
 5 Tragic hero from a small village (6)
 6 End rows? This is what soldiers might do (5,5)
 7 Broadcast kudos leads to universal puzzle (6)
 13 A feature of a watch that's no longer new (6-4)
 17 Branch is not on fire (8)
 18 The plane crashed – a jumbo? (8)

Friday, 1st October, 2021

No. 15,708



- 19 Check thoroughly when we hear girl tells stories (7)
 21 Feline beast Leo shot in October (6)
 22 Bad mistake, a needless fate (6)
 24 No head for details and laws (4)