

ACROSS

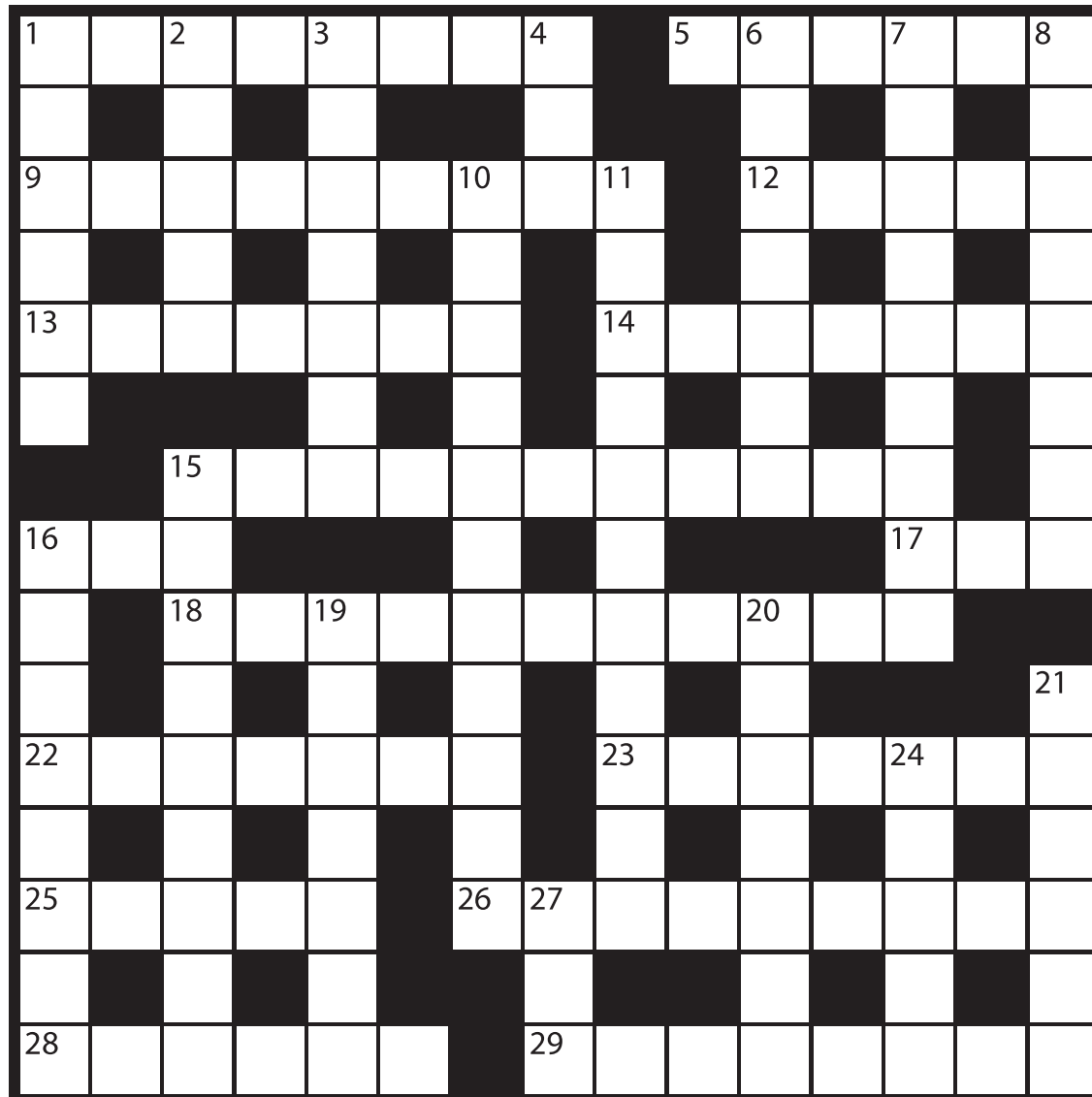
- 1 Records attempt at wall-covering (8)
 5 A few do not finish (including Hal) the greeting (6)
 9 Fades away when leading apostle's not in (6,3)
 12 Staff continue to play cricket (5)
 13 Hairdresser needs pen for rota (7)
 14 Scoundrel returns component of pest-control device (3,4)
 15 Choose grains with the Spanish fish (8,3)
 16 Tot reverses fastener (3)
 17 Unprofessional song? (3)
 18 Ignore my lot rearranging jargon (11)
 22 Found celebrity put out (5,2)
 23 I turned round to poke my nose in (7)
 25 Meat for graduate and criminal (5)
 26 Extremely happy, having been switched off? (9)
 28 Went round repeatedly when Edward perished (6)
 29 Some plastic handle restored by crime writer (8)

DOWN

- 1 Key worker in the office (6)
 2 Attractive but loses first race – it's unimportant (5)
 3 Religious ceremony seen on the tennis court? (7)
 4 Involved in company outing? Not me! (3)
 6 One frequenting a section Hugh is said to have gone round (7)
 7 Delayed recovery on the side (9)
 8 Exclusive control of board game (8)
 10 Surpassed when it came to undressing at speed (11)
 11 Part-time soldier protective of an area (11)
 15 Cast a spell on fourth gate? (9)

Thursday, 9th December, 2021

No. 15,777



- 16 Feasible that I bop less frantically (8)
 19 Reunite characters in train (7)
 20 Goo can't be plastered over the figure (7)
 21 Dare he perform a goal attempt? (6)
 24 Before taking part in hunt, I lunch (5)
 27 And in France get 100 – and the rest (abbrev)(3)