

**ACROSS**

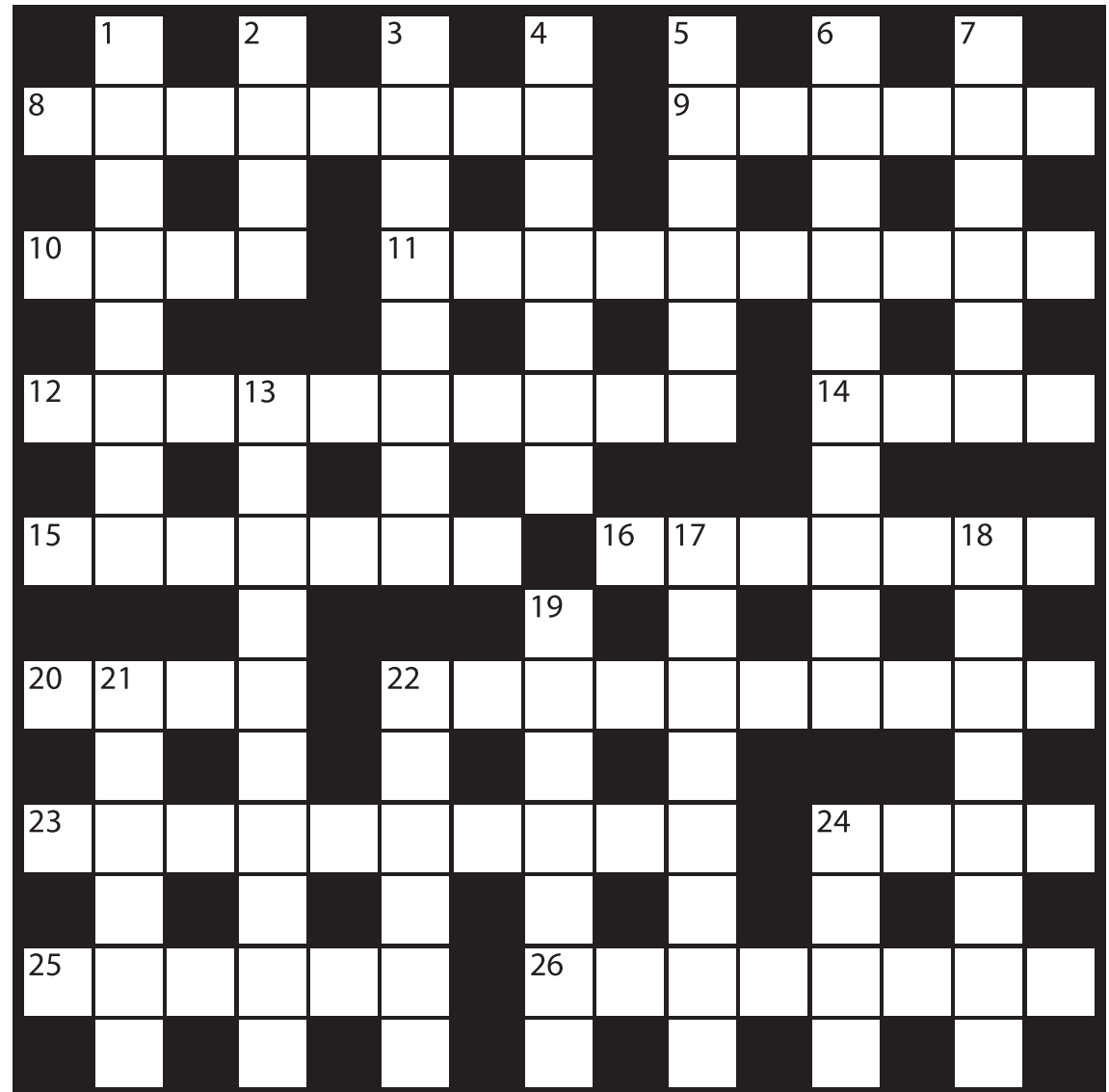
- 8 Appreciate hidden assets (8)  
 9 A group of directors on the ship? (6)  
 10 Observe English agent (4)  
 11 Powerful support for fortress (10)  
 12 A feature of a watch that's no longer new (6-4)  
 14 Animal returns for waterside plant (4)  
 15 Height of artist's work about right (7)  
 16 Sense confused by church's fundamental nature (7)  
 20 A female parent produced first man (4)  
 22 Dull advice given to those who blush too easily? (10)  
 23 US gunman is unusually modest (10)  
 24 Meat cooked for sporting side (4)  
 25 Slicer destroyed souvenirs (6)  
 26 In part of school, I ganged up with rowdy youth (8)

**DOWN**

- 1 Caught with pole in modern curved street (8)  
 2 Gentlewoman unites boy with youth leader (4)  
 3 Routes I'd rearranged for one unlikely to win (8)  
 4 Go back to entertain again (7)  
 5 Prohibited orchestra, we hear (6)  
 6 Parent healthy north of the border (10)  
 7 Hear cook grating (6)  
 13 Hopeful boy is immersed in unusual topic (10)  
 17 Doctor catches tail of biggest fish (8)

Friday, 7th January, 2022

No. 15,806



- 18 Actors on holiday find shipwrecked person (8)  
 19 Dexterity is negligible round east (7)  
 21 Peril of garden makeover! (6)  
 22 Part of meal rough, they say (6)  
 24 Shortly consider becoming slender (4)