

ACROSS

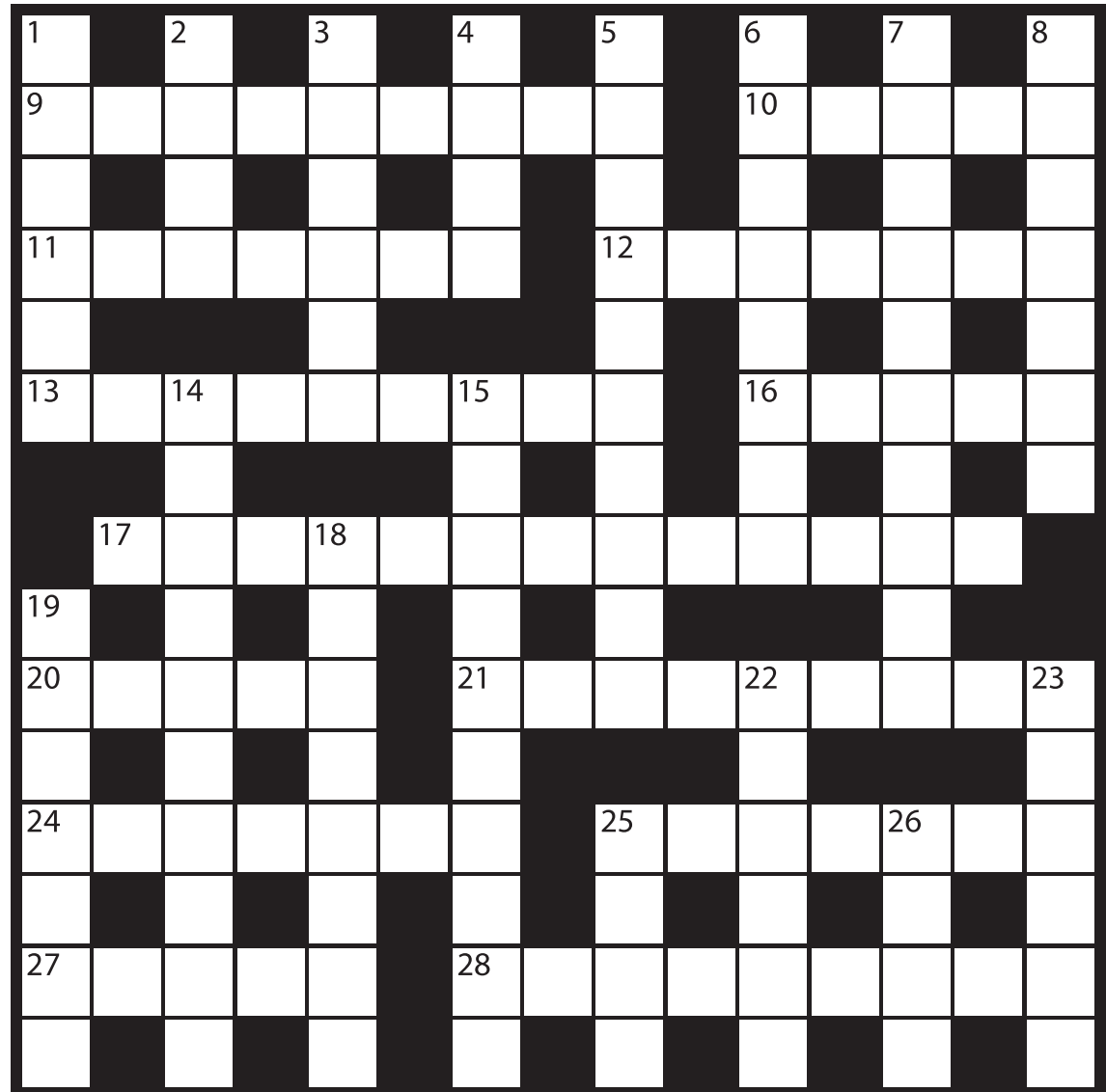
- 9 Suggestive smell of older sort of divider when unopened (9)
 10 Verbal examination of the ear? (5)
 11 Coordination shown by one in salon, I fancy (7)
 12 Binged on cricket statistic, minus runs (7)
 13 Eastern flyer to unite in perpetuity (9)
 16 Had done poorly around the West (5)
 17 Pet handler's got me worried (6,7)
 20 Fish a ray? That's about right (5)
 21 Slight change to tandem careering round blokes (9)
 24 Resolute enough to stop the bloodshed (7)
 25 Dry gate turned and turned (7)
 27 Regards struggle with cardinals (5)
 28 Restore control to country (9)

DOWN

- 1 Last of plaice put on barbecue framework (6)
 2 Notion from foreign aide (4)
 3 Girl – at the heart of gal is one (6)
 4 Later author unknown (4)
 5 Way to recall? (6,4)
 6 Very hungry bird, duck (American) (8)
 7 Relative against energetic work-out (5-5)
 8 Almost everyone prepared by this time (7)
 14 Let off previous individual given appraisal (10)
 15 County in real trouble accepts money (10)
 18 Reduce by having food with little in it (8)

Wednesday, 23rd February, 2022

No. 15,853



- 19 A coach I have is rude (7)
 22 Constraint sees union leader put in robe (6)
 23 I tried to get organised, and more orderly (6)
 25 Big smile from king soaked in spirit (4)
 26 Amphibian noisily pulled along (4)