

ACROSS

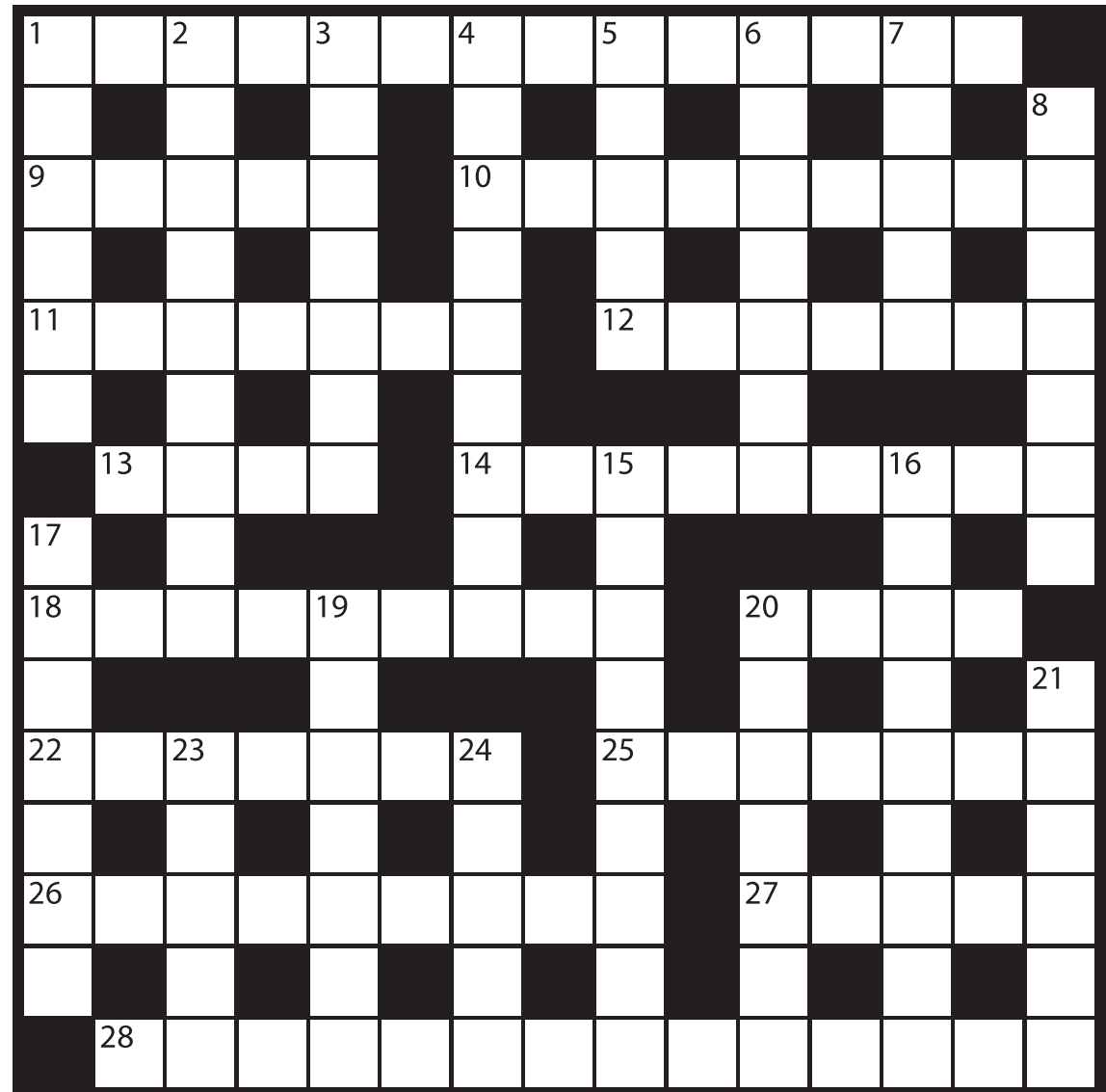
- 1 Wrongly pronounce small section of newspaper (8,6)
 9 Keep pound concealed for ointment (5)
 10 Substance for carving altar base, perhaps (9)
 11 Wash by middle of fence in enclosed area (7)
 12 Almost reduce knife action at equine home (7)
 13 Specific time for fruit (4)
 14 Former partner giving in, we hear – that’s going too far (9)
 18 Article in a Monet composition is tatty (4-5)
 20 Drink, having opening of keg made of wood (4)
 22 Without being idle, don’t start (7)
 25 Help gullible person, we hear (7)
 26 Mortifying when journalist turns against definition (9)
 27 This wildcat’s a lightweight! (5)
 28 Serbo-Croat, half-trained university graduate (8,2,4)

DOWN

- 1 Sheriff’s men on time for hot milk drink (6)
 2 Unwilling to find article in clutter, perhaps (9)
 3 Be in debt, so woman brought in to intimidate (7)
 4 A foundation intended, reportedly, for lowering (9)
 5 Social standing of Conservative girl (5)
 6 Spilled amount of chopped kale to ripen (7)
 7 Doctor allowed to go up to roadside lodgings (5)
 8 Show what’s to come before herb (7)
 15 Sweet stuff cures a nag, incredibly (4,5)
 16 Can Renoir break out when trapped? (2,1,6)

Saturday, 5th March, 2022

No. 15,863



- 17 Collapse that is restricting old PM, perhaps (7)
 19 In huge pit, a physician’s inscribed words (7)
 20 Mark as complete rebuke (4,3)
 21 Political party’s vegetables (6)
 23 Point of short break in sentence (5)
 24 Interrogate cook (5)