

ACROSS

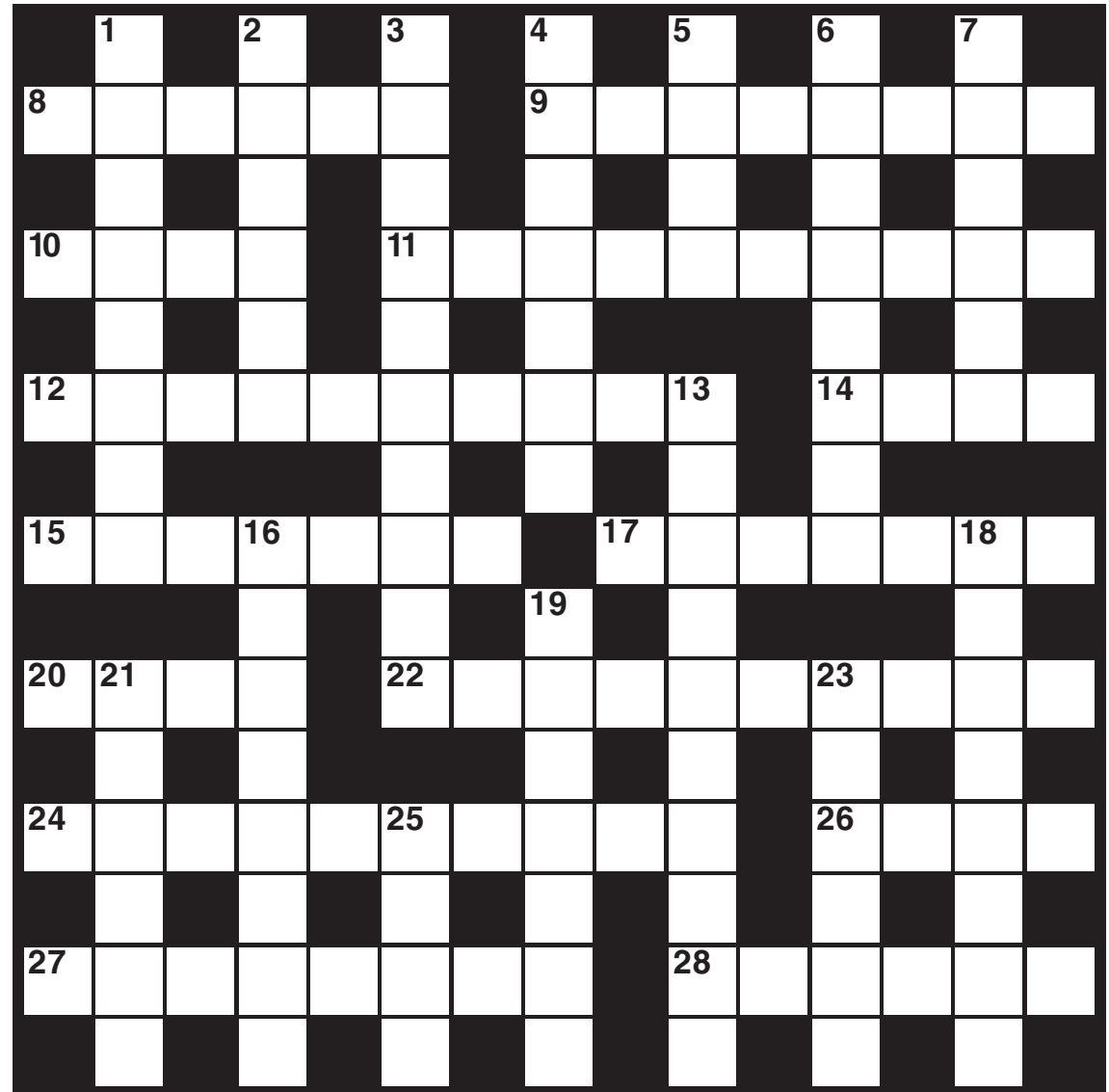
- 8 Cuts back on firm plaster (6)
 9 Also, star sign in party suggests 'farewell' (6-2)
 10 Enthusiastic about one ton building (4)
 11 Wildlife centre, distant one, seen in a flash (6,4)
 12 Mother, perhaps, protects boy in legislative buildings (10)
 14 Vegetable has to lose water, we hear (4)
 15 Garden archway heading for Pussy Galore, winding (7)
 17 Footwear suitable for ice-skating? (7)
 20 Sign of no soldiers? (4)
 22 Scheme ain't to change for growing estate (10)
 24 Genuine-sounding graduate forbidding minstrel (10)
 26 Come down hard when side reported (4)
 27 Class not so much without shape (8)
 28 East permitted to draw out information (6)

DOWN

- 1 Old-time individual entering the theatre (5,3)
 2 Place of learning for fish? (6)
 3 Tripe and fish taking small hit (10)
 4 Argument in the south-east needs initially to become harder (7)
 5 Space taken up with heathland (4)
 6 Footwear needed for gymnastic feat? (4-4)
 7 Origin of bearnaise spoken about (6)
 13 In the US, discuss frankly – do so about bird? (4,6)
 16 Two drinks taken before my game (3,5)

Tuesday, 19th September, 2023

No. 16,426



- 18 Coteries possibly specialised (8)
 19 Sound of cow entering vessel – scam! (7)
 21 Strand in brownish-crimson? (6)
 23 Bird got teeth into morsel (6)
 25 Somewhat lamentable end to a prayer (4)