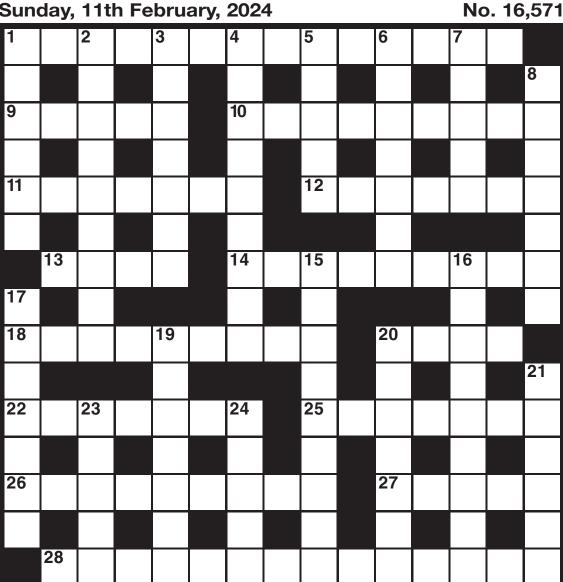
ACROSS

- 1 Pithiness, every outcome is touchy (14)
- **9** Wash hair in several houses (5)
- **10** Wait to suspend a boxing match (4,5)
- 11 Initially like recent changes to reading desk (7)
- 12 Can one who harshly criticises? (7)
- 13 Row produces sign of sadness, it's said (4)
- 14 Book of goods with new cagoule included, thanks (9)
- **18** Reach agreement on how to put toe in gate (9)
- 20 Stop, we're told by side of the road (4)
- 22 One goes in to join one in the army (7)
- 25 Boy singer holding music's beginning to shake (7)
- 26 Release old, cattier version (9)
- 27 Somewhat more lethargically offered for rent again (5)
- 28 Coloured dish I'm sprinkling with salt (6,8)

DOWN

- Obstacle taken by an athlete in his stride (6)
- **2** Father stealing; it's alarming! (9)
- 3 Animal always after Rod, holding note (3,4)
- 4 Feature one in each herbal remedy (9)
- **5** Transgression by America, something that may be blocked (5)
- 6 A vanquished leader during route finding hard work (7)
- Roaring sound from chamber five initially (5)
- Set out and jumped (7)
- **15** Fraction of white tent shifted (9)
- 16 Biscuit for Italian patriot (9)
- 17 Single's favourite comes back for dance (3-4)

Sunday, 11th February, 2024



- **19** Capital, is it holding politician back? (7)
- **20** After gladness, I love parting word (7)
- 21 Sounds like element of courage (6)
- 23 Many on to game of chance (5)
- 24 Where almonds grow in the country (5)