

ACROSS

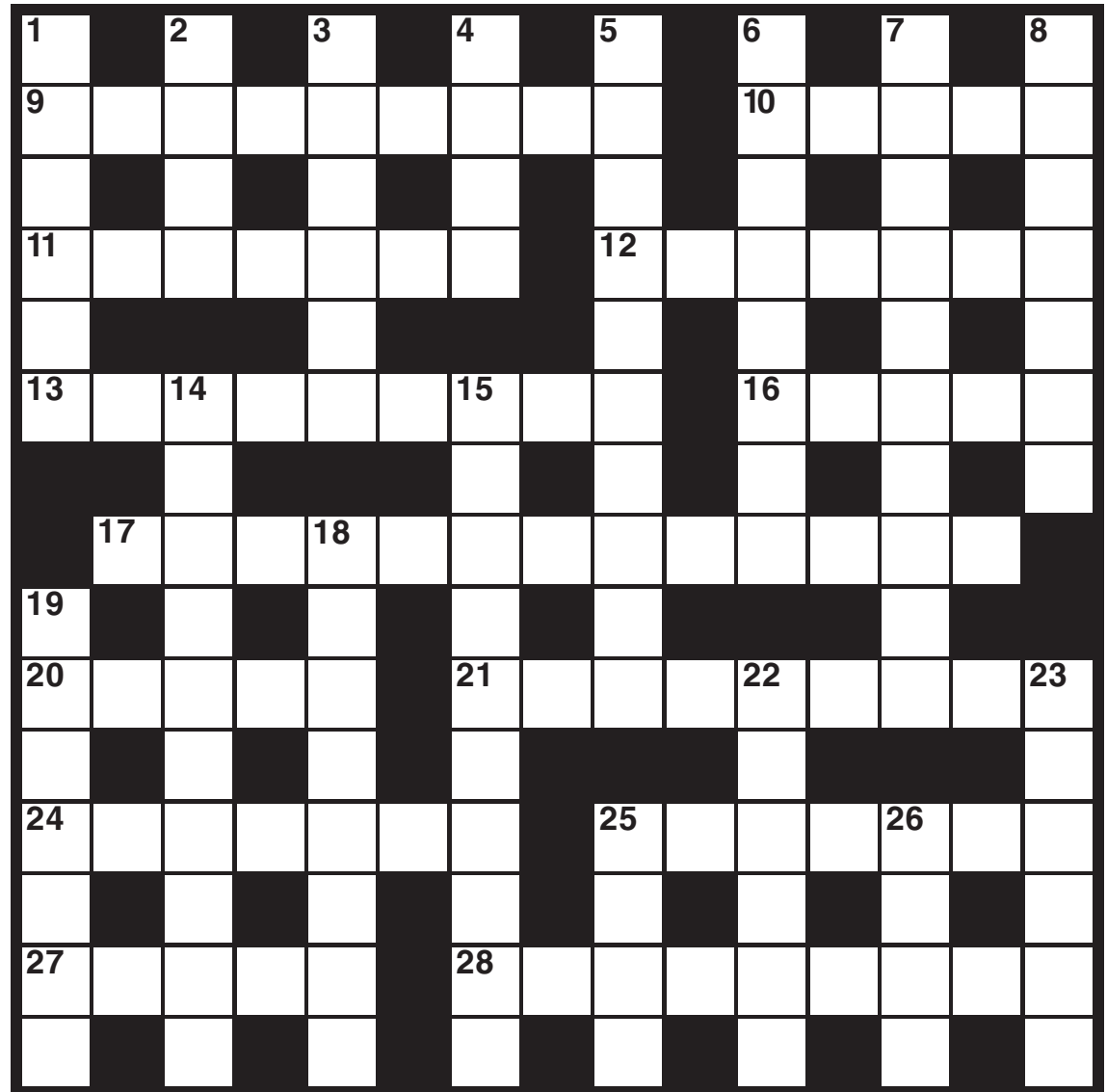
- 9 Another pope must hold right to be highest (9)
 10 The Spanish took food to raise spirits (5)
 11 Noble title – Simpson accepting one (7)
 12 Spoil if glued in wrongly (7)
 13 Rebuke salesman going over the edge also (9)
 16 Apparently Richard concealed the poem (5)
 17 Maintain clear development for Mexican,
 perhaps (5-8)
 20 Lift one among many (5)
 21 Play without preparation so fail this grade (5-4)
 24 Breeze to subside for parachute delivery (7)
 25 Renault changed gear (7)
 27 Relieves and removes, right away (5)
 28 Fishy moneylender? (4,5)

DOWN

- 1 One erasing masseur? (6)
 2 Knocks up box (4)
 3 Country's doubly-held mysterious mark (6)
 4 Drink where sailors gather (4)
 5 Series about poorly bred dramatist (10)
 6 Variety of wine held in Indian city (3,5)
 7 Do material changes, to be bespoke (6-4)
 8 Novel for mother of Esau and Jacob (7)
 14 One copying a queen in curly pigtales (10)
 15 Papa's medal melted down – brings a lump
 to the throat (5,5)
 18 Profit from hobby (8)

Wednesday, 21st February, 2024

No. 16,581



- 19 Cold, then warmed up, as fleeced (7)
 22 Scottish town to see therefore on a weekday (6)
 23 King in Yorkshire valleys with enemies of Doctor Who (6)
 25 Close to the middle of the wine area (4)
 26 Raise from the back (4)