

ACROSS

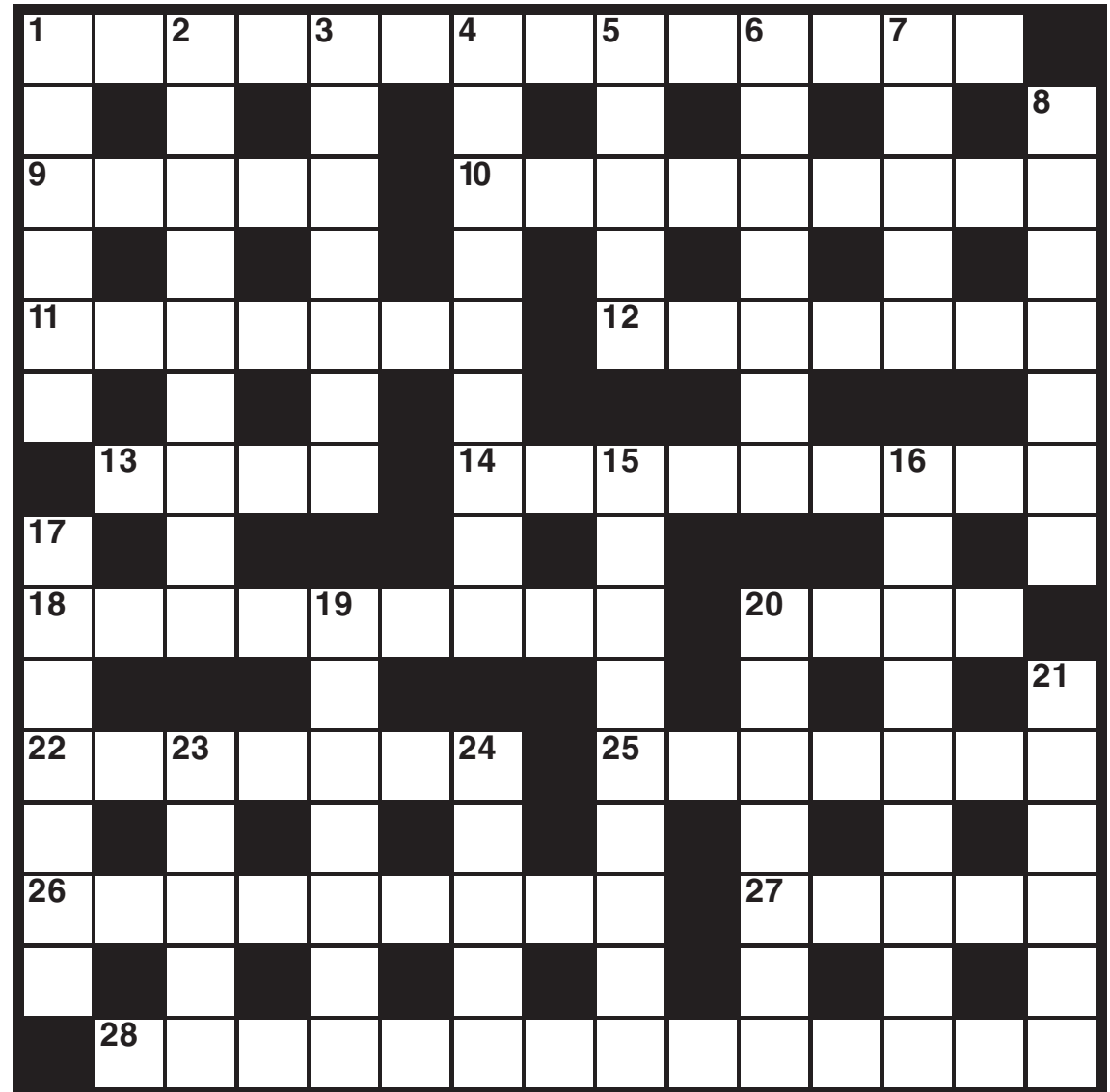
- 1 Carelessly hands Sam firework before meal (7,3,4)
- 9 Person mending a pipe? (5)
- 10 Craftily eat it after All Saints' Day for trial period (9)
- 11 Alternative score by America's rich king (7)
- 12 Ornate sceptre gains admiration (7)
- 13 Diving birds return with seabird (4)
- 14 Unavailable to add spice during the quiet period (3,6)
- 18 Traveller returned with one-time entertainer (9)
- 20 US author holds power as church leader (4)
- 22 The bridle strap, within that context (7)
- 25 Explain to king during knockout competition (5,2)
- 26 Wrong number – turning sourer outside (9)
- 27 A girl returns to find another (5)
- 28 Retail scam in Egypt? (7,7)

DOWN

- 1 Cut in half a piece that's dry inside (6)
- 2 Fresh delivery for American? (3,6)
- 3 Posh area is redesigned covering two continents (7)
- 4 Bad weather from Sweden, maybe dormant round south (9)
- 5 Admit to inane verse? Certainly not! (5)
- 6 Diplomat is seen hugging French artist (7)
- 7 Capacity beyond the Earth's atmosphere (5)
- 8 Coming across yours truly, get in stew (7)
- 15 Estimates made by accountant sheltering in woods (9)
- 16 Transport umpires in car (9)
- 17 Saw how a Dalmatian appears? (7)

Sunday, 26th May, 2024

No. 16,676



- 19 South Pacific islands seen from a canoe I upset (7)
- 20 Succeed in getting vicar into bucket! (7)
- 21 Jumped at point of collision (6)
- 23 Noble young leader too soon (5)
- 24 Girl I moan about (5)