

ACROSS

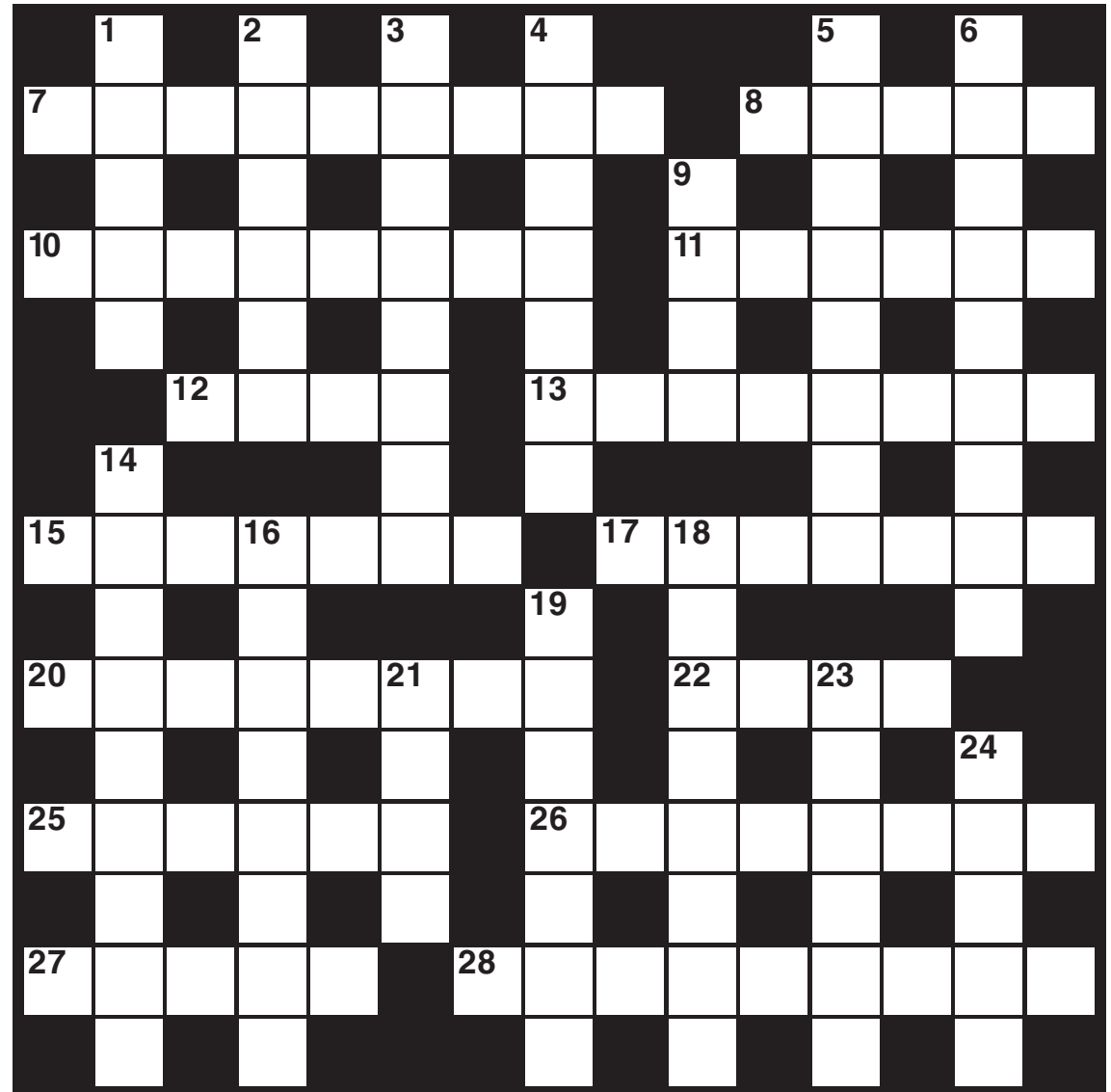
- 7 Couple involved in deeds mix-up hadn't a hope (9)
 8 Some foundered below (5)
 10 Monkey smashed china cup (8)
 11 Wife in early trouble with solicitor (6)
 12 Dish out pork, we hear? (4)
 13 State that snake's about to hug supporter (8)
 15 Very old worker, terribly nice at heart (7)
 17 Sport has seaman initially feeling sick (7)
 20 Notes quickly played at new opera gig (8)
 22 Dreariest part at the back (4)
 25 Alien seen in bar, selling on the high street (6)
 26 Almost two foreign letters or 26 English ones (8)
 27 Listen to unimportant collier (5)
 28 Recommendation of judge embracing
 new century (9)

DOWN

- 1 Pass on soldiers' song (5)
 2 Trim a fir (6)
 3 Rowing crew, still with no victory figure (8)
 4 Not beginning with child on the throne (7)
 5 Winter missile to run out of control (8)
 6 Making attractive garden feature by
 following notes (9)
 9 Lazy type into flowers, lobelia (4)
 14 Active, with endless go, before name's raised (9)
 16 One treated badly made a second speech (8)

Thursday, 11th January, 2024

No. 16,540



- 18 Plane's pace creating despair around end of sortie (8)
 19 Spun stick round gallery (7)
 21 Winner's medal left in Mars, say (4)
 23 Come to a funeral party, starting now! (6)
 24 Verbally spoil this French survey (5)