

ACROSS

- 1 Evict poorer vet worried by mollycoddling (14)
- 9 Where to put chalk at the right moment (2,3)
- 10 Closure order coated with iron glow (9)
- 11 Teaching around university, moving into it (7)
- 12 Elephant omitted some spirit (7)
- 13 Ready for some sport (4)
- 14 One somehow inert worker is wandering (9)
- 18 People questioning pitmen after cutback (9)
- 20 Heads of each dairy affect mature cheese (4)
- 22 Pressing therapy at sushi place (7)
- 25 Pay a long time for amount of film (7)
- 26 Space in upper room, say, when stiff in the joints (9)
- 27 It turns either way (5)
- 28 Opera star flips over hard substance (7,2,5)

DOWN

- 1 Old boatbuilder holds tongue at first when sworn in (2,4)
- 2 Mexican dish left in tumbledown hacienda (9)
- 3 Summary, note, is exact (7)
- 4 Insulting attack (9)
- 5 Fit of pique developing (5)
- 6 Caterer cooked for row of houses (7)
- 7 After five I rest or make a call (5)
- 8 School period has endless item on insect (7)
- 15 Thereby vary topic to include piece of furniture (4,5)
- 16 Substance for carving altar base, perhaps (9)
- 17 Girl is a long time making piece of mosaic (7)

Thursday, 22nd February, 2024

No. 16,582

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- 19 Narrow strip of land is like this, covering miles (7)
- 20 Show-off's journey to gripe about (3,4)
- 21 Brides destroyed rubbish (6)
- 23 One trade that is perfect (5)
- 24 Detach broken nut, that is (5)