ACROSS

- **9** Distorted emphasis shifting to north (9)
- **10** Animal is almost river duck (5)
- 11 Odd sort on odd platform (7)
- **12** Time to play cricket? Too late! (7)
- **13** Two men annexing a state (9)
- 16 Reveal memo left lying around (3,2)
- 17 Say to father: 'Could be hi-tech' (5-2-3-3)
- 20 I speed, being angry (5)
- **21** Acting jointly at recital (2,7)
- **24** Corresponding to animal in Asian boat (3,4)
- 25 Confused cruel sailor is open to remedy (7)
- **27** First team in reserve? (5)
- 28 Communion with Icarus the flyer (9)

DOWN

- 1 It's not right to return the French-Italian tomato (6)
- 2 Thinks not initially of applications (4)
- **3** Refrain from leaving unfinished task with you and me (6)
- 4 Charts raised to show meat (4)
- 5 Cracked cranium not hard-headed (10)
- **6** Time to feel sorry for sportsperson, a staunch Conservative (4,4)
- **7** Frenchman has appointment in second home (4-1-5)
- 8 Hear fellow provost with painkiller (7)
- **14** Interpretation of ocular isn't out of earshot (10)
- **15** A bad note I'm playing is disliked intensely (10)
- 18 Youngster brewing green tea (8)

Monday, 14th October, 2024

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- **19** Show pal's awful external home improvements (7)
- 22 It's customary to be a bit malign or malicious (6)
- 23 Deal with party, ultimately making an agreement (6)
- 25 Chanel has two businesses (4)
- 26 Man loses heart in empty boat (4)