

ACROSS

- 1 Light and adjustable mole's appealing (10,4)
- 9 Put off entering countryside terrain (5)
- 10 Former number to assess free from blame (9)
- 11 Explain to king during knockout competition (5,2)
- 12 Aware of the monarch about this time (7)
- 13 Check the stalk (4)
- 14 Complete dismissal of two cricketers, perhaps (3,3,3)
- 18 Sad when surf low or choppy (9)
- 20 Kind sort (4)
- 22 Loosening workings of tiny gun (7)
- 25 Some err badly and feel contrition for it (7)
- 26 Chivalrous to get four in to gad about (9)
- 27 Some had option to espouse (5)
- 28 Endless run-in if cultivating hostility (14)

DOWN

- 1 Cite article two out loud (6)
- 2 Obtain punter to improve in health (3,6)
- 3 Heard rumours about part of the head (7)
- 4 Group of witches doesn't start with evidence that can stand the heat (9)
- 5 Keep undealt cards (5)
- 6 Rest to have fibbed first (3-4)
- 7 French girl outside a city in America (5)
- 8 Western number is important (7)
- 15 Eater told off, but put up with (9)
- 16 Deliberately build upon with right attitude (2,7)
- 17 Calm destruction of sausage! (7)

Friday, 8th November, 2024

No. 16,842

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- 19 Great actor, one appearing in musical (7)
- 20 Paint I'm smearing on the drums (7)
- 21 Loud deliveries in ship's cabins (6)
- 23 Claw back some Cinzano later (5)
- 24 Finish good loaf (5)