

ACROSS

- 1 In error, stabbed dicky bird (5,9)
- 9 Note boy getting worthless stuff (5)
- 10 Lower card ie played with timidity (9)
- 11 Fiddles game (7)
- 12 Shoulder bag, left by a chest, exploded (7)
- 13 Talent that's free (4)
- 14 Garbled diction involving a river signpost (9)
- 18 Sid learns about separated people (9)
- 20 First showings of Fantasia, Iris, Lolita, Moonraker seen at cinema (4)
- 22 Gets rid of imperfect goods (7)
- 25 Recordings in French tests (7)
- 26 Liberal interpretation not applicable to classical performer (9)
- 27 Enthusiastic in Space Age? Rather! (5)
- 28 Where theatre of war is controlled? (10,4)

DOWN

- 1 Extra legal requirements for jockeys (6)
- 2 Friar briefly breaks chain left of the air passages (9)
- 3 Very big one in home is most curious (7)
- 4 Essex vice corrupted – it's beyond the limit (9)
- 5 Pitches for game (5)
- 6 Wandering boy catches rodent (7)
- 7 Quiet interrupted by German with metalworker (5)
- 8 Traders upsetting leaders (7)
- 15 Bandit's skirting round wild spree (9)
- 16 Reprimand when tag on kilt destroyed (7-2)
- 17 Boy bisecting small animals with germ (7)

Tuesday, 12th February, 2024

No. 16,601

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- 19 Can rule out this type of bomb (7)
- 20 Physical well-being is appropriate on loch (7)
- 21 Tree to crash into religious retreat (6)
- 23 Frenchman changing from small to soft drink (5)
- 24 Very fast bird? (5)