

ACROSS

- 8 Doctor is backing one writer for PM (8)
 9 Knave was troubled inside (6)
 10 Medical device carried by ambulance technician (6)
 11 Seriousness from Boris, sadly, yet to develop (8)
 12 Peer returns in order to avoid being most laughable (8)
 13 Instant curry oddly eschewed by bloke (6)
 14 It's with sadness girl's changed into flares, perhaps (8,7)
 18 Adopt donkey, returning bird (6)
 20 Composer briefly embraced by man and his best friend (8)
 23 Abuse whisky; mixing in water, whisky's obliterated (8)
 24 Confession in a letter read aloud (6)
 25 Embrace stress after changing name to Penny (6)
 26 Openly gay partner beginning to desire old hat (8)

DOWN

- 1 Welshman enters space station above the ground (6)
 2 Couple allowed in band (8)
 3 Social worker let criminal in car (6)
 4 A fascist idiot's stirred up northern resentment (15)
 5 Sail away with yours truly after day in country (8)
 6 In Crosby, say, it's cold (6)
 7 Guard posted in Spain close to Portugal (8)

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- 15 Demand one new policy (8)
 16 Weather men cutting forged steel (8)
 17 Citizen, one working in part of South Africa... (8)
 19 ...releases relatives after scratching head (6)
 21 Intelligence obtained from vehicle held up by Nazis (6)
 22 Bill takes a long time to make saws (6)