

ACROSS

- 1 Secret local mess after hearing couple neck-and-neck (3,5,2,4)
- 9 Collapse of trade is assessed (5)
- 10 A changing arrangement for prisoners' working party (5,4)
- 11 Litres spilt, with lemonade finally lacking vitality (7)
- 12 Weapon I'd put in English river (7)
- 13 A hundred and one, which may hold ninety-nine? (4)
- 14 Suggests they're close friends (9)
- 18 One caring, strangely, to show lack of knowledge (9)
- 20 Impertinent, partly saucy and cheeky (4)
- 22 Up-to-date optical illusion (7)
- 25 Make smaller foreign thrones (7)
- 26 Rupert met wild band member (9)
- 27 Remnant at the end of three months? (5)
- 28 Glowing prophet's chosen badly (14)

DOWN

- 1 Most of the reed used by nest-builder (6)
- 2 Seeking urban amusement? When not to, perhaps (2,3,4)
- 3 Machine-wrecker diluted concoction (7)
- 4 Liquid released to break up riot scene (9)
- 5 Followed pamphlet, we hear (5)
- 6 Endorse, then swindle the company (7)
- 7 Abandon holiday (5)
- 8 Say to lift maker, 'Male vanity' (7)
- 15 Bursar's more confident after adjusting rate (9)
- 16 Record holder to have spell on board (9)
- 17 Give orders to cut up shoddy goods inside (7)

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- 19 Cooking instructions should be terribly precise (7)
- 20 Claim of press, ridiculous (7)
- 21 Trapped by routine in a Turin settlement (2,1,3)
- 23 Material left in advance (5)
- 24 Door fastener found in stall at Chepstow (5)