

ACROSS

- 1 Tick off container with crazy Christmas treats (5,9)
- 9 Quietly improve ring (5)
- 10 Specialist to state following ethnic problem (9)
- 11 Rascal thus meets another? (2-3-2)
- 12 Tar must break down to form rock layer (7)
- 13 Remove top of table mat, it's greasy (4)
- 14 Instrument for house planner working outside (9)
- 18 Poisonous plant cover at an abbey (9)
- 20 Starting to cry at early Norman city (4)
- 22 All in exam of greatest stature (7)
- 25 Clearing the old visual come-on (4,3)
- 26 Registering when long liner is at sea (9)
- 27 Some gardeners make a forest (5)
- 28 Photographer's directive to golf fans? (5,3,6)

DOWN

- 1 Concerning the historical feast (6)
- 2 Love getting allowance after hassle (9)
- 3 Staged duet, say, in a 24-hour period (7)
- 4 Awkward situation for one in a jacket? (3,6)
- 5 Fires, plunders and bags (5)
- 6 Ron in no trouble as it was drip-dry (3-4)
- 7 During Lent a city's silent (5)
- 8 Merciful uncle mentioned inside (7)
- 15 Teacher breaks gauge – dope! (9)
- 16 European in turn, depend on being adaptable (4-5)
- 17 In love with small glove! (7)
- 19 Current case over hard coating (7)
- 20 Bread for tea with bit of butter on, for one (7)
- 21 Creating a scene in spiritual meeting (6)
- 23 Insect right in the heart of hot rock (5)
- 24 Soil colour around area (5)

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