

ACROSS

- 1 Coloured dish I'm sprinkling with salt (6,8)
 9 Freeway billboard holds back country (5)
 10 Piano and oboe lad's arranged for dance (4,5)
 11 Capital, is it holding politician back? (7)
 12 Cutting shilling first, being economical (7)
 13 Stitching vein (4)
 14 Slight change to tandem careering round blokes (9)
 18 Neil tires badly, although hardy (9)
 20 Quickly bite quantity of grain (4)
 22 Dreadful ague fit resulted in tiredness (7)
 25 Suppose I'm given a drink, last of lemonade (7)
 26 Reserves raised a cake with lower layers (9)
 27 Keeping relative? That's stupid (5)
 28 Infantryman in red gear, possibly, taking cover (9,5)

DOWN

- 1 Greet small turtles? How odd (6)
 2 Irish people add soundtrack to ships (9)
 3 I probe planet, after docking, with minute element (7)
 4 Entrance cave at pit damaged (9)
 5 Tips toward shopping aids? (5)
 6 Queen of Hearts, say, in the ref's pocket? (3,4)
 7 Give a name to major road to Arab state (5)
 8 Serious point on number (7)
 15 Release old, cattier version (9)
 16 Dish left in ramshackle hacienda (9)
 17 Claim of press, ridiculous (7)

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- 19 Relieve thin leg when fractured (7)
 20 Finding a home for piano with fancy finish (7)
 21 Listen, it's not shallow here – that you can rely on! (6)
 23 Drum roll started after boat capsized (5)
 24 Animal from Eastern country (5)