

**ACROSS**

- 7 Run down rating struggling in the river (9)  
 8 Usual practice in hospital – a small part (5)  
 10 Faithful account by clergyman (8)  
 11 Difficulty with phosphorus lamp (6)  
 12 Want some fine education (4)  
 13 Left suffering resulting in decline (8)  
 15 An obsession hard to understand (7)  
 17 Sappers gave up – retreated (7)  
 20 Striking confession by artist's model (8)  
 22 Sandy is among the crusaders (4)  
 25 A French spa for the sick? (6)  
 26 Housing males in principle (8)  
 27 Dutch market town, famous for cheese (5)  
 28 Means test reform for politicians (9)

**DOWN**

- 1 Get in touch, on the subject of a church (5)  
 2 Hear the writer's amphibian is tiny (6)  
 3 Ignored a crumpled dress material (8)  
 4 Sheer, the French tower (7)  
 5 Chap I heal with hand treatment (8)  
 6 These rigs upset holidaymaker (9)  
 9 Frank put ring on bird (4)  
 14 Men stuck between hills – that's a teaser (9)  
 16 Goes on to make a profit (8)  
 18 Tree gnarled and strangely tiny forever (8)  
 19 Disturb a US soldier by the gallery (7)  
 21 Lied about not working (4)  
 23 Inattentive over girl (6)  
 24 Part of the ground erupted below (5)

Friday, 29th October, 2021

No. 15,736

