

**ACROSS**

- 7 The others surround coach, showing moderation (9)  
 8 Grown crooked – it's not right (5)  
 10 Bold disobedience of French groom-to-be (8)  
 11 Not clear barley soup (6)  
 12 Cruelly beat foreign character (4)  
 13 Bird gazing round end of wall (8)  
 15 And the woman goes round the balcony (7)  
 17 Treadle about to be adjusted (7)  
 20 Record concerning fierce tigers (8)  
 22 Move slowly in church (4)  
 25 A kidder becoming relaxed (2,4)  
 26 Likely to be held up in the rain (8)  
 27 I love exotic delicate fabric (5)  
 28 Parade for April Fool's Day? (5,4)

**DOWN**

- 1 Trainee always finds the bar (5)  
 2 Priest destroyed mark of authority (6)  
 3 Denied that profits help (8)  
 4 Concentrated in the past, perhaps (7)  
 5 Time to feel sorry for sportsman, a staunch Conservative (4,4)  
 6 Charms canteen's cook without resistance (9)  
 9 Swedish group which may make a comeback? (4)  
 14 Small vote for variety (9)  
 16 Non-hostile French pal has a telegram (8)  
 18 Easy-going boy ringing one sponsor (4-4)  
 19 Shocks coming from Sumatra (7)  
 21 Ash, perhaps, in saltpetre essentially (4)  
 23 Look back in outskirts of city that's eerie (6)  
 24 Good girl – one holding drink (5)

Friday, 31st December, 2021

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