

ACROSS

- 7 Leather certain to be inflexible (9)
 8 Bitter cold in dry surroundings (5)
 10 Reduce by having food with little in it (8)
 11 Quietly managed church dance (6)
 12 Move gradually to the border (4)
 13 Song concerning a lazy character (8)
 15 His mate turns in disbelief (7)
 17 Placate vegetable-eating monkey (7)
 20 Carelessly patching evening hat (8)
 22 Sign of females blowing their top? (4)
 25 Begins with small open pies (6)
 26 I'd put men out for being saucy (8)
 27 Give medical aid – free? (5)
 28 Ship's officer taking in tea for one who pays (9)

DOWN

- 1 Illuminated round motorway boundary (5)
 2 Refused stranger indeed (6)
 3 Trees shaking out fir cones (8)
 4 Could be all thin insects in here (3-4)
 5 Mix with Southern couple at first on the hike (8)
 6 Verbal communication in nightclub? Sure to be difficult! (9)
 9 Nimble agent is about right (4)
 14 Censure for having stern on the river (9)
 16 Gas and ale mixture is descriptive of spirits (8)
 18 Expectation of a search for gold (8)
 19 Choose one mother and get the best (7)
 21 College head remains with the money (4)
 23 Charm some intend earnestly (6)
 24 Subservient to a Frenchman and the German (5)

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