ACROSS

- 1 Opposite things necklaces he had modified (5,3,6)
- **9** Being endlessly merciful (5)
- 10 Reckon car disturbed by grassland bird (9)
- **11** Batman's enemy, one asking tough questions (7)
- **12** One begins painting during rest, surprisingly (7)
- **13** Part of Palm Sunday's charity donation (4)
- **14** Remove megastore supply tank (9)
- **18** Animal returning tea right by complex diagram (4,5)
- 20 Listen to part of the arrangement (4)
- 22 Eastern fellow devoured issue (7)
- 25 Told a story, as father to son, perhaps? (7)
- 26 Emotionally helping girl onto long lorry (9)
- 27 Verbally instructed with cake? (5)
- 28 Trumpeter with small ears? (6,8)

DOWN

- 1 Band of warriors caught, say, going round Head Office (6)
- 2 Animal to maybe roam round a herb (9)
- **3** Generous chap starts a fire (7)
- 4 Month with a motoring group in rising country (9)
- **5** Kings and queens, perhaps, eccentric types (5)
- **6** Former partner with demand to cry out (7)
- 7 Beam of light down the mine-passage (5)
- 8 Prestigious car, rarer model in Formula One (7)
- **15** Meaning to ridicule, I cast liar out (9)
- **16** Restaurant serving up pie before a riot breaks out (9)
- 17 Crime of receiver (7)

Saturday, 6th April, 2024

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No. 16,626

- **19** Man, at one, wants Indian bread (7)
- 20 It'll hop round crest (7)
- 21 Most uneven bit of wood destroyed (6)
- 23 One working on Chekhov, for one (5)
- 24 Each number had been taken down (5)