

Across

- 1 Grazed back and scratched head in trick to reduce tension (6)
- 4 Spice beginning to cloy - second curry almost returned (8)
- 9 Shrink's group splitting church (6)
- 10 Shiny watch no good, Grandad? (3-5)
- 12 Press one bumbling answer (8)
- 13 Tedious work crucial, we're told, to make pasty (6)
- 15 Lively debate with uncle about source of taste that's impossible to identify (12)
- 18 Dubious woman acted out over working with one in *Hamlet*, perhaps (12)
- 21 Drum and bass group, for example (6)
- 22 Officer in South-East after lost boy - ignoring odds, means to check canal? (8)
- 24 Heartless mutineers reeling in old academic? (8)
- 25 Gumshoe's measure of Fergal O'Shea (6)
- 26 Endless Monster Energy unloaded from box for Kerry, say (8)
- 27 African parrot circling New York before end of migration (6)

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Down

- 1 Proper doctor welcoming green locums periodically (8)
- 2 Contrast fine sauce with last of flavourless fish (4,4)
- 3 Reorganised Zone I: cat, dog, fish, bull? (4,2,3,6)
- 5 Well penned by Beryl Bainbridge in retrospect (4)
- 6 Blot on landscape: semi-detached slum mostly collapsing (5,3,7)
- 7 Indistinct sound from poor maiden ousting husband (6)
- 8 More possibly affected in case of murder (6)
- 11 Medium pressure on Sarkozy having been cleared now (7)
- 14 Passed on, skirting extravagant dance (7)
- 16 Craft learned behind bars? (8)
- 17 Interminable show covering hospital overwhelmed by money raised? (8)
- 19 Rise when clubs close (6)
- 20 Something to cough up? Pin money primarily after pouch emptied (6)
- 23 Kermit maybe - not Grouch - repelled Animal (4)