CROSSWORD No 16,809 Set by REDSHANK

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JOTTER PAD

Solution 16,808

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ACROSS

- 1 Temerity of Parisian guy who's about to join union (8)
- **5** Frank's couple of auxiliaries (6)
- **10** Raise northern river covering track heading west (7)
- **11** Mr Toad's bogus celebrity status (7)
- 12 Unsophisticated graduate's in charge (5)
- 13 Dubious about entering sort of tank most of all (9)
- 14 Requests stars outside theatre to supply quips (12)
- **18** Insured foreign articles current Times architect put out (12)
- **21** Refreshing coach in golf clubs secured by Arab money (6,3)
- **23** Avoid withdrawing last segment of schedule (5)
- 24 Child comes across a gong, not a nice sort (2-3-2)
- 25 Firm keeps running when we'll be asleep (7)
- **26** Jolly earl ousts leading Republican in the red (6)
- **27** Support French art with chum touring old states (8)

DOWN

- 1 Spot European clutching new flower in Budapest (6)
- **2** Source of mast (or masts) on behalf of English saint (6)
- **3** Relatively friendly and helpful? (9)
- **4** Suspect character stole so-called off-roader (7,7)
- **6** Old man splits craft in two (5)
- **7** Visited polar region, getting shot of river that's improving (8)
- 8 Protest is about large harbour ruin(8)
- **9** Ropey sore throat? It is what makes articulation difficult (14)
- **15** The tiniest item of litter stores energy and oxygen in addition (9)
- **16** Copper scaled rocks where exit's blocked (3-2-3)
- **17** GB tourist traps sloth for one (8)
- **19** Brief row about bovine rolling over athlete's foot, say (6)
- **20**Immaculate striker joins Arsenal finally (6)
- 22 Clear article around the pits (5)