CROSSWORD No 17,618 by BOBCAT

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Solution 17.614

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For all the FT's festive puzzles, including the news puzzle of the year, scan the QR code or go to ft.com/crosswordapp, where you can also access FT crosswords over the last 30 days — cryptic, Polymath, Weekend and Sunday puzzles

JOTTER PAD

ACROSS

- **1** Pay attention at commencement of stretching exercises (3-3)
- **4** Section of Hull library, having withdrawn first part of *Great Expectations*, is gutted (6)
- **9** Princess Grace's tip is to leave party showing a bit of leg (4)
- **10** Outrageously bad lie about teacher is not unacceptable (10)
- 11 Hear Roy Orbison's contribution to US rock channel (6)
- **12** A number recalled uncontrollable movement of scepticism (8)
- 13 Little woman, a Francomaniac? (4,2,3)15 Fly in fast vehicle around North America
- 16 Man and wife enthralled by God (4)
- 17 Songwriters: people making a fortune
- from lines about sentiment (chiefly) (9)
 21 Model diagram/pattern in first place (8)
- 22 Claim member's consumed alcohol? On the contrary! (6)
- **24** Wordplay for 'nuder' referring to basic clothing (10)
- **25** Position of society, bereft of prime
- members, heading for extinction (4)

 26 Turn soldiers back before French state is
- 27 Superior sort of toy given to wayward son(6)

DOWN

overthrown (6)

- 1 Music of Australia boosted by No 1 from Sonny & Cher (7)
- 2 Take steps to leave after short function(5)
- **3** Amateur's out of form, under pressure in decisive match (4-3)
- **5** Independent car maker is lacking employees, principally in Barking (6)
- **6** Effects of sliding I'd reversed after signals changed (9)
- **7** One so lost in performance? (7)
- **8** Shame to ban old clothing I exchanged for two shillings (13)
- 14 Shop spy following information received(9)16 I'm looking forward to critic taking on
- Liberal (7)
- **18** Union trouble over single issue (7)
- **19** Firmly and correctly making fresh start (7)
- **20** Naughty child's allowed outside, but he won't go (6)
- **23** Climbing across a ledge requires this rope (5)