

Thursday, February 27, 2025

Cryptic • by DA



9:45 - 11:45 ~2hrs

ACROSS

- 1** Fruit half called for a shot? (8)
- 5** Con installed paywalls as security measure (6)
- 10** Male bird discovered by expert (5)
- 11** Dutch master conflated term with brand (9)
- 12** Swift, perhaps, on pocketing billions to pay to publish eco-concern (6,9)
- 13** Regularly sits upon cycle stores, seeing foxes (9)
- 15** Falsify passport of stiff? (5)
- 17** English track deep somatic phase (5)
- 18** Poirot's knack a write-off? (9)
- 21** Pure alliance saw the strife involving safeguard's introduction (5,2,1,7)
- 23** On wrong Pixar flick? (6-3)
- 24** By sound, spotted shell strapping NZ tree (5) **KOI**
- 25** Blast from Bangkok blitz reported (6)
- 26** Cheers Cockney mate, downing a double (4-4)

CHIN-CHIN

DOWN

- 1** Just missed getting brown dresses, Chanel top, stockings, cast-off cap... (4,5)
- 2** ...new jumper, constantly rented out (7)
- 3** Rental provider in parental? (4,2,3,3,3)
- 4** Typesetter strokes axes up (5)
- 6** Choose to eat second meal: prime, fatty menu disclosing spicy meat (4,4,7)
- 7** Caught on river, fleeing like a fox (7)
- 8** Congregated to absorb sacred books, sacred song (5)
- 9** Some deb's pleats made to stand out (8)
- 14** Root veggies he chopped, operating hotel chain (8)
- 16** Plant I trimmed under cat (9)
- 18** Old poet writes boring pulpit speech, needing day off (7)
- 20** Corresponding beyond the boundary (2,5) **IN TOUCH**
- 21** Eastwood School closed, limiting unsafe staph in seconds (5)
- 22** Scan ticker (5) **CLOCK**
- 23** **CHECK**