## AFR Cryptic (Christmas 2023) Solution

| ${ }^{1} \mathrm{~B}$ | U | ${ }^{2} \mathrm{~S}$ | T | ${ }^{3} \mathrm{~L}$ | E |  | ${ }^{4} \mathbf{P}$ |  | 0 | ${ }^{6} \mathrm{P}$ | 0 | ${ }^{7}$ S | E | ${ }^{8} \mathrm{D}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| U |  | T |  | A |  |  |  | 0 |  | A |  | H |  | 1 |
| ${ }^{9} \mathrm{~F}$ | 0 | U | N | D | A | ${ }^{10} \mathrm{~T}$ | 1 | 0 | N | S | T | 0 | N | E |
| F |  | P |  | D |  | R |  | M |  | S |  | U |  | S |
| ${ }^{11} E$ | X | E | G | E | S | I | S |  | ${ }^{12} \mathrm{~S}$ | E | T | T | E | E |
| R |  | F |  | R |  | P |  |  |  | D |  |  |  | L |
| ${ }^{13} \mathrm{~S}$ | A | 1 | L |  | ${ }^{14} \mathrm{~S}$ | P | 0 | ${ }^{15}$ | L | 1 | G | ${ }^{16} \mathrm{H}$ | T | S |
|  |  | E |  | ${ }^{17} \mathrm{D}$ |  | E |  | 0 |  | N |  | A |  |  |
| ${ }^{18} \mathrm{R}$ | A | D | 1 | 0 | G | R | A | P | H |  | ${ }^{19}$ | R | 1 | ${ }^{20} \mathrm{G}$ |
| E |  |  |  | G |  |  |  | S |  | ${ }^{21} E$ |  | M |  | Y |
| ${ }^{22} B$ | R | ${ }^{23}$ | L | G | A |  | 24 | P | E | N | D | 0 | 0 | R |
| U |  | A |  | E |  | ${ }^{25} \mathrm{X}$ |  | 1 |  | G |  | N |  | A |
| ${ }^{26} 1$ | N | S | T | R | U | M | E | N | T | A | L | 1 | S | T |
| L |  | 1 |  | E |  | A |  |  |  | G |  | C |  | E |
| ${ }^{27}$ | 1 | S | C | L | 0 | S | E |  | ${ }^{28}$ | E | G | A | N | S |


| Across | Clue | Explanation |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 BUSTLE | Hurried activity fixed underwear worn by old lady <br> $(6)$ | Double Definition |
| 4 PROPOSED | Recommended footballer does broadcast (8) | PROP + anagram of <br> DOES |
| 9 FOUNDATION <br> STONE | Building block discovered by station implicated <br> individual (10,5) | FOUND + anagram of <br> STATION + ONE |
| 11 EXEGESIS | Interpretation of the Bible is behind old friends <br> hugging, for example (8) | IS after (EXES outside <br> EG) |
| 12 SETTEE | Lounge suite - it's used by clubber? (6) | SET + TEE |
| 13 SAIL | Announcement of marketing cruise (4) | Sounds like SALE |
| 14 SPOTLIGHTS | Skin problem on the fringes of delicate features <br> $(10)$ | SPOTS outside <br> LIGHT |
| 18 RADIOGRAPH | A horrid gap spoiled x-ray image (10) | Anagram of A <br> HORRID GAP |
| 19 PRIG | Head off from shoot with moralistic person (4) | (s)PRIG |
| 22 BROLGA | Crane shifted gold bar, dropping down initially (6) | Anagram of GOLD <br> BAR minus (D)own |
| 24 OPEN DOOR | Ring in a sorry state about finale's free admission <br> $(4,4)$ | (O + POOR) outside <br> END |
| 26 | Musician's mate turns in broken record (15) | Anagram of MATE <br> TURNS IN + LIST |
| INSTRUMENTALIST | Is chlorine included in ingredients of medicine for <br> show? (8) | (IS + CL) inside <br> DOSE |
| 27 DISCLOSE | Vehicles carrying, say, particular consumers (6) | VANS outside EG |
| 28 VEGANS |  |  |


| Down | Clue | Explanation |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 BUFFERS | They polish shock absorbers (7) | Double Definition |
| 2 STUPEFIED | Confounded feed is put all over the place (9) | Anagram of FEED IS PUT |
| 3 LADDER | Young man, flushed, turned around to run (6) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { LAD + (RED } \\ & \text { reversed) } \end{aligned}$ |
| 5 ROOM | Secure elevated part of a building (4) | MOOR reversed |
| 6 PASSED IN | Old-fashioned racket is not sold at auction (6,2) | PASSE + DIN |
| 7 SHOUT | Round in bar? (5) | O inside SHUT |
| 8 DIESELS | Engines worked less south of pass (7) | Anagram of LESS after DIE |
| 10 TRIPPER | Judge holding in custody very quiet drug user (7) | TRIER outside PP |
| 15 TOPSPIN | Zampa might use this backward position in front of leg (7) | SPOT reversed + PIN |
| $\begin{aligned} & 16 \\ & \text { HARMONICA } \end{aligned}$ | Lay a finger on a coin forged with instrument (9) | HARM + anagram of A COIN |
| 17 DOGGEREL | Complete set containing German verse (8) | DO + (GEL outside GER) |
| 18 REBUILD | Restore custom-made bridle including nut in the middle (7) | Anagram of BRIDLE outside $\mathrm{n}(\mathrm{U}) \mathrm{t}$ |
| 20 GYRATES | Heartless guy judges pirouettes? (7) | $\mathrm{G}(\mathrm{u}) \mathrm{Y}+$ RATES |
| 21 ENGAGE | Take on disorderly gang in middle of speech (6) | Anagram of GANG inside $\operatorname{sp}(\mathrm{EE}) \mathrm{ch}$ |
| 23 OASIS | Love a relative's flower arranging stuff (5) | O + A + SIS |
| 25 XMAS | Crazy Mexicans giving up nice holiday (4) | Anagram of MEXICANS minus NICE |
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