AFR Cryptic (Saturday 16/3/2024) Solution

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| Across | Clue | Explanation |
|-------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1 GOT AHEAD | Advanced dotage has greatly developed (3,5) | Anagram of (DOTAGE HA)s |
| 5 THONGS | Lots of people without right footwear (6) | THRONGS minus R |
| 10 OMEGA | The conclusion is nothing great (5) | O + MEGA |
| 11 TAILGATED | Closely followed a car agitated about keeping left (9) | Anagram of AGITATED outside L |
| 12 ATMOSPHERE | Character redirected spam to this place (10) | Anagram of SPAM TO + HERE |
| 13 GO ON | Last man hired by a gangster (2,2) | Double Definition (of sorts) |
| 15 SLUR | Discredit reversal of rules excluding ecstasy (4) | RULES reversed minus E |
| 16 STILLNESS | Stumped by disease's lack of activity (9) | ST + ILLNESS |
| 18 ESTONIANS | English schoolboys boarded by south European people (9) | S inside ETONIANS |
| 20 ARMY | Military unit misplaced chap leaving pharmacy (4) | PHARMACY minus anagram of CHAP |
| 23 TYPO | Mistake acknowledged by section of security police (4) | securiTY POlice |
| 24 FIRE WARDEN | Emergency worker, one offered money in Chinese capital (4,6) | (I + REWARD) inside FEN |
| 26 EMOLUMENT | University people, staying in motel, distributed profit arising from employment (9) | (U + MEN) inside anagram of MOTEL |
| 27 KNAVE | Characters from furniture van kindly put back jack (5) | furniturE VAN Kindly |
| 28 SETTER | Times invested in visionary crossword creator? (6) | (T+T) inside SEER |
| 29 WRETCHED | Despicable end of show was sick (8) | sho(W) + RETCHED |

| Down | Clue | Explanation |
|-----------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1 GLOBAL | International court action handled by American girl (6) | LOB inside GAL |
| 2 THERMAL | Dynamic lifter that is not included in mixture of earth and lime (7) | Anagram of (EARTH + LIME) minus IE |
| 3 HEADSTRONG | The Dragons facing upheaval may be foolhardy (10) | Anagram of THE DRAGONS |
| 4 ANTIHISTAMINES | She maintains it altered drugs taken to combat an allergic reaction (14) | Anagram of SHE MAINTAINS IT |
| 6 HIGH | Friendly welcome uttered on drugs (4) | Sounds like HI |
| 7 NOT DONE | Time taken up by affirmative action one generally frowned upon (3,4) | T inside NOD + ONE |
| 8 SUDANESE | Africans take action against imprisoning Europeans (8) | SUE outside DANES |
| 9 AIR-RAID SHELTER | Irish art dealer refused protection from attacks? (3-4,7) | Anagram of IRISH ART DEALER |
| 14 FLEA MARKET | A standard maintained by nimble street seller (4,6) | (A + MARK) inside FLEET |
| 17 FEATHERS | Concerns about the growth of birds (8) | FEARS outside THE |
| 19 TAPROOT | A professional taken in by youngster - it's essential for growth (7) | (A + PRO) inside TOT |
| 21 MUDBATH | Played dumb at hot outdoor event held in grimy conditions (7) | Anagram of DUMB AT + H |
| 22 INTEND | One part of Australia complete with plan (6) | I + NT + END |
| 25 FUSE | Put together ignition line (4) | Double Definition |
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