The Stickler Weekly 40 ©David Stickley

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ACROSS

- 1 Conservative one caught family with them in horse farm (5-2-3-3)
- **9** Component of obsolete XP and such gets bigger (7)
- **10** Finished long detention primarily in solitary confinement (3,4)
- 11 Make lace and borders of tapestry of poor quality (5)
- **12** Triathlon men tucked into dry fruit for sustenance (9)
- 13 He is not around here involved in tax work(8)
- **15** Shot lodged in back of podium? Quite the contrary (6)
- **18** Speak about metal having a smooth, gleaming surface (6)
- **19** Deal arranged during lunch, say, for the last possible time (8)
- **22** Canopies patched up and left at a reduced price (2,7)
- 24 Drink sludge after opening of barrel (5)
- **25** Worthless group of four involved in court case (7)
- 26 Full bird died disgorging one (7)
- 27 I shall mislead minor with red rash (3-10)

DOWN

- **1** Small, very small band is dear (7)
- **2** I'm open about one not able to wait (9)
- **3** King, black, is eccentric (5)
- 4 Prying child turned in male leaving mess (8)
- 5 Low-growing shrub spread across large state (6)
- 6 Mass disruption to oilfield settled down (9)
- 7 Queen's mate is one chasing doctor (5)
- 8 Biblical text in action made an impression (6)
- 14 Northern Ireland taking part in set friendly (9)
- **16** One leader in paper raised postal application for goods (4,5)
- 17 Puts back ties after presentation of salesman (8)
- **18** Grass growing in animal enclosure is patchy (6)
- **20** Workers, flanked by two editors, made changes (7)
- **21** Flashily dressed man sent up to business centre (6)
- **23** Selection of terrific stories built up literary genre (3-2)
- 24 Route on the south side of Britain's capital is extensive (5)