

AFR Cryptic (Saturday 28/12/2023) Solution

¹ H	O	² T	H	³ O	U	⁴ S	E		⁵ S	⁶ T	R	⁷ E	S	⁸ S
A		E		R		I				U		R		E
⁹ M	O	L	E	C	U	L	E		¹⁰ O	P	I	A	T	E
P		E		H		I		¹¹ F		P		T		S
¹² E	A	G	L	E		¹³ C	A	L	L	E	D	O	U	T
R		R		S		O		A		R				A
	¹⁴ B	A	T	T	E	N		¹⁵ N	E	W	Y	¹⁶ E	A	R
¹⁷ P		P		R						A		C		S
¹⁸ A	T	H	W	A	R	¹⁹ T		²⁰ C	A	R	B	O	N	
S				S		A		O		E		N		²¹ R
²² S	T	²³ R	A	T	A	G	E	M		²⁴ P	R	O	S	E
A		I		A		S		P		A		M		F
²⁵ B	U	N	D	L	E		²⁶ B	A	H	R	A	I	N	I
L		S		L				R		T		S		L
²⁷ E	V	E	N	S	O		²⁸ V	E	R	Y	W	E	L	L

Across	Clue	Explanation
1 HOTHOUSE	Delicate tube with core measuring one thousandth of an inch (8)	HOSE outside THOU
5 STRESS	A spinster's dislocation is relieved of pain and tension (6)	Anagram of A SPINSTERS minus PAIN
9 MOLECULE	Atomic group's spy deciphered clue (8)	MOLE + anagram of CLUE
10 OPIATE	Habit-forming drug, one ingested after surgical procedure (6)	(I + ATE) after OP
12 EAGLE	Each golfer regularly recorded shot on course (5)	EA + (G)o(L)f(E)r
13 CALLED OUT	Caught, a hoodlum receiving shiner, yelled (6,3)	(C + A + LOUT) outside LED
14 BATTEN	Come in down the order with a piece of wood? (6)	BAT TEN
15 NEW YEAR	Holiday time organised anywhere with no hotel (3,4)	Anagram of ANYWHERE minus H
18 ATHWART	What rebuilt facility is in opposition to (7)	Anagram of WHAT + ART
20 CARBON	Element, rubidium, combined with oxygen inside container (6)	(RB + O) inside CAN
22 STRATAGEM	Famous guitar fitted with a rock device (9)	STRAT + A + GEM
24 PROSE	Experts heard a tedious speech (5)	Sounds like PROS
25 BUNDLE	Bread deal arranged without a package (6)	BUN + anagram of DE(a)L
26 BAHRAINI	Arab recalled Arab moving around hospital in one (8)	ARAB reversed outside H + IN + I
27 EVEN SO	Rewired ovens, charged with energy, should be all the same (4,2)	Anagram of OVENS outside E
28 VERY WELL	Healthy expression of agreement (4,4)	Double Definition

Down	Clue	Explanation
1 HAMPER	Endless bubbly and food selection? (6)	c)HAMPER(s
2 TELEGRAPH	Support criminal charge in the distributed communication system (9)	LEG + RAP + inside anagram of THE
3 ORCHESTRA STALLS	Great seats or box all stars reserved? (9,6)	OR + CHEST + anagram of ALL STARS
4 SILICON	Element twisted in coils (7)	Anagram of IN COILS
6 TUPPERWARE PARTY	Set up, for each state representative, creative function designed to sell stuff (10,5)	PUT reversed + PER + WA + REP + ARTY
7 ERATO	A time of significance to a Greek goddess (5)	ERA + TO
8 SEE STARS	Atrocious actresses without class primarily suffer from a big blow (3,5)	Anagram of ACTRESSES minus (C)lass
11 FLAN	Large portion of side dish (4)	(FLAN)k
16 ECONOMISE	Green one is upset about minister's initial budget (9)	ECO + [anagram of ONE IS outside (M)inister]
17 PASSABLE	Father's fur coat is not too bad (8)	PAS + SABLE
19 TAGS	Hollow things containing silver marks? (4)	T(hing)S outside AG
20 COMPARE	Approach taking into account score in golf match (7)	COME outside PAR
21 REFILL	Sports official dealt with ailing replacement (6)	REF + ILL
23 RINSE	An amount of water in sewer? (5)	wateR IN SEwer