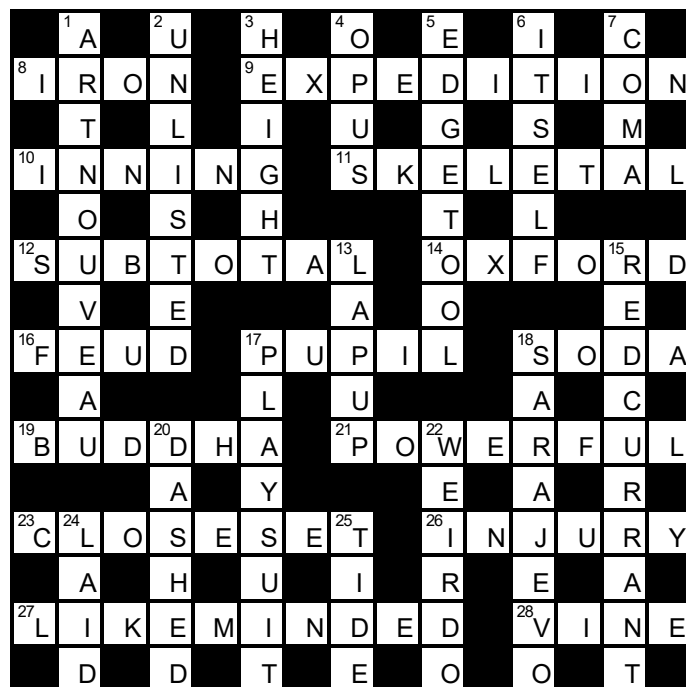




Across

- 8** Decrease in strength (4) iron (Strength - Cryptically to de-crease is to iron (clothes))
- 9** Making adventure faster? (10) expedition (Double definition)
- 10** Baseball division found a pub in Gateshead (6) inning (Baseball division - INN (pub) + IN + G[ates] (head = first letter of the word))
- 11** Wasted take and sell wasted (8) skeletal (Wasted - Anagram (wasted) of TAKE & SELL)
- 12** Penultimate result on the coach back; to take a leak initially(8) subtotal (Penultimate result - Reversal (back) of BUS (coach) + TO + T[ake} + A + L[eak] (initial letters))
- 14** Where to look for commas? (6) Oxford (Cryptic reference to Oxford Commas)
- 16** Analyst loses his second argument (4) feud (Argument - F[r]EUD (Analyst without second letter))
- 17** What can learn to grow in the dark? (5) pupil (What can learn (in school) - Also the pupil in the eye grows wider in the dark)
- 18** Pop is a very short father (4) soda (Pop (drink) - SO (very) + DA[d] (shorted word for father))
- 19** Flower had bad teacher (6) Buddha (Teacher - BUD (flower) + HAD* (Anagram=bad))
- 21** Chopped up flower is not a pansy (8) powerful (Not a pansy (weakling) - Anagram (chopped) of UP FLOWER)
- 23** Near lock-up stage (5-3) close-set (Near - CLOSE (lock-up) + SET (stage/theatre))
- 26** Disservice where twelve serve? (6) injury (Double definition - Disservice & twelve serve IN (a) JURY)
- 27** Kind and bothered to be on the same wavelength (4-6) like-minded (On the same wavelength - LIKE (kind/similar) + MINDED (bothered))
- 28** Fight over new growth (4) vine (Growth - VIE (fight) around (over) N (new))

Down

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Rat movement? (3,7) | art nouveau (Movement - Anagram (movement) of RAT = ART "nouveau"(new)) |
| 2 Not classified but badly insulted (8) | unlisted (Not classified - INSULTED* (Anagram=badly)) |
| 3 Dimension with eighteen squared away (6) | height (Dimension - Hidden word ("squared away") [wit]HEIGHT[een]) |
| 4 No discharge for a number of composers (4) | opus (Number of (used by) composers - O (no/zero) + PUS(discharge)) |
| 5 Hedge too long to contain cutter (4,4) | edge tool (Cutter - Hidden word ("to contain") [h]EDGE TOO L[ong]) |
| 6 That same one to stifle innovation (6) | itself (That same one - STIFLE* (Anagram=innovation)) |
| 7 Qualification following business collapse (4) | coma (Collapse - MA (qualification) following CO (business/company)) |
| 13 Drink with pal? (3,2) | lap up (Drink - In a down clue LAP UP(wards) is pal) |
| 15 Fruit of rave following bloody dog (3,7) | red currant (Fruit - RANT (rave) following RED (bloody) + CUR (dog)) |
| 17 Onesie show at clubs (8) | playsuit (Onesie - PLAY (show) + SUIT (clubs/cards)) |
| 18 Atrocious Soave overwhelmed British rule of European city (8) | Sarajevo (European city - SOAVE* (Anagram=atrocious) around (overwhelmed) RAJ (British rule, in India)) |
| 20 Charged, being dead against keeping quiet (6) | dashed (Charged - Reversal (against) of DEAD around (keeping) SH (quiet)) |
| 22 Oddball drew up one in circle (6) | weirdo (Oddball - Reversal (up) of DREW around I (one in) + O (circle)) |
| 24 Call back to deliver put down (4) | laid (Put down - Reversal (back) of DIAL (call)) |
| 25 Check-up on what comes in each day (4) | tide (What comes in each day - Revesal (up) of EDIT (check)) |