

NB: Each clue's definition carries a surplus letter. Mix all 28 to make a message (4,4,3,1,7,9) to mark the new year.

ACROSS

- 1 Held peeled sticks in the pit to harm joints (6)
- 4 Sending voile material to reduce rounds filling reel? Good (8)
- 9 Stave off tin ear (6)
- 10 French chopper ranged abroad to get composer (8)
- 12 Ten elite brains played brainy sport (6,8)
- 14 Stripes lanes midst snarl-up (10)
- 15 Drop a line from coda, say (4)
- 17 Give offensive spray to ceremonial road (4)
- 19 Decreased report letter by second term revision (4,6)
- 22 Heard to badly need rifle? (3,3,5,3)
- 24 Taking Spain's hot winds, getting vague (8)
- 25 Marine good to shorten journey to Pole (6)
- 26 Bandaging saucer? (8)
- 27 Reed instrument lacking stylish reed (6)

DOWN

- 1 Report you file: Bread For Canines? (4)
- 2 Account omitted Garuda terminus supplying crazy flights (7)
- 3 Needling with speed, mounting crest on Sean (5,3)
- 5 Linking loose clothing to forecast outside (12)
- 6 Fear from revealing way to evacuate squat (6)
- 7 Middle Eastern president is showing up one king (7)
- 8 Gardener's paid by nutmeg and herb potpourri (5,5)
- 11 CARE depot joker is working (7,5)
- 13 Pre-staged a call about spy boss, being classified? (10)
- 16 Cosmic lines vex Hollywood veteran heading for lipo (8)
- 18 Limited volume as a precaution to vend car? (7)
- 20 Property or rate (7)
- 21 Egyptian eking on homemade crusts stocked by officers (6)
- 23 Shun its entombed corpse (4)

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