

1	B	O	2	O	K	3	M	A	4	R	K	5	S		6	A	L	7	A	M	8	O
	U		R		A		O		H		N		B		N							
9	T	A	G		10	G	O	R	M	E	N	G	H	A	S	T						
	T		A		I		T		B		E		L		H							
11	E	U	N	U	C	H		12	C	A	L	L	I	O	P	E						
	R		Z					13	O				F		N							
14	F	R	A	N	15	C		16	P	R	17	O	F	I	T	E	E	R				
	L				O			U		R			S									L
18	Y	G	19	G	D	R	A	S	I	L		20	H	Y	21	D	R	A				
	E		R		N					Y					E		S					
22	F	L	I	M	S	I	23	L	Y		24	V	25	A	C	A	N	T				
	F		D		Y		I		26	T		O		D		L						
27	E	L	D	E	R	F	L	O	W	E	R		28	E	R	E						
	C		L		U		A		A		T			Y		G						
29	T	I	E	U	P		30	C	A	S	T	A	N	E	T	S						

## Explanations

Note:

Red=definition part of clue

Blue=wordplay

Black=the rest, if any

## Across

1 **Spoooner's fool yells: "They keep us in our places!"** – BOOKMARKS – "Spoooner's" indicates that the next thing is to be Spooonerised (have their first phonemes swapped – using "Spoooner's" for this is a standard convention, though it can, of course, be subverted!) fool=MOOK ("a disagreeable or incompetent person") yells=BARKS, hence MOOK BARKS – swap the first letters to get the answer. (bookmarks "keep us in our places".)

6 The site of an unforgettable engagement, not quite fashionable – ALAMO – a military engagement of course – not quite fashionable indicates that it isn't quite "A LA MODE"

9 Pick out odd bits from strange signature – TAG – pick out the odd letters from sTrAnGe and you get the answer

10 Groans came from here as Goth sang R.E.M. composition – GORMENGHAST – the home of Titus and the other members of the Groan family in Mervyn Peake's classic – "composition" indicates an anagram of "Goth sang R.E.M." ("as" is just a connector – answer as wordplay)

11 He had a plum job once, in more ways than one – EUNUCH – a double definition. Being a Eunuch was a "plum job once" (for castrati singers and harem attendants). The other meaning of "plum job" can perhaps be left to the imagination.

12 Steam whistles from duck pie simmering on ring – CALLIOPE – an organ using steam whistles, often used in fairgrounds – duck=zero=O, plus PIE, "simmering" indicates that it's anagrammed (to "IOPE") and "on" indicates that it comes after ring, which gives "CALL"

14 Sound, unreserved currency – FRANC – "sound" indicates a homophone, and "unreserved" means frank.

16 Scientist shortly to obtain computers; always exploitative type – PROFITEER – "scientist shortly"=PROF, computers=IT, always=E'ER

18 Lairds puzzled; ask why horse is stuck in front of huge tree – YGGDRASIL – "puzzled" indicates an anagram of "lairds" (DRASIL), "ask" indicates speech, i.e. a homophone, "why horse" is "Why gee-gee" or phonetically "YGG" which is "stuck in front" for the answer.

20 Head grower found amongst the hydrangeas – HYDRA – "Amongst" indicates that the answer is embedded in "the hydrangeas" (and the hydra famously grew back its heads when they were cut off).

22 First part of bunkum heartlessly frivolous, in a frail sort of way – FLIMSILY – bunkum=FLIM-FLAM, so first part=FLIM, frivolous=SILLY so heartlessly=SILY

24 Virginia is unable to be as a lot may be – VACANT – Virginia=VA (the US state) is unable=CAN'T – a lot may be vacant.

27 A perennial, like "Old man river" ? – ELDERFLOWER – Old man=ELDER, flower=RIVER (as in "something that flows")

28 Head away from this place before a certain time – ERE – this place=HERE, "head away from" removes the H

29 Deal with loose ends? That is occupying mate – TIE UP – That is=IE, "occupying" mate=TUP

30 Begin to fish by seaside for a pair of joined shells – CASTANETS – Begin to fish="CAST A NET" by seaside=S (the left hand side of "SEA")

**Down**

- 1 A flapper causing a stir in faraway places? – BUTTERFLY EFFECT – an “oblique definition”
- 2 One last letter turned up after publication, leading to thin material – ORGANZA – One=A, last letter=Z, turned up=ZA, after publication=ORGAN
- 3 Amazing image, nice with edges trimmed – MAGIC – “iMAGe nICe” with edges trimmed, i.e. first and last letters removed.
- 4 Appropriate funds, lose employment, escalate fraud – RORT – “Appropriate funds”=TROUSER (as in steal), lose employment=remove “USE” giving TROR, escalate (for a down clue) writes it backwards/upwards for answer.
- 5 Haggard woman qualified for Royal residence – SHEBA – Haggard woman=SHE, qualified=”She B.A.”
- 6 Showy swimmer spread his fan: rich girl dives in – ANGELFISH – “spread his fan” indicates an anagram of HIS FAN=AN FISH, rich girl=GEL (upper-class pronunciation of girl) dives in=insert
- 7 Shell donated by shipwrecked sailor? – ABALONE – an A.B.=Able Seaman=sailor, shipwrecked=alone
- 8 Like ragged trousers? – ON THEIR LAST LEGS – an “oblique definition” / pun
- 13 Work guy with hands everywhere taking part at end of month – OPUS – guy with hands everywhere is an OCTOPUS, the part at the end of the month (OCT) is OPUS
- 15 Sweetener offered by company to sailors with hairpiece – CORN SYRUP – Company=CO, sailors=RN (Royal Navy), hairpiece=SYRUP in Cockney slang (Syrup of figs=wig)
- 17 Airport featured in the Inspector Lynley mysteries – ORLY – which does feature in Inspector LYnley
- 19 Solve good puzzle to obtain metal plate – GRIDDLE – The clue instructs you to solve “good puzzle” – good=G, puzzle=RIDDLE – to obtain the answer
- 21 Accurate lead projector from US agency looked back – DEADEYE – nickname for a marksman, or “accurate lead projector” – US agency=DEA, looked=EYED, back=DEYE
- 23 Diamond lady has type of power plant – LILAC – “Diamond Lil” is various things, from a play by Mae West to a comic character, type of power=AC (alternating current)
- 25 Vessel one should speak of? – AORTA – A=one, “speak of” indicates a homophone of a synonym of “should”, in this case “ought to” often pronounced as “ORTA” – I admit this is a bit of a stretch but if you got it and laughed (or groaned!) I consider my work done.
- 26 Poetic precursor to Christmas Eve is hit with marginal changes – TWAS – The definition is referring to the poem that starts “’Twas the night before Christmas ...” hit is SWAT, “marginal changes” swaps the “marginal” letters for the answer.