ACROSS
1. Good old-fashioned greeting given to valued recruits (6,5)
7, 11. Model ready to take key character on a special date (3,6,3)
9. Shy person overexcited on the inside (5)
10. Gold beer mixed with spirits turns out purple in colour (9)
11. See 7 across
12. Musical note really needed to be shortened (5)
13. Defector replaces revolutionary not Liberal (7)
15. Stray dog without a tail? (4)
18. Bite back like a small insect (4)
20. Provincial urinals need redesigning (7)
23. Republic mentioned in 20 down (5)
24. Beginning with nice tip in recycling (9)
26. Guardian has leading story Times initially rejected (9)

DOWN
1. Guinevere's first love has, potentially, to share all costs (2,6)
2. Colouring edges takes but a moment (8)
3. Look around Central American nest site for 27 (5)
4. For a magpie it’s more difficult to hide a ring (7)
5. Shy non-union consumer tries to influence MPs (7)
6. What belongs to us little people, nationalists’ main concern? (9)
7. Fruit growing is restricted (6)
8. River bird, one holding many records (6)
14. Start panning a little bit downstream for sham gold (9)
16. Unusually sensitive girl brought up about 10 at heart (8)
17. Comrades run into troubles (8)
19. Make capital out of blunder over oil production (7)
20. Island king finally takes City under control (2,5)
21. Old dependent water feature in winter (6)
22. Live on 50% benefit (6)
25. Purse sewn oddly by groom (5)