CROSSWORD
No. 15,983 Set by CRUX

ACROSS
1  I must talk freely – hard to do for a man? (9)
6  Placebo heals like tea, to some extent (5)
9  Londoner spurns new party and becomes Independent (5)
10  Hard biscuit for Rufus? (9)
11, 12  Where to find goods in badly planned store (3,4,3,4)
14  Regressive tax near ruined the foreign bar (7)
15  Gave support for double parking on outskirts of Enfield (7)
17  Rather slow, also surprisingly neat (7)
19  They typify the female – nothing changes! (7)
20  Humour about death (4)
22  Patter made by a US drummer, perhaps (5,5)
25  National Trust property eg, giving hospitality to all (4,5)
26  Goblin runs around ring? On the contrary (5)
27  Suffering with disease, origin unknown (5)
28  Duty payable on a larger car? (6,3)

DOWN
1  Island whisky, last seen on Jura (5)
2  Enduring hunger upset Dickens (4-5)
3  Rude Irish clergyman doesn’t finish on time (10)
4  Outlaw in Albania ousted by German of another country (7)
5  Inks mixed with it could be blood (7)
6  Brewers regularly may set the standard for industry (4)
7  Suspicion borne by Richard of York? (5)
8  Does it pan out where diggers are found (9)
13  Words for those starting course in French (3,7)
14  Sort of predators not credible among crocodiles (9)
16  Indicates trouble ahead for Railtrack (6,3)
18  Period of history bound for wipe-out (7)
19  Sweat, yet not hot? Take too much and . . . . (7)
21  . . .. . this is what you’ll become! (5)
23  He needs hammers, say, and a corkscrew (5)
24  Question asked about English milk production (4)