

Just for a change, a 13 × 13 puzzle

ACROSS

- 6** Hearty greetings often the first clue (though not here) (7)
7 Attending class on pupils' day off? (5)
9 Short measure of beer costing more for admired person (3-2)
10 Editor and setter in China to resolve differences (7)
11 Upset – in tears – one is missing at the back (6)
13 Nothing in returning emperor to criticise (5)
15 Function with muscle (5)
17 Sister ingests vile mixture of metal (6)
20 Guarantee Romeo gives way for sex in hotel accommodation, say (2,5)
21 A medal, right – in resin? (5)
23 Gonzalez, perhaps, not unknown for amphetamine (5)
24 Expressed regret for unkind remark in vague muttering (7)

DOWN

- 1** Take in big city bird (4)
2 Short pachyderm that is a 16? (6)
3 Mummy whose arrival O'Neill playfully announced? (6)
4 Row about North Dakota fire-starter? (6)
5 Increase key activities, initially in the evening (8)
6 Requirements briefly raised for mushrooms (4)
8 Relieved oneself in totally vacant private bathroom, say (6)
12 Left bend? (8)
14 Somewhat ridiculous, her sister's attendants (6)
16 Party below dam is an unconventional sort (6)
17 Cutters here, we're told, in empty shipping lanes (7)
18 French article on fever in society (6)
19 Dull and backward poet (4)
22 Prejudice putting bismuth before arsenic (4)

The solution and blog will be on Fifteensquared on Sunday from 11.00 am.

