Crossword 15,626 Set by Redshank

ACROSS
1 Notice proclaiming bookie’s ball? (6)
4 Taxi cuts a great deal on good terms (8)
9 He sells revolting left-wing paintings (6)
10 Bang on about recidivist cleric (8)
12 Papers redesigned and given sexy fronts (4)
13 Skill needed to devise in-store ads (10)
15 Supply curry where there are no seats (8,4)
18 Changing mind, supporter in US city sheds weight (12)
21 Those in opposition, for instance, blocking winners (10)
22 Worms had one regular intake (4)
24 Jailed but ready to be released (2,3,3)
25 What broke Burton’s heart? Scotch (6)
26 NE industrial zone offers places for driving team (8)
27 Current tip of warp is fed in to fix loom (6)

DOWN
1 He sends up Salvation Army flag during races (8)
2 Guard a king carrying a crown, say (8)
3 Royals consume drugs and smoke in Balmoral (4)
5 Mike and Robert were working on line in beer plant (12)
6 500 wearing track suits here? (10)
7 He makes dough defending European Cup (6)
8 Last couple avoid vespers in any event (4,2)
11 I refuse to entertain bird with eccentric credentials (8,4)
14 Group getting letters dreads fixed notices (10)
16 Mollify small child holding a gun (8)
17 A good place to see art in 11 in a state (8)
19 Bigot adrift touring Spain (6)
20 Corn grows here? I beg to differ (3,3)
23 Fancy wife going with that bloke! (4)

Copies of How to Sound Clever by Hubert van den Bergh and The Superior Person's Book of Words by Peter Bowler, published by A&C Black and Bloomsbury, will be awarded to the senders of the first three correct entries opened on Wednesday August 23. Entries marked Crossword 15,626 on the envelope, should be sent to Weekend FT, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on August 26.