Crossword 15,662 Set by Redshank

ACROSS
1 Naive fellow in Switzerland gets the bird (10)
7 Once defeated, reserves surrender (4)
9 Small standard box (4)
10 Awful winter across east, hail and wind together (10)
11 Seat on jumbo for VIP who had hiccups (6)
12 Current price includes apparatus for water (8)
13 Wine very nearly reaches its destination (8)
15 Almost run into front of Kate Humble (4)
17 Love visiting big wild desert (4)
19 Occupants go to nurse French child female abandoned (8)
22 Stir caused by this European snake in Scottish town (8)
23 Former president scrapping Romney’s mission (6)
25 Slip below bypass (10)
26 Bats employ echo to find something to drink (4)
27 Shoot and leave without record (4)
28 Flowers cover baggy pants? There’s money in them (5,5)

DOWN
2 Carpet salesman finished right at the front (7)
3 Sporting listeners dreaded missing start of football (5)
4 Not playing away, half fit, ragged, stuffed by United (8)
5 Heavyweight’s up on his feet and punching still (15)
6 Race round Arab capital in Africa (6)
7 Priest runs fitness centre during fair (9)
8 County docked place for driving enthusiast (7)
9 Seamen struggle with it, circling harbour? (9)
10 Experts attempt to save Arden’s last tree perhaps (8)
11 Each province cuts tuberous plant for main region (7)
12 Managed to fire rifle (7)
13 Rumours East German admitted to doctor (6)
14 Male participates in Polish-American dance (5)

Solution 15,661

Solution 15,650

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 October 4. Entries marked Crossword 15,662 on the envelope, should be sent to Weekend FT, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on October 7.

Jotter pad