ACROSS
1 Artist in Baltic country volunteers for operatic work (2,8)
6 I study computer symbol (4)
9 Place to eat? Daughter and I clear end of table (7)
10 Unfair treatment in chilly and damp Kent town (3,4)
12 Contest open to anybody – no entry fee? (4-3-3)
13 Leave out incomplete piece of sports equipment (3)
15 At sea in a launch (6)
16 Soft, the Italian vegetable and fish (8)
18 Eyeglasses suitable for the likes of van Gogh, ultimately? (5-3)
20 Brand new mag after its found backing (6)
23 Corruption – zero tolerance cases (3)
24 Speech pattern not uncommon in one state (10)
25 Have a favourable effect on independent politician on steamship (7)
27 Revised edition of bible after question results in minor criticism (7)
28 Extra fish got by wife (4)
29 Like some skirts in joint, to an extent? (4-6)

DOWN
1 Cover placed over old swimming pool (4)
2 Climber to catch up on most of exercises (7)
3 Still together (2,3,4,4)
4 Diamonds put on top of carton in compartment of fridge (6)
5 Easy shot bagging stray reptile (8)
7 Check complicated lease in residential district of London (7)
8 Little Eleanor and Daniel covering English music hall song (6,4)
11 Aggressive type set out to bring about industrial action (7,6)
14 Talk up opinion about a cable TV service (3-3-4)
17 Discharge spray can in this manner inside (8)
19 Famous father’s come in for item of stationery (7)
21 Joke about line written on black potting compost container (7)
22 Solitary single only (6)
25 Netting’s border raised across third of base (4)

SOLUtion 15,597

A prize of The Good Word Guide by Martin Manser and How to Sound Clever by Hubert van den Bergh will be awarded for the first correct solution opened. Solutions by Wednesday August 2, marked Prize Crossword 15,609 on the envelope, to the Financial Times, 1 Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on Monday August 7.