CROSSWORD
No. 15,455 Set by CRUX

ACROSS
1 Bestsellers with a necessarily short shelf life (3,5)
5 Car crashes as result of son's illegal pursuits? (6)
9 Military two-step, say, as performed by 3? (3,5)
10 It could mean to choke itself, strangely (6)
11 Infidels seen in heart of Lutheran capital . . . . (8)
12 . . . . as churchgoers in another start hostilities (6)
14 Crushed almost flat, it might represent 1, 15 down (6,4)
18 Loosely based around a piece of land miles away (10)
22 Foolish talk of club finally changing hands (6)
23 Game seen at PM's residence (8)
24 One's inclined to be emphatic (6)
25 Drunken Romeo stocks rejected wine – he'd take in almost anything! (8)
26 Rock and roll heard from Muslim leader (6)
27 She fitted in a nervous Gran's teeth (8)

DOWN
1, 15 He allowed hints to reveal the current situation (3,3,4,4)
2 Modernist art animation with a distinctive check pattern (6)
3 Dad's in pain, being brave perhaps (6)
4 Odd characters also found among CIA brides (10)
6 Workers about to be advised to make decorative ribbons (8)
7 Basic, like Cromwell's dress, not the king's (2-6)
8 Understand an object could get you in a state (8)
13 It describes Kent's alter ego (10)
15 See 1 down
16 Pronounced with an H like Hook, for instance (8)
17 Better than cheap thrill footballers may demand (4,4)
19 Supplies the ultimate in rude jokes (6)
20 Tell somebody to get lost! (6)
21 Some trees like enclosures (6)

Solution to Saturday's prize puzzle on Saturday February 4
Solution to yesterday's prize puzzle on Tuesday February 6
Winners' names will be printed in Weekend FT