ACROSS
1 Undramatic explanation of depression (3-3)
4 Penalised by being pushed around in the wrong way (8)
9 Rise and go out for drunken binges (6)
10 Left with the threat of evil (8)
11 Elaborate point to hold forth about (6)
12 Sit a certain way for the ideal journey? (8)
13 Mother comes back in a frenzy (3)
14 Fears loss of an opener to slips (6)
17 Track official whose report is eagerly awaited (7)
21 First start, then finish in ridicule (4,2)
25 An attempt to get past (3)
26 Evidence that the deal is not perfect (8)
27 Architectural highlight (6)
28 Farewell to an Inca ruin in foreign port (8)
29 Diminish value of child-bearing (6)
30 One may lose a whole day going over it (4-4)
31 It tells how to break bread with a number inside (6)

DOWN
1 Appear to be in charge and make an inspection (4-4)
2 They remove the dead in battles (8)
3 Having a choice makes them cross (8)

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 October 25, marked Prize Crossword 15,681 on the envelope, to the Financial Times, 1 Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on Monday October 30.

The winner’s name will be published in Weekend FT on October 28.