CROSSWORD
No. 15,646 Set by CRUX

ACROSS
1 The French of Virginia said to be heartbroken (10)
6 What Mole might say is child’s play (1,3)
9 Little lost after 50% diet? Cut down! (10)
10 Lots of old trousers (4)
12 Kind of menu for high table at the Sorbonne? (5,7)
15 Episodes in The Detectives, ten maybe, starting Sunday (9)
17 Get beaten in the dance-off (5)
18 Kiddies love a bit of that Parmesan taste (5)
19 The coarse sound of a fruit (9)
20 Treatment for the tone-deaf, perhaps (5,7)
24 Almost dark, almost (4)
25 What fast-moving troops do, seen briefly in battle (6-4)
26 Starting arguments without reason you become twisted (4)
27 What Bill required for the colony (10)

DOWN
1 Parties no longer in existence, proverbially (4)
2 A femme fatale against a politician (4)
3 A lot of fuss for such an act (4-3-5)
4 The advantage of raising a girl (5)
5 Works out name of river with right dimensions, we hear (9)
7, 22 Taking 5 on this gets you nowhere! (10,4)
8 Recent past is OK, with steady changes involving little resistance (10)
11 Gradually shows how to score at Scrabble (5,2,5)
13 Swims with topless female, one with a drink problem (10)
14 Fine white powder causing rig to collapse (5,5)
16 A house here would have an all-round southern aspect! (5,4)
21 Prove wrong about King Edward?
22 See 7
23 Latest model with a distinctive crest, possibly (4)

Solution to Saturday’s prize puzzle on Saturday September 16
Solution to yesterday’s prize puzzle on Monday September 18
Winners’ names will be printed in Weekend FT