Crossword 15,668 Set by Mudd

ACROSS
1 Safe’s opening before key secures a painting (8)
5 Part of the body – part I’m to freshen up? (6)
9 Attempt to squeeze behind back of settee, finding trash (8)
10 Mature, very deep emotion backfiring on wife in the end (6)
12 Old currency beginning to circulate, then monetise differently (9)
13 The blooming thing scores, netting header for United (5)
14 Having wiped rear, animal is dry (4)
16 English rocks, small pebbles on a beach (7)
19 Criticise long dash (7)
21 Time machine initially returning to see Titanic (4)
24 In Antarctica, separate line found in hollow space (5)
25 Bird with seed in middle of reserve (9)
27 Spaceship leaves (6)
28 As region unfamiliar, get map out (8)
29 Truism from femme fatale cut short (6)
30 Pool of money, might you say, for fine fabric (8)

DOWN
1 Club welcoming laugh, finally, in comedy routine (6)
2 Rugby boys once in maul, taking a battering (6)
3 Force members to talk in wood (5)
4 Carry on forward to embrace relative (7)
6 Defying authority is abhorrent (9)
7 Fly with such skill I left in the soup (8)
8 Contents of a tiny urn she hates to scatter (3,5)
11 Not entirely lax, ladies and gentlemen (4)
15 Gangster as tennis player? (9)
17 Muscle in to play the guitar for a colourful band (8)
18 English align converts with John (8)
20 Point made, a story’s covered (8)
21 Underground worker needing victory over a wise woman (7)
22 Marry, having a piece of cake with soft filling (6)
23 Figures in the East End said “hold it!” (6)
26 Nick Cook (5)

Solution 15,667

Solution 15,656

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 11. Entries marked Crossword 15,668 on the envelope, should be sent to Weekend FT, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on October 14.