Crossword 15,459 Set by Mudd

ACROSS
1 Dance with an energy beyond fabulous, initially (8)
5 Crawler once more swims backwards? (6)
9 This crossword writer’s locked up having stolen Mudd’s heart – that’s shameless (8)
10 Wasted, like plums and peaches? (6)
11 Sanctity required by army not quite closing off borders (8)
12 Short man’s stiff (6)
14 One temporarily leading talk about to stop, gutted (10)
18 In discussion, just look for disinformation (10)
22 Difficult finding starters served in toilet roll, and disgusting! (6)
23 Brownish-yellow on you is grand (8)
24 Papers alongside fish soaking up last of oily batter (6)
25 Turn revolutionary into Nazi, as Artemis (8)
26 Ice hardened around sphere (6)
27 Manacle requires hinge to come down (8)

DOWN
1 Fear rout, at first, in conflict (6)
2 Bloke about to lick up jelly (6)
3 Keen to have creative work around the office (6)
4 Criminal group leading old man the wrong way – that sounds aggressive (7,3)
6 Heptagon-shaped virus, perhaps? (8)
7 Brilliant banger (8)
8 Warning related to switch under top of roof (3,5)
9 Hot in Sweden, you suspect, in children’s home (5,5)
10 Impeccable chefs ultimately unable to cook? (8)
11 Tower over pit maintained by dynamo (8)
12 Second plane is behind (8)
13 I don’t know a couple of old kings (3-3)
14 Slum preferred over US city (6)
15 Party turning on inventive mind (6)

Copies of How to Sound Clever by Hubert van den Bergh and So You Think You Can Spell by David L. Grambs and Ellen S. Levine, published by A&C Black, will be awarded to the senders of the first three correct entries opened on Wednesday February 8. Entries marked Crossword 15,459 on the envelope, should be sent to Weekend FT, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on February 11.