ACROSS
9 Swindle loaded eccentric? Kind of (10,5)
10 Unenthusiastic in assembly about bringing in piano (5)
11 Introduced tense editor (9)
12 Pantomime character spotted dog (9)
14 Odd-looking brush plant (5)
16 Simultaneously hint beer has mate reeling (2,3,4,6)
19 Set of cards may provide sailor occupational therapy (5)
21 Wife to lock new farm building (5,4)
23 Shopkeeper burst into tears (9)
25 A long letter (5)
26 Throughout most of term, terribly strict (4,4,2,5)

DOWN
1 Fine rain put paid to start of match – sit frustrated (6,4)
2 One to pick off wading bird and rook? (6)
3 Frozen food pioneer’s plant (8)
4 Board in part of a castle (4)
5 Guard on Hampshire river in trial filming (6,4)
6 Fancy woman missing M1 – it’s a worry (6)
7 Woman falls in station (8)
8 Child under small slide (4)
13 Also down, after winning move in game (2-3-5)
15 Giving support to worker in arrears (10)
17 Herb found in most of Spanish region (8)
18 Tries again heading for express train (8)
20 Longing change of T-shirt (6)
22 Stan the Man’s uplifting song (6)
23 Reliable worker missing in Santa Fe (4)
24 Tear off, gaining speed (4)

SOLUTION 15,448

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 February 8, marked Prize Crossword 15,460 on the envelope, to the Financial Times, 1 Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on Monday February 13.

The winner’s name will be published in Weekend FT on February 11.