ACROSS
1 Painter commonly spoils vegetables (8)
5 Sulphur's the bad smell oriental found in the bathroom (6)
9 Going round to corrupt a politician (8)
10 Prominence of Hungary's rowers (6)
12 Earl's built an optical device (5)
13 Worker is to find fault with log (9)
14 Playwright is desolate without scripture (6)
16 A number cut in front of a learner driver (7)
19 Is toper reformed, Sally? (7)
21 One who trips often did badly in play (6)
23 Duck below the cover (9)
25 Father's confidante comes from Rome (5)

DOWN
1 A queen enters bank hardly ever (6)
2 An ordeal in the rain makes a timely impression (4,5)
3 Knight receives thanks for instrument (5)
4 Pain given by gunman in every way (7)
6 Maintained parking’s booked (9)
7 Darkness is a terrible thing (5)
8 See about inert compound in every way (8)
11 Vessels in waterways start off (4)
15 Work out in lounge showing self-control (9)
17 Hear about gym that’s accessible (9)
18 Committed to the party but unswervingly offensive (4-4)
20 Upset angry archer (4)
21 Trainee prepared course (7)
22 Difficulty getting power to lamp (6)
24 Lived and died on smack (5)
25 Couple about to copy publication (5)

SOLUTION 15,514

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 April 26, marked Prize Crossword 15,525 on the envelope, to the Financial Times, 1 Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on Monday May 1.

The winner’s name will be published in Weekend FT on April 29.