ACROSS
1 Skill in writing story books (6)
4 Adore old novel featuring a fabulous city (8)
9 Telephone about an account – for betting? (6)
10 Bill takes detectives to hospital department after crash (8)
11 Provides some point to jokes (6)
12 Let banks arrange covers for retirement (8)
13 Used for lighting and heating in Madagascar (3)
14 It's all off! (6)
17 Bags wild she-cats (7)
21 Spots city maze complex (6)
25 Potting aid (3)
26 It may have to be turned before making an entry (8)
27 Ruined, but not executed (6)
28 Conjectures will appear if he is accepted by the Conservatives (8)
29 City may be seen as part of Ancient Greece (6)
30 Diana's bloomer will result in catastrophe (8)
31 Also a V.I.P. (2,4)

DOWN
1 Ted was after Greta, perhaps, identified as a victim (8)
2 Instructor is oddly curt, intercepting a sexy look (8)
3 They get knocked down in alleys (8)
5 People living around pubs (6)
6 Experts know them to be edible bulbs (6)
7 Cram everything in the night before? On the contrary for this exam (1,5)
8 More than right, but stupid (6)
12 Home fixture for City, but needs to be arranged (7)
15 Salt found in the mustard (3)
16 Was no faster? (3)
18 Extra comment following school game shows spirit (8)
19 Seeking help concerning a series of lectures (8)
20 Mean sailor upset students' game (8)
22 Revised a programme, giving Edward a new diet (6)
23 Cards that make one laugh (6)
24 Goes around in women's clothes (6)
25 Join a small company in this place (6)

SOLUTION 15,520

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 May 3, marked Prize Crossword 15,531 on the envelope, to the Financial Times, 1 Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on Monday May 8.

The winner’s name will be published in Weekend FT on May 6