Crossword 15,892 Set by Mudd

ACROSS
1 Popular curry, say? (3,5)
6 Lacking hat, fedora initially brought in (6)
9 I appreciate that planet doesn’t need an earth sign (6)
10 Check opening for coin again? (8)
11 Oven, one left in empty kitchen (4)
12 The preserve of the frustrated driver? (7,3)
14 Vagrant so cold, he being taught a lesson (8)
16 Insect in trap having lost focus? (4)
18 Not for any novice, terrifying initiation starts (4)
19 Religious leader in church after greeting special revolutionary (8)
21 Old monument then goes with new, not entirely surprisingly (10)
22 Host stupid to snub introduction (4)
24 Middle Eastern capital where one follows early growth in biblical king (3,5)
26 Sentimental – daft about romance, primarily (6)
27 Possible allergen I removed from pie, fish sent back (6)
28 Heart not in it, due to collect blankets – one tidying bed, say? (8)

DOWN
2 Asian soon for promotion? (5)
3 Vegetable: bound to get on repeatedly planting one (6,5)
4 Lunettes cracked – bother! (8)
5 Progressive, hard-working FT management hiding at home (7-8)
6 Cheese and fish oddly in underwear (6)
7 Turn on leader in vain (3)
8 Awesome worker taking drink in Liverpool, say? (9)
13 Inhabiting shelter, a tramp I gathered getting better perhaps? (11)
15 Copper racket sound (9)
17 Back freed after wiggling around bottom (8)
20 Foil in edges of teeth, horrible lump (6)
23 Producer of seed around top of pine tree (5)
25 European briefly achieving a degree of proficiency in judo, say? (3)

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 July 4. Entries marked Crossword 15,892 on the envelope, should be sent to Weekend FT, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on July 7.