ACROSS
1  Writer, 50, on about that cracking athletics competition (10)
6  Wimbledon champion's good service (4)
9  Mastermind: circle editor's article (10)
10 Runs into commander in Indian city (4)
12 At a critical stage then, Cain and Abel tangled (2,3,7)
15 Dry places, not right for this to work (9)
17 Taxi home leaving simple dwelling (5)
18 Some lifelong criminal (5)
19 Radical hairstyle for swimmer? (3,6)
20 Obsession of individual recording soul (3-5,4)
24 Accomplished daughter, single (4)
25 Rent limo travelling round outskirts of Providence, state capital (10)
26 Flower sprang up (4)
27 Scrape by somehow, cocooned by church and artificial environment? (10)

DOWN
1 The old man, extremely rude, is cut off (4)
2 Improper noun, not socially acceptable (3-1)
3 Everyone duly ran off across docks (3,3,6)
4 Former PM having pressure put on hospital (5)
5 Like company chairman in need of a lifeline? (9)
7 Film first of refugees getting on, well-built man (6,4)
8 Angry quarrel about it after rent crippled social club (10)
11 Actor could be genuine class, if trained (4,8)
13 Rigger in small greasy spoon, not so young (10)
14 Actual number above son in climbing game (4,6)
16 Register serious complaint, primarily over Conservative (9)
21 Starts to moan, injuring the right elbow joint (5)
22 Head of security getting in by way of official pass (4)
23 Using few words, female rejected cheese (4)

SOLUTION 15,675
E I P T W A S
C O N T R A L T O R O G U E
L T E U U L E E V
A P R O P O S R E T I N U E
I E S N D E R
R A P C O L L A B O R A T E
T H A M S S
R O D E O D U E C O M E T
E O Y N A U
M O O N L I G H T E R S O P
E F O W H O
M A L L A R D S K I D R O W
B A U I O L O D
E N T E R V E L O D R O M E
R E L E A E E M R

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 November 1, marked Prize Crossword 15,687 on the envelope, to the Financial Times, 1 Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on Monday November 6.

The winner's name will be published in Weekend FT on November 4.