Crossword 15,946 Set by Gaff

A birthday puzzle

ACROSS
1 Business suit (6)
4, 9 Sets off in very spacious gold yacht to start production (4,4,5)
10 Count keeps close to number (7)
11 Deduction of landing fee (7)
12 Blunt military leader in essence (4)
13 With good memory, lover has name of word expert (10)
15 Humble setter turned prostrate (6)
16 Act parts with fierceness partially rewritten (6)
20 Beetle starts to support cockroach race (6)
21 Old girls' training manual (6)
24 Bet landowners are about to give up prior (10)
26 Conflict of cake makers among themselves (1,1,2)
28 Number 1 camera problem (7)
29 Rent in credit with a complaint (7)
30 A city organisation's wanton (8)
31 White companion in shelter – watch out! (6)

DOWN
1 Man's confused about lover of opposites (8)
2 Convictions overwhelm people in poor housing (9)
3 Revel in extreme over-generosity (4)
5 Local complaints send mice scattering (8)
6 4 or 5, say, that get changed on set (2,8)
7 National movement to raise level of brightness (5)
8 They leave part of annexe untouched (6)
9 See 4
14 Liqueur with no charisma, sadly (10)
17 Correct cry with female athlete's finishing number (9)
18 Woman of letters? (8)
19 Clean nasty air sick (8)
22 Plant died out from trapping of crown (6)
23 Screen actor's part in play (5)
25 Still half-done on the inside – turn it over for minute (5)
27 Composed number (4)

Copies of How to Sound Really 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 September 5. Entries marked Crossword 15,946 on the envelope, should be sent to Weekend FT, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on September 8.