Crossword 15,692 Set by Mudd

ACROSS
1 Dangerous situation where straight tackles ending in minor gains (7,4)
7 Crack running this way and that (3)
9 Giant proves quarrelsome, sapped of energy (5)
10 Poor old king, it's recalled, put in river (9)
11 Censor in decline given extremes of popular novel (3-6)
12 Welsh name not starting – something stopped? (5)
13 Dribble ending on knickers, one throwing up? (7)
15 Twelve numbers, back to back (4)
18 Nation close to freedom fighter (4)
20 One's drawn a hound, one in brown (7)
23 Middle of crowd, a relative place of safety (5)
24 Pottery feature in the picture (9)
26 Cologne newspaper embraced by the nation (9)
27 Bolt pulled back to secure first of inmates in group of three (5)
28 Speaker's mocking whiskey ingredient (3)
29 Is a Bayeux tapestry arrow so beautiful? (3-8)

DOWN
1 Vacuous homage a nonsense, irritating thing (4,4)
2 Dance party taking place south of European capital (8)
3 Follow leaders in Election Night Special uttering expletives (5)
4 Teacher drinking endless coffee, one on a motorbike? (7)
5 Greek character partial to ethanol is perking up (7)
6 Pass beyond outskirts of Rimini during trip, one flying over Italian embassy, perhaps? (9)
7 Unpleasant matter about right for filthy fashion? (6)
8 Sound politician, British author (6)
10 Poor old king, it's recalled, put in river (9)
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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 November 8. Entries marked Crossword 15,692 on the envelope, should be sent to Weekend FT, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on November 11.

Jotter pad