ACROSS
1 Seraph, possibly one ascending to a great height (6)
4 One out of the clutches of buccaneers talks freely (6)
8 Firm beginning to make model from design (7)
9 One of 20 is stuck in soft mud (7)
11 One in USA job involved with ale and wine (10)
12 Eagle ignoring island lake, water being blue (4)
13 Lowly Hindu misconceived as rude, ignoring English (5)
14 See 25
16 Resident to be found eating food (8)
18 Hesitation to meet bigwig, a poisonous type (5)
20 Workers restricted by arrogant seniors? (4)
21 What souvenir shops offer – so dog could come from that (5,5)
23 In tasks goes wrong – and gets given detention (7)
24 Pater dancing with enthusiasm, not half a swinger (7)
25, 14 Statesman establishing underground network by place of battle (6,8)
26 Bird seen by seaman with its victim? (6)

DOWN
1 Talked with son needing prod (5)
2 Present old lover with money (7)
3 Musical compositions in evidence when minister meets Muslim? (9)
5 King helps attempts to gain territory (5)
6 Percussion instruments making tiny boy take fright almost (7)
7 College room has someone idling, not the first one expecting something for nothing (9)
10 Assembly starts to get animated before Wagner's work (9)
13 Some in a scrum using nasty words once (6,3)
15 Certain performers needing to be sad vary so (9)
17 A purist working at a relatively high level (7)
19 Do well as Shakespearean character with nothing to lose (7)
21 Sweet duck (5)
22 Light-headed PM of yesteryear (5)

Solution 15,950