ACROSS
9 Fancy political hero harbouring American misperception! (7,8)
10 Floor in the style of Oz native (5)
11 Lower feathers got darker, so some picked up (9)
12 Part of Spain joined with States, inter alia (9)
14 Extremist caught in Istanbul trap (5)
16 Person from Panama or Rhode Island? (7,8)
19 Puzzle on coach for Edinburgh cop (5)
21 Element of Blue Planet? (4,5)
23 Dredge up rocks about 1st of July? It's decided beforehand (9)
25 Husband nearly finished large hole (5)
26 Stand for European pitch met estimate (7,8)

DOWN
1 Laden with frock, twirling Morris fan? (4,6)
2 Maroon thread (6)
3 Lousy writer yet singular swimmer (8)
4 Ran off, following light (4)
5 Dig into old film company for dress coat (4,6)
6 Britain upset farmers over government defence system (4,2)
7 Towering performance by old clown (8)
8 Joint's been known to go belly-up, ignoring margins (4)
13 Alfred's mad hiding, say, rare trait of narcissus (4-6)
15 Wipe out Athenian rebels, saving the Italian (10)
17 Call left good Parisian looking up count maybe (8)
18 Nymph in grass bounced back again (2-6)
20 Tried to locate son with nothing except number (6)
22 Let slip show, touching flesh (6)
23 Roughly handle new puppet (4)
24 Cross over entrance (4)

Jotter pad

Name..............................................................................................................................
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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 March 21. Entries marked Crossword 15,803 on the envelope, should be sent to Weekend FT, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on March 24.