

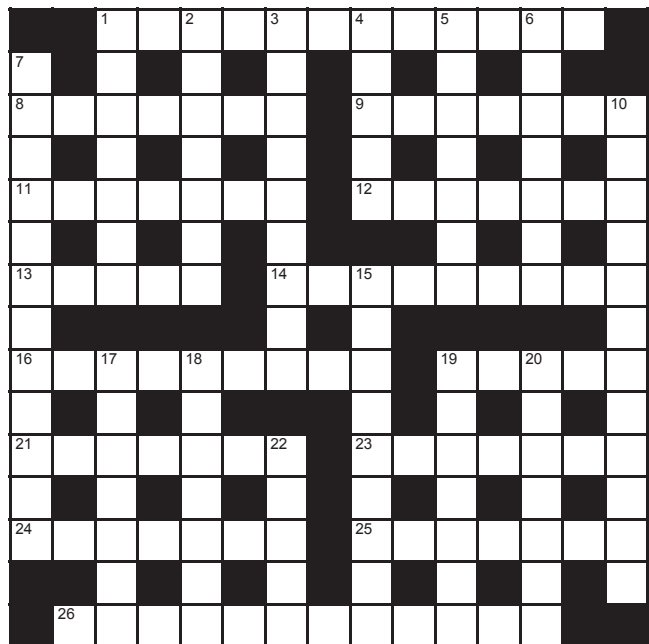
Crossword 15,785 Set by Mudd

ACROSS

- 1 Sparkler perhaps lit near warm campfire, finally flickering (7,5)
- 8 Success, as better bandages beginning to improve health at first (7)
- 9 Lacking direction, there's road chaos around Lebanese capital (7)
- 11 Plant seed, burying one with another seed the wrong way (7)
- 12 Revolution, rotten bore (4-3)
- 13 Criminal in fight (5)
- 14 Veronica has to race brilliantly (9)
- 16 Convertible article, bolt only half screwed up (9)
- 19 Artist taking reins, finally, after getting on back (5)
- 21 Elected leader on sofa unlikely to get fit (7)
- 23 End call, evidently prepared for a divorce? (4,3)
- 24 Scoring my job, but header couldn't be further off? (7)
- 25 A black coffee sent over, supporting a tea leaf, perhaps? (7)
- 26 Favouring one's own kind, rich uncle ultimately content to be phoney (12)

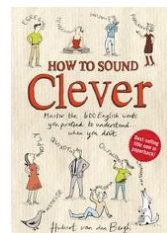
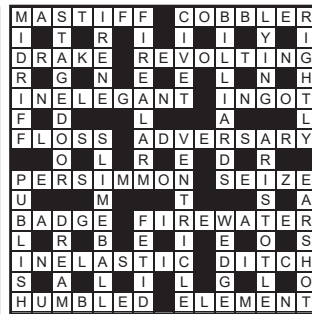
DOWN

- 1 Figure after a second is wet (7)
- 2 Candidate has no time to overcome extremists in Eurozone (7)
- 3 Drill tries to penetrate concrete (9)
- 4 Was bending fast, say? (5)
- 5 Reckon outside bog is held in high regard (7)
- 6 Sight somewhat grotesque, yes, or execrable? (7)
- 7 Terribly upset, party in shock (12)
- 10 Delicate couple of pianos? (6-6)
- 15 Please come in, having run from public transport (9)
- 17 Bird however sheltering this cuckoo (4,3)
- 18 Upstanding character, queen an Asian native (7)
- 19 Nureyev perhaps has nothing to regret, not quite doing a backflip? (7)
- 20 Number up, correct mark erased in the end, according to facts known (7)
- 22 Reason smoke on land starts to rise (5)



Solution 15,784

Solution 15,773



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 February 28. Entries marked Crossword 15,785 on the envelope, should be sent to Weekend FT, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on March 3.

Jotter pad

Name.....
 Address.....

