Crossword 15,922 Set by Mudd

ACROSS
1 Sticks skewering bat entrails (12)
10 As team without a left back, one caught for a substitute? (7)
11 Roman article between two from Britain, old English (7)
12 Bird wings in slime, beside gunk (5)
13 Set new compass to direct in the opposite direction? (8)
15 Where food is stuffed, being aggressive (2-4-4)
16 Ultimately, banquet to arrange for functions etc (4)
18 Spy originally infiltrating corporation, a blow (4)
20 Local tenor embarrassing Berkshire band (4,6)
22 Supporters, fifty by the way carried by planes, say? (8)
24 Poached eggs for starters, many flipped over (5)
26 US city where Marx has buried silver (7)
27 Glowing ember at heart in expression of grief (7)
28 Something fragrant in undisguised anger? (12)

DOWN
2 Welcome bit of news, gone (7)
3 Naked vagrant carried by sheep, drunk (6,2)
4 Score in basket challenged (4)
5 Bound to get back added time (4,6)
6 Queen briefly standing for country (5)
7 Top criminal nicking piano (7)
8 Butt having dislodged a gunsight, bolt securing it (8,5)
9 Staff restrained by guards rent new stockings, perhaps? (13)
14 As receiver taken to one side, no longer accused (3,3,4)
17 Prisoners order me soup (8)
19 Short line typed about hard and strong lawman (7)
21 Nothing in family seems empty for African female (7)
23 Half a crown to invest, as riches accumulating initially (5)
25 Family line preserved, it's inferred? (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 August 8. Entries marked Crossword 15,922 on the envelope, should be sent to Weekend FT, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on August 11.