ACROSS
1 Bitter rivalry's beginning is captured by expert writer (7)
5 It breaks the law? Not quite prudent (7)
9 Kill gangster with shot (5)
10 One admitted to playing no Wagner or Grieg? (9)
11 Spots containing extremely essential yet volatile gas (9)
12 Bottle opener vexed nurses (5)
13 Ultimately people with slippery character, involved in real shrewd manoeuvring? (7-7)
18 An Accidental Man's right for the study of life (7,7)
20 What ends with mate or companion getting letter? (5)
22 What's primarily required by one apt somehow to pen epistle? (9)
24 English politician has issues regularly creating stress (9)
25 Old safety device is advantageous (2,3)
26 Meet female model going back in perhaps (7)
27 Decline to remove bouquet? (7)

DOWN
1 Like court case without one of the stars (6)
2 Pray outside church? That's a leap (9)
3 Fragrant bananas changing hands (5)
4 Fish caught, having gone out with some angling equipment (6-3)
5 Carry on without one university's funds (5)
6 New leaderless militia is deployed to prepare to attack (3,2,4)
7 Bank is broken by River Test (5)
8 Italian aristocrat's against returning valuable item (8)
14 Originally early Italians? That's about right (9)
15 Algae and dead tree turned up on river (5-4)
16 Repeat run after organising transport (9)
17 Underwear thief's caught! (8)
19 Forest takes time to get burning (6)
21 Cash perhaps supports old person living abroad (5)
22 One entertained by Snoopy is vociferous (5)
23 Drink up around ten? That's good (5)

Solution 15,930