Crossword 15,797 Set by Mudd

ACROSS
1 Tiresome group ready for assembly (4-4)
5 Fish put on the radio? (6)
10 Pirate radio initially interrupting island broadcast (7)
11 After great moment, relative learning gradually (7)
12 Start working hard (5)
13 Sun keeping garden dry, ultimately doing little (9)
14 First book 2, then 3 etc (5,7)
18 Farm worker lying back in shower of rain, here in fragrant spray (3,9)
21 Goats sure to rattle old reptile (9)
23 Out of tune? Precisely! (5)
24 Arctic vessel heading off Jacobite at sea (7)
25 Ego caught by spring on bed – that's juicy! (7)
26 Understand mass (6)
27 Seek to snatch back last of the trinkets (8)

DOWN
1 Agent, pro concealing pretence (6)
2 Stop a lie being uttered? (6)
3 Smoother mountain to climb, rest set out with little hesitation (9)
4 Winter jolly cold: Apr/May T-shirts out? (9,5)
6 Yellow line less popular one day (5)
7 How one might bid, to a very great degree (2,6)
8 Writer perhaps is in rare set (8)
9 Old song heard in the seat of Westminster, possibly? (11,3)
15 Half of mere mortals suffering turmoil (9)
16 Prepared to bring down Goliath? That's worrying (8)
17 Celebration of French produce, most limited (8)
19 Uncomfortable being left in Paris? (6)
20 Pimply student's opening nuts (6)
22 Measure of weight with atomic number of hydrogen gas (5)

Solution 15,796
Solution 15,785

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 14. Entries marked Crossword 15,797 on the envelope, should be sent to Weekend FT, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on March 17.