CROSSWORD
No. 16,318 Set by NEO

ACROSS
1 Improvident way to eat (4,4,2,5)
9 Principal drug hidden among cargo (7)
10 Royal is sweet little thing (7)
11 Drops moist pants (5)
12 Do up shortened red coat by mistake (9)
13 Two similar animals to Spooner, and another (5,4)
15 This lover and his partner both characters on the radio (5)
16 River runs within explosive borders (5)
18 Flower power on reflection stopped by hard facts (9)
20 Siren time and time again interrupting tsarina? (9)
23 Companion always gives comfort (5)
24 Swallow one alcoholic drink (7)
25 Skin condition has spread into leg (7)
26 Prize-winner still made to dance by pirate (6,9)

DOWN
1 Devour Dickensian work and get into debt (4,2,4,5)
2 Getting zero on dole warrants speech (7)
3 One in Harley Street shortened hideous cut (9)
4 Not complete setback for Queen and Country (5)
5 Tories initially request church to create special unit (4,5)
6 Back biter? (5)
7 Element in uniform with skull cap removed? (7)
8 What horror! Pie thrown around at London hub! (8,7)
14 One's left us for dead (9)
15 Oral passage in cartoon stimulated a Liberal (4,5)
17 Bad mark repeatedly given in current exam (7)
19 Boundless audacity beginning to irritate old academics (7)
21 Junk food (5)
22 Fluid occasionally seen in ground that's like rock? (5)

Solution 16,317

BEEF CHEEKS DUCK
UTH GNI
SU C K I N G P I G S O U P
KHC OFLRP
SK INNED ALIVE
TA E
EM GR
BACONIND BLIST
OE LNGS N I
NAOMI STEEL CAGE
EFVPWELS
SECRET AGENTS
TLRN TTSI
EMUS FISHSUPPER
ABSOCITO
KISS CHESTERTON