## ACROSS

1 Exercise obtained by group getting forward, cyclists in bunch (7)
5 Heavenly body with sex appeal concealed in sweater (not male) (7) 9 Flat as seen from front and back (5) 10 Element, the ultimate for rheumatism, found in garden plant (9)

11 Gosh, cleric may be someone to show you the error of your ways! (9)
12 Specialised language leader's put out - it's just gas (5)
13 Decide to write for oneself and die (4,2,3,5)
18 An old politician, tamed with alertness withering? $(5,9)$
20 Explorer died, someone very thin (5)
22 A freer wit, nonconformist spirit (9)
24 Cricketer getting minimal runs in a defeat gets the bird (9)
25 Rubbish left out - at the end of this? (5)

26 One on the attack, supporting English philosopher (7)
27 Country girl going to regional corners (7)

## DOWN

1 China has a church that's a magnificent building (6)
2 Animated river murmured audibly a city's symbol $(5,4)$
3 Fine material agricultural pioneer dropped on middle of field (5)
4 Spooner's malice not what's wanted in club (9)
5 One of those out to make a decision? (5)
6 Bones thrown in slag heap, any number buried (9)
7 Article without much substance, leader in Guardian? (5)
8 Muse at home after drink, having dined (8)
14 Like bird that's got worm outside her home without messing about (9)
15 Figure of speech from the man with funny stories (9)
16 Pearl may be under complete control ( $2,1,6$ )
17 Bashful star $(3,5)$
19 There's nothing right with Kent location - it's hell on earth (6)
21 Warning signal - lake to be avoided by walker (5)
22 Look inside for fox (5)
23 A god devoid of emotion having lost a love (5)



Copies of How to Sound Clever by Hubert van den Bergh and So You Think You Can Spell by David L. Grambs and Ellen S. Levine, published by A\&C Black, will be awarded to the senders of the first three correct entries opened on Wednesday January 16. Entries marked Crossword 14,203 on the envelope, should be sent to Weekend FT, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Solution on January 19.

Solution 14,202
Christmas Crossword


Name.
Address.

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