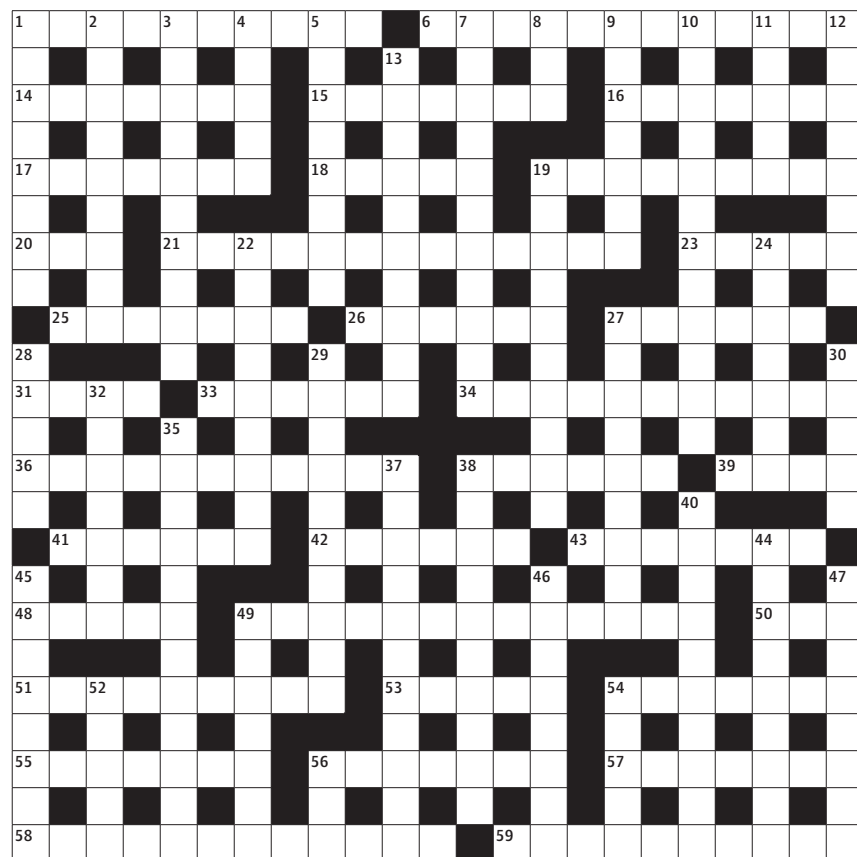


Guardian cryptic crossword

No 28,225 set by Maskarade



The wordplay of 29 clues lack a theme word to reach the required solution. These theme words are all of a kind and some appear more than once.

Across

- 1 Plant covering grand acres for purifying smoke (10)
- 6 Duffers and a goon parading without due attention (3,4,5)
- 14 Solo performance Claire Taylor initially organised (7)
- 15 Theme word carrying egg on two wheels (7)

- 16 Lines that are baited for catching twitchers outside! (7)
- 17 A Parisian had not admitted (7)
- 18 Thematic old cannon (5)
- 19 Swedish chemist with an equation arrived before one with us (9)
- 20 Scottish couple could have taken flight thus (3)
- 21 A lot know the Financial Times can be the source of idle gossip (4,2,3,4)
- 23 Children, a bone of contention (5)
- 25 Hell! That's cheek! (7)
- 26 Daughter aggrieved, holding chap back (6)

- 27 Columnist painting around start of year (6)
- 31 Nothing to start (4)
- 33 Currency unknown to ethnic group abroad (6)
- 34 Short hymn may just consist of these characters from south Herts (5,6)
- 36 Rubble crane cleared out – such sauce! (6,5)
- 38 Single or double container! (3,3)
- 39 Stone, almost black, with one diamond inside (4)
- 41 Afterthought about one drink or another (6)

- 42 Want odd characters removed from Surrey (6)
- 43 Aussie's quick looks at man friends (2-5)
- 48 Crew in hospital department returned for medical procedure (5)
- 49 When ill, would they necessitate being a few secs imprisoned at home? (5,8)
- 50 Knight's title from skier, regularly (3)
- 51 Literary hero's skin problem never finishes (9)
- 53 Major conqueror suggesting harsh sound (5)
- 54 Petty criminal exposed as Fagin, initially (3,4)
- 55 At first, Alex Tudor and I worried accountant (7)
- 56 Frenchman at the Ritz, perhaps, consumes a hearty breakfast? (3,4)
- 57 Frivolous quartet in sheepdog competition (7)
- 58 One-time cutters outside girls' boarding school (6,6)
- 59 Husband's comic squeals once said to have guarded against lightning strikes (10)

Down

- 1 Number in chance (8)
- 2 Oven overturned in Geneva? Impossible! (9)
- 3 Surprise comment about races – note a dismissive one (3,7)
- 4 Arranged windows on a screen with a glazed look (5)
- 5 Train spotters' lay-by? (4,4)
- 7 It will happen with odd bits of fruit and nut getting chewed (6,5)
- 8 Row outside actors' room, for starters (3)
- 9 Begin on canal – Kennet – year-round, regularly (5,2; 7)
- 10 Idols from Russian fighter climbing a long time (6,6)
- 11 Pound fine imposed on Bill Stevenson (5)

- 12 Sits around indeed – put a stop to it! (8)
- 13 Rested, as well as finishing relay (4,2,4)
- 19 There's more making a quaver! (7,3)
- 22 Strange sound on British Leyland Routemaster (6,3)
- 24 City scored, equalising Agüero's headers (7)
- 27 Undue haste at part of Brighton's Royal Pavilion (3,6)
- 28 Thematic early bicycle or horse (5)
- 29 All a person ordered for energy supplier (5,5)
- 30 Leading Alpine skiers here? (5)
- 32 Rival injured 35's theme word (7)
- 35 Rain oddly permeating comparatively soaked pen (5,1,6)
- 37 One may write articles about non-electric Citroën turbo (11)
- 38 Finishes turning over earth around outskirts of Exeter (10)
- 40 Oriental entertainer getting leg over, accepting two roubles (6,4)
- 44 Mushy peas – thematically? (9)
- 45 Rats abandoning infested marketplaces – don't panic! (4,4)
- 46 City on Route 66, where French husband appears in either half of sitcom (8)
- 47 Let's mix chocolate confections (8)
- 49 Tower and half of one (7)
- 52 Exemplary display (5)
- 54 Groan across the pond (5)
- 56 A question of method (3)

We regret that in present circumstances we are unable to process prize entries for Saturday puzzles.

The solution to this puzzle will be published in the Guardian on Monday 7th September.