Eight across solutions are one letter too long for their allotted space; these letters should be dropped to produce another word for entry in the grid. Eight down solutions are one letter too short and one of the above eight letters must added to produce a word for entry in the grid. The eight letters involved make an anagram for an appropriate word. Each of the remaining 16 clues contains a superfluous word (or words), which provide definitions for the 16 new solutions in the grid.

Deadline for entries is 23:59 GMT on Saturday 4 December. You need to register once and then sign in to theguardian.com to enter our online competition for a £100 monthly prize.

Across

1 Most pale wine is swallowed by nuisance (7)
5 Cent to be plated with gold in bargain month (7)
9 Turned down work aboard sleigh (5)
10 Tanning? Tan oil is on, smeared (9)
11 Set aside weapon given to vessel in swirling dark river (9)
12 Indian religious follower is to discuss returning colourful clothes (5)
13 Assessing part of opera as central in it (5)
15 Scamp steals final thing in the immediate future (9)
18 Startled mouths gape, particularly after dismissing University's brief comments (9)
19 About to enter bet, but not last — successful run? (5)
21 Spoke endlessly about reduced meat in sausage (5)
23 Pieces reassembled by collaborator, chiefly (9)
25 Steps taken with instruction not working regarding Kiwis? (9)
26 Colourful sailing ship heads for home today (5)
27 Ran theatre production — returned amount I reckon should be reduced (7)
28 Poor information about old pagan produces resentment (7)

Down

1 They build up bridge supports, crossing lake (7)
2 Comic figure animated our quarantine sphere (9)
3 Being scrupulous in raising support for country (5)
4 Bit of lint in cloth of mattress is irritating (9)
5 Ragout, like eggs, beginning to offset emptiness (5)
6 Percussive sounds from a pair of pianos amidst bell sounds (9)
7 Last support that is to be pumped into old rail company (5)
8 Family presented in newspaper as being dissolute (7)
14 Believing that man is tenor featured in movement (9)
16 Had cut core of dissent repeatedly in school (9)
17 Adherent goes downhill — record held in University is restricted by Derrida’s notion (9)
18 Rebellious son, sailor, almost — almost — ruined bay (7)
20 Home for 2 ornate tiny pork pies, not one (7)
22 Bullets missing head? Clumsy fools (5)
23 Nurse alone can provide confirmation (5)
24 Lodge pipe, black, running into one sea (5)