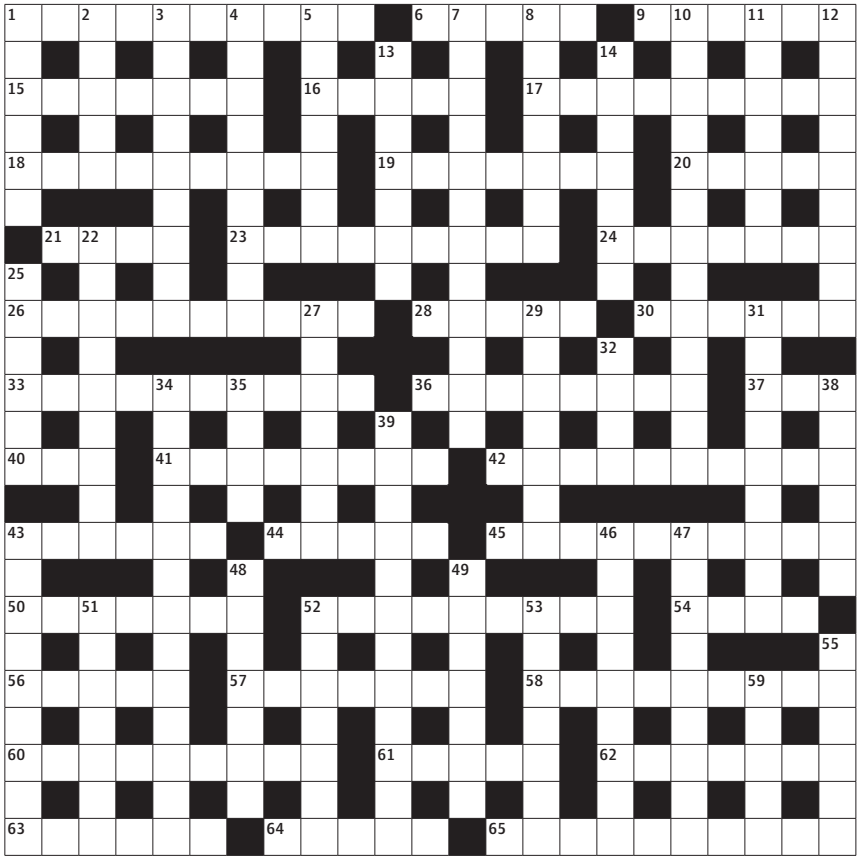
# Guardian cryptic crossword No 29,159 set by Maskarade



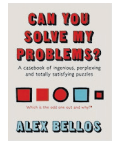
*A theme word is missing from the wordplay of 30 clues; with three further clues two theme words are missing; with four more clues the solution is a theme word. (Five of the theme words are used twice.)*

**Across**

**1** Old bird became indignant (6,4)
**6** District official backing little country relative (5)
**9** It's black in London with patches on a page (6)
**15** Small amount beginning to dissolve (7)
**16** Goddess's butter substitute (5)
**17** Plundered finer points on the way back (9)
**18** The Ring o' Bells on extremes of peninsula (9)
**19** Heart of a dynasty's ancient Roman protective screen (7)
**20** Tune during middle of dinner (5)
**21** Blue spiraea almost wholly pruned (4)
**23** Had eg surgery on ulna oddly (9)
**24** Letter is material (7)
**26** Rarely easy sorting out youth (5,5)
**28** Prevents rash returning (5)
**30** Culmination of time of a country dance (6)
**33** One of 9 has a roll of sheep's wool cut (10)
**36** Multinational company backs show out East (8)
**37** Dreadful British promotion (3)
**40** Antics now and again of friendly goblin (3)
**41** Actors Robert and Oliver continued unchanged (8)
**42** Lectern was wrecked (2,8)
**43** Sappers by city house come back again (2-4)
**44** Horse, so to speak (5)
**45** Cryptic clues honed as expected (2,8)
**50** Pruned tidily, adorned (7)
**52** Dairy product from cask after churning (9)
**54** Outlay – just a shilling (4)
**56** Eastern ruler backing some agreement (5)
**57** Don holding covers of horticultural magazine? (7)
**58** Wine waiter's recliner? (9)
**60** Sleuth not working, having time for female (9)
**61** Surrey and WI cricketer is one in the swim (5)
**62** Dressing for roulette? (7)
**63** Manuscript from Kincardineshire, formerly (6)
**64** Long ridge at end of the river (5)
**65** Miller's wheel where dinners got cooked (10)

**Down**

**1** Chap's cool top (6)
**2** Man holding girl, in a manner of speaking (5)
**3** Court corruption of supporter caught blocking board (9)
**4** A very small amount of time (3,6)
**5** Keen officer led out odd members on royal bike (7)
**7** Plan to confess in financial assessment (5,7)
**8** Attack a sailor, reportedly (7)
**10** Heard shower frequently fault period of the French Revolution (5,2,6)
**11** Fred Basset appearing regularly (7)
**12** Remaining unmoved at railway station first (9)
**13** Street carriage (7)
**14** Only half tolerable, and more of the same (2,5)
**22** A striver, I fancy? (9)
**25** Surrounds tailless deer (4,2)
**27** Elizabethan favourite at demo, we're told, for some (7)
**29** Old foot soldier's pack (7)
**31** Security blanket's tip (9)
**32** Luvvie oddly wiped a layer in the eye (4)
**34** Corn Iran distributed to Yank (5,8)
**35** Rough time outside capital (4)
**38** Writer or bird become stronger (6)
**39** Much Binding star is very hard on the department (7,5)
**43** Right, mother! Here's a large port! (9)
**46** Misery man's boat (9)
**47** Two sets of opponents snack (9)
**48** See you tomorrow in the heart of hell (1,6)
**49** Hogmanay is close (3,4)
**51** Reserve rearranged date for drink (4,3)
**52** Cockney woman's standards (7)
**53** Champion on board mostly passionate about school (7)
**55** Thirty abroad – one working out (6)
**59** Architect announcing his entrance (5)




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