

2579:

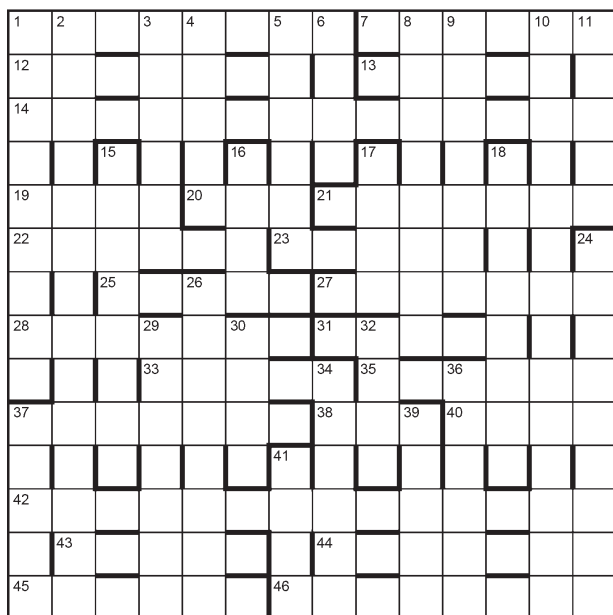
Destructive plot

by Mr Magoo

One unclued entry (three words) gives the theme, and five others give two-word names directly connected with it. Remaining unclued entries give two examples of the theme phrase, one of two words and one of three.

Across

- 1 US underdogs willingly bring moggies under control? (4,4)
- 7 I'm sorry, love, to get info about daughter (2,4)
- 12 Deciphered name in pastry (2,5)
- 13 Man on board captures a wild ass (5)
- 14 Money-changing involves plunder, to be expected in studying growth (14)
- 19 Society protected arch in Edinburgh (4)
- 20 With DA, this youth would be old-fashioned (3)
- 22 One who sails along with fabled reindeer (6)
- 23 Frugal, not using good juniper (5)
- 25 Bibles rejected as a way of working (5)
- 28 Rutherford, having consumed joint, was very bitter (7)
- 31 Wonderful grain to swallow (5)
- 33 Suit one bridge player leads to two others (5)
- 35 Letter rejected her silly card game (6)
- 38 Essential constituent of mer, lac and jus? (3)
- 40 One who will succeed in broadcast show (4)
- 43 Abdicate without having succeeded – or ____ (5)
- 44 I must stop a canoe overturning – here? (7)
- 45 What'll help you sleep: syringes containing nitrogen (6)



Down

- 1 Drivers depriving the pets of all hydrogen (9)
- 3 Adele messed around with old waterweed (6)
- 5 Elizabethan tracks sun after time travelling (6)
- 6 Brief material for briefs? (4)
- 8 Almost dangerous term for raconteuse with many stories (4-4)
- 9 The Japanese eat these kids on a roll (7)
- 11 Race concerning wager (5)
- 15 Cruel one ran in scramble (8)
- 16 Letters from God (departs for university) (4)
- 18 Tyneside quays troubled atheists (8)
- 24 Tardigrade quality to tolerate (5,4)
- 26 Change for one ordinary confidant (5,3)
- 29 Entered, keen to get involved with DIY (5,2)
- 30 Lord once found me courtly on a regular basis (4)
- 32 Almost inclined to solve (4)
- 34 Lily Langtry's opening involves husband – it's symbolic (6)
- 36 Artist blocks smart French politician (6)

- 37 Some silly MP hated vaccine (5)
- 39 Essentially drunk newt changes heart, becoming dry (5)
- 41 No way a riddle lacks an ending (2,2)

A first prize of £30 for the first correct solution opened on 14 November. There are two runners-up prizes of £20. Please scan or photograph entries and email them (including the crossword number in the subject field) to crosswords@spectator.co.uk, or post to: Crossword 2579, The Spectator, 22 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP. Please allow six weeks for prize delivery. The dictionary prize is not available at present.

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