

The nine unclued perimeter entries (2,4,5,5,6,6,6,6,8, not in this order) running clockwise from top left are thematic. The theme is located centrally in the completed grid in a straight line. In five clues an extra, thematically relevant, word must be removed to enable solving. Unchecked letters in the perimeter could make A RED PINE INHIBIT DAISY.

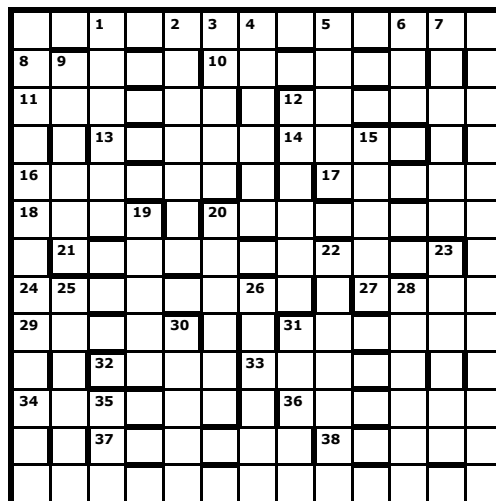
## July 2025 Slot 6 by Flowerman

### Across

- 8** Lindal having offloaded pulse loading up another (5)
- 10** Head of martial arts tried to alter critical speech (6)
- 11** Individual playing twenty-one hasn't won (6)
- 12** 17 gripping long instrument (6)
- 13** Husband packing old dictionary expressed surprise (5)
- 14** Coarse seaweed ringing sound (4)
- 16** Troy visiting French city to make the first of nine special courses (6)
- 17** Patrick maybe isn't on song initially (5)
- 18** Jovial singer on Venetian bridge turning out endless aria (4)
- 20** Miss out on satire (8)
- 21** Better's ring thinking about a network's arrangements (11)
- 24** Foreign characters in cast slip on Earl's clothes (8)
- 27** One hundred and fifty leave train and drive away (4)
- 29** Pretentious rubbish by old Uranian king during first half of comedy (5)
- 31** Admire contracted black musician's device (6)
- 32** Nurse recalling extremely deficient medicine man (4)
- 33** Made demands on blind date to accept kiss (5)
- 34** Groups of ordinary citizens on vacation embracing Asian festival (6)
- 36** In peril, leader of gang coming in for new weapon (6)
- 37** Commercial privilege in cortisone supply is pointless (6)
- 38** Faith of revolutionary stopping combined operations (5)

### Down

- 1** Work with one soliciting non-participation (3-3)
- 2** Henry and I after swimming not very active (2,3,2)
- 3** Nasty scratches ultimately set off inflamed swellings (5)
- 4** Ring up the Spanish outfit importing diamonds (6)



- 5** Napoleon's army stylish at the front in soft leathers (5)
- 6** Awesome needleworkers display pieces (3)
- 7** They leave the stage after ordering her execution - not terribly heroic (6)
- 9** Perhaps do this to open university's name then flee (6)
- 12** Trap set up by police finally catches Poles in Scotland; ... (6)
- 15** ... agents from Bow charging two other Poles ... (5)
- 19** ... with murder primarily, and endlessly quiz another Pole about narcotic drug (5)
- 20** Animals on bottom of Neptunian trench occupying narrow openings (6)
- 22** Wife once cracking during performance - that's rough! (7)
- 23** Lady regularly taking command mostly addressed as a titled person (6)
- 25** Sample of pompon chosen for garment (6)
- 26** System of symbols without a time concept (6)
- 28** Perhaps gardener taking hour to maintain border (6)
- 30** Dull subject? - not Writing! (5)
- 31** Set American lawyer up in port (5)
- 35** Saturnine soldier losing my cat (3)