The across solutions are thematic and their clues lack their thematic definition

**ACROSS**

1. Marks on snake (6)
4. Sailor takes in loose belt (3,5)
9. Contrary heroine booked after game (6)
10. Genuine backing about offer (8)
12. Yacht in trouble at Holyhead (8)
13. Girl is fierce – no name (6)
15. Portion of apple crumble (4)
16. 25s spilt (7)
20. Master spy inside (7)
21. Origins of Putin's Ukrainian claims explained (4)
25. Cartel broken up (6)
26. County's housing application (8)
28. The sun is out in court (8)
29. Most of the big books (6)
30. Reportedly, smell nothing (3,2,3)
31. Steamroller dismantled, metal components thrown out (6)

**DOWN**

1. Spuds, shrimp and 21 regularly blended (8)
2. Loses hope, as pride's destroyed (8)
3. That blinking sight-screen (6)
5. Test English at 10.00 (4)
6. Workers' homes showing top styles (8)
7. Fancy being hauled up before the foreign magistrate (6)
8. Artist gets Katherine round for unarmed combat (6)
11. Bill making son watch (7)
14. Cutter from Far West (4,3)
17. One expecting royalties is conspicuous mid-week (8)
18. Term in EU fashioned for naval rebel (8)
19. Support parking at Leeds ground (8)
22. Chemical company about to take on the French – result of the big freeze? (6)
23. It's on the menu when eating a tea, usually (6)
24. Loves taking wine in city on the Douro (6)
27. Car check incomplete (4)