about¹, in a muddle, aimless, eccentric, fractured, wild,

It might indicate ...

(FS in G&M, 15 Sept 2007, clue 15A).

Such as ...

suggests drunk, repair, change, mixed, bad, new, upset, affected, mixing, strangeness, punk, breaking down, composed of, in a salad? (tossed), change, moving, an Anagram with license, in rough, prostitute, fluid, here and there, performing or somehow, ground, model², fancy, after a struggle, resorts, poor condition police(d), mythic, conversion, convertible, work(ed/ing) about¹, going the wrong way, back³, in retirement, counter v.: return, recede, flip, turn, pivot, wheel⁴, crawfish, swivel suggests a Reversal reversing course left, in the mirror, westward (Across) up, rising, to the North, bottoms-up, (Down) upside-down, overturned, over reportedly, in recital, to the audience, orally, by the suggests sound, in mouth, for the auditor, reporter's, speaker's, a Homophone hearing or professor's, retailer's or Oronym pronouncing v:: hear, say⁵, utter, voice, quote, dictate, attend, broadcast⁶ except for head/heart/tail, -less, mostly, shy $head^{8,9} =$ introduction to, top, prow, first, greatest, start, leader, piece¹⁰/capital/chief/bit (of)¹⁰, (de)face¹¹, originally¹², largely syns. centre¹³ = heart¹³, stripped, inside of, empty suggests end, finish¹⁴, at the back tail = removal, lack or a Deletion head & tail = edges, borders, peel(ed), incompleteness⁷ coat, extreme(ly), outside of practically, unfinished, curtail, unclosed, is reduced, between terminals, nearly, leaves, almost, endlessly specific \(\) without (e.g. 'without fail' means delete F), letter(s) \(\) leaves, edited out, missing in¹⁷, within, without, goes around, somewhat, outside(?) v.: host¹⁸, grip, hold, fill, wrap, wear, surround, clutch, a Container suggests interrupt, contain, arrest, describe, tenants, swallow, $containment, ^{15}\\$ parting, pocket concealment, in¹⁷, feature, element, some¹⁹, a little/part (of), among, selection from 16 or going through, sitting in, for a stretch, from contribution to v.: host¹⁸, hide, hold, line, incorporate, catch, bury, a Hidden Answer house, show, display, provide, take, stock, cross²⁰, contribute, bridge, check, maintain, helps. . . make is short a Second Definition after, before, with, gains, beside, by, to uses one of ... a Charade or is none of the above ends with! an & Lit.

If you see a clue that ...

¹'About' can = on, re, &c. (see p. 2) as well as indicating an anagram, a reversal, a container or hidden answer; 'Out' can = ALIBI.

 $^{^{2}}$ Model can = T, EPITOME or a specific person.

³'Back' can indicate reversal, deletion, part of a charade, and also = STERN OF REAR.

 $^{^{4}}$ 'Wheel' can = O (see **Bits and Pieces**, on p. 3).

⁵But 'say' can also = FOR EXAMPLE.

^{6&#}x27;Broadcast' can indicate an anagram, a homophone, or = on AIR or perhaps sown.

⁷Distinguishing incompleteness from selection — which may signal a container or hidden answer — can be tricky.

^{8&#}x27;Ultimately', 'initially', 'from the beginning', 'after the debut', &c. can suggest acronym, initialism, or telestitch (see n. 16).

⁹'Pair of' can mean first two letters (also 'pair' can = PR); 'Couple' can = WED.

¹⁰But 'piece' can = gun, 'piece of cereal' = oat, 'bit of hype' = AD, and 'part of an ear' = cob. See also n. 16.

¹¹ But 'on the face' can be part of a charade, e.g. Roguish friend with nasty scar on the face (8) ⇒ RASC+ALLY (FS in G&M*, 14 Mar 2009, #24A).

^{12&#}x27;Originally' could suggest either the start (first letter), change (an anagram) or NÉE.

¹³But 'centre of church' = NAVE; 'Heart' can = HUB.

 $^{^{14}}$ 'Final check' can = checkmate, e.g. A final check by extremely unpopular hobbyist (7) \Rightarrow A+MATE+UR (FS in G&M, 09 Aug. 2008, clue 15A).

 $^{^{15}}$ But 'possessed' can = RAVING.

¹⁶Some hiddens (e.g. 'starts from') are telestiches, e.g. Fat characters ending "As You Like $I\underline{t}$ " (4) \Rightarrow SUET (FS in G&M, 22 Oct 2007, clue 25D).

¹⁷ In' can = POPULAR, ELECTED, &c. (see **Some Common Synonyms**, on p. 3).

¹⁸But 'host' can = many (horde, slew, c, ton, &c.) or = emcee (MC) as well as indicating a container or hidden answer.

¹⁹But 'some' can = ANY in a charade, e.g. Fidgety Eliot opens some (5) \Rightarrow AN(T.S.)Y

²⁰'Cross' can = T, just as 'fork' can = Y, 'bend' can = Ess, &c.

^{*&#}x27;FS in G&M' = Fraser Simpson in The Globe and Mail.

(physics)

Some Abbreviations

about* \rightarrow RE, CA, ON, OR SO, TOPIC

as \rightarrow REP, QUA alternative* \rightarrow OR

bed \rightarrow cot, crib, plot, garden

by* \rightarrow AT, X British \rightarrow B

college or school \rightarrow u, eton, yale, &c.

 $\begin{array}{ccc} \text{commercial} & & \rightarrow & \text{AD} \\ \text{court} & & \rightarrow & \text{CT, woo} \\ \end{array}$

current → I, see also 'in' (in Some Common Synonyms, below) (physics)

dam \rightarrow ewe, mother

doctor*(s) \rightarrow DR(s), MD(s), RIG, (AMA), VET, SURGEON(s) fashion* \rightarrow see 'in' (in **Some Common Synonyms**, below)

force \rightarrow F, DINT (physics)

former \rightarrow EX, NÉE, PRIOR, LATE, ERST

fort, island, river, street \rightarrow FT, I (or CAY &C.), R, ST (maps)

front[⋆] → van

girl \rightarrow Gal, maid, miss, belle

head*, a → PER hockey player/position → WING

Illinois, Ontario \rightarrow ILL, ONT (for example)

integrated circuit \rightarrow 1C

 $\begin{array}{ccc} \text{loud/strong} & \rightarrow & \text{F} & \text{(forte)} \\ \text{soft/quiet} & \rightarrow & \text{P, MUM} & \text{(piano)} \end{array}$

very soft \rightarrow PP

Liberal*/Republican, Right-wing \rightarrow L, GRIT/R, TORY

lead → PB, VAN, LEASH, head see also 'shot' below

silver, gold, iron, &c. \rightarrow AG, AU (or OR), FE (or PRESS), &c. (chemistry) left \rightarrow L, PORT (nautical)

manuscript \rightarrow Ms

married $\rightarrow M$ (genealogy)

men \rightarrow RA, SONS, CHAPS, PAWNS, MISTERS

Monday, Tuesday, &c. \rightarrow M, T, W, F, S

month \rightarrow MO

mother, father \rightarrow MA (or DAM), PA (or FOUNDER)

North, South, &c. \rightarrow N, S, E, W, L, R, U, D²

nothing or zero \rightarrow Love, o (tennis)

pawn \rightarrow P, MAN, SELL, PIECE

play → drama

provided or given \rightarrow IF, LENT (math, logic)

senior \rightarrow SR, DOYEN, ELDER

shared \rightarrow co-³

shot[★] → BB, PER, POP, DRAM, EACH, LEAD, AMMO, TRY see also 'lead' above

state* \rightarrow AVER, Ohio, &c.

study \rightarrow con, den, read, scan, review

that man \rightarrow HE, HIM

temperature \rightarrow T

time⁴ \rightarrow T, AT, AGE, EON, ERA, TERM, EPOCH, PERIOD true, false, wrong, good, yes, no \rightarrow T (or so), F, X (or sin, Tort, Error), G, Y, N

 $\begin{array}{ccc} page & \rightarrow & P \\ pair^* & \rightarrow & PR \end{array}$

pitcher → P, EWER (baseball)

prisoner → con

South Dakota, Florida, \rightarrow SD, FL (for example) unknown \rightarrow N, X (from math) used \rightarrow W (double-'U's) White \rightarrow E.B., W, PURE (author)

 $work \rightarrow w$

^{*}Could also indicate wordplay.

¹Tin' = can more often than = sn; 'Gold' can = or as well as = AU; 'Iron' can = press as well as = FE. 'Can' can = TIN, FIRE, LAYOFF.

 $^{^{2}}$ 'Down' can = sad or blue.

 $^{^3}$ Snake shared undergarment? (5) \Rightarrow CO BRA © 2008 by Fraser Simpson (clue 12A of puzzle #19 in 102 Cryptic Crosswords published by Sterling with ISBN 978-1-4027-5489-0).

^{4&#}x27;Short time' can = MO, SEC, SHAKE OF A LAMB'S TAIL, &c.; 'Times' can = BY, X, or anything else suggesting mathematical multiplication.

		Dits allu Fi	eces		16 Warch 2009 (m)		
point	\rightarrow	N, S, E, W, NW, &C.	redundant	\rightarrow	doubled word		
decade	\rightarrow	eighties (e.g.)	wrong*	\rightarrow	X, SIN, TORT, ERROR		
personal	\rightarrow	AD	ten	\rightarrow	X, IO, CHI		
pupil	\rightarrow	eye	4, 5, 50, 100, 500, 1000	\rightarrow	IV, V, L, C, D, M ¹		
edge*	\rightarrow	RIM, HEM, BORDER	mischevious* one	\rightarrow	IMP		
old (modern)		signals archaic word ² ,	one	\rightarrow	I, A, AN, EG, ACE, EACH,		
,		former, AGED, ELDER			SOLE, SINGLE, PER?, A POP?		
circle, globe, none, no	, ro	und, bagel, $\underline{}$'s egg \rightarrow o	put down*, negative i	evi			
Some Common Synonyms							
addition, building	\rightarrow	EL	again	\rightarrow	RE-		
agreement		AYE, YES, AMEN	agreement, foreign*		SI, OUI, &C.		
awesome		RAD	baby		PAMPER		
black car		HEARSE	black eye		SHINER		
bone			boy				
carrots, with		os, ilium crecy (cooking)	celebration		SON		
		. 0			FEST, FETE		
celebrant		FETER	company, multinat.		UN		
conclude		INFER	cool		ICE		
cover		LID	desire		WISH		
die		CUBE	drip, drop		IV, TEAR		
easel		STAND	extremely*	\rightarrow	TOO		
feature*		body part, e.g. chin	fellow		DON, MAN, GENT		
friend, partner	\rightarrow	PAL, ALLY, PEER	force	\rightarrow	F, DINT		
forty days		LENT	gallery	\rightarrow	TIER		
general, (US General)	\rightarrow	G, BRASS, (LEE)	god	\rightarrow	RA, PAN, ARES, DEVA		
gun	\rightarrow	GAT, REV, UZI	grateful	\rightarrow	ASHES		
gym, health club ³	\rightarrow	Y[ymca], spa	help	\rightarrow	AID		
hit hard*	\rightarrow	POW, BIFF, SWAT, &C.	impersonating*	\rightarrow	AS		
indicate	\rightarrow	INFER	insult*	\rightarrow	DIS, PAN		
John	\rightarrow	LOO, CAN	journey, part of	\rightarrow	LEG		
key	\rightarrow	I, ISLE, ISLAND	magistrate, Venetian	\rightarrow	DOGE, (DOGEA)		
mountain	\rightarrow	MT, ALP, PEAK	my	\rightarrow	wow, gee (Oh my!)		
no longer		EX, NÉE, PRIOR, FORMER	odd^4		RUM		
pastime		GAME	petition	\rightarrow	ASK, SUE, LIST		
pixie	\rightarrow	ELF	profit		GAIN		
repair*		FIX, EDIT	selection		example of		
soldier		GI, ANT	soldier, captured*		POW		
steal		ROB	story		LIE, TALE, TIER		
train		EL, COACH	trash*		DUMP, RUBBISH, DIS, RUM		
trial		TEST, PROVE	TV show		ER		
twin		CHAN OF ENG	vandal		HUN		
weak*		THIN (as in tea)	win		W, GAIN		
weak winding, river		ESS	word, last		AMEN		
bank	\rightarrow	GALLERY, TIER, ROW, RELY,	in*	\rightarrow	TRENDY, VOGUE, CHIC, HIP,		
		TD	_		RAGE, ELECTED, POPULAR		
on-line	\rightarrow	E, abbrev. (e.g., are	plot	\rightarrow	BED, MAP, CABAL, RING,		
		you online? = RU)			STORY, GARDEN		
pop	\rightarrow	EACH, PER, father,	record	\rightarrow	LOG, BEST, LP, EP, DISC,		
		soft drink			LEDGER		
red	\rightarrow	R, Communist, Soviet	rock*	\rightarrow	ORE, LAVA,		
		(e.g., red plane = міс)			(rel.: tor, scree, strata)		
Simpson	\rightarrow	BART, HOMER, LISA,	support*	\rightarrow	LEG, PROP, BASE, BASIS,		
•		MARGE, MAGGY, OJ			STAND, RAFTER		
*6 11 1 : 1: .	1 1	<u>-</u>	ı				

^{*}Could also indicate wordplay.

¹But '86' can = Toss, SINK, &c., or SMART (from TV); and '1000' can = G(grand), M(Roman numeral), K(kilo-) or Thou (slang); '4 × 4' can = UTE. 'Ten' is above; 'Number' is on p. 4.

² But 'old country' can = USSR, EIRE or CATHAY; 'Modern art?' = ARE ('Modern art' by Fraser Simpson in *The Walrus* 5(1) (Jan./Feb. 2008), clue #2 See also **Bits and Pieces** (above) for 'one', 'ten', and 'forty days'; See **Miscellaneous** (below) for numbers in other languages. ('Modern art' by Fraser Simpson in \textit{The Walrus} 5(1) (Jan./Feb. 2008), clue #20).

 $^{^3}$ 'Club' can also = Bat, mace, team or refer to a card suit.

⁴'Odd' can indicate anagram or telestitch.

Some -er Puns 18 March 2009 (m)

FS in G&M, 04 Aug 2001, clue 26A

FS in 102, [†] clue 17A of puzzle #37

FS in G&M, 27 Apr 2003, clue 18A

FS in G&M, 20 Oct 2007, clue 18A

FS in G&M, 20 Oct 2007, clue 13D

FS in G&M, 12 Jan 2008, clue 13A

Some -er Puns 18 Ma							
badger	\rightarrow	RAG ON	Barker	\rightarrow	BOB, SEAL		
bitter	\rightarrow	ALE, STOUT, beer	breather	\rightarrow	LUNG		
butter	\rightarrow	GOAT	camper	\rightarrow	RV		
catcher	\rightarrow	ткар (see also 'trapper')	character	\rightarrow	letter, ideogram, aura, rôle, rune		
charter	\rightarrow	MAP MAKER, FOR HIRE	chopper(s)	\rightarrow	тоотн (теетн)		
cooler	\rightarrow	'ADE, JAIL (CAN, BRIG, CELL, GAOL)	copper	\rightarrow	cu, cent, penny, police		
cylinder	\rightarrow	LOOP	drawer	\rightarrow	TILL		
drawing	\rightarrow	LOT, LOTTERY	eavesdropper	\rightarrow	ICICLE		
farmworker	\rightarrow	BRACERO ¹	feller		LUMBERJACK		
Fisher	\rightarrow	CARRIE	flatter	\rightarrow	BUTTER UP		
flower	\rightarrow	RIVER	forecaster	\rightarrow	PROPHET		
gripper	\rightarrow	TALON	heater	\rightarrow	GUN		
hipster	\rightarrow	CAT, HEPCAT	Homer	\rightarrow	HR, WINSLOW		
home-wrecker	\rightarrow	TORNADO	honker	\rightarrow	NOSE		
hopper	\rightarrow	HARE, RABBIT	jogger	\rightarrow	REMINDER		
layer	\rightarrow	HEN	letter opener	\rightarrow	DEAR SIR		
lighter	\rightarrow	FLINT	listener	\rightarrow	EAR		
lower	\rightarrow	cow, cattle, kine, neat, bovine	mariner	\rightarrow	TAR, sailor		
member, colony	\rightarrow	ANT, BEE	Mideasterner	\rightarrow	SEMITE		
minister	\rightarrow	TEND, NURSE	mister	\rightarrow	SPRAY BOTTLE		
murderer	\rightarrow	CAIN	newspaper	\rightarrow	RAG		
number	\rightarrow	n, skit, anaesthetic, song, dance	one evening	\rightarrow	AVENGER		
ones that	\rightarrow	ERS	Perrier?	\rightarrow	EAU		
picker	\rightarrow	guitarist, harpist, &c.	pitcher	\rightarrow	P, ADMAN		
planter	\rightarrow	SEEDER	player, tape	\rightarrow	DJ		
players	\rightarrow	ORCHESTRA	porter	\rightarrow	ALE		
prayer	\rightarrow	PRIEST	prayer?, good	\rightarrow	AMEN+ABLE		
processor, food			promoter	\rightarrow	ANGEL		
revolver	\rightarrow	wheel ² , satellite	rider	\rightarrow	PS, JOCKEY, PASSENGER		
rocket launcher	\rightarrow	NASA	rubber	\rightarrow	MASSEUR		
seeder	\rightarrow	PLANTER	server	\rightarrow	TRAY		
sewer	\rightarrow	TAILOR, SEAMSTRESS, NEEDLE, &C.	sister	\rightarrow	NUN		
sitter	\rightarrow	HEN	soldier	\rightarrow	ANT, GI		
steeper	\rightarrow	TEA BAG	streaker	\rightarrow	COMET		
stroller	\rightarrow	AMBLER	swimmer(s)	\rightarrow	FISH, SCHOOL		
teacher	\rightarrow	LESSON, SWAMI, RABBI, TUTOR, PROF	tear-jerker	\rightarrow	ONION		
tender, legal	\rightarrow	RN (registered nurse)	tower		TUGBOAT		
trapper	\rightarrow	NET, WEB	trouper	\rightarrow	ballet dancer, actor		
worker	\rightarrow	ANT, BEE, HAND, SLAVE, STRIVER	writer	\rightarrow	PEN, HAND		
Minallanana							

Miscellaneous

after making Defeat after making AC flaw (6) \Rightarrow DEFECT (from defeat)	(source unknown)
Sharp-witted charlatan has change of heart (5) \Rightarrow QUICK (from quack)	FS in G&M,* 07 Feb 2009, clue 23D

A pastime: Phone 6 names, primarily Greek (9) \Rightarrow A+GAME+MNO+N

telestitch Evens out in unsteady kind of car $(4) \Rightarrow USED$ (UnStEaDy)

(foreign) East German with resplendent bird (7) \Rightarrow ost+rich Competitor 4 at Oktoberfest $(4) \Rightarrow \text{VIER}$

(punctuation pun) [I note dins]? $(2,8) \Rightarrow I+N$. B.+RACKETS

$Professor/benefactor(5) \Rightarrow don+or$

Sources

- [1] The Games guide to solving cryptic crosswords. The text is reprinted from Games Magazine's World of Cryptic Crosswords. © 1992 by Games Magazine. P.O. Box 184, Fort Washington, PA, 19034, USA. [2] Emily Cox and Henry Rathvon. Clue-solving for beginners: Instructions for The Atlantic Puzzler.
 [3] Peter Biddlecombe (ed.). Yet another guide to cryptic crosswords. Downloaded on 29 April 2000 from (URL:http://www.biddlecombe.demon.co.uk/yagcc/).
 [4] Theresa Gies. Guide to solving cryptic crosswords. 'Other Clue Types' section especially; downloaded on 29 April 2000 from http://www.execulink.com/~tagies/cryptics/solvingguide/solvinguide.html.)
 [5] James A. Lundon. Frequently asked questions (FAQ) for rec.puzzles.crosswords. Part 2 of Version 4.11.

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 [6] Fraser Simpson. How to do a Cryptic Crossword puzzle. Downloaded on 03 May 2000 from (URL:http://www.globeandmail.com/services/site/crypticcrossword.html).
 [7] Fraser Simpson. The Globe and Mail Cryptic Crosswords, volume 1. Times Books, 1997. ISBN 0-8129-2946-2.

- - ¹'Bracero' = Mexican migrant worker (from Cox & Rathvon in *The Atlantic*).
 - ²'Wheels' can indicate reversal (FS in G&M*, 30 Aug 2008, clue 2D).
 - *'FS in G&M' = Fraser Simpson in The Globe and Mail.
 - [†] 'FS in 102' = Fraser Simpson in 102 Cryptic Crosswords (published by Sterling with ISBN 978-1-4027-5489-0 in 2008).