TWEMLOW_2A_Related - Solution
www.twemlowcrossword.com

The common theme is the rude mechanicals from "A Midsummer Night's Dream"
Name / Occupation / Role in the play-within-a-play "Pyramus and Thisbe"
    Peter Quince / Carpenter / plays Prologue
    Snug / Joiner / plays Lion
    Nick Bottom / Weaver / plays Pyramus
    Francis Flute / Bellows-Mender / plays Thisbe
    Snout / Tinker / plays Wall
    Robin Starveling / Tailor / plays Moonshine

The four "give-aways" (Pyramus / Bellows-Mender / Thisbe / Starveling)
have deliberately been exclued from the set of answers

ACROSS
1 - meet {JOIN} queen {ER} {JOINER theme}
5 - set aside {LAID BY} - left {L} help {AID} close {BY}
9 - makeS NO UTterance internally {among} {SNOUT theme}
10 - show 36 {bottom} {MOON} with {} polish {SHINE} {MOONSHINE theme}
12 - a fan of {PRO} ne'er do well {rOGUE} first {first = r} changing side {replace r with L} {PROLOGUE theme}
13 - with {W} everything {ALL} {WALL theme}
15 - part {among} pumICE stones {ICE}
17 - detached {DRY} 15 [ICE] produces apparent smoke in play {DRY ICE}
20 - company {CO} boat races {REGATTa} backwards {back = aTTAGER} without {minus} a {A} farm-worker {COTTAGER}
22 - meeting {AGM annual general meeting} held amidst {inside} paper {QUIRE} jam {QUAGMIRE}
24 - month {SEP} before {before} Vietnamese New Year {TET - first major attacks of the Tet Offensive in 1968 took place
    on the Tet holiday} having seven parts {SEPTET}
27 - life's good times {UPS and downs}; not {minus} HOT outcome {UPShot}
29 - muscles {slang GUNS} back {back = SNUG} {SNUG theme}
30 - stray {anagram} caT 36 [bottom] {last} IN THERE {= THIRTEEN}; said to be unlucky {THIRTEEN is considered an unlucky number}
33 - moan {CARP} then {} come in {ENTER} {CARPENTER theme}
34 - loud {F} instrument {LUTE} {FLUTE theme}
35 - 36 [bottom] {TAIL} gold {OR} {TAILOR theme}
36 - barrier {BOOM to restrict oil spill for example} restraining {outside} TorrenT's extremes {first/last} {BOTTOM theme}

DOWN
2 - love {O} TO behold {LO} (with {} gravity {G}) unknown {Y} branch of medicine {OTOLOGY - study of the ear}
3 - explosive {NITRO} starting {first} Not In The Right Order
4 - discharge {PUS} after {after} wild {RUM} fracas {RUMPUS}
5 - component of pride {LION is in a pride of lions} {LION theme}
6 -trouble {ILL} in {inside} prison {BRIG} about 4pm {BRILLIG - from Lewis Carroll's "Jabberwocky" - explained by Humpty Dumpty as
    "four o'clock in the afternoon - the time when you begin broiling things for dinner"}
7 - crustacean {ISOPOD - for example a woodlouse} equivalent to (in short) {ISO mainly used in science} whales {POD of whales}
8 - be uncertain {WAVER} about {outside} Early start {first} {WEAVER theme}
11 - take by surprise {STARTLE}; RATTLES badly {anagram = STARTLE}
14 - hedge {BOX} Bets primarily {first} with {} OrthodoX outsiders {first/last}
16 - source of life {seed} heard {heard = CEDE} to surrender {CEDE}
18 - starts to {first} Roll On UP for auction {ROUP}
19 - cut {COMMUTE prison sentence} company {CO} Manager initially {first} speechless {MUTE}
21 - part of circle {ARC} concealed in {among} rectangulAR Confines
22 - fruit from paris (according to legend) {QUINCE - in Greek mythology the "golden apple" is the quince; Paris and Aphrodite
    exchanged "gifts" (too Adults Only to continue)} {QUINCE theme}
23 - ancient empire {ASSYRIA} fool {ASS} reflecting {back} light {AIRY = YRIA}
25 - old you {THEE}, old city{UR}, old {O} currency {THE EURO}
26 - once again fuse {REKNIT} back {back = TINKER} {TINKER theme}
28 - innocent {CHERUB} dear (in paris) {CHER is dear in French} followed by {} ENDless {minus END} piping {UBend}
31 - official {REF as in referee} computing {IT} modernisation {REFIT}
32 - instrument {SiTAR} abandoned by {minus} leading {first} Indian virtuoso {STAR}

For further puzzles and quizzes, go to www.twemlowcrossword.com or email greg@twemlowcrossword.com.