



On the Other Hand by Phi

Six clues consist of two definitions plus wordplay for the grid entry. The grid entry in each case is a set of letters which can be produced by dropping one letter from one defined answer, or by dropping a different letter from the other defined answer. For example: Rather join one in NZ truck (4) gives the grid entry UITE (I in ute) and definitions for (Q)UITE and U(N)ITE. The pairs of letters (QN or NQ in the example) taken in presented order will form a 12-letter word.

In six cells in other entries the letters clash. Solvers should enter both, but will need to determine the order so that, reading row by row, the pairs of letters spell the same 12-letter word.

All lengths in brackets are for grid entries. Two proper nouns are not in Chambers (2014); one of them can be found in the ODE.

Please submit a normal clue to the 12-letter word by **31st. January, 2016.**

ACROSS

- 1 Fish basket, last in store, punctured like a sieve (5)
- 5 Cleaner pretended puddle reduced (7)
- 11 Regret a blight returning to do for acanthus plant (7)
- 12 Get long, though having yard trimmed (4)
- 13 Expression of commiseration about Right (very committed people) (10)
- 14 Work paint round into the middle (5)
- 15 Gypsy spirit, travelling road, mostly (7)
- 17 What's among first names recalled as examples of industry? (4)
- 19 Old strand, short measure left from cotton yarn (6)
- 21 Key principle, a matter hard in Government (4)
- 22 Punished, we hear, for discovery (4)
- 24 Shock troops having no heart for dangerous moves (6)
- 27 P&O men not well paid (4)
- 29 Claim source of heat recalled in Hell? (7)
- 30 Exclamation of surprise - region mostly used for airport? (5)
- 31 Foul air guy found in smoke? It's an exaggerated view (10)
- 32 Competitor missing latest opening for Shetland (4)
- 33 Terse reprimand postponed - no energy at all (7)
- 34 Look like curved letter (reduced type), all things taken together (7)
- 35 Antique portcullis on this site restraining last of invaders (5)

DOWN

- 1 Historic carriage? He supports source of leather decorative work (6)
- 2 Article in sequence, with one chapter describing metal (8)
- 3 Ignores pound invested in financial firms (6)
- 4 Seeming to hear a Communist supports Spain (5)
- 6 Acclaiming waterfall in thrall to witch sharing hole (6)
- 7 A skill with pen picked up from the inside (7, 2 words)
- 8 Unisex couple, say, getting openings for gay and straight couples (5)
- 9 Such views on heresy are anti moves supporting Priest (8)
- 10 Number upset young fellow, head of group in form (6, 2 words)
- 16 Stay, that is, or stays, and so on (8)
- 18 Roofing support buried in shifting rubbish over trough (8)
- 20 Young animal bad Victorian docked adopted by librarian (7, 2 words)
- 22 Bill invested in fuel in Hackney (6)
- 23 People in Deep South putting uranium into dodgy alloy (6)
- 25 Hard, fishy substance beneath risen block at sea (6)
- 26 Small change in local pantry (6)
- 27 Greek leader's vessel circling island (5)
- 28 Line that hurts disreputable, uneconomic American (5)

Merry Christmas.

Another year has rolled by with its attendant difficulties and pleasures. The last few months have been somewhat disordered as a result of Marjorie having her leg broken when she was knocked off her motorbike. I have been doing rather more driving, ferrying her to various appointments, but it looks like most of the chaos is past. I think the outpatient's appointment in December will be the last. The other driver admitted responsibility, pleaded guilty at his first hearing, and paid his reparation promptly. The next step is to get a new bike, and to get some practice in while the summery days are here.

In the middle of this we lost our oldest cat, Peanut, at the age of 19. She was 9½ when we came out, and outlived all her younger companions. We thought we wouldn't replace her, but within a week or two there was a call to take on another teenager – too old to rehome, and who would otherwise be put down. He's had an odd life, and is rather inclined to go and hide in our neighbour's shed, but he's beginning to realise there's a rhythm to life and feeding in the household, and that he has to shout for attention.

It was all right his hiding in the shed over the weekend when we had some early summer weather, but today has turned muggy and drizzly, which the garden is loving. Our variegated cordyline of seven years is apparently a flax (now that it's flowered), we've rescued our hebe, and have more artichokes than we know what to do with.

The voting scheme again:

- 1) A maximum of 12 points to disburse;
- 2) Maximum for any one clue: 6 pts;
- 3) Maximum number of clues that can be voted for: 6;
- 4) Only positive integers allowed.

So 6-4-2 would equate to the marking used so far, but you could also have 5-5-2, 6-6, 3-3-3-3 and so on. Remember, too, that you wouldn't have to use all 12 points: 5-3-1 is possible, as is 6 by itself (if you really can't find any other clues worth voting for...).

Again we will be supporting Moorfields Eye Hospital in Eric's memory. Postal recipients: no form this time (it makes it a thick envelope), but I'll send one with the clues if you ask. Email recipients are encouraged to visit (NB yet another new web address):

<http://www.moorfields.nhs.uk/content/donate>

where there are ways to donate. Donating directly means you can use Gift Aid to increase the amount the hospital receives.

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