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Crossing answers make 18 down appear a non-word – it must be replaced by the acronym given by the longer down answers (five words in total), while retaining real words in the grid. The fictional character in the acronym also lent his name to a form of joke exemplified by italicised across clues, although for pragmatic reasons a different part of speech has been used in most of the associated entries. Four symmetrically-place down entries are entered unconventionally; single-letter corrections to misprinted definitions in eleven other down clues explain what has happened.

ACROSS

- 1 *"I work at a bank"* (7)
- 8 Get drug in deal (4)
- 11 Boisterous expression no longer a jinx, Director having left (5)
- 12 *"This boat is leaking"* (7)
- 13 *"It's half a score"* (5)
- 14 Italian leader's party, say, facing setback (4)
- 16 *"The radio reception is much better now"* (8)
- 17 Teas? It swallows a large quantity, on reflection (6)
- 18 Pancake: investigator recalled eating rear (7)
- 19 Hide view containing most of island (7)
- 21 One using gun, carrying article that's not as loaded (6)
- 22 A state of bewilderment, having lost a tool (4)
- 23 Commit crime in front of fashionable crimefighter (5)
- 26 Judge's account backed by detective (4)
- 28 End of day events ultimately not firmed up (6)
- 30 Shot capturing final historic sculptor (7)
- 31 Pattered after women in thick clothing (7)
- 32 One beating fellow's succeeded, coming first (6)
- 34 *"I'm sailing near the Isle of Wight"* (8)
- 38 Top weapon knocking man's head back (4)
- 39 *"I presented my case to the judge"* (5)
- 40 Wagner role: tenor's star in broadcast (7)
- 41 *"I always pray to St Ignatius"* (5)
- 42 *"This fowl has been stuffed"* (4)
- 43 What purification will do inclines to occupy church (7)

DOWN

- 2 Drunk mostly clutching to upturned ornament (5)
- 3 Reduction in deposit Aberdonian rewards with benevolence (4)
- 4 Current broadcast no more – product of sonic bonding (7)
- 5 People without coder? Pushes cancelling programming, ultimately (5)
- 6 Fir fashioned into spare pike (7)
- 7 Hidden decay to strike (core's turned) (4)
- 8 Warm whipped cream is surrounding top of cake (8)
- 9 Paid player suitable to display boot (6)
- 10 Coils in Kabul I left in excited state, with switch (4)
- 15 American electronic data's opening with post application (4)
- 20 Person at sea not quite ready to make return (8)
- 24 Inflammable liquid ending in blaze during early part of play? (7)
- 25 Napoleon in later days turning up worthy of title (7)
- 27 Glim: term for eye in old poem (4)
- 29 Examining lack of time in movie process (6)
- 32 Joist's modified iron, by the sound of it (5)
- 33 Exotic money, money involving unknown quantities repeatedly? (5)
- 35 Campo's favourite source of nutrition's golden article (4)
- 36 Section of sherry maybe seen in pool at harbour (4)
- 37 Bard, at sea, favouring introduction of Arden (4)