



Clues are arranged so that the initial letters of their answers (which must be fitted in jigsaw-wise) spell out a celebratory message.

A Shakespeare hero preceding us in thriving (10)
Bravo! Pain reduced and third of spots gone (6)
Completely dark in Kentucky (4)
Debut of some Conservative bank-worker as novelist? (11)
Eats first portions of éclair and torte – it's a blast (6)
Foreign invader – fear losing a number (7)
Glaucoma's such – not initially funny (6)
Hermit-like cousin destroyed telegram without opening (10)
I turn nasty when backsliding from enlightenment (6)
Jellied food swallowed back by snake not paying attention (6)
King avoids old invaders and follows line in part of battlefield (2-4-4)
Lady backed staff – court action terminating early (6)
More constricted row about Northern Ireland (6)
Nasty smell in sea, sadly – make more pleasant? (8)
OED, say, interrupted intermittently by section regarding synonym for
 'unrestricted' (13)
Puccini item, mostly dry one (4)
Quite mad, and hospitalised with onset of epidemic (6)
Revised arid play using concise language (8)
Supporter of old King, King I encountered in vibrant story (7)
Terrible climbing, chasing scoundrel and man up Welsh peak (5,5)
Unpleasant weather limiting one's fruit product (6)
Very important university – only some exemplary A-levels will suffice (4)
Wandering after father, swallowing a pie? (6)
X by itself at the end of the matrix? Not right – not X according to subject (8)
Year cut from one period of time around European plan (4)
Zero's appeared – one making call about that? (8)