



Not on the Level by Kcit

Down entries, bar one which is NOT ON THE LEVEL, are entered normally. Across entries are given in alphabetical order of their solutions and must be fitted in where they will go, subject to the impact of the amended down entry. *Chambers Dictionary* (2016) is recommended.

Across

- * 'Tis preacher, possibly, with no end of harangue
- * Out to lunch, ignoring first host
- * More than one publican eyes not opening after report of gun
- * Observes pieces hoarded by French aristocrats, not English
- * M, once head of espionage, married old woman
- * Relative decay in gear and bait
- * Cry of joy about succeeding being at full length (two words)
- * Chemical surface, in short, may be penetrated by phosphorus – that's it!
- * Place and time to catch a group of grasshoppers
- * Is returning to occupy opera heroine's houses
- * A monarch getting behind public? That's surprising
- * Fruit, meaning starvation no longer
- * Wit bound for the history books

Down

- 1 Wading bird picked up drink around inlet, mostly (6)
- 2 By reason of death, about to be kept in here? (4)
- 3 Head home, escaping that woman's strength (5)
- 4 Writer retorts, upset about American invaders? (11)
- 5 Advisor's plan, latest to be given boost (4)
- 6 Poet's to sound surly, cutting creature from poem (4)
- 7 Discharge for one on awareness program (5)
- 8 City's run down in period of sacrifice (4)
- 9 No longer capable of ignoring a claim on one's attention (3)
- 10 After bit of elastic goes, underclothes fall (4)
- 11 Papyrus regularly revealing fish (3)
- 12 Chamber group: Ravel's is engaged in dance movements (6)
- 13 Line in excellent book, one feature of detective story (5)
- 14 Quiet passages? Page two contains a number (5)
- 15 Infamous Biblical character, described as small when standing up? (4)
- 16 Rector with time to support church? You can bet on it (4)
- 17 Water bird avoiding lake or river (4)