

AZED CROSSWORD 2617

HECATOMB

1 T. J. Moorey: Bach motet endlessly remixed is what pleased the gods but emptied the stalls? (*anag. less t*).

2 Dr I. S. Fletcher: Greek offering once, hiding characters inside horse before combat renewed (*h. e + anag.; ref. Trojan horse*).

3 Rev Prebendary M. R. Metcalf: Primarily butchering many oxen, the Athenians celebrated enthusiastically herewith, in retrospect (*first letters rev., & lit.*).

VHC

M. Barker: Bach motet almost completely revised for large scale historical ‘Offering’ (*anag. less t; ref. Bach’s ‘Musical Offering’*).

M. Barley: Piece of bloodletting one encountered in time back, with large number being sacrificed (*b + ace in mo(n)th (all rev.), & lit.*).

Ms K. Bolton: Slaughtering of a hundred head of oxen met tastes of Hellenic banqueteers (*anag. incl. a, C, o, H, b, & lit.*).

W. Drever: You’ll find one such annihilation is becoming a habit with the opening of *Strictly Come Dancing!* (*comp. anag. incl. a, S, & lit.*).

H. Freeman: ‘Beefy’ hundred sacrificed – alternatively etc, Botham ton given away (*anag. less t*).

R. J. Heald: Ximenes’ victims maybe resorted to Chambers, missing last couple of answers (*anag. less rs*).

M. Lloyd-Jones: Public offering acclaim at the outset to inspire fantastic Beth M & Co (*a in anag.; ref. B. Mead, England striker*).

D. F. Manley: A mob leader of Conservatives manipulated with the offering of red meat? (*anag. incl. C; ref. PM’s Operation Red Meat, Jan. 2022*).

P. W. Marlow: Ace Botham in fantastic form dismissing Australia, victims in a major loss? (*anag. less A*).

P. McKenna: Offering the prime parts of magnificent bulls and choice oxen when slaughtered (*anag. incl. the & first letters*).

K. Milan: Originally a hundred oxen butchered ceremonially to mollify Eros, possibly? (*anag. of first letters, & lit.*).

S. J. O’Boyle: Timeless Bach motet played as mass offering (*anag. less t*).

D. J. R. Ogilvie (USA): To me, Bach transposed is a sacrifice in classical tradition (*anag.*).

Dr S. J. Shaw: Hellenic in origin, term for sacrifice and possible result of terrible combat (*H, e + anag., & lit.*).

R. C. Teuton: Beefy hundred offering early signs of England comeback – Botham’s rampant! (*anag. incl. E, c*).

J. Vincent & Ms R. Porter: Athenian’s oblation involving many cattle initially getting massacred – possibly a ton slain in this sacrifice (*comp. anag. incl. m, c, & lit.*).

Ms S. Wallace: Early signs of emergency measures to curtail hosepipe and bath overuse turning out to be a sacrifice for many (*anag. of first letters*).

HC

T. Anderson, D. Appleton, D. & N. Aspland, T. C. Borland, C. J. Brougham, Dr J. Burscough, J. A. Butler, A. Chamberlain, M. Coates, N. Connaughton (Ireland), A. Gerrard, G. I. L. Grafton, P. F. Henderson (New Zealand), J. Hood, G. Johnstone, J. C. Leyland, G. L. McStravick, T. D. Nicholl, J. Pearce, W. Ransome, S. Ravens, A. J. Scott, A. J. Shields, M. Sloman, P. L. Stone, Mrs A. M. Walden, A. J. Wardrop, R. J. Whale, D. Whisstock (Italy), K. & J. Wolff, R. Zara.

ANNUAL HONOURS LIST (13 competitions)

1 D. F. Manley (3 prizes, 9 VHCs); 2 R. J. Heald (2, 10); 3 M. Barley (3, 7); 4 Dr S. J. Shaw (2, 7); 5 (equal) W. Drever (2, 6), Dr I. S. Fletcher (1, 8); 7 (equal) J. C. Leyland (2, 5), R. C. Teuton (1, 7); J. R. Tozer (1, 7); 10 J. Vincent & Ms R. Porter (1, 6); 11 H. Freeman (0, 7); 12 (equal) Ms K. Bolton (2, 2), T. C. Borland (0, 6), C. A. Clarke (1, 4), M. Lloyd-Jones (1, 4), P. W. Marlow (0, 6), Mrs A. M. Walden (2, 2); 18 (equal) T. J. Moorey (1, 3), G. H. Willett (1, 3); 20 (equal) D. & N. Aspland (0, 4), E. Dawid (1, 2), A. Gerrard (2, 0), G. I. L. Grafton (1, 2), A. J. Shields (0, 4), Ms S. Wallace (0, 4), L. Ward (1, 2), A. J. Wardrop (0, 4), T. West-Taylor (1, 2).

Consolation prizes H. Freeman, T. C. Borland, P. W. Marlow, D. & N. Aspland, A. J. Shields, Ms S. Wallace, A. J. Wardrop.

Comments

159 entries, no mistakes: none, that is, except for my carelessly giving the wrong number of letters for ALLEYCATS, especially reprehensible in a Jigsaw puzzle. Those who commented on this mistake were typically tolerant, and I don't think it caused too much head-scratching. Ironically, my clue to ALLEYCATS ('Large marble cast (damaged) strays') was your favourite of the month, of 13 receiving one vote or more. Incidentally, Jigsaw seems to be a more popular 'special' than Carte Blanche, with which it shares some features, the latter being obviously tougher to get started on. Both will remain in the repertoire, though.

I discovered too late that Ximenes had chosen HECATOMB for competitors to clue, but so long ago (competition no. 139 in June 1950) that no one competing today can have entered on that occasion. I myself was seven years old at the time and yet to discover the joys of X. It's a good word to clue, both in its original classical sense and in its more general application. I do remember as a classicist at school wondering what on earth the Greeks did with all those bovine carcasses. Were they simply burnt on giant pyres or cut up after being slaughtered to form a spectacular feast? Answers on a postcard. Anyway, it yielded an excellent crop of clues (Botham and tomcats figuring widely), which proved tough to judge.

Congratulations to Mr Manley on his regaining first place at the end of another year of Azed competitions, just ahead of RJH, who has occupied that position for several

years. Competition among the leading contenders is as fierce as ever. And my thanks to all who sent kind wishes on my succumbing to Covid. I wasn't in truth all that poorly (less so than my wife) but we are both now fully well again.