

AZED CROSSWORD 2637

GASTROSOPHER

1 J. C. Leyland: I'd review the greasy spoon with withering terms? Right! (*anag. less e, y, n, incl. r, & lit.*).

2 R. J. Heald: Second meagre portion served up in orphanage's denied an unhappy Oliver? (*s ort (rev.) in anag. less an; ref. Jamie O./O. Twist*).

3 Dr S. J. Shaw: S/he's a pro primarily relishing taste of gourmet cooking (*anag. incl. first letters, & lit.*).

VHC

M. Barker: Go short, repast almost ruined? This *would* disappoint me! (*anag. less t*).

T. C. Borland: He knows fare to shops and back from making rare trips (*anag. incl. g*).

C. J. Brougham: Menu-driven browser embracing cooking arts with mouth? (*anag. + os in gopher, & lit.*).

Mrs S. Brown: Principally, he relishes good repasts prepared with no small degree of discernment (*anag. incl. h, r, less d, & lit.*).

D. Carter: A connoisseur of good food I avoided roast pig stewed with horse (*anag. less I*).

Dr I. S. Fletcher: Fancy Harrods' food ultimately coming out tops with eg me? (*anag. less d, & lit.*).

G. I. L. Grafton: A nosh expert – good sort to cook on next arranged outing (*anag. incl. g, less anag., & lit.*).

S. D. Griew: Waffle about fancy roasts, such as you might find in posh restaurant (*anag. in gopher*).

A. H. Harker: Foragers with posh taste might assemble feast with this food expert (*comp. anag. & lit.*).

D. Harrison: Pro, he's so involved with art and good cooking (*anag. incl. g, & lit.*).

D. F. Manley: Epicurean, possibly Greek comprehending posh eats or fluid? (*anag. in Gr.*).

K. Milan: Somehow he grasps what's central to food, worthy or non-nutritive! (*anag. incl. oo, rt (or tr), & lit.*).

C. Ogilvie: Foodie blethering on roots mixed with soft chopped herb (*gas + anag. + p her(b)*).

R. Pinnock: Humourless type sent up in pert talk of woman – one adept at scoffing (*po sort (rev.) in gas her*).

T. Rudd: I'll comprehend waffle about pre-basted roast very well (*anag. + so in gopher, & lit.*).

A. J. Shields: Endless pork shortages upset foodie (*anag. less k*).

A. J. Wardrop: Such as Jay Rayner subtly trashes poor grub without difficulty (*anag. less rub; ref. restaurant critic*).

M. Whitmore: Waffle about fancy roasts? One may (*anag. in gopher*).

A. Whittaker: A food expert could serve up spaghetti or rosti without it being repeatedly returned (*anag. less it (rev.) twice*).

HC

P. B. Alldred, D. Appleton, D. & N. Aspland, P. Bamber, J. M. Brown, Dr J. Burscough, M. Cerny, C. A. Clarke, W. Drever, P. J. Edwards, R. Emerson, A. Gerrard, R. Gilbert, J. Grimes, Ms B. Hall, J. Hood, C. & S. Hosker, L. M. Inman, G. Johnstone, A. MacDougall, P. W. Marlow, Rev. Prebendary M. R. Metcalf, J. R. C. Michie, C. G. Millin, T. J. Moorey, J. Morris, R. Perry, A. Plumb, J. & A. Price, D. Price Jones, W. Ransome, A. Sanders, P. Sant, D. P. Shenkin, P. L. Stone, R. C. Teuton, K. Thomas, J. Vincent & Ms R. Porter, Mrs A. M. Walden, Ms S. Wallace, T. West-Taylor, R. J. Whale, K. & J. Wolff, A. J. Young, R. Zara.

Comments

137 entries, no mistakes. An enjoyable competition to judge (even if the third in quick succession) for a word that clearly proved popular, despite its somewhat odd definition in Chambers. What does expertise in ‘matters of eating’ really mean? GASTROSOPHER scarcely deserves to be included in such a dictionary, it seems to me. The OED does not define GASTROSOPHER as distinct from GASTROSOPH, and gives only one citation for it, from the April 1894 issue of the *Westminster Gazette*: ‘There are many gourmets, but the number of gastrosophers is exceedingly small.’ So what’s the difference? One assumes that this grandiloquent, possibly tongue-in-cheek, term never caught on, only to be resuscitated in such venues as the Azed competition! A further curiosity was GOPHER (exploited by many), clearly an Anglicization of the French *gaufre* but labelled in C, with other variant spellings, as *dialect*, though the OED says nothing of this while suggesting that the word is probably of Low German origin. Fascinating.

Favourite clue of the month by a long way, of 13 nominated at least once, was ‘Outsize bust? It must be held in for gym!’ for ORGY. ‘Naughty but nice’ was a typical comment. I hope it didn’t strike anyone as too sexist; no one said so, at any rate. I just couldn’t resist it, and for once I think the exclamation mark was justified. One or two of you referred in your clues to the Houston Astros, a baseball team of which I had never heard. I am not generally conversant with American sport and tend to assume that most in this country are similarly ignorant, so if you wish to include such references in your clue it is as well to signal them loud and clear (or avoid them altogether). Be warned.