

Admission by Kea

Ascot Gold Cup holder Kea gave us a delightful puzzle this week, which was one of Gregson's favourites of the year so far. Misprinted letters in the grid could be seen to spell out the overlapping names GROUND CHERRY, BIRD-CHERRY, WILD CHERRY, WINTER CHERRY and HAGBERRY (another name for BIRD-CHERRY), and together these formed a tree-like structure.

S	P	Y	P	L	A	N	E	C	U	T	I	S
C	R	Q	O	E	G	M	S	A	P	O	R	W
R	E	U	S	E	R	A	S	B	L	W	O	I
O	V	A	S	O	O	N	E	I	E	I	N	N
L	U	R	E	D	E	U	N	R	L	E	T	E
L	E	T	S	S	S	A	N	D	D	E	N	E
I	D	E	S	T	U	T	E	C	R	S	T	H
T	I	T	H	E	B	E	G	H	E	G	A	L
A	C	T	S	M	G	S	O	E	B	A	T	E
O	L	E	O	L	O	X	B	R	E	R	A	N
N	U	S	O	E	A	H	I	R	A	C	K	S
G	E	N	T	S	L	O	N	Y	S	E	E	E
A	S	S	E	S	S	E	D	A	E	D	E	S

Summing together the letter values from the misprints in wordplay and grid entry, together with the correct letter of the answer, gave the message I CAN'T TELL A LIE. I DID CUT IT WITH MY, words which are attributed to George Washington, upon being questioned about his father's damaged cherry tree.

	Misprint in Wordplay	Misprint in Grid	Correct Letter	Resulting Letter
Across				
12	P	G	L	I
14	M	W	S	C
15	E	R	D	A
16	D	B	H	N
17	R	W	E	T
18	S	I	R	T
19	L	N	E	E
21	Q	R	C	L
24	L	E	U	L
26	S	C	E	A
27	O	R	E	L
30	L	H	O	I
37	H	E	R	E
40	A	R	P	I
41	B	R	J	D
44	C	Y	G	I

Down				
4	J	O	E	D
5	L	N	C	C
6	H	D	I	U
7	G	L	A	T
8	R	I	H	I
9	A	T	Y	T
10	M	I	A	W
13	J	U	D	I
27	F	B	L	T
28	T	H	F	H
32	Z	G	F	M
33	E	A	S	Y

We therefore had to follow in his footsteps by taking most of the cells forming the tree (all except the final RRY of the trunk), and rotate these cells en bloc by 90 degrees anticlockwise, overlaying them on the destination cells, so that GRO replaced GEN in 43a, and so on. This gave the appearance of the tree having been felled. Finally, we had to replace the contents of seven cells to give HATCHET, the final word of the quotation, angled at 45 degrees to the remnants of the trunk. All entries in the final grid were real words, when blank cells and the orientation of the transferred letters were ignored. This was a remarkable construction for which Kea is to be congratulated.

S	P	Y	P	L	A	N	E	C	U	T	I	S
C	R	Q	O	E		M	S	A	P	O	R	
R	E	U	S	E		A	S		L		O	
O	V	A	S	O		N	E		E		N	
W	I	N	E	D	H		N			E		E
L	E	T	T	S	S	A			D		H	E
I	W	I	S	E	U	G	E			A	T	
T	I	T	L	E	R	E	B		T			L
A	B	I	R	D	C	H	E	C		A	T	E
O	L	E	O	N	O	X	H	R	E	R	A	N
N	U	S	U	E	A	E	I	R	A	C	K	S
G	R	O	T	S	T	O	N	Y	S	E	E	E
A	S	S	E	S	S	E	D	A	E	D	E	S

Gregson noted that the letters associated with the final misprint clue spelt E+A+S=Y, though (in Gregson's opinion) the puzzle was anything but.

Wordplay for each clue is given below, with the correct answers, and grid entries, indicated by [].

Across

- 1 Playpen's complicated means of overhead surveillance (8)
SPYPLANE Anagram of PLAYPEN'S
- 6 Short thigh armour protecting front of the corium (5)
CUTIS CUIS(H) (thigh armour, less last letter) containing T (first letter of THE)
- 12 Odd bits of inverted maple tree (3)
EPM [ELM, EGM] Odd letters in MaPIE, reversed
- 14 Jollies on vegetable juice with ordinary flavours (6)
SAPORM [SAPORS, SAPORW] RM (Royal Marines, see jolly) after SAP (vegetable juice) + O (ordinary)
- 15 Rebuffed early English applicant applied again (6)
REUSEE [REUSED, REUSER] EE (Early English) + USER (applicant), all reversed
- 16 Tree with keys, the start of a row of them? (3)
ASD [ASH, ASB] The first three letters on the middle row of a standard keyboard
- 17 Latrocinium ejects unruly man; I cut the Pope associated with it (4, two words)
LROI [LEO I, LWOI] Anagram of LATROCINIUM less anagram of MAN I CUT
See the Chambers entry for latrocinium
- 18 Preferably very good jokes (6)
SOONES [SOONER, SOONEI] SO (very good) + ONES (jokes)
- 19 Stale mince pies and filling pork pie after turnover (4)
EINL [EINE, EINN] 'N' (and) inside LIE (ie pork pie, in rhyming slang), all reversed
"mince pies" being rhyming slang for "eyes", "stale" indicating obsolescent usage
- 20 Cattle horn had acted as a decoy (5)
LURED LURE (Cattle horn) + 'D (had)
- 21 Query language comprehended by a French feminine relative (5)
UNQLE [UNCLE, UNRLE] QL (Query language) inside UNE (French for "a", feminine)
- 22 Why don't we enter tenancy agreements? (4)
LETS Two meanings
- 24 Construction of Land's End beach feature? (8)
SANDDLNE [SAND-DUNE, SANDDENE] Anagram of LAND'S END
- 25 Day that is unending (4)
IDES ID EST (that is), less last letter
- 26 Student time in middle of weekday (5)
TUTES [TUTEE, TUTEC] T (time) inside TUES (Tuesday ie weekday)
- 27 Mum, that's Crowded House backing descendant of Finns (4)
OSTH [ESTH, RSTH] ST (Quiet ie Mum) inside HO (House, reversed)
- 29 Tenth paid out should do for this and pastor (5)
TITHE Anagram of TENTH PAID less AND P (pastor)
- 30 Algebra partially recalled to perplex once (4)
BEGL [BEGO, BEGH] Hidden in aLGEBrA, reversed
- 34 Holding court, however, is fit for performance (4)
ACTS CT (court) inside AS (however)
- 37 Regressive group's standards about barium salt from fruit (7)
SOHBATE [SORBATE, SOEBATE] ETHOS (group's standards) reversed
containing BA (barium)
- 38 Shock absorber essential in reverse toe loop (4)
OLEO Hidden in tOE LOOp, reversed

39 Fuel for space shuttle with angular momentum lower (3)
 LOX L (angular momentum) + OX (lower, ie an animal that lows)

40 Article about date abbreviated for each year (5, two words)
 AER AN [PER AN, RERAN] AN (article) containing ERA (date)

41 Forcibly diverts Hawaii defenders (7)
 HIBACKS [HIJACKS, HIRACKS] HI (Hawaii) + BACKS (defenders)

43 Heads for guys, eg, not the sheilas (5)
 GENTS First letters of Guys Eg Not The Sheilas

44 North-western county with acres obscured by old drainpipes perhaps (5)
 LONCS [LONGS, LONYS] LANCS (North-western county) with A (acres) replaced
 by O (old)
 Drainpipes being long trousers

45 Given a rating in pounds, but in Rome (8)
 ASSESSED ASSES (pounds) + SED (Latin word for “but”)

46 Consider area after rotation around dimension vector (5)
 AEDES SEE (Consider) + A (area), all reversed, containing D (dimension)
 A vector being a carrier of disease

Down

1 To wit, coiled paper? (6)
 SCROLL SC (namely, ie “to wit”) + ROLL (coiled paper) & lit

2 Hollywood's trailered dupe waving around gun (7)
 PREVUED PUED (anagram of DUPE) containing REV (s.v. gun)

3 Own son follows gangs (7)
 POSSESS S (son) after POSSES (gangs)

4 Jäger shot square (5)
 AGRJE [AGREE, AGROE] Anagram of JAGER

5 Some genteelness even boosted fine Hungarian wine (7)
 ESSENLE [ESSENCE, ESSENNE] Hidden in genteELNESS Even, reversed

6 Taxi heads for island refuge honouring couple of seafarers' protective gods (7)
 CABIRHC [CABIRIC, CABIRDC] CAB (Taxi) + IRHC (first letters of Island
 Refuge Honouring Couple)

7 Gulped, moving escort to a higher level (6)
 UPLEGD [UPLEAD, UPLELD] Anagram of GULPED

8 Buntings trail sandpipers (7)
 TOWREES [TOWHEES, TOWIEES] TOW (trail) + REES (sandpipers)

9 Watchful man embracing feasible situation's incongruity (5)
 IRONA [IRONY, IRONT] IRA (Man's name meaning “watchful) containing ON
 (feasible)

10 William is gripped by cut of old Jolson classic (6)
 SWMNEE [SWANEE, SWINEE] WM (William) inside SNEE (old word for “cut”)

11 Queen: group (foursome) mostly showing up similar groups (10)
 QUARTETTES QU (Queen) followed by SET (group) + TETRA(D) (foursome, less
 last letter) reversed

13 Money to stake, receiving German assent to invest with authority (7)
 MANJATE [MANDATE, MANUATE] M (Money) + ANTE (stake) containing JA
 (German assent)

23 Lifting WWII paramilitaries' headgear's not hard without support (8)
 STEMLESS SS (WWII paramilitaries) + HELMET'S (headgear's) less H (hard), all
 reversed

24 Bugs also affected partial targets (8)

SUBGOALS Anagram of BUGS ALSO

27 Give up right to arbitrate on wealth (7)

REFEASE [RELEASE, REBEASE] REF (arbitrate) + EASE (wealth)

28 Cuts fat off pound absorbed in past etc (7)

TLENSES [FLENSES, HLENSES] L (pound) inside TENSES (past, etc)

29 Pacific nation bearing a jewel for Maoris (6)

TAONGA TONGA (Pacific nation) containing A

31 Boy who finds cows lose sight when leaving lake (6)

GOBIND GO BLIND (lose sight) less L (lake)

The name Gobind meaning "finder of cows"

32 Crammed sweeping line into final letter (6)

ZARCED [FARCED, GARCED] ARC (sweeping line) inside ZED (final letter)

33 Another shooting, overlooking the first death by burning (5)

ETAKE [STAKE, ATAKE] RETAKE (Another shooting) less first letter

35 Perhaps makes cops from basis of detective's work? (5)

CLUES Two meanings, see cop(2) in Chambers

36 Dear old hearts kept from comfort (5)

SOOTE H (Hearts) removed from SOOTHE (comfort)

42 Almost saved private flooring design (3)

RYA RYAN (saved private) less last letter

The reference is to the film "Saving Private Ryan"