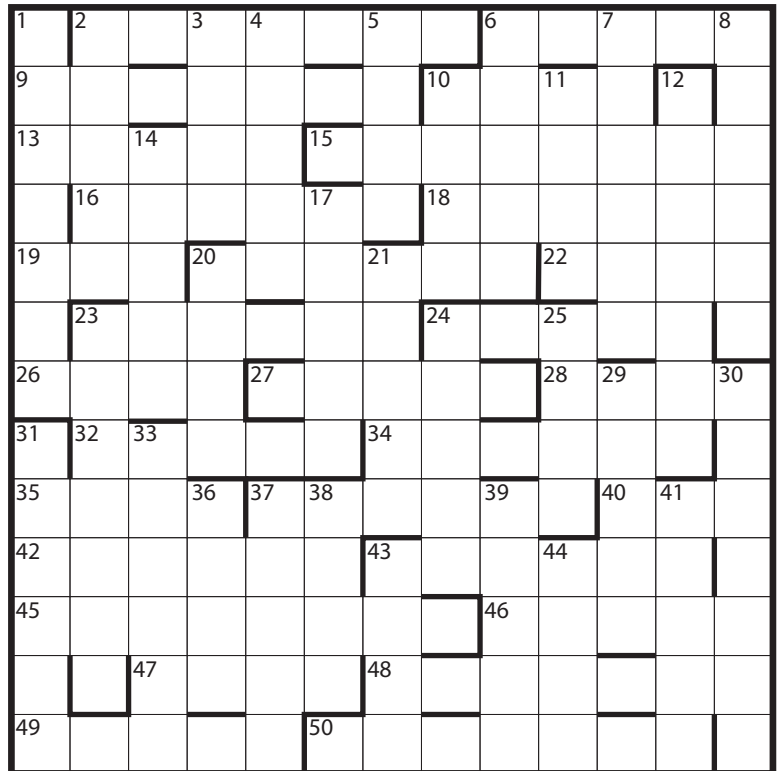


THE WORST PIES IN LONDON

by Mark Halpin

With the price of meat what it is – when you get it – *if* you get it – some of the ingredients in this grid must be a little adulterated. Certain letter strings that would normally appear in the grid spanning words that abut end-to-end must be replaced with other, more affordable letter strings. The new strings are not necessarily the same lengths as those they replace. New, legitimate grid entries (one a proper name) will result in all cases. Grid lengths and crossing words reflect the new entries.

Properly interpreted, the new strings will each be seen to be missing a single letter. These letters can be rearranged to form an apt description of the new strings, which may not make this unsavory dish more palatable, but it couldn't hurt.



ACROSS

- 2 Lawyer's brief getting into source of oil and source of revenue (2 wds.)
- 6 Pundit Bill's an aggressive womanizer lacking bit of scruples
- 9 I color a flamboyant fan, perhaps (*hyph.*)
- 10 Help Oakland ballplayer, one with over 3000 hits
- 13 Republican phoned left to growl fustily
- 15 Drone going around state with daughter worked very hard
- 16 They support pet food brand adopting pair of beagles (*hyph.*)
- 18 Returns for deli foolishly invested in forks
- 19 Troupe that included Hope and even characters from *Bus Stop*
- 20 Pick cheese trio infused with hints of olive, onion, and spices
- 22 Pout when what's down in fashion is up
- 23 Diary misrepresented hot Asian city
- 24 Classifies more than one bombing run that is overlooked
- 26 Ward's seen among Chinese lanterns
- 27 Capriciously abuse gentlemen callers
- 28 Jazz player's setting out a handwritten part
- 32 Defunct travel company's western map taking one in (2 wds.)
- 34 Band's shot in retro kind of detective film
- 35 South American dog exhibited in special collection
- 37 Pope's work: eliminating vice primarily in wretched poverty
- 40 Starting off, ugly duckling really is sickly-looking
- 42 Outspoken NY athlete will change, but not much
- 43 Like some ornate dresses a young socialite recalled when imbibing fruit drink
- 45 Doctor let fever take a turn (2 wds.)
- 46 Marilyn, at first, is not quite ordinary
- 47 Fondly touches Nixon and others
- 48 Run gala poorly, not at all like a ball?
- 49 Loudly expressed views and positions
- 50 Awkwardly, he ruins welcome (2 wds.)

DOWN

- 1 Smug man distributed big bottles of wine
- 2 "V", if interpreted by late character from Rome!
- 3 One in pain cried out a lot, perhaps
- 4 Venerable scroll I see beneath rocky peak
- 5 Playwright's corrupt "Beadle Bamford" finally done away with
- 6 Usual way of doing contest for *Sweeney Todd*, but not *The Frogs*
- 7 Four heading down returned clutching large tart
- 8 Biblical locale erased after upheaval (2 wds.)
- 10 Offensive rap's about nothing in good taste
- 11 Impure material that's partially transmuted
- 12 Like jellyfish and emus when migrating
- 14 The rhyming scheme / from "Waterloo"s / and "Voulez-Vous"s / composing team
- 17 Exemplary paeon written in 1050
- 20 Cy Coleman's last pair of pieces is kind of blue
- 21 Cost of traveling from dictator's exposition
- 23 Perry's secretary rising to hug yours truly on one side
- 24 Set of tools coming with excellent flying contraption
- 25 "Chichi" is role in *West Side Story*
- 29 Rapunzel's keep pulling one
- 30 Keen to take in top-rated European nation
- 31 Finished painting duct after fire
- 33 Cup, formerly platinum, is artist's inspiration
- 36 Cook ravioli stuffed with a veggie
- 37 Hides rifles
- 38 Melba's meandering strolls in the park, say
- 39 An asset when singing "...where the deer and the antelope play"
- 41 One promoting elements of Vietnam Day to the west
- 43 Some design school grads, second-rate, nearly go hungry
- 44 Ultimately, tired of us being in a gloomy mood