

COLGAN'S CRYPTIC

N	O	T	I	F	Y		S	H	I	F	T	S
O		A		I		L		U		I		T
M	A	L	A	R	I	A	L	F	E	V	E	R
E		E		S		T		F		E		U
N	I	N	E	T	I	E	S		A	M	I	D
		T		A		R		F		I		E
I	N	S	P	I	R	A	T	I	O	N	A	L
N		P		D		L		L		U		
R	O	O	M		S	P	R	I	N	T	E	R
O		T		K		A		C		E		A
A	S	T	O	N	I	S	H	I	N	G	L	Y
D		E		O		S		D		U		O
S	P	R	I	T	Z		L	E	N	N	O	N

EXPLANATIONS (C = cryptic part of clue + S = straight part of clue; or S + S = clue holding answer twice with two different straight meanings; or POW = play on words.)

Note that joining words may or may not be an integral part of the clue.

Punctuation and capital letters are irrelevant.

The art of the setter is to make it non-obvious how and where to split the clue, and to mislead the solver along an irrelevant path.

ACROSS

- C: unless (not if) you initially (y)
S: advise = notify
- S: they'll be assigned work = shifts
S: clothes = shifts
- C: returning gift, a pound (flair a lam, all backwards) always (ever)
S: complaint = malarial fever
- C: square (nine) matches (ties)
S: nervous time for cricketer = nineties
- C: a (a) grey westerly (dim, backwards)
S: surrounded by = amid
- C: one (I) countryman (national) holding back tears (containing 'rips', backwards)
S: arousing = inspirational
- C: heath rejected (moor, backwards)
S: opportunity = room
- C: small (S) computer accessory (printer)
S: one having great speed = sprinter
- C: Villa's base (Aston) I (I) covered with small pebbles (shingly)
S: much to everyone's amazement = astonishingly
- C: ship ends (s,p) luxury hotel (Ritz)
S: jet = spritz
- C: revolutionary (Lenin) going ahead (on) abandons one (removes I)
S: member of group = Lennon

COLGAN'S CRYPTIC

DOWN

1. C: only for females (no men)
S: name = nomen
2. C: loads of money once (talents) Harry (Potter)
S: recruiting agent = talent spotter
3. C: tree (fir) serious (staid)
S: treatment = first aid
5. S: blow = huff
S: bad mood = huff
6. C: recklessly interpreting fun give (anagram of 'fun give') flanks little (around 'minute')
S: warning before yacht race = five-minute gun
7. C: pastry centre (st) unrefined (rude) novice (L)
S: pastry = strudel
8. C: expired (late) train ticket (rail pass) cancelled one (removed I)
S: movement in rugby = lateral pass
12. C: one (I) group of detectives (CID) in row (inside 'file')
S: Marvin Gaye's death = filicide
13. C: popular (in) drives (roads)
S: headway = inroads
16. C: skate (ray) over (on)
S: synthetic material = rayon
17. S: a speed = knot
S: joint = knot