Best Bib and Tucker

(A One and Another Puzzle)



Of all years, 2020 might be the one where you are stuck at home with time to tackle the Christmas puzzle. This year each clue leads to something you might reasonably find in a wardrobe: everything can be worn, apart from one clue that leads to an object you might need to look your best – and which, possibly, could be kept in a wardrobe as well. This clue also contains a definition. General knowledge, a mildly cryptic approach and Google™ should provide most of the answers, although a good dictionary might be helpful too.

Clues will provide you with two letters to fit into the answer grid below, spelling out a seasonal message. In each case you need to enter the first letter of the answer and one other, whose position is indicated by the number after the colon in the letter count. For example, for the clue 'I CAN DRAG ABOUT' (8:6), the answer might be CARDIGAN (an anagram of I CAN DRAG): You would then need to enter into the grid the first letter - C - and the sixth - G.

When you have worked out the message, send all your answers - clues and message - by email to: abdemonpuzzles@gmail.com

Closing date: **January 10th 2021,** with the winner to be chosen at random from the entrants with the most correct answers.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55
56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66
67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77

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1	Playwright left behind (5 : 3)	40	Grated rind into hollow doughball (6 : 3)				
2	Entice king into complex position (7:5)	41	Never designs unusual creations (7, 5 : 5)				
3	Helps Django - rat! - win settlement in part (6, 4, 3 : 3)	42	The late shift? (10 : 6)				
4	Standing for office, she's keeping inner circle close (7, 5 : 2)	43	Use palette creatively (10 : 6)				
5	Used by metrosexuals and non-binary avant-garde at first $(3, 3: 4)$	44	Turn around and drink up quickly! (8 : 6)				
6	Stages that showcase good spirit (8 : 2)	45	Watch Becks' novel kick revert in outlandish style (6, 14 : 18)				
7	Swimming gear laid out in the sandhills (9 : 5)		Top school - school top (5, 5 : 5)				
8	Batter, not catcher (6, 4 : 6)		That's wrapped up work (3, 4 : 4)				
9	Decorates cakes with George and Charlotte's mum on Saturday (3, 6 : 9)		Hints at what lies beneath (9 : 2)				
10	Wait outside dilapidated coffee-shop (9 : 8)		Carefully wrapped - fragile - take care (5 : 2)				
11	Sit, brooding about arrangements (6, 5 : 3)		Serpent woken - ace handling required (4, 4, 7 : 10)				
12	Realigns coolant every second (8 : 6)		Careless conservation organisation goes off in another direction (8 : 5)				
13	Bighead and scoundrel (6 : 6)		Neither prying nor asking about contents (6 : 3)				
14	Pass, changing direction (5 : 3)	53	Its attackers lied about everything (11, 5 : 11)				
15	Silver's? (4, 5 : 6)	54	Ringleader slips from crowd (5 : 2)				
16	All the same (7 : 6)	55	Obese entrant collapses (6, 6 : 9)				
17	Conservative replaces County Leader (6 : 2)	56	Starters? Have one, or don't - I'm easy (6 : 6)				
18	Black tie invitation - Jack rented in desperation (6, 6 : 5)	57	Traffic Officer's request? (8 : 2)				
19	Once worn by Thomas, a cowardly cow? (6, 6:5)	58	Directs chill onto bits and pieces? (9 : 6)				
20	Beneath an English river (9 : 9)	59	Anger ruled in Emsworth's pig (6, 4, 5 : 11)				
21	Old King embraces French friends (8:7)	60	Reverend Spooner's naked employees (4, 5 : 3)				
22	A cover to throw - throw? - over a cot (9:8)	61	Sometimes worn in mid-summer, unless it's teeming early on (8 : 5)				
23	Ha! Jester nips about (7, 5 : 9)	62	New car tax? (6 : 5)				
24	Blows a fuse (6 : 5)	63	Sounds uneven (4:3)				
25	Unnatural shade for young cow, we hear (9 : 2)	64	Loses knack for twisting - in these? (5, 5 : 2)				
26	Lower in the Himalayas, takes a quiet minute (7 : 3)	65	No good coming up short against vacuous Waller-Bridge character (6. 3 : 7)				
27	It rankles; I worry (1-4, 5 : 3)	66	Adapted lesson on acrobatics (4-4, 7 : 6)				
28	Stir shreds into marmalade (5, 5 : 10)	67	Terrible thirst (1-5 : 2)				
29	Cover up at Chernobyl? (6, 4:5)	68	I see no surprises in this! (6 : 2)				
30	Re-elect Trump? Junk nightmare possibility! (6, 4, 6 : 13)	69	Nun departs in disarray (10 : 6)				
31	Support for press baron on rigid editing (7, 5 : 7)	70	In less pain, so lessens dose (7 : 2)				
32	Stop hesitate kiss! The best (10, 3 : 11)	71	Trouble due to concealed kiss (6 : 6)				
33	Duke jeers about Turkish leader (10, 5 : 9)	72	The Royal Marines? Too short (8 : 2)				
34	Beer sent back: not bad, but has spilled head (7 : 6)	73	Let me focus - it's complicated! (3, 7 : 6)				
35	Iron Lady? (6:4)	74	Converted boy to Kinks musical (5, 5 : 5)				
36	It's not even root beer! (4 : 4)	75	Rotting rotters? (4, 5 : 6)				
37	The 16 ingredients of olive-rye bread (6 : 3)	76	Hangs around the Queen (10 : 4)				
38	Hearing things about Greek letter, very loudly (8 : 8)	77	Made use of heartless dealers' pills (11 : 5)				
39	Right in the middle of a tree (6 : 2)						