

Step Right Up

--- by William Gee

Across

1. Embarrass
6. Calphalon product
9. Platters
14. Smooth transition
15. Alien transport, supposedly
16. Bar, at the bar
17. First of six popes
18. "Losing My Religion" rock group
19. Amorphous creature
20. Volunteer
23. Group of whales
24. Tom, Dick & Harry?
25. Put out of commission
27. Like old Russia
31. Contradict
32. Same old, same old
33. Determined to do
35. Usher's milieu

38. Low digits
40. Move, as a plant
42. Roil
43. Ann & May
45. Calendar girl
47. Chemical suffix
48. Finished off, so to speak
50. Lacking integrity
52. Restrict
55. It's big in London
56. Harvest goddess
57. Not in sync
63. Columbus landfall in 1492
65. Pay dirt
66. Courtyards
67. Command
68. Tandoori-baked bread
69. Wine & dine

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70. "The Avengers" character
71. Antiquity, in antiquity
72. Fencing equipment

Down

1. Dangerous biters
2. Cadence
3. Chills & fever
4. Old-time antibiotic
5. Herd members
6. Engine sound
7. Not many
8. Bedouin
9. Lowest point on earth
10. Tour's end?
11. Gradually

12. Early programming language
13. "The Maltese Falcon" sleuth
21. Wicker willow
22. Free from, with "of"
26. Cuckoos
27. Sushi staple
28. Enter
29. This puzzle's theme word
30. Issue
32. Big bird of mythology
34. Double negative?
36. Fluff
37. Afore
39. Splinter group

41. Engine supercharger
44. Tern or erne, e.g.
46. Introduction
49. Conk out
51. Clear, as a clog
52. Some salmon
53. Illusory art work
54. Nary a soul
58. River to the Caspian
59. Be inclined
60. Test answer choice
61. Cork's country
62. Butter servings
64. Athletic supporter?