Yet another misdefinition pun quiz. Numbers in parentheses are the letters in the answer; (4|5) is a charade, a nine letter word that splits into a four plus five letter pun. My answers are out back.

1. pretend expertise—eg, the fake dentist with such bad teeth he can’t show his face on TV (3|5)
2. the newly accepted interpretation, having turned the old one on its head (2|7)
3. sobriquet for a nearly isolated provincial writer and his instrument (3|7)
4. descriptive of a self-important wall mirror (or its contents?) (5 2)
5. a despot with a severe bias against drug abusers—or vice versa
   The answer here is a homophonic pun with two apt spellings: (1 8 and 6 5)
6. know-how to get in on things (Don’t tell anyone else!) (5 4)
7. Drug experience that assists speculative thought? (11’1 5)
8. makes a well-behaved cadaver—or soon will do (4 2 4)
9. a geographical chasm separating Iran and the US (7 4)
10. how to pull strings in the classical music business (9)
11. to use this word without knowing what it means (11)
12. police or army mess—only edible at gunpoint? (5 4)
13. time travel a split second into the future (7 5 2 8 or 7) ————
14. the passage of a dead flower into the next life (2|2|9)
15. a hush-hush disease (7; three synonymous answers)
16. a good-looking—and sharp—English ancestor (14 5)
17. Plan to smuggle it in then actually do it. (2 7 4 2.)
18. Don’t touch me, Mother, I’m too old! (4, 2, 2 5!)
19. ecdysisism by an involuted contortionist (6 5)
20. horse, or something illegally given to one (4)
21. a “second look” (at an academic earl?) (4 6)
22. a packaging job in a handwear factory (6 6)
23. a reserved position on the shed wall (6 4) ————
24. an avid chaser of electrical storms (9 3)
25. a magazine devoted to the menses (6|4)
26. someone put glue on the chin rest (6 6)
27. move to an unhaunted house (4 2 3 5.)
28. to anticipate an oral outpouring (6|7)
29. “You’re a living codess!” (4 3 1 10)
30. three foot ruler; not Napoleon (4|5) ————
31. stalk a white-collar worker (6 4)
32. give up the fighting game (4|6)
33. materialise out of thin air (3 8)
34. half-arsed exhibitionism (4-4)
35. how the sun formed (3 2 3)
36. beauty school final (4-2 4)