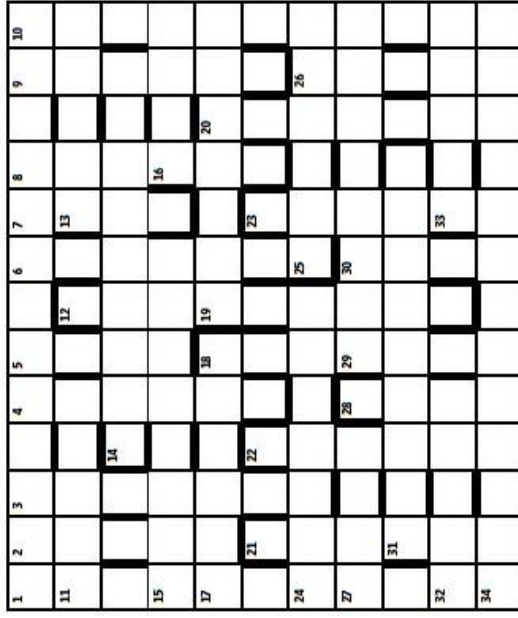


Azed No. 2,662 Plain



Across

- 1 To prepare soldiers one drops everything! (13)
11 Ball leading to runs acceptable, one in belted one (5)
13 Woodland umbrellifer naturalist transplanted, having cut a border (5)
14 Like a French author favouring bombast? Not the first (9)
15 Regarding building eye something bracing (8)
16 Dimwits starting shed from the wrong end (4)
17 Band section, briefly famous, LSO exploited (6)
19 Dog's covering tail I clipped – they're docked (7)
24 With no children around, give up school? Quite revealing! (7)
25 Measure of acidity that restricts opening of this tiny cutting? (6)
27 Very old gang of seamen is excluded from sailing to and fro (4)
29 Dance revealing Saudi in his element? (8)
31 Dancing isn't including numbers producing thin sound (9)
32 Suppress very old magistrate's comeback (5)
33 Tawdry lass (misspelt?) to woo once, accepting half a smacker (5)
34 Talc for carving about scattered eastern isle (13)

Down

- 1 Repairer holding torn coat? He helped to keep tavern floor clean (11)

- 2 Indian bean, end of vegetable doubly spiked (5)
3 It may hold kipper still 'til piece almost cooked (7, 2 words)
4 Near unit put up, take in plant firmly (6)
5 Strip of plaid may be making jumper, new? (4)
6 The old engrave fancy lupins round head of chair (7)
7 Military alliance? There's no action with regular abstentions (4)
8 Tellers of tales creating ruction in G & S (6)
9 Sign of aging, like what's left of Ozymandias statue in part? (6)
10 Glacial feature leads stones adrift (11, 3 words)
12 Substance enveloping dodgy snack? It's best to keep off this (9)
18 Judge accepts Hants parish being put up for sitting (7)
20 Petroleum fuel residue, rubbish taken on board in a race downhill (7)
21 Specially-shaped trowel, instrument for narrowing tubes (6)
22 Different whiskies maybe? Litre consumed in Scotch spees (6)
23 Fool taken in by deception at being denied dram (5)
26 Canard, not wholly recondite (5)
28 Countess with every other character taken out for drinks? (4)
30 Reservation, one for former royal family (4)

The Chambers Dictionary (2016) is recommended, but does not give one proper name.

Azed No. 2,659 solution & notes

1	K	A	N	G	H	A	P	B	O	I	L
2	U	R	A	M	E	R	V	E	I	L	E
3	K	I	T	E	N	G	E	R	C	L	L
4	U	T	I	S	G	Y	S	M	E	A	T
5	S	H	O	V	E	R	C	I	P	A	R
6	E	M	N	S	P	I	R	A	S	T	E
7	C	O	S	S	E	T	I	N	G	U	A
8	O	M	B	U	R	E	C	O	U	N	T
9	D	A	M	N	E	D	E	V	G	A	M
10	O	N	U	D	I	S	T	U	B	B	E
11	N	I	C	R	O	S	I	L	A	L	N
12	T	A	H	I	N	I	D	E	L	E	T

Across 6, u Pb oil; 12, val in a merle; 13, kit + eng(in)e; 14, (m)utis(m); 16, cf. hovers; 22, co.'s set in g; 31, bin debuts (rev).
Down 7, r + aim (rev); 10, treat in ill men + t; 16, cod on in set; 21, nab in tulle; 23, sun-dri(ed); 28, mu(n)ch; 30, alternate letters & lit.

Azed No. 2,659 winners

Because of local postal delays, the results of Azed Competition No. 2,659 will be announced on Sunday 2 July.

Rules and requests

Send your solution to Azed No. 2,662, The Observer, Kings Place, 90 York Way, London N1 9GU. Entries must be postmarked no later than the Saturday following publication of the puzzle and must reach us within 10 days of publication of the puzzle (ie by Wednesday week following publication). Three readers' solutions will be selected at random from all those received by the Observer by that date. Entries will continue to be selected at random until three correct solutions have been found. A £25 book token will be awarded for each of the three correct solutions selected. The book token will be sent by post.

For further information visit: theobserver.com/crosswords/2014/dec/30/azed-faq

Name

Address

Post code