Instructions

Five clues contain a cryptically superfluous word. Wordplay in 14 other clues contains a cryptically superfluous letter. Unclued entries are five pairs of characters linked cryptically to each other and to one of the five superfluous words. The superfluous letters in clue order give two further characters and a third word linked in the same way. Eleven of the characters are (or were) real people; one isn’t.

Deadline for entries is 23:59 GMT on Saturday 2 February. You need to register once and then sign in to theguardian.com to enter our online competition for a £100 monthly prize.

CLUES

Across
1 One hearing Dralon curtains last getting more in (8)
6 (See instructions)
9 Fat fellow at work? Not half (4)
10 (See instructions)
11 In Torbay selling fish (4)
12 Sect member increasingly unsteady (6)
13 Behave with spirit in a positive manner (8)
14 Idiot girl (3)
15 (See instructions)
17 One over from Forest of Arden wasted shots (7)
19 Around room forcibly assert support for chair (7)
22 (See instructions)
24 (See instructions)
25 Some slip close to the flower garden (8)
27 (See instructions)
29 Get off with female and make an impression — niello! (4)
30 God’s female, feminist ultimately claimed (5)
31 (See instructions)
32 Make use of? In a word, wrong! (4,2)
33 Was inclined to go after number engaged (8)

Down
2 (See instructions)
3 Writer in front upset about book review (7)
4 Nun and cashier breaking cover (9)
5 Left relax with socialist publication (7)
6 Underground room to call mine (5)
7 (See instructions)
8 Song taken up in revels disowning the Queen and her supporters (9)
16 Rock plant by lake pulled up (9)
18 Like some twins for a threesome initially? Run during way over (9)
20 (See instructions)
21 Struggled — time for women’s support (7)
23 Country people safe? Hang about! (7)
26 Egyptian god carrying round ankh with new tree (5)
28 Report I filed in issue over drug (5)