

Azed No. 2,431 Plain

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Name _____

Address _____

Post code _____

Across

- 1 Quite a swell, displaying extremes of style continuously (6)
 5 Gland, one included in examinations (6)
 10 Vagrant once having to peddle round for all to see (6)
 11 Public drain smelled awful (5)
 12 A beauty, awfully cheery etc, captivates one (10)
 13 Musteline, all right after a bit of a kip (4)
 14 Excitement in most of yield being trimmed (7)
 17 Senior officers love having sailors around (8)
 19 Native American having to knock entering dry house (7)
 21 More piping setting back river that is between two others? (7)
 22 Who'll flog rice and pies? (8)
 24 Game bird, busy one wrapping large chest, avoided by one (7)
 25 Floral decorations, a feature of Belle Isle (4)
 26 Sea winds, darn sea winds catching little bird (10)
 27 Before end of day Scots aim for camp (5)
 28 Dry chalk bed, mostly scorched round middle of October (6)
 29 'Ingenious' or 'spot-on' captures X (6)
 30 Whale-catchers maybe folded waterproof sheet on board (6)

Down

- 1 Government historically showing wisdom about rent (8)
 2 Not properly hearty, I (right obvious inside), losing red blood cells (12)
 3 Nuts: kilo consumed in Texas town (5)
 4 Resurrection unaltered after Satan's mistreatment (9)
 5 Some disco music? Echt dancing number (6)
 6 The old served special cuppas with qualified teacher? (7)
 7 Like raw fish one's served in hellish place once (8)
 8 Dividing plots I'll separate design (12)
 9 Side-slip was in sport including such a manoeuvre (4)
 15 Tap overspread ground right away (9)
 16 Glowing roundhead of chrysanthemum, rooting from the stem (8)
 18 Emphasizes troubles, not half dire (8)
 20 Spicy pastry dish sale included (7)
 21 Buck lives in tranquillity (6)
 23 Grand family of bays (not US) in boggy Scottish ground (5)
 24 Catch on the river bottom, soft (4)

The Chambers Dictionary (2014) is recommended.

Azed No. 2,428 solution & notes

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Ref. Christmas carol, 'While shepherds watched ...'

F	L	O	C	K
S	B	Y	N	I
G	H	T	A	D
E	M	P	Q	R
U	V	W	X	Z

Across 1, kick-start; 7, fun fur; 12, clock-watcher; h in anag.; 14, garget; 15, patriate; 16, contingent; 18, Abelia; 19, misfired; is in mired; 20, associational; 24, hoteling; 25, trench; 28, earthman; 31, ill nature; at in inure; 32, board; 33, mineralise; anag. + lie; 34, sedate; cf. seated; 35, syndactyl; anag. + alternate letters.

Down 4, tit i(s); 5, a lig' + n; 6, 'road'; 11, alternate letters; 21 (c)re(w) (rev.) in sang; 22, deta(l)ls (rev.); 29, anag. less lid; 30, Marc(o).

Rules and requests

£25 in book tokens for the first three correct solutions opened.

Solutions postmarked no later than Saturday to:

Azed No. 2,431 The Observer, 90 York Way, London N1 9GU.

Azed No. 2,428 prizewinners

The results of the Christmas competition puzzle, Azed No. 2,428, will be announced next week.