

Azed No. 2,491 Plain

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Azed No. 2,500

There will be a special lunch in Wolfson College, Oxford on Saturday 2 May 2020 to mark Azed No. 2,500. For full details please send an sae to Richard Heald, Azed 2,500, 13 Eshton Court, Mapplewell, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S75 5QG, or email heald.richard@googlemail.com. Please allow a few weeks for a reply.

Name _____

Address _____

Post code _____

Across

- To supply need, girl (saintly?) introduces gallon in load (12, 3 words)
- Foreign girlfriend and wife, about united, on the best of terms (7, 2 words)
- Old vulgarian holding end of cigar – it's often lit (4)
- Rap singer, good one but full of unease about our lot (7)
- Outfit and curved sabre abandoned by war in palm tree (6)
- One entering left twice (in different guises) – a grand entrance (6)
- English and Latin included in rigidly formal exam (6)
- Scot's resolute for all to see, getting into college (5)
- A keg fashioned with this whitewood? Ageing oak possibly (5)
- Runs test showing early signs of damp (5)
- Scout rule? Look after that (5)
- What'll spell depression for Indian scholar? (6)
- Saint, one seen hiding in a tree (6)
- Sluggish Scottish river dam retained by stone (6)
- Fowl à la française cooked in allspice (not soft inside) (7)
- Large fruit, juice nil (4)
- I err badly because going round hollows in Cairngorms? (7)
- Live model's pose? No charge when (not initially very) melodious family's involved! (12)

Down

- Bread roll – stock ordered in – Irish one's had much exposure (8)
- Regret endless journey over waterway, caring for some country clergy (11)
- Doing without professional help bags IOM trophy – some catch! (5)
- Bent structure, last removed from class (4)
- Lunge awkwardly in river for primitive creature there? (7)
- Voluntary fee, ancient and not limited (8)
- Sudden rise in water rate agreed in part (5)
- Flying locust sucked into Greek plane's safety mechanism (8)
- Countryman's jumped up having caught a young trout (4)
- Sort of hovercraft, power in test failing – it may cover treads (11, 2 words)
- Large vessel filling basin drunk, recalling wild night in Dundee? (8)
- Page-turner giving one tense time (short), not so good (8)
- A motet's so stirring, though lacking tenor, in grand style (8)
- Derbyshire location, one Bertie found forbidding (7)
- Last of meal stored in handy earthenware (5)
- Copy as alternative to period (reverse thereof) (5)
- General's assistant bags century batting for both sides (4)
- Distortion? This roof is able to withstand onset (4)

The Chambers Dictionary (2014) is recommended. It gives one entry as an abbreviation.

Azed No. 2,488 solution & notes

1	I	N	E	R	A	D	E	E	C	H	R	T	S
	E	T	C	A	G	E	N	T	R	A	N	G	E
12	T	H	U	E	E	E	D	E	E	N	T	I	A
15	A	E	R	M	T	R	S	R	G	D	R	M	B
16	E	M	E	G	E	S	P	A	E	S	E	P	E
	C	T	W	R	D	F	I	N	D	E	R	O	A
22	H	I	T	E	A	R	E	E	S	T	E	R	S
	O	S	E	C	R	I	P	U	L	I	C	U	E
29	S	E	R	E	N	T	Y	R	E	S	R	N	S
31	T	R	A	S	I	T	I	O	A	L	T	A	O
32	S	E	C	E	E	R	P	A	L	P	E	E	N

Quotation: 'Good morrow, friends. Saint Valentine is past' (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*, 4, 1, 148)

Across 1, gingerade; anag. less w; 7, cohorts; hr in ct + s; 11, Agent Orange; a gent range; 12, thudded; 13, dementia; it in a need (all rev.); 15, aeromotors; 16, remerges; gem in see (all rev.); 17, Praesepe; 18, word-finder; alternate letters; 22, whiteware; 24, festers; 27, purlicue; pu(b)lic + EU (rev.); 29, serenity; 30, serenes; SRNs; 31, transitional; 32, secede; sec (s)ee(d); 33, spalpeen.

Down 1, siesta; 2, anathematise; them in anag.; 3, écurie; 4, agented; te in aged; 5, deters; 6, veteran; 7, acreage; G in Cree; 8, handels; ha + anag.; 9, reuter; 10, sea beans; 14, importunate; l + run a in anag.; 16, echoists; EC + hosts; 19, recense; cf. creese; 20, fritter; 21, disleat; SL in deal; 23, sarnie; 24, Europa (Cretan princess seduced by Zeus disguised as a bull); 0 in a rue (rev.); 25, écarté; cf. Crete; 26, sérac; 28, teston.

Rules and requests

£25 in book tokens for the first three correct solutions opened. Solutions postmarked no later than Saturday to: Azed No. 2,491, The Observer, 90 York Way, London N1 9GU.

Azed No. 2,488 prizewinners