

Azed No. 2,496 'Eightsome Reels'

	1	2	3	4	5	6					
	7	8	9	10	11	12					
	13	14	15	16	17	18					
	19	20	21	22	23	24					
	25	26	27	28	29	30					
	31	32	33	34	35	36					

Azed No. 2,500

In light of the coronavirus crisis, it has been decided to postpone the lunch at Wolfson College, Oxford, originally planned for Saturday 2 May, until Saturday 26 September. For all details send an SAE to Azed 2,500, 13 Eshton Court, Mapplewell, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S75 5QG, or email head.richard@googlegmail.com

Name _____

Address _____

Post code _____

Each numbered square in the diagram is surrounded by eight blank squares. All clues lead to answers of eight letters, and these are to be entered around their appropriate numbers, clockwise or anticlockwise, beginning anywhere. Solvers must determine where each begins and the direction in which it is to go. The twelve unchecked letters at the corners of the completed diagram may be arranged as BUTLER'S TOAST.

- 1 Picture maybe left to soak
- 2 Support for carriage roof to protect track
- 3 Last cent restored fragments
- 4 Screen French painter put round old mound
- 5 Old killjoy lambasted pros in marketplace
- 6 Post-mortem succeeded, held in a perfect place
- 7 Vice squad initially excited nabbing suitable prisoners
- 8 Body left by us returned stirring, formerly prone
- 9 Musicians producing tired old stuff is interspersed with silence!
- 10 Mimicking dotty aunt, smile endlessly
- 11 Peculiar aberration of the upper throat
- 12 Rides in a wobbly forerunner of the bike
- 13 Harden less with core disintegrating
- 14 Stick note in place for detective
- 15 Trouble with sign of fungal growth round new decking
- 16 Planted rosaceous shrub round Ulster? Talent once needed
- 17 What flautist must master for gig with nun dancing

- 18 Marginal note in location absorbing study circle
- 19 Appendages to old footwear – right toe badly pinched by dandies
- 20 Of slender form, with no end of allure for those with roaming hands?
- 21 She's overly meek and oddly glad about pay increase
- 22 African of short stature to question in made-up language
- 23 Greyhound, spoilt giant swathed in lots of love
- 24 Typify as 'flipping' mushrooms I had for supper?
- 25 Slappers swagger in showy boots
- 26 Makes fresh plans for hollowed raft in revised search
- 27 Moderate, once, in pursuit, about to take seat, returned
- 28 Restraining sharp pain, not well inside
- 29 Athlete holding nothing back, one that's into top gear?
- 30 Cor! Met is disturbed – by this wintry phenomenon? (2 words)
- 31 One's smartest kit mostly includes odd sleeping bags
- 32 Set went quickly, including scrappy end
- 33 Lanceolate, as of some plants until put out to dry
- 34 Drug included in chuck where livestock's housed
- 35 Rating, releasing end, let out part of rigging
- 36 Witness maybe attending trial with rankers?

Every answer is in **The Chambers Dictionary (2014)**.

Azed No. 2,493 solution & notes

1	A	2	M	3	P	4	I	5	C	6	T	7	E	8	R	9	I	10	D	11	A	12	E
11	B	O	A	B	O	O	12	B	13	O	N	E	L	Y									
14	S	C	R	A	W	M	15	R	A	G	T	A	G										
16	T	H	A	L	A	M	I	D	E	A	Y	A	17										
18	R	A	G	U	L	Y	D	I	N	I	O	N											
20	A	M	E	S	S	A	G	E	U	N	I	T											
22	C	U	R	E	T	T	E	M	E	N	T	I											
26	T	R	O	T	H	K	27	E	S	I	S	T											
30	S	S	L	L	R	I	O	N	O	M	E	R											
32	S	O	L	I	O	N	L	A	K	O	T	A											
34	S	A	U	N	A	S	L	T	B	I	O	G											
36	A	P	P	E	T	I	S	E	R	L	N	I											

Across 13, i.e. on (Isle of) Ely; ref. Hereward the Wake; 16, am in thali; 19, (p)inion; 27, is in rest; see buck; 33, atokal (rev.); 35, I in bog; see stodge; 36, pet is in (p)aper.

Down 1, attracts with bs for t; 6, tommy + anag.; 17, rag in anag.; 23, ro + pull (rev.); ref. Melbourne cricket ground; 24, (ten)or (rev.) in that; 28, (s)enate; 29, notes (rev.); set on.

Rules and requests

£25 in book tokens for the first three correct solutions opened. Solutions postmarked no later than Saturday to: Azed No. 2,496, The Observer, 90 York Way, London N1 9GU.

We regret that the prizes for our puzzles are temporarily suspended.

Azed No. 2,493 prizewinners

Richard Griffiths, Cardiff
Jane and John Barnes, Bampton
Ann Jeeva, Salford