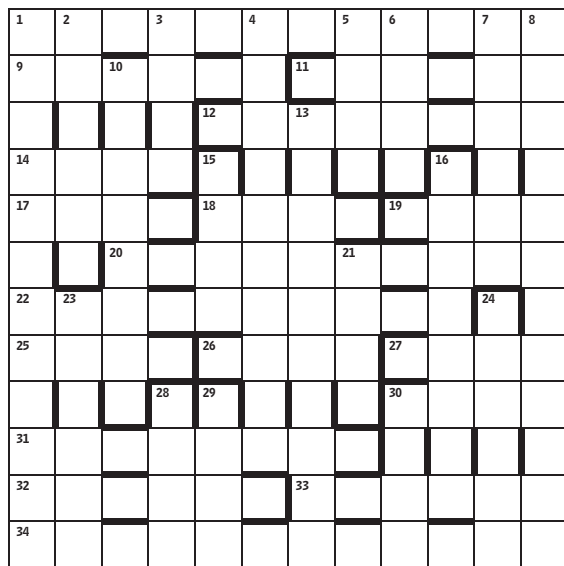


Azed No. 2,500 'Half and Half' - Competition Puzzle



The theme for this puzzle was suggested by the fact that 2,500 is 50², i.e. 50 x 50 or 50 by 50, which in turn suggests 50-50 or 'half and half'. Each entry in the completed diagram is made up of the first half of one word (in one case a two-word compound) followed by the second half of another word whose first half appears elsewhere. Each clue consists of definitions of its two component words, plus a cryptic indication of the entry (a non-word in many cases). The three elements do not overlap and may appear in any order, with no superfluous wording between them. **Two letter-pairs forming the second halves among the 4-letter answers are shared by two entries.**

Name _____

Address _____

Post code _____

Method recommended is to find, after solving a clue, another clue to an entry of the same length which contains a definition of the word of which it is the second half. This should help in positioning the two separate halves. Every real word used is in *Chambers*. Competitors should submit with their entries a clue in the form of all the others to **34 Across**, which must be deduced.

Across

- 1 Paddle boat with twice getting into unyielding reedy stuff 'speared' delicacy (12)
- 9 Severely criticize constitutional activity when limited by the crown (6)
- 11 Hot-food stand governess, English, wrapped in quilt (6)
- 12 Ancient landmass, one shifting evasively, almost regularly shifting (8)
- 14 The old care about armadillo – it's trapped in wire basket (4)
- 17 Beams rattle round fruit (4)
- 18 Processed butter to cook freshly butchered hog with date stuffing (4)
- 19 Bum opposed to active Scottish race (4)
- 20 Posting round Cambs city military force that's present but not obvious (10)
- 22 Love poet, gin drunk, ignores the alarm? Effect of the elements (10)
- 25 Called 'a wrinkle', loveless language (4)
- 26 Plated creature, small bird, ends in cheap pie, cooked hastily (4)
- 27 Oil for cooking kingfisher's cousin, to set alongside peeled neep (4)
- 30 Berry, an enticement for each guest's centrepiece (4)
- 31 A suit, ragged with age, covering a large expanse of old (8)
- 32 Chaperone returned one behind threefold grate bracket (6)

- 33 Flightless bird, a jackdaw seized by female falcons (6)

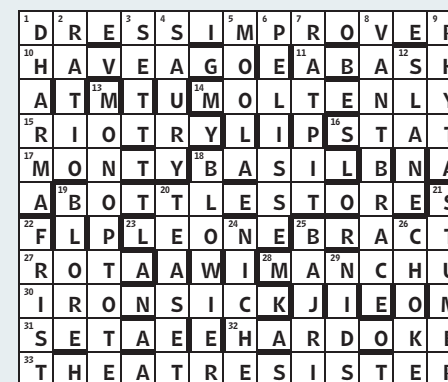
*34 See preamble (12)

Down

- 1 Vegetable box – loot tree scattered – catch (12)
- 2 Stroll secure, beside a river rail (6)
- 3 King with commander called 'The Toothsome Gannet' (4)
- 4 What lie-abled often does: cries about almost all the suffering, coming safely through (10)
- 5 Fold edible wee seabird – champagne served up? (4)
- 6 Go over Indian piece as encountered in heart of Kerala (4)
- 7 Fiddle churn almost tilting over suddenly (6)
- 8 What powers US vessel? Catching fish herring set I released (12)
- 10 Muddled up barristers gutted, document half missing; writ case (8)
- 13 Military might find rudest scrapping fundamental (10)
- 15 Contra behind start of attack on US troops? (4)
- 16 I age, worn out, one trying to evade summons? (8)
- 21 Heather? Day going, idyl's dispersed sunlight (4)
- 23 Kit? Old cannons, strength about over (6)
- 24 Dress down, get agitated with rage, almost put to bed? (6)
- 28 Old trumpet, one in middle of flat wind, far from warm (4)
- 29 Sitar performance, maybe, new in jazz style, Scottish row? (4)
- 30 Concern for the old round our country is exercising bleak elevated region (4)

The Chambers Dictionary (2014) is recommended (see preamble).

Azed No. 2,497 solution & notes



Across 1, anag. + over; 15, Rio (Ferdinand, footballer) + try; 16, comp. anag.; 17, O NT in my!; 23, on in eel (rev.); 25, brac(t) + e; 33, ref. Chekhov play, *The Three Sisters*.

Down 4, alternate letters & lit.; 9, comp. anag. & lit.; 18, low (adv) in bier; 24, (pa)nic + he; 26, c h + oke; 29, first letters; ref. start of pheasant-shooting season.

Rules and requests

Send correct solution (one only) and clue to replace definition asterisked (on separate sheet also bearing name and address, securely attached) to Azed No. 2,500, PO Box 518, Oxford, OX2 6WX. Entries should be postmarked no later than Saturday. Emailed entries from overseas will be accepted, addressed to jcrowther2000@hotmail.com. Please add a brief explanation of your clue (one entry only).

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

Azed No. 2,500 Lunch

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 heald.richard@googlemail.com