

Azed No. 2,523 Plain

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Across

- Part of journey by ship leaderless crew ruined – most of us are *meant* to hear this (12, 2 words)
- Devotee of Rome rudely person holds silly (8)
- 'Car club accepts caravanner,' one's noticed with a sniff (5)
- Luckless Scot that is having to trail behind college staff (6)
- Monkey, male, gives you a squirt (6)
- Without number one receding group died (6)
- Path no longer in use, ivy bush enveloping centre of spurway (4)
- Last bit of humour drained from bodily duct (5)
- Themes in novel, first of them set in Louisiana (7)
- Voted in strike, and other things included, all retrograde (7)
- Lacking ice, a fruit drink to skip? (5)
- Have a rinse up north in basin with 14 (4)
- Better rooms round bishop's place, furnished in the old style (6)
- Desk 'furniture' I had wrapped in ribbons (6)
- Pen empty, half ewes, half rams, wandering fold (6)
- Much-abused princess, one appearing in Hamlet? (5)
- Glitter surrounding Republican presenting struggle for Trump (8)
- Head and tail of porcupine: fear the end after playing around with quills (12)

Down

- Floral spikes grooms fixed round soft saddle (8)

- Alternative to crystal ball? Rating: satisfactory (5)
- Tawdry MG car Ricky scrapped around life's end (11)
- Cyclist round Germany? One employs cogs regularly (8)
- Actor offering help for those finding movement difficult (5)
- Coin, part of nose-piece that's turned up (4)
- Poll, one notoriously washing hands after minimum of exposure (7)
- Changed one's mind? Rough, by the sound of it (4)
- Setting out to punt round Tweed's mid point, here's some fishing tackle (7, 2 words)
- Queen comprehends what's untamed in chaos, predating our planet (11)
- Bird from street protected by shopkeeper, given lift (8)
- One known for rambling with less and less on top (7)
- Yield from cash crop takes off in the grass (8)
- Heat and leave simmering? Have a —, not overcooked (7, 2 words)
- Five hundreds? Twice that, with rest to follow (5)
- Historical wimple come to light, without red binding (5)
- Sound of horn number one one tone above tuning note, rising (4)
- Trumpeter maybe showing off when king's gone (4)

The Chambers Dictionary (2014) is recommended.

Azed No. 2,520 solution & notes

1	M	U	M	P	S	A	S	S	I	G	N	S
11	E	L	O	R	A	T	I	N	G	L	O	E
12	L	O	C	U	S	T	G	A	R	E	T	E
	I	S	H	S	H	U	N	G	U	A	R	D
17	S	P	A	S	M	M	W	S	E	M	U	S
19	M	U	L	I	E	B	R	I	T	Y	M	P
	A	R	C	A	L	L	I	C	A	R	P	A
22	A	R	A	K	K	E	T	U	P	P	E	R
27	M	O	R	R	I	C	E	C	P	I	R	S
29	A	Y	E	L	P	A	R	H	I	N	A	L
	Z	A	M	S	P	R	A	I	C	K	L	E
32	E	L	E	V	A	T	E	P	E	O	N	Y

Across 11, ref. Mikhail Tal, Latvian grand master (1936-1992); 12, Cu in lost; 14, a ret(us)e; 18, alternate letters; 19, lie + brit in yum (rev.); 23, a rak(!); 29, aye LP; 32, VAT in (Robert) E. Lee.
Down 4, i.e. s as h; 6, anag. & lit.; 8, gem/lay alternating; 9, rump in note r; 13, ca. in tumbler t; 15, purr + 0 in lays (rev.); 21, cf. parsley; 23, a ma(i)ze; 24, comp. anag.

Special announcement

We regret to announce that, until further notice, we are unable to offer prizes for solvers of the Azed weekly crosswords. The special monthly Azed clue-writing competitions are not affected and will continue as normal. Entry rules for these will appear as usual.