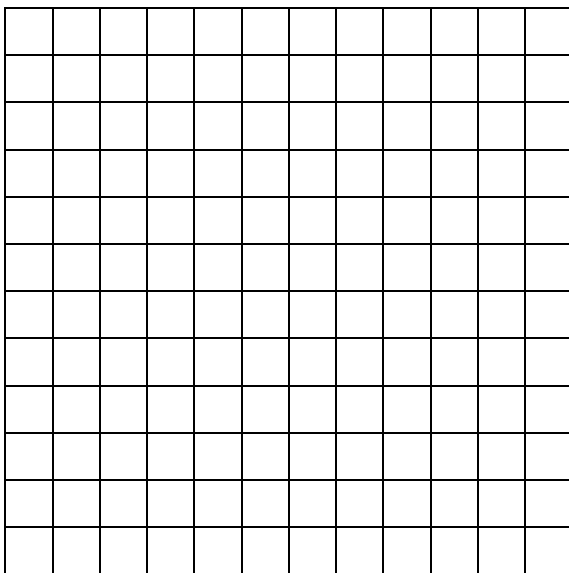


Azed No. 2,545 'Carte Blanche'



The symmetry of the bars in the completed diagram is such that it would look the same if turned upside down, but not if given a quarter turn. Clues are given in their correct order.

Across

- Assess demand for Sekt, matter to be sorted out
- Gnostic, mostly frank about striking success
- Success, too old-fashioned, ends
- Hubble-bubble? Re-inhaling's out when it's not lit
- Star with piano opening, played on the turntable?
- Diamonds, say – museum put in offer
- Limit number in sum, number only mathematician can understand?
- Bent over permit admitting one
- Puffin music book I read without substance
- Crumble slice is Christmas's last, readily split
- Church dignitary, one of the big guns one hears
- Fool maybe performing turn with capital adornment?
- Rose's place, almost entirely in corner
- Rake maybe in briefs but no neckwear
- Mineral certainly contained in ore, bit variegated
- King, *plus agé*, to rule in olden days
- What's the place to go for such pancakes? Dublin isn't
- Notice buttery in Trinity? It's shabby

Down

- Deceived by the sound of it, taken in by partner mostly displaying muscle
- Foot bath and a pop, fizzy, lying in the sun (2 words)
- Press distorted truth on China
- Diversion pa's taken from Scottish peer
- Some of the letters turning up in box
- Who'll be beating time as rondo's beginning?
- Nippers in plimsolls university's disposed of for nothing
- Fate in which old Scots poet switches parts
- Section in river rising? It can be boring for Scots
- Landed on headland in calm
- Soaring tree, note – it may be in porcelain
- Golden bird from Connecticut, that is set free outside
- Like a woodpecker pecking a bit of slat in pool
- Philosopher demolishing a lie etc
- Army regulation followed by cheer or mild expletive
- People of Kerala receiving start of drought in depth of despair?
- Name given to viral disease causing a lung part to heave
- Old gull died cracking crab's shell

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

Azed No. 2,542 solution & notes

1	S	P	R	O	C	K	E	T	P	A	N	E	L
11	C	R	O	W	O	A	C	H	A	N	T	I	E
13	H	A	M	U	L	U	S	U	R	A	L	G	A
	E	N	O	R	D	G	E	M	A	R	A	H	T
18	C	A	L	A	S	H	A	B	S	C	A	T	H
20	K	L	E	T	T	E	R	S	C	H	U	H	E
23	L	I	E	T	O	Y	A	S	E	A	F	I	R
	A	B	T	E	R	A	T	A	N	L	G	N	H
28	T	E	T	E	A	L	S	U	I	C	I	D	E
30	O	R	A	N	G	E	S	T	U	G	L	I	A
32	N	O	R	S	E	T	R	E	M	B	L	E	D

Across 7, an in pel(t); 11, crow = crowbar; ref. also Jim C.; 13, m in haul + us; 20, K + letters + chu(RC)h + e; 23, Leo alternating with it; 28, te(n) x 2; see tower; 31, ail(in)g (rev.); 32, cf. senior.

Down 7, anag. in piun; 8, arch. in anal; 10, the in Lear + head; 16, anag. + ens; 21, b in lier + O; 22, lay in tee (all rev.); 27, gill(i.e.); ref. John Brown, friend of Queen Victoria.

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.