Azed No. 2,664 ‘Eightsome Reels’

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 four unchecked 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 four unchecked groups of three letters at the corners of the completed diagram, read anticlockwise, are words that may be found in Chambers.

1 Matched? I did so, admitted sexual attraction
2 Standoffishness displayed by some Methodist ancestors
3 Hard types showing interest in bar?
4 Arguing, being frugal about rand
5 Stag maybe? Try venison, each cut then cooked
6 See His Excellency flanked by escort shuffling feet
7 Downplay gambling stake – no longer finger one held
8 Agent in being kept inside merits being punished
9 Old portraits; place pictures beside former queen, retiring
10 Notches miss the mark cutting stuffs
11 Makes good roster changes with beginnings of each semester
12 Inflorescence of e.g. hops to plunder in wall crossing
13 Dietary programmes, stewed greens I’m stuck into
14 Shield carriers are protecting fighter, last in former wars
15 Fine silk tears badly clothing nurse
16 Wretched quality, without a hint of excellence. In singer
17 Lists arrived in components of cortège
18 Don’t hurry; I mean to say in store department?
19 Hints for dogs
20 Wilfully plotting in secret
21 Scot’s painful twinge of the ears, being constipated

22 Sleuth, amateur, has sniff around for wallet
23 Rows of housing, short, unfinished, for accommodating people
24 Set cutting plant in pond freeze again
25 Putin too devious to beat in contest
26 About to perish, love hillside, yielding
27 Uncle maybe rewound record in which it appears
28 Lampadary, a monster, put in yonder
29 A boon for asthmatics; indeed when taken in disturbed rest
30 E.g. Chinese relation getting relocated
31 Half of us not drinking in wooden bar, old-fashioned
32 Wherein fossils may be found I missed
33 Crack vessel with head of spoon during boil
34 She once dressed with line in V-shaped arrangements?
35 Aperture rodent has then refashioned
36 Loosener I repeat bowling with last of arrangements?

Every word is in The Chambers Dictionary (2016). See also preamble.

Rules and requests
Send your solution to Azed No. 2,664, The Observer, Kings Place, 90 York Way, London N1 9GU. Entries must be postmarked no later than the Saturday following publication of the puzzle and must reach us within 10 days of publication. Three correct solutions will be selected at random from all those received by the Observer by that date. Entries will continue to be selected at random until three correct solutions have been found. A £25 book token will be awarded for each of the three correct solutions selected. The book token will be sent by post.

For further information visit: theguardian.com/crosswords/2014/dec/30/azed-faq

Name
Address

Post code