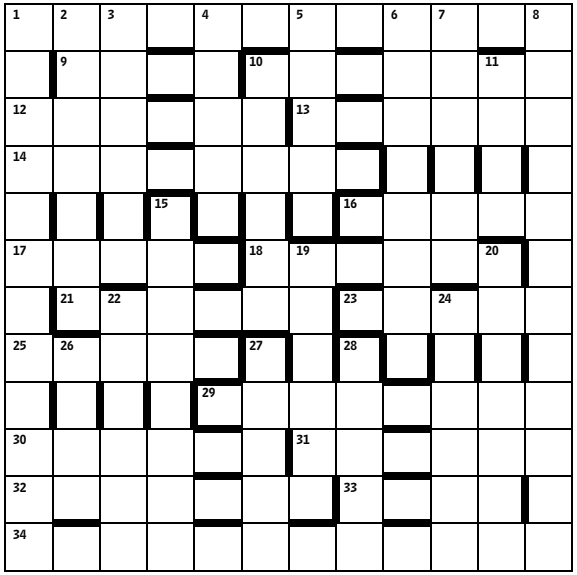
Azed No. 2,712 Plain



Across

1 Abrasive tool limits unsightly smirch in sailor's hobby (12)
9 Clan group turned up behind Scots manor? (4)
10 Stuff I had for meal following part of weekend in short (7)
12 Old-style lentils etc in *soupes à l'étrangère*? (6)
13 Wheel man in fathoms lapses circling island (6)
14 Popular gathering cooked cecils in middle of meal (8)
16 Communication I kept in crock returned? (5)
17 Messenger from Scotland formerly that is trailing old errand boy (5)
18 Clubs provided with money for repetition of parts (6)
21 Desires getting female in a state briefly (6)
23 What's enfolding shrimati, see? I'm this —possibly (5)
25 Diver splashing about? (5)
29 Court damns miscreant, one riding to hounds (8)
30 Little 'un pinches women, showing pluck (6)
31 Large insects getting about among crawling lice (6)
32 Head surrounded by escort going round old Jewish ascetics (7)
33 The old mount special area, heart turning over (4)
34 Fresh drafts, matter Sterne neglected (12)

Down

1 Spruce twinkling brightness in the States revealing massed galaxies (12)
2 Sweet treat on marble? Skater may perform this (7)
3 Essayist's harsh attack about capital (6)
4 Old animal's bolthole, opening for escape in frenzy (5)
5 Muslim of glorious memory has endless bubbliness (5)
6 Irani bowling introduces lifted trajectory — it's intended to disconcert opponent (8)
7 Shrines for holy ones, erected like Gaudi's masterpiece mostly? (6)
8 Blushing about love's silly, showing firm determination (12)
10 Source of oil is shortly found in pork lard (6)
11 Small monkey, one dashed off by Venetian master (4)
15 Beauty husband cut, a composite — great mishap (8)
19 Short blades and so on alternating with call for help (6)
20 RC decoration encountered around part of Yorkshire? (7)
22 Occupant of part of Asia Minor close to island in it (6)
24 Continue in the same location on the briny (6)
26 Clumsy old so-and-so given rise, certainly not stern (4)
27 Second-rate tea, black — gosh! — with running water added (5)
28 Belief in supposed force? Nothing to uncover — ask away (5)

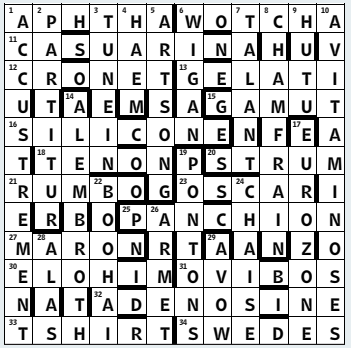
The Chambers Dictionary (2016) is recommended.

Name

Address

Post code

Azed No. 2,709 solution & notes



Across 1, hidden; 11, casua(l) + anag.; 12, ref. trot²; 15, alternate letters; 18, (of)ten on; 27, r O (level) in man.
Down 1, anag. + men in act; 2, p + it in Art(h)ur; alternative spellings of pianist's forename; 5, T(-square) son in anag.; 10, a mino in anag.; 14, Br. in anag.; 17, ozon(e) in Eure; 28, a(t) las(t).

Rules and requests
Send your entry to *Azed No. 2,712, 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 of the puzzle (ie by Wednesday week following publication). Readers' solutions will be selected at random from all those received by the Observer by that date 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.
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