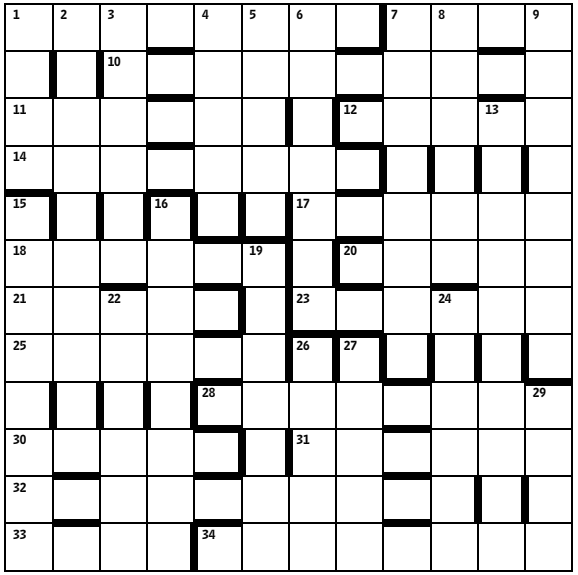
Azed No. 2,723 - Plain



Name

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Across

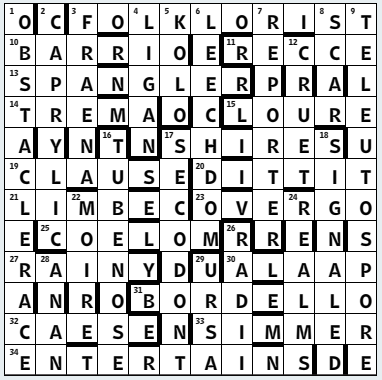
1 Songbird died, old, in a flash (8)
7 Limestone once universal in English river (4)
10 A Muslim leader almost unravelled the soul of the cosmos? (10, 2 words)
11 Webbing one attached to a lamp that's broken (6)
12 Salad garnish? Set removed from iron baskets (5)
14 One in sunwear that's slipped, oblivious (8)
17 Crumbs I caught acting in cuirass (6)
18 Rand suffering seism, not at all vigorous (6)
20 Abrasive swine, cross? (5)
21 A prince accepts his father hanging? (5)
23 Long poem poet penned in Early English (6)
25 Scottish speaker introducing fashion for faux fur? (6)
28 Unusual stage device to get discussion going (8, 2 words)
30 Spire in parts of the south, just right in the middle (5)
31 Poet's slovenly, to decide on retiring that is (6)
32 A musical group and how it stands, for rock of a kind? (10)
33 The old know what youth twigs eventually – they're only beginners (4)
34 No major thoroughfare – bet tyre's getting damaged (8)

Down

1 What Gandhi was for many, soul fully soaring (4)
2 Plant with medicinal properties? Yellow nettle also reared (10)
3 Misleading prophet, repeatedly accepted in soothing stuff (6)
4 A threat to e.g. lettuces, top topped? (5)
5 Fine pottery from Italy, found near the sea, timeless (5)
6 Airborne car, not once requiring a battery internally (7)
7 Co. furor unusually involving Britain – one's inclination changes (8)
8 What may afflict US patients? Nurse holding employees up (6)
9 Tram rides off course, not right? Valued wrongly (8)
13 Cabinet moment to withdraw, active within (10)
15 Small bit of film viewed – it's used for cutting (8)
16 Philippic boosting assistance set before family (8)
19 Radio tuning somewhat rocky round big city being turned up (7)
22 Kid still crawling, Arthur? Oddly good for husband (6, 2 words)
24 One with splendid hat in story, normal to behold (6)
26 Salad served up – daughter introduced Scottish dyes (5)
27 Venomous snake? It's kept under inverted box (5)
29 Hide in shower (4)

The Chambers Dictionary (2016) is recommended.

Azed No. 2,720 solution & notes



Across 10, Ar. in brio; 19, a, s in clue; 21, limb + ec(type); 27, in in ray[4]; 34, enter + a in tins.
Down 1, anag. + cle(a)ra(n)ce; 2, pry in calic(o); 4, Ag in nil all rev.; 7, Ep. in rorter; 16, tub + one (rev.) + se(as); 17, o don in sect; 26, di(n) in rai; 29, (b) ursa(r).

Rules and requests
Send your entry to *Azed No. 2,723, 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.
For further information visit *theguardian.com/crosswords/2014/dec/30/azed-faq*

Azed No. 2,720 winners
Ms XXX, Narberth, Pembs
Mr XXX, Birmingham
Ms XXX, London SW1