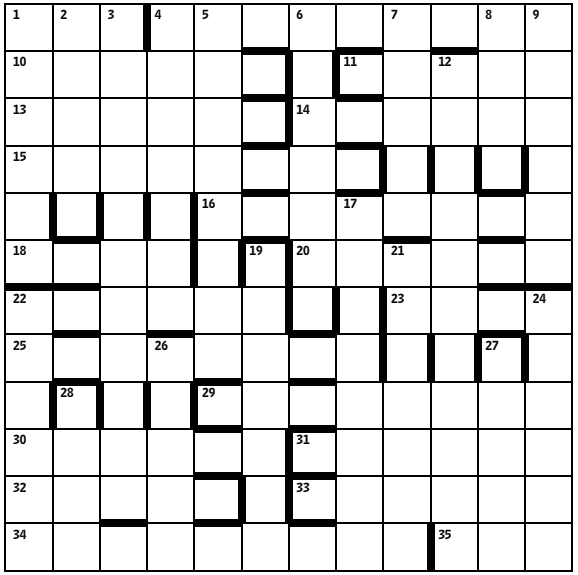
Azed No. 2,742 Plain - Competition Puzzle



There will be a special lunch to celebrate Azed No. 2,750 at Wolfson College, Oxford on Saturday 3 May 2025. For details please email heald.richard@gmail.com or send an SAE to Azed 2,750, 13 Eshton Court, Mapplewell, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S75 5QG.

Name

Address

Post code

Across

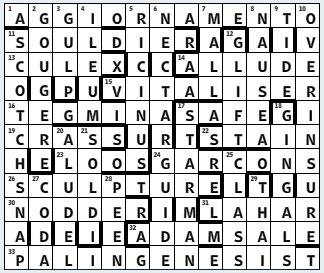
1 Attempt sale deviously, involving more than 50% flattery (3)
4 Like a sort of ladette, sit by homo uncomfortably (9)
10 Garden arachnid kept in jar, i.e. peering round (6)
11 Prize? Upholder's No. 1 in the world (5)
13 Making entry into Sheraton although lacking a key? (6)
14 Church education, in short, blunt and coarse (6)
15 If once lacking vigour, put on hot old cloak (8)
16 Clergyman briefly has spoken of God as ruler (8)
18 What's only resorted to in desperation received *nul points*! (4)
20 Lenten period was approaching — recipe with bit of excess limited (6)
22 Pigment causing dash of eosin in earthenware pot (6)
23 Spirit ever-present in Ireland (4)
25 Doorkeeper is needed in both directions with lookout man around (8)
29 Spear from a long time back, thrust into a monkey (8)
30 Was informed of adjustment to rental (6)
31 Complimentary quota not on when getting into G & S (6)
32 Turn out former court star (5)
33 Old measure reached in what's associated with carpenter? (6)
***34** Dark (9)
35 Free journey requiring no energy (3)

Down

1 Porpoise I'm surprised to see in leaping spells (6)
2 Conclude marriage that's at an end beforehand (5)
3 Moths mate, ergo die, fluttering (11)
4 Bird like a partridge can love having tail clipped (7)
5 She commands the podium, alternatively dominating varied stares (8)
6 Flamboyant only child bitten by writhing cobra (7)
7 Nothing in a boy changed what one might say with contempt (5)
8 Fijian sarong, universal in water channel (though it's slipped off) (4)
9 Lyric tenor? He departs, led astray (6)
12 Sedative liquid a late ruler mixed with dash of whisky (11)
17 Old drummers err badly, in grip of wasting away (8)
19 Spear on Tay could make eel stir (7)
21 Moorland quarry in tale going round school (7, 2 words)
22 Holiday house, and what it often is after tea (6)
24 Foreign river in North Dakota? One often comes across this abroad (6)
26 Society misbehaved endlessly — press close in (5)
27 WI location? You'll find greeting round island (5)
28 The old donate in clemency everywhere (4)

The Chambers Dictionary (2016) is recommended.

Azed No. 2,739 solution & notes



Across 1, I ornament in anag.; 11, soul + *E* in rid (rev.); 14, dull (rev.) in a, e; 17, f in sae; 22, 's + tain(t); 23, ref. WWI battle; 31, aha in l, r; 33, paling + anag.
Down 8, NAU + sea; 17, ref. D. Bowie number on 1972 album; 21, soldi(ER); 29, th(ree) (p) ai(rs).

Rules and requests
Send correct solution (one only) and clue to replace definition asterisked (on separate sheet also bearing name and address, securely attached) to Azed No. 2,742, PO Box 518, Oxford, OX2 6WX. Entries must be received by Monday week following publication at the latest and be postmarked no later than the Saturday following publication. Please include a brief explanation of your clue. Emailed entries will be accepted for overseas submissions only, addressed to *jcrowther2000@hotmail.com* and must reach Azed by no later than the Saturday following publication of the relevant competition puzzle.

£35, £30 and £25 book tokens will be awarded to the three clues judged best (which accompany correct solutions to the puzzle) respectively. The three winners will also each receive an Azed bookplate. The prizes will be sent by post.

The Azed Slip, containing details of successful competition entries and Azed's comments, is available on subscription at £16 a year. Cheques, payable to the Azed Slip, should be sent to *The Azed Slip, Coombe Farm, Awbridge, Romsey SO51 OHN*. To receive a sample slip, please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to this address. Subscriptions may also be paid via online bank transfer to The Crossword Club, a/c no. 31020250, sort code 40-39-05.

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