AZED No. 1,847 'Playfair' (for Araucaria)

1	2	3	4			5		6	7	8	9
10	+	+	+		11	1	12	1	+	+	+
2	T	Ħ	13		1		1	†			+
14	1	1	1		1		1	Ĺ	Ť	T	T
15	$^{+}$	+	+		1	Т	16	1	Т	1	1
	Ħ	Ė	Т	17	1	18	1		19		
20	1	1	1	1	1	t	Ė	Ė	Ť	21	22
23	24		1		25	1	Т	1	1	1	1
	Ħ	26	1	27	Т	1	\top				
28	1	1	1	1	Т	1	\top		Ť	Ė	T
29	+	+	+				30		1	1	1
31	+	+	+		1	32	1			+	+
								100	33		

Name			
Address			

Postcode

ACROSS

- 1 A bit of a loser, he's useless (6)
- 5 The tea's cold, mum (6)
- 10 Only child you'll find him mixed up inside, indicating resistance (5)
- 11 Deceitful flatterer, Charles limits cheek no longer (7)
- 13 Part of muscle tissue, one emerging in ears strangely (9)
- 14 A tip, almost hourly offering of host etc (8)
- 15 A Chinese or a Japanese fish, tinned? (7)
- 16 Largish chamber piece being performed in e.g. tunnel (5)
- 18 That female's captivating bird (6)
- 20 Ukraine variety of raki (6)
- 23 What to expect from trooper, one caught by stray shot (5)
- 25 Scottish gents maybe dig raving in this! (7)
- 27 Thrashed or kicked around thoroughly (8)
- 28 Echo e.g. air played in semi-mythical era (9, 2 words)
- 29 Advanced to form again as before in spatial mode (7)
- 30 Kate's place: personal flat with gold backing(5)
- 31 Past being gripped by e.g. lust (6)
- 32 Sickness associated with school coming back (6)

DOWN

- 1 Old Scotsman, person with endless pain (6)
- 2 Although no longer in use, occupied position sheltering female (6)
- 3 E.g. slugs raised on dried leaves or insects' eyes (7)
- 4 Official document carrier so bad it burst. requiring mend inside (12, 2 words)
- 6 Staggering of camel loaded with weight it's multiple blades (12, 2 words)
- 7 A bit of a simple boor? (4)
- 8 What listeners might take to be sinuous line cut from Spenser (5)
- 9 Split historically still giving berth to navy at regular intervals (5)
- 11 Gravel-voiced councillor at head of firm (6)
- 12 Upright usually, prophet almost takes one in (6)
- 17 Cough lozenge maybe settled plodder having to get up (6)
- 18 Flautist merry about breaking law (6)
- 19 She's homeless, pleased to be bedded in recess (7,2 words)
- 21 Fade as SA man in conference (6.2 words)
- 22 By which you may recognize a cardinal or a goldfinch (6)
- 23 Medicinal plant has nuts in original cover (5)
- 24 Warning: occupant of centre lane coming up (5)
- 26 'In the beginning' that really evil viper gets Eve, familiarly? (4)

The Chambers Dictionary (2003) is recommended but does not give 29 (in the SOED) or one short form of a proper name.

The six italicized clues, which contain no definitions, lead to words that are all of a kind. These are to be encoded before entry in the grid, using the Playfair code (see below). The two-word code phrase (not in Chambers) indicates what to follow in quest of the answers to italicized clues.

ORANG ESTIC

KBDFH

LMPQU VWXYZ In a Playfair word square the code phrase (in which no letter recurs) is followed by the remaining letters of the alphabet, I doing double duty for I and J (see left). To encode a word, it must first be split into pairs of letters, e.g. CRITIC AL. Each pair

is then seen as forming the opposite corners of a rectangle within the word square, the other two corners being the coded form. Thus CR gives SG (not GS, which RC would give). Where a pair of letters appears in the same row or column, the coded form is produced from the letters immediately to the right of or below each respectively. For the last letters in a row or column the first letters in the same row or column become the coded forms. When all the pairs are coded the word is joined up again, thus: SGCICEOP.

AZED 1.844 Solution & notes

							J				Ε
Α	G						R				N
T	A						N				
							'n				
							γ				
							A				
							K				
							H				D
							٧				E
Α	D	s	C	F	0	0	T	G	E	A	R
R	0	T	0	Т	1	L	L	E	R	D	0
b	R	A	M	Α	Ľ	E	G	L	E	S	S

PRIZE RULES

£25 in book tokens for the first three correct solutions opened. Solutions postmarked no later than Saturday to AZED No. 1,844, The Observer, 3-7 Herbal Hill, London EC1R 5EJ

ACROSS

Across 11, for + anag. in en; 12, tar3 r agon; 18, sv fee; anag. in greel; 21, ref. surfing the Net; 24, cin anag., & lit.; 27, ref. Bottom (the weaver) in A Midsummer Night's Dream; 28, w + (Philip) Roth (US novelist); 32, tot I in roller; 32, D + Rama (hero of Indian epic Ramayana); 34, i.e. legend less leg = end; mortal = very drunk. Down 1, cin anag. + an + (E)dward; 5, anag. incl. b; 7, a(d)vert, & lit.; 10, anag. + mend + Eros; 11, rows in FT; 20, hidden rev.; 23, beige + I(ox); 25, Duke, nickname of John Wayne; 26, co-sta(r); 29, cf. love.

AZED No. 1,844 Prizewinner

1StephenSaunders, Bath 2 Peter Arnold, Eastbourne 3 J W Richardson, Surbiton

In view of the continuing threat of postal strikes, the results of Azed competition No. 1,845 may have to be delayed