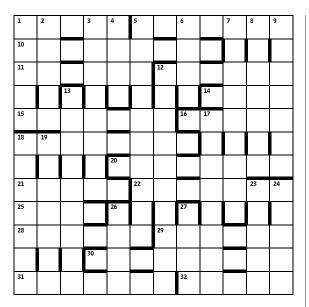
Azed No. 2,445 Plain



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Across

- 1 'Grand' applied to musical theme indicating canyon (5)
- **5** Bask nervously with e.g. terai on in salty plain (7)
- **10** Steam turbine supplying energy, oil driven, in a tall building (9)
- 11 Entreaty has early pair in urgency cutting delicate membrane (6)
- **12** Mount for Sancho Panza, and stuck in muset back to front? (6)
- **14** Socially acceptable, albeit mousey according to hearsay (4)
- **15** Xanthippe not so hot after her spouse's end? (7)
- **16** Seamen brought back fish (5)
- **18** Aussie driver, stout, gripping column in reverse (8)
- **20** Aids to balance in flight, crippled before storm's onset (8)
- 21 Invert pictures etc backed with poles (5)
- 22 Imp doing drugs volume not accepted (7)
- 25 Green cheese? A turn off for fools (4)
- **28** Sad sack whenever going round in a fog (6)
- **29** Minor French nobleman? See one alongside his queen (6)
- **30** Like many French roads, with fork to circumvent rotary system? (9)
- **31** Marine worms wriggling in reeds (7)
- **32** Short number REM put out often scored a hit in the lists (5)

Down

- 1 Avian disease, potential energy being restricted by chatter (5)
- 2 Copy pa's left, divided, as memorial (5)
- 3 Lecturer tucking in to food falls for Veronica? (8)
- 4 The old drive, using 9 gallons (not fashionable) (4)
- **5** Wild escapade, act giving away a habitual druggie (10, 2 words)
- **6** One banged up for a stretch after second-class robbery (4)
- 7 Voluntary fees in moderation, and not a song (9)
- **8** Dependent territory, hence housing not available (7)
- **9** S. American plant to acquire in climbing saddle (7)
- 12 Woodland shrub famous racer planted in sidewalks (10)
- **13** Space-time phenomenon to grasp one's well up in (9)
- 17 Overture, piano, played louder round ltaly (8)
- **18** Section held by friend of Robin Cook maybe? (7)
- **19** Universal acclaim for increase (7)
- 23 Egyptian province, new for e.g. Julius (Caesar) (5)
- 24 Kite, fourth from shelf moved to the top (5)
- **26** Agricultural communities, one of which may be identified with Muslim ruler (4)
- 27 Release group from slum life given lift (4)

The Chambers Dictionary (2014) is recommended.

Azed No. 2,442 solution & notes



 $\textbf{Across} \ \ 14, paw in (i)sl(e); \ 16, \ 0 in anag.; \ 17, 'rune'; \ 22, hidden; \ 29, \ E in squal(l); \ 30, comp. \ anag. \ \& \ lit.; \ 31, \ a rag (rev.) in sully; \ 33, \ es in anag.$

Down 1, as in anag. + by; 3, soul + Dan; 5, A, M + bo(OK); 8, comp. anag.; 9, anag. in utter; 10, prop in a pin + qu(it)e; near vb; 15, gey (rev.) in elance; 19, NFU in anag.; 23, a deser(t) (rev.).

Rules and requests

£25 in book tokens for the first three correct solutions opened. Solutions postmarked no later than Saturday to:
AZED No. 2,445, The Observer, 90 York Way, London N1 9GU.