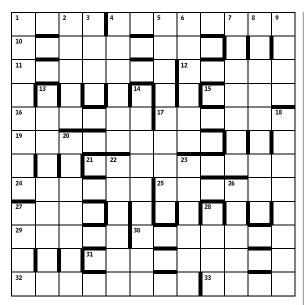
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Across

- 1 Quartet of banjos harmonizing rag (4)
- 4 Zero stake for Jock in grave, borrower's bond (8)
- **10** Star group? I hop frantically united with such playing (9)
- **11** Printing plate? Choose what's right for printers (7)
- 12 Selection of life statues that makes a Roman holiday (5)
- **15** Having lost new exhaust, was over the limit? (4)
- **16** Rough lump of old metal, green wrapped in cloth (6)
- 17 Shakespearean company, as is fitting, seen in flickering strobe (6)
- 19 Heaven's including extremes of rapture? That's touching (9, 2 words)
- 21 Crown appearing in bowlers? They'll end in headlines maybe (9)
- 24 Learning about Civil Service goes over legal deed (6)
- **25** Reduces tea-bags when stirred (end of bag coming off) (6)
- 27 PC goes off, having written off expenses briefly (4)
- **29** Line I have written between opposite sides (5)
- **30** Slush spoilt lido? Information Aussie finds reliable (7, 2 words)
- **31** Judges in authentic practice (9)
- **32** Was searching to put off match official from behind (8)
- 33 Trees displaying little width, quite round (4)

Down

- 1 Taipan e.g., from east in occupation on body of water (8, 2 words)
- **2** Female absorbing energy beneath sun's radiance (5)
- 3 Yokel, gormless, doffing cap (4)
- 4 Place thick piece of wood as part of scaffolding (6)
- **5** Bad shower disrupted Sabbath display (9)
- **6** What sounds like thug, unruly youth with a quiff? (6)
- 7 Finest trimmed bonnet made to order (7)
- 8 Render what goes to make winter pretty (9)
- **9** Former paddock, area enveloped in bushy creeper (4)
- 13 Cook is i/c shelf it's for flipping stuff in pans (9, 2 words)
- 14 Sailor on latitude in what's seen as guide for night-time sailing? (9)
- 18 Raised perched hawks male ones (8)
- 20 Come round to treat with new upholstery? (7)
- 22 Lava-flow from volcano's centre almost at an end shelter (6)
- 23 A secondary thoroughfare in foreign parts (6)
- **26** Demonstrative term from character, first to last (5)
- 27 Teacher offering improvement when it's lacking (4)
- 28 Parched by a desert? Thus beset possibly (4)

The Chambers Dictionary (2014) is recommended.

Azed No. 2,586 solution & notes

¹ E	² N	³ T	Ε	⁴ R	٥ ا	Р	° T	⁷ O	°S	°	S
¹ºG	Е	0	M	Α	N	T	Ε	٧	U	N	"B
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15 G	R	Υ	P	Т	R	¹⁶ E	17 F	R	0	N	D
18 B	ı	19 G	Т	0	Е	²⁰ M	Α	К	0	²¹ S	Е
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U 26 S	²² C	H	A K		A M			I L	М ²⁹ А	E N	R D
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²⁶ S	27 T	Α	K	R E	M	Ρ Υ	28 E		²⁹ A	N	D
²⁶ S ³⁰ T	27 T A	A R	К ³¹ А	R E F	M	P Y R	R E N	S	²⁹ A	N S	D A

Across 10, 0 main gent; 14, cat + Dr in heal; 15, (an)gry + p(e)t; 26, (M1)stake; 28, (for)eland; 32, e + (Pontius) Pilate; 35, Hal tern E + anag. **Down** 4, tabar (rev.) + 0; 7, (C)ovid; ref. Ars Amatoria; 16, emp(t)y + re an; 31, a lit(any).

Rules and requests

£25 in book tokens for the first three correct solutions opened. Solutions postmarked no later than Monday week to: Azed No. 2,589, The Observer, 90 York Way, London N1 9GU.