Azed No. 2,596 Plain

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Azed 50th Anniversary

There will be a lunch at Wolfson College, Oxford, on Saturday 28th May to celebrate the 50th anniversary this year of the Azed crossword. For details please email heald.richard@googlemail. com, or send an SAE to: Azed 50th Anniversary, 13 Eshton Court, Mapplewell, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S75 5QG.

Name

Address

Post code

Across

- 1 Early land plants I cut in slash, type grown wild (13)
- **10** Little Poll issuing shriek in Austrian region? It's all over (8)
- **13** Portion of belly pork sent back, glutinous (4)
- 14 Leading lady? Father clutches fresh recording, blowing kiss? (8)
- **15** Cask cracked, most of German red inside passes out (6)
- **16** Endless revelry at rear of bottega in Madrid slum? (6)
- 17 Harvesters become unwell, yellow inside, on being laid off (9)
- **19** One exhausted, given time off, shivering (5)
- 22 Soaks by the sound of it in acme of distress (5)
- 24 Ace cellist, head giving way to pinnacle in studio (9)
- 28 Syrup spilled round edge of bowl, showing messy table manners? (6)
- **29** Knocker's noise? Oil hinges next to it briefly (6)
- **30** Chateaux yielding success with English grape (not half) (8)
- **31** Breast grasped by artist, emboldened (4)
- 32 Reptiles posing a threat I caged (8)
- **33** Agitated ultras following delivery staff after a period (13)

Down

- 1 Piece of armour once: man has incomplete set on top (7)
- 2 Paddy's abusive term succeeded, worthless in Scotland (5)
- 3 It breaks up fat, lifting vitality in lean (6)
- 4 It aids digestion and gives added vigour to heart of mine (6)
- **5** A hit with cleaner, correctly applied? It's favouring idea of permanent flux (11)
- 6 Steamed dish from Mexico Mediterranean island switches its parts (5)
- 7 Blazing fury starting with a fine (5)
- 8 Lofty nests: rook on one is kept in sight? (6)
- 9 Barracoutas removed from tin up in Orcadian cabin (4)
- 11 Power range cutting to ore roughly, cut deep down (9)
- 12 Letter, by hand, accompanied by Her Majesty's initials? (9)
- **18** Renault may be got out of this (7)
- 20 Crowning (if indefinable) quality discernible in Napoleon, as usual? (6)
- 21 Russian travel may be covered uncomfortably in Uralian ones (6)
- **23** 'The Mercenary Horseman'? Choirs often have a go at me (6)
- **25** Handle on one divides middle of kettle (5)
- 26 Computer chip, additional, turned up with page stored (5)
- 27 Most of maize, ground, contains a possible source of starchy pith (5)28 Plump hands going up (4)

The Chambers Dictionary (2014) is recommended.

Azed No. 2,593 solution & notes

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Across 10, all argan do; 14, i.e. Ma(hat)ma; 19, cf. an imp; 24, 3 meanings; 27, 0 in the sop + h; 30, comp. anag.; ref. Pearl H.; 31, anag. incl. log. Down 1, i.e. S(u)e + J(i)m; 5, sa(r)nies; 6, k + re + ng; 8, cf. nudie; 17, microb(e) + ar; 25, see nautch; 26, (Peter) Lorre, US film actor.

Rules and requests

£25 in book tokens for the first three correct solutions opened. Solutions postmarked no later than Monday week to: Azed No. 2,596, The Observer, 90 York Way, London N1 9GU.