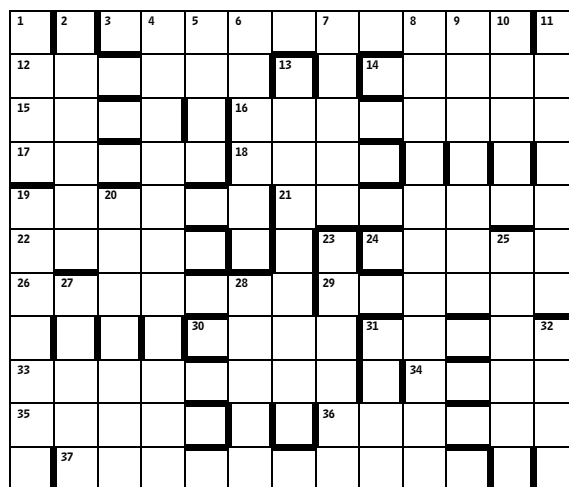


Azed No. 2,671 Plain



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Across

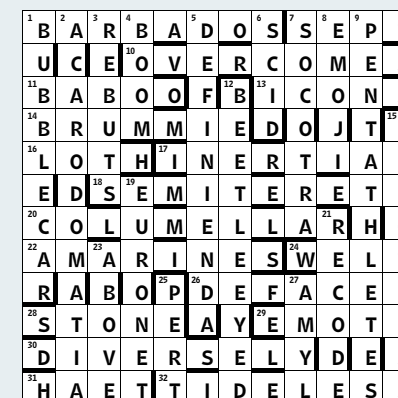
- 3** The old discern church councillor behind voodoo? (10)
- 12** Posh queen, one who's aka Aphrodite (6)
- 14** Malay vessel turning up, cheers welcomed (5)
- 15** Lunch? Pet, reverse of healthy, given tons (4)
- 16** Duck in salad of crab and lettuce – flamboyant offerings (8)
- 17** Plant put aboard vessel (not Noah's) (5)
- 18** Jock's suffered, being drunk after imbibing for all to see (4)
- 19** Horror flick, bore when denouement's missing (6)
- 21** Youngish bucks of old creating more than one let-down involving love, right? (7)
- 22** Old letter, first from Simona kept till last? (5)
- 24** Wretch keeping note in account (5)
- 26** Church dignitary's having treatment involving mug (7)
- 29** What tar yields, measure caught in system of nets? (6)
- 30** Fencer's move, not new? It features in Olympic sport (4)
- 31** Bird displaying seat with that certain something! (5)
- 33** Secret concealed by coteries (8)
- 34** Contender dropping pound in local rock fissure (4)
- 35** Steer becoming tangled in highland fence (5)
- 36** Pro giving one a smack (6)
- 37** Executive committee in varied patterns face to face (10)

Down

- 1** Early invader? That means a bit of sacking (4)
- 2** China closing border, original (6)
- 4** Shattered parent, I rest between parties (11, 2 words)
- 5** Light metal combined with a little copper? (4)
- 6** In some parts light rope caught round seaman's 'attachment' (6)
- 7** Bibelot made of copper and iron, mostly twisted (5)
- 8** Old magistrate about to admit rudimentary gut (11)
- 9** Bright sunspots fuel a shrivelling round centre of back (7)
- 10** Old-fashioned peg either end of tent leading to guffaw (5)
- 11** Last among mixed-race people given promotion – something that's not to be missed (7)
- 13** Searing pain that brings about a GI being deformed (9)
- 19** They're known for freeloading, cards e.g. being exchanged (7)
- 20** Leisure centre to miss, shut again (7)
- 23** German dramatist, genuinely inferior to British (6)
- 25** Cutters are submerged having capsized, pair out of several involved (6)
- 27** Time out for festival – one relaxes (5)
- 28** Emanations emerging regularly from faquirs, aged (5)
- 31** Tramp in contact with a rowing vessel (4)
- 32** It produces edible rootstock suggesting essence of star anise (4)

The Chambers Dictionary (2016)
is recommended.

Azed No. 2,668 solution & notes



Across 11, BA boo(k); 13, l cons(train); 14, comp. anag. & lit.; 16, (s)loth; 22, marine in as; 31, ha¹ + et; 32, dele in anag.
Down 3, 't in rebus; 7, Yemeni island; 15, el (L) + anag.; 23, a bov(in)e.

Rules and requests

Send your entry to Azed No. 2,671, *The Observer*, Kings Place, 90 York Way, London N1 9GU. Entries must be postmarked no later than the Saturday following publication of the puzzle and must reach us within 10 days of publication of the puzzle (ie by Wednesday week following publication). Readers' solutions will be selected at random from all those received by the Observer by that date until three correct solutions have been found. A £25 book token will be awarded for each of the three correct solutions selected. The book token will be sent by post. For further information visit theguardian.com/crosswords/2014/dec/30/azed-faq

Azed No. 2,668 winners

Ms XXX, Narberth, Pems
Mr XXX, Birmingham
Ms XXX, London SW1