

Azed No. 2,686 Plain

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Name

Address

Post code

Across

- 1** Mound in burnt remainth revealing Semitic goddess (9)
11 Mark beside the old man in bunk? (6)
13 West-country watercourse, river he goes round in (5)
14 Defensive ditch, astute, with fish in? (7)
15 Filler? It provides finishing touch to hotel (5)
17 Collaborative Scottish church group producing short prayers (4)
18 Hanger-on exercising legal right in court (6)
19 Senior diplomat from China welcomed by Robert maybe? (6)
20 Clerk to tease, made to fill small Italian register (11)
22 Safeguards as on picture being newly framed (11)
26 Aboriginal narcotic? Spicy cake is filled with it (6)
27 Like builders at work, unit about to take a rest (6)
30 Ruler recalling wrongdoing, not the first (look in the mirror) (4)
32 House in favour of abstinence in the toilet (5)
33 Late sleeper bailed out around middle of elevenses (7)
34 Half sin? More than half – they're humdingers (5)
35 Canting character chronicled, first to talk? (6)
36 Edward goes after frisky courtesan lacking sex appeal, frustrated (9)

Down

- 2** Sons to select fish basket for small rowing boat (5)
3 Downcast, no good going off for alfresco nosh (5)
4 Stage that's divided in theatre (kabuki) (4)
5 One exercising choice, apt to dither about last of ten (6)
6 Vegetarian dish with frills unlimited, including an armadillo! (11)
7 French painter losing head? It often ends in a turn (6)
8 Family feature apparent in crook's young offspring? (7)
9 Jaunty tune is suitable for couples (6)
10 Black dog suitable for member of high society? (9)
12 Mass out of the way, I cater for men in mess? (11)
16 A covering on skin, formerly one with no accompaniment (9, 2 words)
21 Change heading for letter rewritten about the first person (7)
23 Ring in NZ trees covered with cracks (6)
24 Melodious Italian poet of yesteryear, not tense inside (6)
25 Swallow on the spot to discern about summer's start (6)
28 The old shut in pulpit, not initially mobile (5)
29 What Scottish seers use to penetrate extremes of terrible grief as before (5)
31 The best of north England timber part of the kingdom cut (4)

The Chambers Dictionary (2016) is recommended.

Azed No. 2,683 solution & notes

1	G	O	N	G	S	T	E	R	C	A	W	S
	I	B	A	C	A	R	A	V	A	N	C	E
11	M	I	S	H	M	I	R	G	L	E	A	N
14	E	T	A	T	I	S	T	E	I	N	T	E
15	L	U	L	L	T	U	H	O	P	D	O	G
17	A	A	I	P	O	L	Y	L	E	M	M	A
20	U	R	S	A	M	A	J	O	R	E	I	L
23	G	I	G	L	O	T	U	S	P	A	C	T
	U	S	E	M	C	O	P	Y	I	S	T	S
29	S	T	A	I	N	K	A	N	T	L	I	A
31	T	O	L	E	R	A	T	O	R	E	M	R
32	E	A	S	T	A	L	I	D	A	D	E	S

Across 1, cf. songster; 7, i.e. 'cause'; see murder; 10, caravan c(am)e; 12, cf. angle; 15, Lull(y); 16, H op do g; 20, U + jam (rev.) in anag.; 29, ta in sin; see mercy; 31, rota re lot (all rev.).

Down 6, cf hearty; 8, a nen(e) + d; 13, I in anag. less e; 17, ref. A. Comte (1798-1857), French philosopher; 19, me(-generation) + a sled; 22, up (v intr) in Jat + I; 25, O in synd; 27, R in anag., & lit.

Rules and requests

Send your entry to Azed No. 2,686, *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