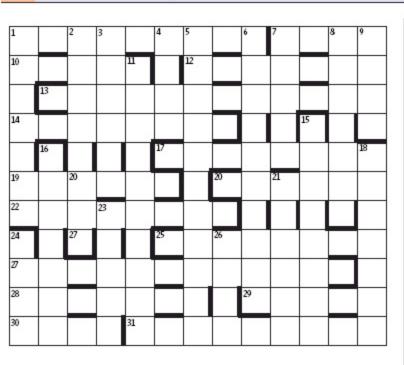
AZED No. 1,785 Plain



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ACROSS

- 1 Taped song about 'Fool by the Fireplace'? (9)
- 7 Former emperor may be imprisoned in mountain castle (4)
- 10 Hands round reverse of one of those 'nothings', viz hard liquor (5)
- 12 Remarkable drunken luau involving students (7)
- 13 The French had listing that includes pound as part of this? (12)
- 14 Bobtail messed up end of race of two segments (8)
- 17 Old struggles, violent, affording protection for banks (8)
- 19 Watch of obsolescent type, cobbled together in Angola (6)
- 20 Sort of tackle held back in twisted hat pin? (6)
- 22 Church shelves bishop, 50, cutting Easter waywardly (8)
- 25 Argument for prankster to discontinue for a while (8)
- 27 Being an automatic line drawer makes her numerical in a way (12)
- 28 Radon isotope, name featuring in lawsuit (7)
- 29 Type of control system bridging gap in closer voting (5)
- 30 Hacks identifiable by the old tinctures? (4)
- 31 Marine creatures swimming ashore amid plankton (tons adrift) (9)

AZED 1,782 Solution & notes

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PRIZE RULES

£25 in book tokens for the first three correct solutions opened. Solutions postmarked no later than Saturday to AZED No.1,785, The Observer, 3-7 Herbal Hill, London ECIR 5EJ

Across 1, O in anag.; 16, under 'e all in latte; 19, lu(men) + shy; 23, (s) avant; 24, hidden & lit.; 26, tea d; 27, b in last letters, & lit. (ref. Archbishop of York); 30, 'Let's Do (lt)' in anag. + X; 32, ref. 'a bit of the other'; 33, (T)affy; 35, yes in anag. Down 1, a + anag. all in anag.; 2, i.e. Thali(a); 4, rank for artinparty; 5, 'hilled'; 6, hidden; 8, tan + art (rev.); 11, 1 tec (all rev.) in quern; 20, anag. + ox; 23, a dd end; 28, U for I in Biffo (the Bear, Beano character); 29, fx in Mao (all rev.); 31, (ri)skin(g).

AZED No. 1,782 Prizewinners 1P.D. Johnson, Alderley Edge, Cheshire 2 Mrs R.M. Miller, Telford, Shropshire 3 Lynda Quee, Truro, Cornwall

DOWN

- 1 Church board disciplined usher (7)
- 2 Who'll treat us to meal, intimate? (8,2 words)
- 3 Old parchment? Lawyerholds one of several in murder (6)
- 4 When one is sent heavenward ... they may be involved (4)
- 5 Type of blindness altered stature in side of head (11, 2 words)
- 6 Fossil arachnids you split by the sound of it? Reverse of certain (10)
- 7 Where road led in song is followed by Dawson, maybe (5)
- 8 Waterlily also found in dungheap (7)
- 9 Tang perhaps left in cooker (4)
- 11 Tramp swallowing gallons stops once these awful spectres show (10)
- 15 Big meat dishes they'll enhance life in cells (8)
- 16 One on wobbling 'eel can, displaying old-fashioned stiletto? (7)
- 18 King enshrined in article, heir may be raised old lament (7)
- 21 One chiselling e.g. stone you'll see upturned sack over? (6)
- 23 Listen! It gets stuck into sap, with damage (5)
- 24 Mother substitute, one mother has while absent (4)
- 26 Head lamp for those in pit briefly (4)

The Chambers Dictionary (2003) is recommended. Two answers are abbreviations therein. It includes the two abbreviations appearing as solutions.