

Azed No. 2,554 Plain

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Across

- 1 Hole in the wall passers inched around (13, 2 words)
- 10 Father moving left couple, damage past (6)
- 12 Key points absorbed by idiotic officers in retreat (4)
- 14 Cheese, round, in yellow wrapping? It's opened out to be studied (8)
- 15 Colourful bird to be sold in marketplace (6)
- 16 Gratitude some received as handout (4)
- 17 Ruby performed turns making one shiver (6)
- 18 What's added to drink, dry, weak one with dash of soda in? (5)
- 19 Singular, smart, unconventional (5)
- 22 The old pool contribution to couple's honeymoon (5)
- 23 Last course over after post-school education? If so, one's had enough (5, 2 words)
- 25 Final challenge for Balliol undergrad, maybe, to announce impending nuptials for last time (6)
- 28 Foreign knife, its head buried in dog now dead (4)
- 29 Flat layout with outer bits for atelier (6)
- 30 Distinctive sound of mobile Gorton 'fresher', not old (8)
- 31 Great fighting cocks (4)
- 32 Cross almost always kept in pannier (6)
- 33 Lack of feeling seen in assets (sovereign's last) being disposed of (13)

Down

- 1 Unadorned melodies from American company in wild antic (11, 2 words)
- 2 Young salmon species, what angler takes in hand (5)
- 3 Sort of barbecue food to suspend over middle of pit (5)
- 4 Extended bit of verse? Digital player replaces one in time (6)
- 5 Labouring unpaid e.g. in the main unearths old coin (11, 2 words)
- 6 Basket for clothes or bread on middle of tray (6)
- 7 Not far from Edinburgh, eastern quarter (5)
- 8 It's used for swabbing decks, that is after sticky stuff's lifted (6)
- 9 Travel railroads illegally, free and easy once on perches (11, 3 words)
- 11 Mature Pacific tree, green all round – a sudden change (9)
- 13 I'll yield to fool in character, one sharing lessons (9)
- 20 Dandy in a party, one of seven turning up (6)
- 21 On our side, holding ring that's anything but impregnable (6)
- 22 Litter disfigured lake in Peru (6)
- 24 Installed head of state admitting space (5, 2 words)
- 26 Star group exchanging parts, no longer equal in Scotland (5)
- 27 King's given over part of church for his consort's junior in rank (5)

The Chambers Dictionary (2014) is recommended.

Azed No. 2,551 solution & notes

1	B	U	S	T	E	R	K	E	A	T	O	N			
10	A	P	T	E	R	I	A	T	H	O	N	C			
	R	T	12	A	I	N	13	S	T	O	N	E	S		
14	T	A	U	P	E	D	I	L	Y	G	A	15	S		
	E	K	T	O	16	B	E	N	E	F	A	C	T		
17	N	E	S	T	O	R	G	18	S	19	L	A	T	E	
20	D	21	O	U	S	22	E	P	L	A	I	S	24	S	E
25	E	I	G	H	T	E	E	N	P	M	P	R			
	R	L	R	O	H	S	T	I	D	E	A	L			
30	P	L	A	N	E	T	R	E	E	S	V	I			
31	L	E	P	E	N	32	C	E	R	E	S	I	N		
33	S	T	O	R	E	K	E	E	P	I	N	G			

Across 1, Custer beaten; ref. Battle of the Little Bighorn, June 1876; 10, bare patches; 11, taw that whips; 12, stain rones; 14, shade of mole; 16, feni backed; cafe (rev.) in bent; 17, sage of old; hidden; 18, bait with dogs; 20, big punch; 23, rhyme ... changes; 25, eat ane; 29, aedile; 30, please train; planet (Martin) Rees; 31, party topper; ref. French politician Marine Le Pen; 32, sirrah sen; cf. sin-cere; 33, core steeping; reke in anag.

Down 1, tar bender; end in barter; 2, ape tuck; 3, bracing rod; 4, pee tots; 5, pinned arrest; 6, 'means' to Jock; (k)ettles; see dixie; 7, call to boat; 8, small ... cart; 9, mini play; anag. less L; 13, tringle, see; 15, lear sting; E in sterling; 19, dip leap; 21, hole for cord; 22, gas ... carbon; 26, pa grow; 27, massed goals; ref. Lionel M., prolific Argentine footballer; 28, whopping tale.

Special announcement

We regret to announce that, until further notice, we are unable to offer prizes for solvers of the Azed weekly crosswords. The special monthly Azed clue-writing competitions are not affected and will continue as normal. Entry rules for these will appear as usual.

Azed No. 2,551 winners

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