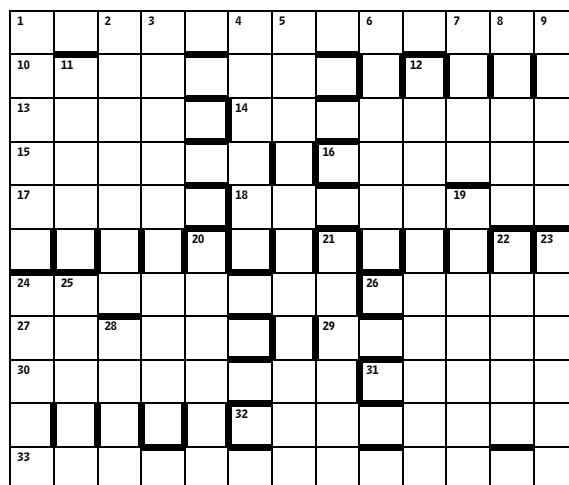


Azed No. 2,620 Plain



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Across

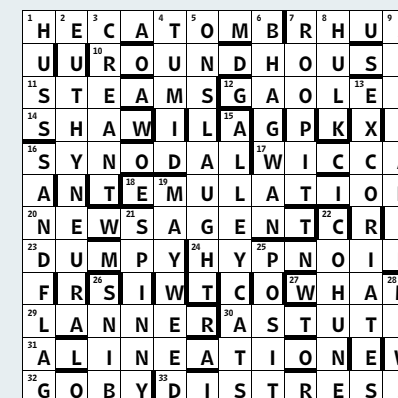
- 1** Criticism from the pulpit, annoying after drink allowed (13)
- 10** A hum round major artery? It's a spinal process (8)
- 13** African tongue precious in southern part of the continent? (5)
- 14** Try one's hardest, as American rabble broaching cask (8, 3 words)
- 15** Scottish hard rock duo finally lost in tragedy (6)
- 16** Source of music once – merry monarch welcomes it (6)
- 17** Ambassador infiltrating rebel Chinese (5)
- 18** Faced government department stopping boozing for good? The reverse (8)
- 24** Bass maybe I caught in Cam and Rhone endlessly wriggling (8)
- 26** Sail ships lacking mark in part of India (5)
- 27** Little bit of corn in idle unploughed meadow (6)
- 29** Jock's crazy touching woman in flop (6)
- 30** Acidic salt? Lupin maybe is filled with it (8)
- 31** Committee treated penetratingly for auditors? (5)
- 32** Old hippo emptied scene struggling ashore (8)
- 33** Baker's normal fare in stall, bad, drear, crumbling (13, 2 words)

Down

- 1** Newt caught by chance in creel? (6)
- 2** Hunt's leader on cob jumping about right in challenging ride (7)
- 3** Highbrow girl had one puzzled (10)
- 4** Willy creature runs in mountainous region (6)
- 5** Chips e.g. at one stage varied mess tea in time (11)
- 6** Business in Middle East bank (6)
- 7** Scottish entry, I lost to Jones? (4)
- 8** Bat caught out getting cap in the past (5)
- 9** Harrow's maybe punished with a wicket? (5)
- 11** Millennium (not AD) in a bit of a pickle? (5)
- 12** Fight way in creating racket (10)
- 19** Channel cargo famously scrapped in water (7)
- 20** Seasoned society gal brought up to admit Scottish race (6)
- 21** Translated rune, notice, without perusal (6)
- 22** Snack aromas avoided by ladies? (5)
- 23** Tot in saddlebag protectively clothed (6)
- 24** Scottish dress seen regularly in cold areas (5)
- 25** Goddess, foremost of those in Asian province (5)
- 28** Huge area of land, like in Australia (4)

The Chambers Dictionary (2014) is recommended.

Azed No. 2,617 solution & notes



Across 10, anag. in roué; 14, hidden; 29, (p)lanner; 30, as tute(e); 32, 2 meanings; 33, i.e. dis-tress.

Down 5, laugh in onst; 9, ran in anag. 22, alternate letters.

Rules and requests

£25 in book tokens for the first three correct solutions opened.
Solutions postmarked no later than Monday week to:
Azed No. 2,620, The Observer, 90 York Way, London N1 9GU.