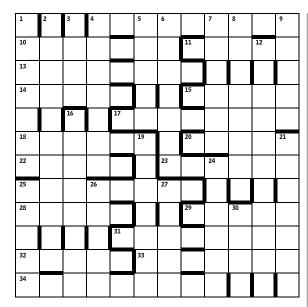
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Across

- **4** Gold purchases transactions included at least 200 centavos (9)
- **10** Chatter quietly with conductor (7)
- 11 Plenty imprisoned, shut up, doing nothing (5)
- **13** Predecessor on the throne, English, branching out? (8)
- 14 Odd guy giving one a punch (5)
- **15** Offshoot completely extracted from leek (5)
- 17 Motoring crush OTT? Here's a quicker route (8)
- **18** Evergreen shrub? Numbers welcoming return of heat (6)
- **20** Act, but dithery, showing hesitation (5)
- **22** Whip-round pocketed by patron callously (5)
- 23 Mac's cast for fish in Windermere? (6)
- 25 Perth's neat finish? In Perth, honestly (8)
- 28 Not attributes to be found in penitentiary (5)
- 29 One pursuing plan? Court somehow rejected dull spiel (5)
- **31** Saddle covers in school, worthless, extra-large (8)
- **32** Practice learned after university (5)
- **33** Marines at sea? This denoted the family (7)
- **34** Produced first book quickly, English well thought of (9)

Down

- 1 Put out about franc on being paid in advance (7)
- 2 Tailor's material to employ with circling bands, right inside (11)
- 3 Close interest (4)
- 4 Bite ran out of control? This might treat it (7)
- **5** Hamlet's sword wound? Laborious, a V cut (5)
- **6** Thin sun out, unusual around end of June (7)
- 7 A reader missing denouement? She was furious (6)
- 8 Part of grass flower see, bright climbing one (8)
- **9** Bypass to avoid needing to be on time (5)
- 12 Foreign money hidden in book, causing concern (11)
- **16** Female worried matron on start of nativity he's presenting (8)
- 19 One appearing under headscarf in Muslim school (7)
- 21 Prepare for press? Step yet to be readied (7)
- **24** What's run often fixed by darner (6)
- **25** Disinfect mattress from below that's disgusting (5)
- **26** Lively as child with age (not adult) (5)
- **27** Inject mass within maximum, first off (5)
- **30** Orcadian estate of a kind, without superior character? (5)

The Chambers Dictionary (2016) is recommended.

Azed No. 2,625 solution & notes

¹S	² P	Α	³N	ı	⁴ S	Н	⁵ D	۴A	G	['] G	⁸ E	°R
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33 D	Е	s	Ε	R	Т	ı	S	L	Α	N	D	s

Across 14, a + mir in mal; 16, monkey with a for key; 17, to r; tor(rent); 22, bott(L)e; 28, c + air (rev.); 31, k in grie(f); 33, anag. + d in deserts.

Down 3, e in spun (rev.); 5, dam + bro(0)d; 6, born Armand Fernandez (1928–2005); (b)arman; 7, o' in anag.; 13, y(0)u + ky; 18, anag. with 1 for e, & lit.

Rules and requests

£25 in book tokens for the first three correct solutions opened.
Solutions postmarked no later than Monday week to:
Azed No. 2,628, The Observer, 90 York Way, London N1 9GU.