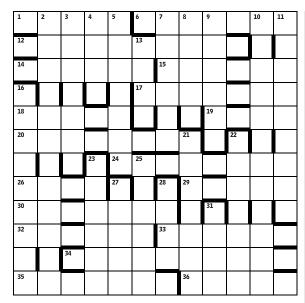
Azed No. 2,665 Plain



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Across

- 1 Old lock fools will have shifted back to front (5)
- **6** Poet's cause to bear clumsy poem with grin, lacking love (7)
- 12 Soak English tux, shabby, then comb, given dry-cleaning treatment? (10)
- 14 What's assumed in address? In this is example (6)
- 15 The old aim for vehicle operated remotely to partake of? (6, 2 words)
- 17 Piece of outstanding Italian art? Cheers (loudly) about position (7)
- **18** Pat of butter runs in liquid measure (5)
- 19 Sailor's slack shift (4)
- 20 Small fish, one nibbling on end of simple line (8)
- 24 Scrubbing return of TV in nightclub (8)
- **26** Some Ghanaians appearing in sweatshirts (4)
- 29 One endlessly waited for party having learnt about it (5)
- **30** Refreshing drink making a change to ace diet (7, 2 words)
- **32** Has (briefly) death–notice around life's end provided as once (6)
- 33 Lewdness free? Aged, released from that, cheer about it (6)
- **34** Earned endless pence with cord all tight? This performer might have (10, 2 words)
- **35** One rarely holds whip to improve defence in being surrounded (7)
- **36** Penniless, deny having to work, retaining energy (5)

Down

- 2 It shows minor change in weather; see Rosie cope with hat, going out (12)
- 3 Its flowers never fade, I see, in the country (7)
- 4 Army or navy in its natural element (4)
- 5 Unstable left embracing Conservative (7)
- 7 Rodent involved with making hole in wall as of old (6)
- 8 Part to south of Portugal that's popular (5)
- 9 Title of member of clergy I have come to (6)
- **10** Grating, adorned, see, I love relaxing inside (12)
- 11 Fame not unknown to surround most of ruling party? (9)
- 13 Spring maybe eclipsed by winter months (4)
- **16** Amuse-bouche, favourite I used as filling for stewed pears (9)
- **21** Monitor? Pin gold up on one (7)
- 22 Help I needed cutting a caper? (7)
- 23 Boy nets fish caught laterally (6)
- 25 See west-country river infuse from below (6)
- 27 Grass: it's coming up in spring (5)
- 28 Rock that's dark-coloured with a hint of red in (4)
- **31** Part of an erg, directly divisible by unit of measurement (4)

The Chambers Dictionary (2016) is recommended.

Azed No. 2,662 solution & notes

¹ B	² U	³ T	Т	¹ Е	³R	F	° I	N	⁸ G	Е	°R	¹⁰ S
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Across 11, 0 + 1 in r on; 13, anag. less a list; 14, pro (f)ustian; 17, cel. + anag.; 24, i.e. (s)top less(ons); 25, pl. + t in yon; 27, cru(is)e; 33, ref. S. Tawdry, character in *The Threepenny Opera*; forename variously spelt.

Down 1, anag. in botcher; 4, r in to one (rev.); 9, (t)runkle(ss); ref. Shelley, *Ozymandias*; 18, Liss (rev.) in see; 23, ass in che(at); 28, alternate letters; 30, former Persian royal family name.

Rules and requests

Send your solution to Azed No. 2,665, 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). Three readers' solutions will be selected at random from all those received by the Observer by that date. Entries will continue to be selected at random 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.