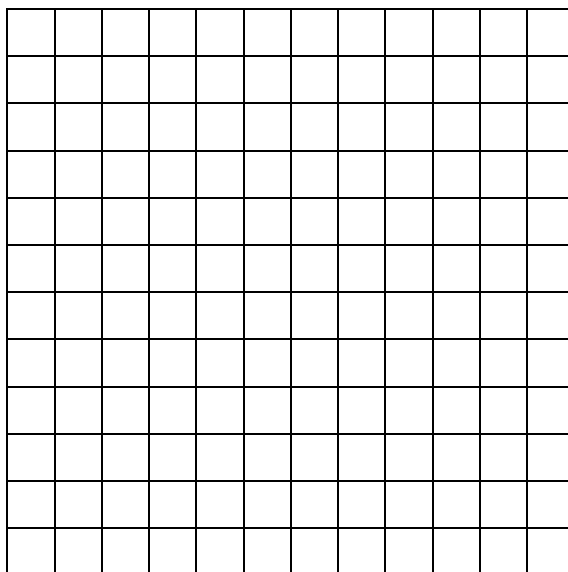


## Azed No. 2,672 'Carte Blanche' - Competition Puzzle



The symmetry of the bars in the completed diagram is such that it would look the same if turned upside down but not if given a quarter turn. Clue are given in their correct order. Entries (with a cryptic clue to replace the asterisked definition) should include bars, but numbers are unnecessary.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Post code \_\_\_\_\_

### Across

- Women chop wood etc and bustle around locally
- Unseasoned sailor given instruction on being discharged
- Tossing the coin, tending towards reconciliation
- Short book, one of E. European origin
- Number encountered within earn terribly tiny measure
- Sticks around, being rather too fond of oneself
- Fungus holding on in narrow passage
- Love goddess scored, with narcotic drink around
- Nervous wreck when beset by withering beaks etc (2 words)
- Nasty pains I cast off after rhubarb
- On being embraced by wizard totty, heading for heaven
- Erstwhile statesman? He's where ashes are returned
- Origin of forces in sci-fi volume right and left I absorbed
- Rabbi's to recite prayers having left desk
- Response when changing ends? It should not be overstepped
- Strips in the woods? Sunk with bra getting twisted
- Impostor exercises gumshoes
- 'The car is back'? Such may be heard among the Cotswolds

### Down

- Beardies mostly adorned fuzzily in tufts
- The lady's medium bust
- \* Embarrass
- Treats for bears
- Like senior girl at lycée, student missing translator initially
- It may be beside rug devouring scrap of chicken
- Cunning delivery's last spinner tossed up
- Spades in resorts getting broken – cause of strain?
- Swinging crowd left in short session lacking a pastor?
- Ask what goes into late vehicles turning up
- Tub for dissolving salts heals throbbing pain mostly
- Localized blow shows sandbank in its shifting form
- African chief, one taken in by hoax
- White man in Zambia scattered gnu in frenzy throwing stone
- Ill-conceived, is born in poetic circles
- Eager to be found in poetry of yesteryear? Sounds fishy
- Belt supporting middle of abdomen? It's bracing
- Each Scotch stimulated alkie endlessly

**The Chambers Dictionary (2016) is recommended. It does not give one proper name.**

## Azed No. 2,669 solution & notes

1	P	E	P	P	E	R	S	G	H	O	S	T
9	A	R	R	A	H	E	Q	U	A	R	T	O
13	R	H	A	G	A	D	E	S	S	F	H	A
14	T	O	N	U	P	S	I	T	T	E	R	S
16	A	D	G	R	U	T	L	A	Y	O	U	T
18	N	O	M	I	N	A	O	B	M	A	T	Y
20	S	P	U	D	D	R	B	L	A	N	C	O
22	C	H	E	W	E	T	E	E	M	C	H	B
24	H	A	V	E	R	E	L	F	E	L	I	S
26	U	N	I	L	S	L	I	M	L	I	N	E
28	S	E	C	K	E	L	A	T	O	N	G	S
30	S	W	E	E	T	I	S	H	N	E	S	S

**Across** 1, peppers g host; 14, on in put (rev.); 17, la + yout(h); 26, have + e in r, l; 29, nil (rev.) in s lime; 30, sec + Kel(vin).

**Down** 3, 1 rug (rev) in pad; 7, r in of E; 12, anag. + c in thing; 22, obs. + ess (s); 27, vic(a rag)e.

### Rules and requests

Send correct solution (one only) and clue as indicated (on separate sheet also bearing name and address, securely attached) to Azed No. 2,672, PO Box 518, Oxford, OX2 6WX. Entries must be received by Monday week following publication at the latest and be postmarked no later than the Saturday following publication. Please include a brief explanation of your clue. Emailed entries will be accepted for overseas submissions only, addressed to [jcrowther2000@hotmail.com](mailto:jcrowther2000@hotmail.com) and must reach Azed by no later than the Saturday following publication of the relevant competition puzzle.

£35, £30 and £25 book tokens will be awarded to the three clues judged best (which accompany correct solutions to the puzzle) respectively. The three winners will also each receive an Azed bookplate. The prizes will be sent by post.

The Azed Slip, containing details of successful competition entries and Azed's comments, is available on subscription at £16 a year. Cheques, payable to the Azed Slip, should be sent to *The Azed Slip, Coombe Farm, Awbridge, Romsey SO51 0HN*. To receive a sample slip, please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to this address. Subscriptions may also be paid via online bank transfer to The Crossword Club, a/c no. 31020250, sort code 40-39-05.

For further information visit [theguardian.com/crosswords/2014/dec/30/azed-faq](http://theguardian.com/crosswords/2014/dec/30/azed-faq)