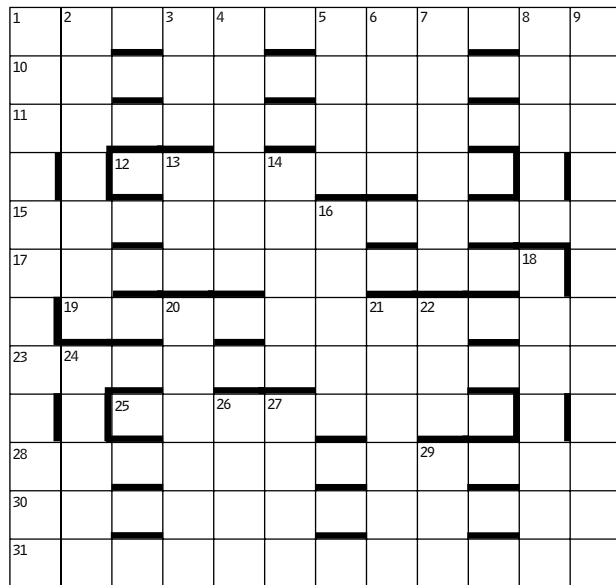


# AZED No. 2,220 'Christmas Crackers' COMPETITION PUZZLE



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

The grid represents a box of twelve Christmas crackers (across entries), eight of them of 12 letters and two each of 11 and 8 letters. As often happens when crackers are pulled, what they contain in the middle becomes scattered. In this puzzle the letters in the middle of the crackers, occupying the four central columns in the grid, are to appear jumbled (in two cases reversed) on entry. Each across clue leads to two answers which overlap by four letters, these four letters being jumbled in a different order for the two answers they are part of (i.e. the last four of the first and the first four of the second). Each double clue leads to both its component answers (with no intervening verbiage) and consists, in either order, of a definition of each unjumbled answer and a subsidiary indication of its jumbled form, as it appears in the diagram. **Competitors should submit with their entries a 12-letter 'cracker' of their own choice, in the style of the acrosses, with a Christmas flavour of some kind.** Down clues are normal. The solutions to parts of two across clues are of two words.

## ACROSS

- 1 It detects errors: gold coin with king replacing centre of gap, i.e. a bloomer — this country's millions revolted (8, 8)
- 10 Male fellows note one pursuing pleasure installs stone one in seat (8, 8)
- 11 Thing that's created attention and start of friction in diplomacy drew jagged rent, serious affliction in the herd (8, 8)
- 12 Groove, scratch circling barrels of northerly old boy, authentic (6, 6)
- 15 Supporter of monarchy, English, in newspaper strip gets confused about extent government lost? (8, 8)
- 17 Cup for sampling savour, volume in turns imbibed, I turn, tucking into new series — are they green? (8, 7)
- 19 Italian governors imprisoning foreign troops in endless chain, dying, indicate vital juice is receding (7, 8)
- 23 Those encouraging sailor to be in French street, genuine sport when

## AZED 2,217 Solution & notes

A	B	S	E	Y	P	S	B	E	M	A	
L	E	E	T	L	E	H	I	E	L	A	N
O	U	T	O	F	B	O	D	Y	C	D	O
U	L	T	N	M	B	R	E	C	H	A	M
D	A	L	L	E	L	T	L	L	I	M	Y
C	H	E	E	S	E	M	O	N	G	E	R
I	R	R	E	S	P	E	C	T	I	V	E
S	O	F	A	R	O	A	K	R	A	I	T
N	A	R	R	O	W	S	S	N	N	U	
U	D	O	M	O	D	U	L	A	T	O	R
B	I	R	E	M	E	R	E	P	L	U	R
S	E	N	A	S	R	E	P	E	Y	S	E

### Rules and requests

Send correct solution and clue as indicated (on separate sheet also bearing name and address, securely attached) to **Azed No.**

**2,220**, PO Box 518, Oxford OX2 6WX. Closing date, Saturday 3 January 2015. **Results will be announced on 25 January 2015.** Please add a brief explanation of your clue (one entry only). £100, E65, E40 prizes and Azed bookplates for the three clues judged best. Extra prizes and Azed bookplates for those very highly commended. The Azed Slip, containing details of successful competition entries and Azed's

**Across** 1, anag. incl. b(rush); 8, bema(zed); 19, anag. in cheer, & lit.; 21, respect in I rive; 26, Ark (rev.) + it; 28, n + arrows; ref. physique of stereotypical darts-players; 33, SEN + a; 34, sye (rev.) in p(o)e(m). **Down** 1, Al(Murray, TV presenter and comedian) + duo (rev.); 4, i.e. E to N; 5, p + anag.; 7, anag. in SA + sure; 7, sinks with anag. for in; 11, (s)om(e) in any; 15, moo (rev.) in Messrs; 22, a in rod + i.e.; 23, in in vous; 24, s(lg)n + anag.; 27, anag. less E; ref. town where Indian Mutiny began; 29, (c, a

it's going after women (8, 8)

- 25 Stage circle taken in by poet's carriage, gold, variable weight (6, 6)
- 28 Crime involving unruly youth squashes environmental creativity maybe, in Delaware ornament (8, 8)
- 30 A pop presenter, one including cheap stuff, officer anti getting corrupted in trial, smarter than the rest (8, 8)
- 31 More than one power supply that is restricted by Greens upset the old author last night (8, 8)

## DOWN

- 1 Church singer, third released, I'm surprised supermarket's taken in for present occasion (12, 2 words)
- 2 Bit left at bottom of glass? Tilt faucet (7)
- 3 Subdue moggy? (3)
- 4 Follow 'ounds with 'abitual accompaniment, rent-free? (6)
- 5 Ling dropped by bird in seaside grass north of the border (4)
- 6 Farming community beginning to evacuate waterlogged ground (4)
- 7 Worrying rattle engulfing aloud drum roll (6)
- 8 Clubs introduced some tennis parties (5)
- 9 Managers of landed property, form of asset Earl Grey's gone into? (12, 2 words)
- 13 It's lashed trunks afloat (3)
- 14 Undyed woolstuff: rot has enveloped this in gown I acquire (5)
- 16 Old despatch boat, power in its belly, turned up? (5)
- 18 Windy, i.e. sun so irregularly seen (7)
- 20 Countrymen's bulge is what he's caught in the river? (6)
- 21 Old race concealed in past renewed (6)
- 22 Antique Italian coin, not so round (3)
- 24 Old embroidery caused a bit of excitement (5)
- 26 Blunt passion? (4)
- 27 Source of varnish important to particular artists (4)
- 29 Figure lacking sex appeal produces this taunt (3)

*The Chambers Dictionary (2011) is recommended.*