

## AZED CROSSWORD 2646

### NIGHTINGALE

- 1 Mrs A. M. Walden:** Nasty genital thing with no end of discomfort – it's akin to thrush (*anag. less t*).
- 2 T. Rudd:** Thing cryptically indicated as source of jug Keats eulogised? (*i.e. night in gale = thing; ref. Keats, 'Ode to a N.' & 'Ode on a Grecian Urn'; ref. jug<sup>3</sup>*).
- 3 M. Barley:** Letters in the grid intermittently align badly, hiding name – it's a famous female (*n in anag. incl g, i; ref. puzzle's theme*).

### VHC

- T. Anderson:** Nil heating since disconnected from gas supply, I'm warmer once in bed (*anag. less as; supply adv.*).
- T. C. Borland:** Popular medical pioneer saving a large number, preceded by ignorance (*night + in Gale(n), & lit.*).
- Dr J. Burscough:** —'s singing, the essence of Vera Lynn hit (*comp. anag. incl. a L, & lit.; ref. 'A N. Sang in Berkeley Square'*).
- Dr I. S. Fletcher:** See me rise after fluttering producing ethereal singing? (*comp. anag. & lit.*).
- H. Freeman:** Scarf – fantastic thing when it's windy (*anag. + in gale*).
- A. Gerrard:** This is lyrically close to Keats's heart, having been overcome with thrill (*nigh + a in tingle, & lit.*).
- J. Grimes:** What's ailing gent worn around hospital? (*H in anag, & lit.*).
- R. J. Heald:** Swedish — Lind sang sweet and high, I recollect (*comp. anag. & lit.; ref. nickname of soprano Jenny L.*).
- D. F. Manley:** Healing revolutionary tackling problem with lack of hygiene primarily (*t(h)ing in anag., & lit.*).
- T. J. Moorey:** Unorthodox 'angel' carrying illumination after being shelled? (*((l)ightin(g) in anag., & lit.*).
- D. Price Jones:** Enlightened nurse abandoned a lightning strike finally (*anag. incl. e; ref. 'Lady with the Lamp'*).
- I. Simpson:** Clothing hospital can issue when one's kept in? (*H tin in niggle round a, & lit.*).
- P. A. Stephenson:** Angel in fight abroad? F. — perhaps (*comp. anag. & lit.*).
- P. L. Stone:** I hear singing aloft, perhaps trilling airs of this (*comp. anag. & lit.*).
- R. C. Teuton:** Who's reformed healing and tending no end? (*anag. less end, & lit.*).
- J. Walker:** Emergency Hospital's new A&E lighting needs to be organised (*n + anag.; ref. Covid emergency*).
- J. D. Walsh:** Thing is, angel, avoiding Society and lost, I sang while you dined (*anag. less S*).
- L. Ward (USA):** The subject of a Keats poem – a thing Elgin collected? (*anag.; ref. Keats, 'On Seeing the Elgin Marbles'*).
- A. J. Young:** Hospital dressing – sound as a bell in healing wound (*ting in anag.*).

## HC

D. Appleton, I. Archer, D. K. Arnott, D. & N. Aspland, T. Blakeson, Ms K. Bolton, A. & J. Calder, T. Clement, N. Connaughton (Ireland), E. Dawid, W. Drever, R. Emerson, D. Faith, G. I. L. Grafton, A. Guilfoyle, A. H. Harker, D. Harrison, J. Hood, G. Johnstone, J. C. Leyland, M. Lloyd-Jones, M. Lunan, A. MacDougall, A. MacKinnon, P. W. Marlow, P. McKenna, Rev Prebendary M. R. Metcalf, J. R. C. Michie, C. G. Millin, D. J. R. Ogilvie (USA), J. Pearce, R. Perry, J. & A. Price, W. Ransome, C. Reid Dick (Germany), Dr S. J. Shaw, D. P. Shenkin, A. J. Shields, D. Sutherland, Dr A. J. Varney, J. Vincent & Ms R. Porter, A. J. Wardrop, J. West, T. West-Taylor, R. J. Whale, D. Whisstock (Italy), A. Whittaker.

## Comments

130 entries, no noticeable mistakes (though I only checked carefully those listed above). This was the tenth ‘Cherchez la Femme’ I’ve given you over the years (the first was No. 1,136); all the previous ones were based on forenames, including Black Maria (No. 1,882). I’d always fancied that this was one of the easier specials to solve, but almost all your comments indicated that you found this one pretty tough. Contrary to what you imagined, it’s not especially difficult to construct. (I mistakenly said in the preamble that the devilled entries were all non-words, overlooking the two proper names Gove and Circe, though I doubt if this caused any problems.) 15 clues received one or more votes as your favourite, the winner being ‘Antitoxin possibly or antivenom, name lost’ for ORVIETAN. One eagle-eyed competitor noted that, unusually, NIGHTINGALE shares 8 letters with last month’s clue word SINGLE-HANDED.

NIGHTINGALE was a friendly clue word, on the whole, it being possible to treat it as a proper name as well as a normal lexical item (or both). I’d forgotten about Annie Nightingale, who turned up a few times, and it was nice to be reminded of Jenny Lind as well as Florence N., not to mention Keats and Berkeley Square. Thank you all, anyway, for making my job more enjoyable than average. I was also grateful to be reminded of the specialized senses of **jug** and **watch** in the context of **nightingale** as a bird. The ambiguity of such words often offers attractive cryptic possibilities when you spot it.