

## AZED CROSSWORD 2655

### PACO (Printer's Devilry)

- 1 G. I. L. Grafton:** The meal served was so u/nfit – and a trifle cold.
- 2 A. Whittaker:** I feel bu/sts a lot, but I know I need treatment so I'm willing to pay for it.
- 3 D. K. Arnott:** Hillary expertly wound up several guys – that one she r/iled badly (*ref. Edmund H./H. Clinton*).

### VHC

- M. Barley:** Before going on exercises, the platoon plans thoroughly to sto/ck up.
- Ms K. Bolton:** 'When stuck, I would sli/de over to Turing', Bletchley veteran recalls.
- Mrs S. Brown:** Huge bu/sts can unsettle valetudinarian.
- C. Bumstead:** Some po/rk to celebrate the coronation.
- Dr J. Burscough:** At celebration for King Charles, Coronation *Po/rk?*
- M. Clarke:** Hunger? Ga/rnish pasty with chips, may help.
- N. Connaughton (Ireland):** Although told to do the entire room, slack painter's ski/ving.
- Ms L. Davis:** Running out of bubbly would be disastrous, so sto/ck up by ordering more.
- W. Drever:** Trimming back coronation the palace ca/st as 'just too expensive'.
- Dr I. S. Fletcher:** Buddhist monks are going round stu/mm, only chanting mantras.
- H. Freeman:** Watching the brilliant pe/ach blossoms in the new season (*ref. P. Guardiola*).
- R. J. Heald:** One might call Azed sli/m, petit or slight – relief after a tough workout!
- J. R. Howlett:** Why not po/rk to celebrate properly, instead of nibbling on vegetarian quiche.
- E. C. Lance:** What could sto/ke user's habit, becoming an addiction.
- J. C. Leyland:** Octavian was pleased to see a grip/ping inshore battle at Actium.
- J. R. C. Michie:** At Balmoral cla/n sorts parade with the king.
- T. J. Moorey:** For those liking a nice beer get the mi/ld (*ref. IPA*).
- T. D. Nicholl:** Some to/ffee with marshmallows – it's not for me!
- S. J. O'Boyle:** Fancy some po/rk? (must be pulled).
- K. O'Keeffe:** On Ma/n, tourism is leading to many ramblers visiting the area.
- D. Price Jones:** From Californian a/unty we get wine galore every year.
- P. A. Stephenson:** Her bu/st was huge following private cosmetic surgery.
- P. L. Stone:** I aim to ca/mp in tent on reaching top of field.
- J. Vincent & Ms R. Porter:** Bu/sting an arm and a leg? I need cheap medical insurance.
- Mrs A. M. Walden:** Stepping into nightclub's cra/pper needs courage.
- L. Ward (USA):** Smaller bu/sts generate more private boob jobs.
- A. J. Wardrop:** In a crisis appropriate orders enable quartermaster to sto/ck up.
- T. West-Taylor:** Po/rk at the street party to celebrate the Coronation.
- R. J. Whale:** Po/rk? Something that's a no-no for Muslims.

## HC

T. Anderson, D. Appleton, D. & N. Aspland, P. Bartlam, J. G. Booth, T. C. Borland, A. Brash, A. & J. Calder, D. Carter, A. Chamberlain, C. A. Clarke, B. & T. Coventry, E. Dawid, Ms J. Diamond, A. S. Everest, A. Gerrard, R. Gilbert, Ms J. Gore (France), S. D. Griew, J. Grimes, A. H. Harker, P. F. Henderson (New Zealand), S. Hicks, J. Hood, G. Johnstone, M. Lunan, D. F. Manley, P. W. Marlow, Ms S. Martiny, L. F. Marzillier (USA), P. McKenna, D. J. R. Ogilvie (USA), W. Ransome, Dr J. B. Reid, T. Rudd, Dr S. J. Shaw, I. Simpson, P. Stubbington, R. C. Teuton, S. Terry, K. Thomas, Prof. M. O. J. Thomas (New Zealand), A. Vick, Ms S. Wallace, J. West, D. Whisstock (Italy), F. Williams, K. & J. Wolff, Ms U. Wright.

## Comments

124 entries, no mistakes. A few said they couldn't find IDIST, which is lurking in *Chambers* under the entry for **Ido**, with no dummy cross-referenced entry at its alphabetical place. A culpable oversight by the lexicographers, I'd say. The relatively low entry may indicate the absence of those who don't care for PD. Those who do expressed an enthusiastic welcome for its return, gratifying for your setter in view of the considerable extra time involved in both grid construction and cluing. Not that I don't relish the challenge, but there are always some entries which require a fair degree of extra head-scratching to come up with passable clues, especially when I risk including 12-letter words!

Favourite clue, unsurprisingly, was (by a long way) 'In solving PD's, one mu/tters to each clue!' for STADDLE, which (I promise) I hadn't prepared in advance. In all, 11 clues received votes. A handful of competitors failed to heed the warning in the preamble that preference is given to clues in which the break before *and after* the answer omitted should not occur before and after omission. This seems to me an essential feature of sound PD clues, even if it represents an additional challenge for the setter. And I make no apologies for mentioning again, as I've frequently done before, that the intelligibility of the undevilled version of a PD clue should not be sacrificed to that of the devilled version. Ideally, both should make reasonable sense, of course, and if both make *good* sense, so much the better.

I chose PACO in the hope that it would offer plenty of scope, even though (for some) it was the first answer to be entered. In general I was proved right, as those clued above will testify. 'Bu/st(s)' and 'po/rk' were especially popular, the latter with the added topicality of the royal coronation. I sometimes remember to include a topical reference in my own puzzles, but this time I failed to do this (and in retrospect I'm not sure how I'd have done it in a PD competition anyway). I much enjoyed the judging process anyway, and congratulate you all on the extra effort that cluing must have involved. I can't promise more than one PD a year at most.