

## AZED CROSSWORD 2681

### ADHERENT

**1 R. J. Heald:** Anthony's novel *The Warden*, first of works to be released (*anag. less w; see Anthony; ref. first of Trollope's Chronicles of Barsetshire*)

**2 G. I. L. Grafton:** Yes, this fan Mr Wilde deployed could be the Lady Windermere's (*comp. anag.*).

**3 Mrs A. M. Walden:** One who sticks wayward header over empty net (*anag. + n(o)t; down clue*).

### VHC

**D. Appleton:** Coming to a premature end, Andrew the crucified disciple (*anag. less w*).

**M. Barley:** You'll find a *3dn* working with tack (*a + anag. incl. three; ref. LORIMER at 3dn; tack<sup>1,2</sup>*).

**T. C. Borland:** Fan who, with side struggling, could become disheartened (*comp. anag.*).

**Mrs S. Brown:** Devotee, losing consort's heart, shed a woeful tear (*anag. less s + rent*).

**Ms L. Davis:** Extremely clingy child? (*2 meanings*).

**R. Gilbert:** Sticky end – heart unsound (*anag.*).

**D. F. Manley:** Fan terribly disheartened with awful side falling apart (*anag. less anag.*).

**Rev. Prebendary M. R. Metcalf:** One who could become heartened when consorting with exploit's leader (*anag. less e, & lit.*).

**J. R. C. Michie:** He is involved with a trend (*anag. & lit.*).

**J. Pearce:** Fan heater starts to disintegrate and nearly explodes (*anag. incl. d, n*).

**Dr J. B. Reid:** Sticky end – heart is dodgy! (*anag.*).

**T. Rudd:** *The Plot* by Nadine Dorries represents this partisan type, in with old Boris (*comp. anag.*).

**P. Sant:** A child is here for the couple at the heart of Advent (*Advent with here for ve*).

**Dr S. J. Shaw:** It could be he committed to a developing trend (*he in a + anag., & lit.*).

**M. Sloman:** What Nadine is to Boris – notice the tear, though time has passed (*ad + (t)he + rent*).

**R. Teuton:** Clinging on, start to expect end of Braverman, having stirred hatred all round (*e, n in anag.*).

**K. Thomas:** Woman not very involved in church season (*Advent with her for v, & lit.*).

**L. Ward:** Sticky ends in gene sequence might pair with DNA abnormally (*anag. incl. last letters*).

**A. J. Wardrop:** Originally a red, then a fellow traveller (*anag.*).

### HC

P. B. Alldred, T. Anderson, D. & N. Aspland, R. Bowden, Dr J. Burscough, A. Chamberlain, T. Clement, J. Fairclough, P. Flint, H. Freeman, Ms B. Hall, A. H. Harker, V. Henderson, H. M. F. Jenkins, P. Jenkinson (Switzerland), M. Jordan, J. C. Leyland, M. Lloyd-Jones, Dr R. A. Main, C. G. Millin, T. J. Moorey, D. J. R. Ogilvie (USA), D. Price Jones, A. D. Scott, C. Short, I. Simpson, P. A. Stephenson, P. L. Stone, J. Vincent & Ms R. Porter, J. D. Walsh, R. J. Whale, A. Whittaker, K. & J. Wolff, A. J. Young.

### Comments

135 entries, more than a few with AMINE for AZINE, which can only have been the result of guesswork. I slipped up myself in my clue to CRENELLED, by suggesting that Nell is a short form for Elizabeth: conceivable, I suppose, but unlikely and not recognized by *Chambers*, which I must have failed to consult. Very few raised the matter, and those that did did so with typical politeness. Another clue of mine, 'Multiplex, showing such as the Hydra?' for MANY-HEADED provoked one query that it appeared to contain no cryptic element. Fair point. I can remember being devoid of inspiration when trying to come up with anything remotely interesting (any ideas?), and I clearly settled too readily for a pair of definitions, one general and one specific. Must try harder, m'lud. Of the 14 clues you did like, and said so, there were two equal favourites, both for short words: 'Put up with wind as unseen nuisance' (BORE) and 'Treat changes to seat with this cement' (TRASS). I do welcome your comments, pro *or* anti, on individual clues, but stress that they are entirely up to you. The more widely you cast your votes the more they interest me, and I dare say you also find it interesting to see how others feel.

Most of you welcomed the choice of clue word this time as offering a nice range of definitions/synonyms and friendly component letters. I had wrongly supposed that it might be on the dull side for cluing, but none of the others in the grid seemed more promising.

I am asked when the Christmas competition will appear; it will be on Sunday 24 December, when the *Observer* will be published as usual.