

AZED CROSSWORD 2716

SHOLA ('Spoonerisms')

1 E. C. Lance: Ship's half submerged: O behold an ocean grave (*Asian grove; sh + O la²*).

2 L. Ward (USA): Tops of camels originally seemed 'humpy', opined Lawrence, upon heading for Arabia (*copse of Tamils; first letters + A*).

3 R. C. Teuton: Stokes taking two off hook starts to limp attempting third meaning wicket for Indians (*word ... thicket; S + ho(ok) + l, a*).

VHC

D. Appleton: Trat he redesigned has starters of oysters and linguine (*hat-tree; anag. incl o, l*).

D. K. Arnott: Spy saw mini camera image needing closer look (*Mysore spinney; sho(t) + la*).

W. Drever: Why Heald leads in listings on Azed slip, he's fantastic! (*high weald; anag. of first letters; ref. R. Heald*).

C. M. Edmunds: Home for Keir – chez Starmer, the premier house finally (Downing Street) (*home for Shere K; S + ho. + la(st)*).

H. Freeman: Pud in one jab hit so hard, I KO'd Ali (*wood in Punjab; anag. incl. H, Al(i)*).

G. I. L. Grafton: Library's opening in silence, love – a creator of chat may hop it (*hat ... chop it; l in sh + O + a*).

S. D. Griew: Leading pair of lassies, after school, regularly make for Brodie (*brake for Modi; alternate letters + la; ref. Miss Jean B.*).

D. F. Manley: Hols abroad are shortened – one takes miles out of such (*make tiles; anag. + a*).

P. W. Marlow: What's foremost in superior Hamlet over lesser adaptations is take by Branagh, perhaps (*brake by tana¹; first letters*).

T. D. Nicholl: A short break in Saudi Arabia is tops for camels! (*copse for Tamils; hol in SA*).

T. Rudd: When playing harp solos can seasoned pros jangle or bungle? (*Bangalore jungle; anag. less anag.; can = dismiss*).

P. Sant: Where grub screw concealing depth holds core of shaft tight (*scrub grew; anag. less d, incl. a*).

Dr S. J. Shaw: Travelling across Madhya Pradesh to Bhopal ultimately might be where Indian fare's bound (*bear's found; anag. of last letters*).

J. Vincent & Ms R. Porter: Spangled tinny bits of silverware (low-grade alloy) displayed around house (*tangled spinney; ho. in first letters*).

A. J. Wardrop: A high for some batters mostly regarded with awe in South Africa (*buy ... hatters; hol(y) in SA*).

HC

N. Aspland, M. Barley, T. C. Borland, A. Brash, C. J. Brougham, Dr J. Burscough, A. & J. Calder, T. Clement, Ms L. Davis, E. Dawid, Dr I. S. Fletcher, J. Grimes, A. H. Harker, R. J. Heald, L. M. Inman, H. M. F. Jenkins, G. Johnstone, J. R. H. Jones, J. C. Leyland, Dr R. A. Main, P. McKenna, Rev. Prebendary M. R. Metcalf, D. Price Jones, C. Short, I. Simpson, P. A. Stephenson, K. Thomas, Prof. M. O. J. Thomas (New Zealand), Mrs A. M. Walden, Ms S. Wallace, R. J. Whale, D. Whisstock (Italy), A. Whittaker, K. & J. Wolff, A. J. Young.

Comments

A low entry for a tough(ish) puzzle: 105 submissions but no mistakes that I could see. A small minority of regulars dislike Spoonerisms, but they are heavily outnumbered by those who are clearly enthusiastic and relish the special challenge. Several declared it their favourite special. I chose SHOLA thinking that its meaning(s) would offer a good range of definition possibilities, and this proved to be the case. There are clearly many ways of indicating a dense group of trees, directly or indirectly, or alternatively the hat-plant, with its echoes of European residents in India, rarely worn or seen these days, I think, except in period films.

Of the 13 clues in the puzzle you specially enjoyed, the favourite was ‘Tea urn’ll answer Scotch for John, one brewed inside’ for AEONIAN (*eternal; anag. in a Ian*), followed by those for ONE-PERSON and TRAINSPOTTER.

As usual, I tended to be fairly generous in accepting Spoonerisms that weren’t too exact, e.g. by indicating non-RP pronunciations, such as localized accents, not shown in the dictionary, if they struck me as solvable without undue difficulty. The task you faced was tough enough without insisting on such undue precision.