AZED CROSSWORD 2,742

TENEBROSE

- **1 P. W. Marlow**: Reform seen to be limiting Starmer's focus? That's dismal (*r in anag.*).
- **2 Dr I. S. Fletcher**: Sombre end of passionate lead character in Emily Brontë's novel (anag. incl. e, E; ref. Heathcliff).
- **3 D. Price Jones**: Low temperature, then energy bill soared (*t E neb rose*).

VHC

- **N. Aspland**: Dark beer's tone is nutty (anag.).
- **M. Barley**: Gloomy time as Yuletide ends, with no beers to be drunk (t + e + anag.; ref. dry January).
- **T. C. Borland**: Not see berg, ultimately sinking, at sea in dark (anag. less g).
- **Mrs S. Brown**: E. Brontë's novel, leading to Catherine's end, might be described so (anag. + e; ref. 'Wuthering Heights').
- **Ms L. Davis**: Gloomy bored teens, wanting bit of diversion, go off the rails (*anag. less d*).
- **W. Drever**: Describing sprat-weather possibly, end of November seen to be stormy (*anag. incl. r*).
- **J. Grimes**: As character facing Earnshaw in E. Brontë's novel (*E in anag.*, & *lit.*).
- **R. J. Heald**: Cimmerian tribespeople must struggle with sun, not wanting damaged pupils (*anag. less anag.*).
- **L. M. Inman**: E. Brontë's novel, with Charlotte's finishing touch, is gloomy (*anag.* + *e*).
- **B. Lovering**: Leaving hospital, three bones broken, in low spirits (anag. less H).
- **M. Lunan**: Dark blend of tenors, basses without a second soprano at start of *Elijah* (anag. less a, s, S + E).
- **K. Milan**: Gloomy, in some way sombre, but with no hint of melancholy, following an injury in old age (tene + anag. less m).
- **C. G. Millin**: Needing some illumination to be seen, reading at first is obscure (*anag. incl. r*).
- **C. Ogilvie**: Suspect seen to be right shady (*anag. incl. r*).
- **A. Plumb**: Regularly, in November, weather's terribly gloomy (*anag. of alternate letters*).
- Dr S. J. Shaw: Best old term for winter e'en possibly (anag. incl. O, r, & lit.).
- **A. J. Shields**: What sonneteer wanting new enthralling term for 'drab' could resort to (anag. less n incl. b, & lit.).
- **R. C. Teuton**: Submit finally forsaking one's better composed & lit? Oh no! (*anag. less t; i.e. unlit*).
- **J. Vincent & Ms R. Porter**: Lacking traces of warmth and illumination, each sombre winter regrettably can make March ----- (*comp. anag. less w, i, & lit.*).
- Ms S. Wallace: Gloomy teens bored crazy without bit of drink (anag. less d).

R. J. Whale: Sombre feature of acolytes or benets from the East (*hidden rev.; ref. RC Church ministers*).

HC

D. Appleton, I. Archer, A. Brash, J. M. Brown, Dr J. Burscough, A. & J. Calder, C. A. Clarke, M. Coates, J. Duggan, C. M. Edmunds, H. Freeman, Ms R. Gamsa, G. I. L. Grafton, Ms L. Holroyd, G. Johnstone, I. A. Leith, M. Lloyd-Jones, A. MacDougall, D. F. Manley, K. Manley, P. McKenna, G. L. McStravick, Rev. Prebendary M. R. Metcalf, T. J. Moorey, J. & A. Price, W. Ransome, J. Roberts, M. Sloman, R. A. Stephenson, K. Thomas, Mrs A. M. Walden, J. D. Walsh, Dr M. C. Whelan, K. & J. Wolff, A. J. Young.

Comments

123 entries, no noticeable mistakes. Most who commented reckoned it a relatively easy competition puzzle (though there are always a few who take the opposite view!). I decided to clue HEDDLE as the proper name, as in the singer Heddle Nash (1894-1961), perhaps not well remembered these days (though referred to as 'incomparable' in his day), largely because I found the *Chambers* noun definition incomprehensible and so impossible to clue easily. The other grid entry that puzzled a few was RED GAME, which was hard to find, lurking in *Chambers* as it is under GAME, a lexicographical fault in my book.

Of the 11 clues mentioned with approval, your favourite was 'Making entry into Sheraton, although lacking a key?' for ATONAL, with twice as many votes as those for CHALET, HIMATION and HUISSIER. No time for more, after the three competitions in quick succession.