

AZED CROSSWORD 2,750

CLEARINGS (DLM)

1 R. J. Whale: Cutbacks perhaps at Forest Green, causing relegation (*ref. FG Rovers, relegated from Football League in 2024*).

2 J. Vincent & Ms R. Porter: Sadly, desolating larches with saw initially may lead to ----- and lost shade (*comp. anag. & lit.*).

3 R. C. Teuton: Slashes in public urinals eg.

VHC

D. Appleton: Potential picnic spots girl can use.

N. Aspland: Tree-feller causing bare areas in forest.

M. Barley: We've been lumbered with deforestation again, cluers! (*ref. second appearance of CLEARING(S) as clue word after comp. 2,564*).

T. C. Borland: Aer Lingus cuts gaps between planes?

C. J. Brougham: Urinals e.g. contain Uncle Sam's slashes.

W. Drever: Spaces in the holt Tarka eg curls in.

Dr M. Ewart: Unclear gins – clarification more than once.

Dr I. S. Fletcher: Bank processes surge in claims.

R. J. Heald: Singular centre-forward creating openings for eg Hurst or Greaves once (*ref. England strikers Geoff H. & Jimmy G.*).

Ms L. Holroyd: Glaciers: uniformly treeless areas.

R. Lawn: Gale ruins cedars creating treeless areas.

A. Plumb: Glue's in carpenter's gaps in wood.

J. & A. Price: Post-exam resolutions – stellar GCSE? Uni sorted.

Mrs A. M. Walden: Singular economic operations involving banks.

D. Whisstock: Acres in lugubrious areas with no trees.

HC

D.K. Arnott, J. G. Booth, Mrs S. Brown, Dr J. Burscough, T. Clement, M. Coates, J. Cunnane, E. Dawid, H. Freeman, J. Duggan, Ms B. Hall, H. M. F. Jenkins, E. C. Lance, J. C. Leyland, M. Lunan, A. Macdougall, D. F. Manley, L. F. Marzillier (USA), P. McKenna, K. Milan, C. G. Millin, S. J. O'Boyle, D. J. R. Ogilvie (USA), B. Pasupathy (India), A. J. Shields, K. Thomas, Prof. M. O. J. Thomas, L. Ward (USA), F. Williams, R. Zara.

COMMENTS

Another milestone reached and passed. My grateful thanks to all those who included congratulations with their entries and said how much they appreciated the special puzzle to mark the occasion, quite complex but perhaps not all that difficult. One regular competitor wrote that he reckoned I have now offered you around a dizzy-making 99,000 clues to date. Most realized soon enough this month that the title was an anagram of FOURSOMES. One competitor informed me that moose have four different types of furs (though I'm not completely sure that this wasn't a joke of some kind!). Favourite clue of the month (of fifteen mentioned at least once) was 'Piece of

ballet, benefit including ten dancing' for AVENTAIL ('ballet' misprinted for 'sallet').

There were 121 entries in all. A number either submitted the wrong type of clue or failed to work the wrong extra letter into their submissions, understandable in the circumstances. The special requirements certainly kept *me* on my toes, but it was clearly a lot of fun all round. My wife and I are looking forward to meeting many of you again at Wolfson on 3 May, and afterwards at our home for tea. Let us hope for fine weather.