

AZED No. 2,773 Plain

PEDALIER

1 T. West-Taylor: After moving piano this could be reapplied (*comp. anag. incl. p, & lit.*).

2 N. G. Shippobotham: Softly rendered lieder incorporating a part for piano (*p + a in anag.*).

3 E. Dawid: This, deployed with tip of toe, works one piano treadle (*comp. anag. incl. t, I, p, & lit.*).

VHC

A. Brash: This would require lead to be transcribed in 'Promenade' (*anag. in pier, & lit.; ref. main piano theme from Mussorgsky's 'Pictures at an Exhibition'*).

C. J. Brougham: Piano dealer potentially stocks one (*I in p + anag., & lit.*)

Dr I. S. Fletcher: Piano piece Eric played in different order delivering classic comedy ultimately (*anag. less c, y; ref. classic Morecambe & Wise sketch with Andre Previn*).

A. H. Harker: What's responsible for bass notes in remixed Dearie LP? (*anag.; ref. Blossom D., US jazz singer/pianist*).

T. J. Moorey: Lieder one arranged with a part for Piano (*p + anag. incl. a*).

A. Price: Board which controls Bass brews ale with pride (*anag.*).

D. P. Shenkin: A piano relied on arrangement for its foot section – this (*anag. incl. p, & lit.*).

Mrs A. M. Walden: Pfitzner's first arrangement of lieder includes a part for piano (*a in p + anag.; ref. Hans P., German composer*)

HC

Mrs S. Brown, A. & J. Calder, G. I. L. Grafton, S. D. Griew, P. F. Henderson, A. Plumb, T. Rudd, S. Saunders, T. Thomas, R. J. Whale, K. & J. Wolff.

ANNUAL HONOURS LIST (after 13 competitions)

1 (equal) Dr I. S. Fletcher (3 prizes, 8 VHCs), D. F. Manley (5, 4); 3 R. J. Heald (3, 7); 4 Mrs A. M. Walden (2, 8); 5 (equal) A. Plumb (2, 6), A. J. Shields (1, 8); 7 (equal) M. Barley (2, 5), P. W. Marlow (1, 7), Dr S. J. Shaw (1, 7), R. C. Teuton (2, 5); 11 Dr J. Burscough (1, 6); 12 R. J. Whale (2, 3); 13 (equal) T. C. Borland (1, 4), Ms L. Davis (1, 4), J. C. Leyland (2, 2), C. G. Millin (0, 6); 17 (equal) W. Drever (0, 5), J. Grimes (0, 5), J. & A. Price (0, 5), P. A. Stephenson (0, 5), Ms S. Wallace (1, 3), K. & J. Wolff (1, 3); 23 (equal) T. Anderson (1, 2), N. Aspland (0, 4), Mrs S.

Brown (0, 4), P. F. Henderson (0, 4), T. J. Moorey (0, 4), C. Ogilvie (0, 4), D. Price Jones (1, 2), J. Vincent & Ms R. Porter (1, 2), L. Ward (0, 4).

Consolation prizes C. G. Millin, W. Drever, J. Grimes, J. & A. Price, P. A. Stephenson, N. Aspland, Mrs S. Brown, P. F. Henderson, T. J. Moorey, C. Ogilvie, L. Ward.

Comments

Many thanks, as ever, for all your wonderful clues. My congratulations, as well, go to those of you who feature in the annual honours list – well done – and my thanks to Robert Teuton for compiling the list of solvers.

After much consideration, I've decided to step down from the monthly Azed clue-writing competition and the accompanying slip while continuing to write a monthly puzzle. It's been a long and wonderful journey since I began. I've been setting and judging competition words for you to set clues to since 1972 when I picked up the baton from Ximenes. That's almost 54 years and around 700 competitions, by my reckoning!

It has been one of the great joys of my tenure as Azed to read and judge your clues, which have always been delightful, challenging and expertly set, but I do feel now that it's time to hang up my competition boots (to mix metaphors) and call it a day. As I get older, I find the administrative burden of the competition increasingly challenging, so the moment has now come to bow out.

The art of clue writing is clearly at the heart of cryptic crosswords, and sharing this process with you for all these years has been an inspiration. A decent cryptic crossword clue is like a good short story or poem; it packs a lot in and often reveals itself with playfulness and elegance. I can't begin to tell you how often I have been bowled over, tickled and awe-struck by your clues, and I do thank you from the bottom of my heart for all of them.

I'm delighted that the monthly Azed puzzle will continue for as long as I am able to carry on, and that I will continue to appear together with the brilliant Gemelo in the puzzle pages of the Observer – the only paper I have ever worked at throughout my crossword career. I owe a huge debt of gratitude to you, my solvers; my checker John Grimshaw; John Tozer, Robert Teuton and Richard Heald for all their work on the slip, and Will Drever and Don Manley for masterminding the recent Azed lunch events; my family for all their love; and also to The Observer, and in

particular, Caitlin O’Kane who continues to support me and keep the tradition of the cryptic crossword alive.

I’m so very grateful to you all.

Jonathan

Additional comments from Ali, Jonathan’s wife

When I first met Jonathan about fifty-three years ago, he was already compiling crosswords for the Observer. I already knew Ximenes as my father taught at Christ’s Hospital, and I was friends with Penny Macnutt – Derrick’s daughter.

Like Jonathan, I wanted to thank all the delightful solvers I have known over the years. To thank them for all the jolly lunches, for Christmas cards, presents, and scrumptious Yorkshire buns.

I was so grateful, and so enjoyed being part of the “Azed Club” and of course will miss it terribly. Nevertheless, wherever we land in Oxford you will always be welcome visitors.

Very, very best to you all – you clever people.

Ali