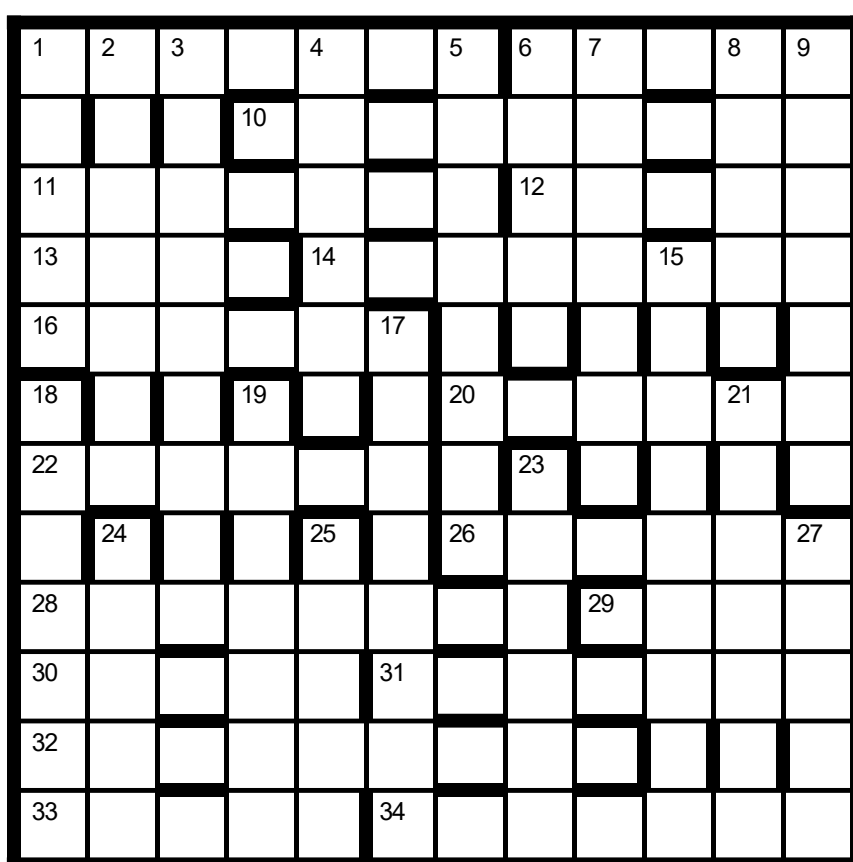


Azed 249 – “Double or Quits” – Christmas 1976

Each down clue is really two clues, side by side but not overlapping, leading to two answers of the same length for the two spaces symmetrically opposite each other in the diagram indicated by the clue numbers. Either may be clued first: the solver must discover which goes where. The division is not necessarily marked by punctuation. From the answer to each across clue the solver must omit one letter wherever it occurs (sometimes more than once) before entry in the diagram. The 18 letters thus omitted, read in the order in which the clues are printed, spell out the name of a popular seasonal character. Definitions in the clues refer to the full, unmutilated answers; subsidiary indications refer to the mutilated forms to be entered in the diagram. Numbers in brackets show the full lengths of unmutilated words.



Across

- 1 Shaft of a street-trader, one in Cockneyland with cap (10)
- 6 Church - bishop - Sabbath: a recipe for torpor (7)
- 10 With a dozen faces, each a role needing new make-up (12)
- 11 Obtaining favours dishonestly, wayward bint hugs rep (9)
- 12 Bracelet charm I acquired - look there (7)
- 13 Hot rum? (7)
- 14 Drinking cup expert holding it backwards squiffily (10)
- 16 'E's in pain - it's a packing-case (8)
- 20 Jock's breakfast? Bacon cooked about right (7)
- 22 Wrong entering road, turned back (8)
- 26 Type of fodder certainly containing fuel (8)
- 28 Limit in advance prince and duke getting jolly 'canned' (12)
- 29 Pen we must hold right next to end of shaft (5)
- 30 It kills worms - negligible amounts return (8)
- 31 Mount in battle rope-ladder round end of fortress (8)
- 32 Like a bit? Darn TT - nil, confound it (11)
- 33 Trials a ship must get round for example (6)
- 34 Machine-drivers young thug *very* rarely turned (8)

Down

- 1, 27 Ruth, perhaps, English sectarian, pounces once before you've got inside Sunday School (5, 5)
- 2, 21 S wind followed by E: simple sailor tar confused with S and E side by side (7, 7)
- 3, 15 'Destruction of caste', pen lifted re religious groups to sadden - cover extravagant, strident (9, 9)
- 4, 23 Lustre I missed in frightful painted daub, about dry - that was rash (6, 6)
- 5, 17 A monkey unkempt of fur grips sailor chaps in rising seas, the dregs (8, 8)
- 6, 25 Bars aplenty: elliptical result of ridings about on tiles for little birds (5, 5)
- 7, 19 People bequeath to me their beaten gold lectern, gold with a blue underneath (7, 7)
- 8, 24 Hunted monster rears steep spout as before, to vex swallowing Ahab's head (5, 5)
- 9, 18 Always being in grip of spiritous concoction leads to fatal friction - change from spirits (7, 7)