

TO ENTER Complete the crossword and count how many times the letter 'A' appears in the grid. Text YOU followed by a space, your answer (the number of 'A's) and name to 65700, eg, YOU 9 Sue Smith. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network rate. Or telephone 0905 652 2141 and leave your answer and details. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Or post your entry to YOU Crossword

No 1,747, PO Box 3451, Norwich NR7 7NR. Entries will be accepted until 11.59pm on Friday 30 April. One random winner from all correct entries will win £250 and five runners-up will win £50 each. If you enter after the closing date you will not be included but may still be charged. Phone and text helpline: 0330 100 0601. Winners will be notified by phone within 14 days. Solution in two weeks.

NUMBER 1,747

NAME.....
 ADDRESS.....
 TEL.....
 YOUR ANSWER.....

ACROSS

- 6 European country (6)
- 8 Remote (8)
- 10 Small receptacles for cigarette butts (8)
- 11 Chief, boss (6)
- 12 Loathsome (6)
- 13 'There's no such thing as a free ____': Mark Twain (5)
- 15 Convicts (7)
- 17 Rally, get better (7)
- 19 Asian country which gained independence in 1947 (5)
- 20 18 down's predecessor (surname) as 1 down of 6 across (6)
- 22 As used on the green in golf (6)
- 23 The branch

- of chemistry concerned with rates of chemical reactions (8)
- 24 Old-fashioned glasses that fit tightly on the top of the nose (5-3)
- 25 The man (surname) who became 1 down of 6 across in 2017 (6)

- challenger (surname) to become 1 down of 6 across in 2017 (2,3)
- 7 Patriotic (13)
- 9 How something wrongly set in the past might be described (13)
- 14 Device to keep a vessel heading

- into the wind or reduce drifting (3,6)
- 16 Permanent (8)
- 18 4 down's predecessor (surname) as 1 down of 6 across (7)
- 20 The movies (6)
- 21 Scientist Marie twice won the Nobel Prize before dying in 6 across in 1934 (5)

DOWN

- 1 Head of state of 6 across (9)
- 2 Levers used to propel a bicycle (6)
- 3 Small ball of chopped meat or vegetables which is fried (7)
- 4 25 across's predecessor (surname) as 1 down of 6 across (8)
- 5 25 across's principal

SOLUTION TO NO 1,745

1	B	A	R	A	C	K	O	B	A	M	A	T	H	E				
	E	E	A	P	R	B	H	L										
9	E	L	D	E	R	10	P	L	A	Y	B	O	Y	O	F			
	K	O	E	R	N	E	R	I										
11	E	M	U	L	S	I	O	N	12	T	Y	C	O	O	N			
	E	B	S	B	T				13	B	I							
14	P	A	T	R	I	A	R	C	H	15	B	A	D	G	E			
	E				N	I	E	A						M				
17	R	E	J	I	G	18	U	N	W	E	L	C	O	M	E			
					M													
24	W	A	S	A	B	I	25	A	S	P	I	R	I	N	G			
	O	Y	O				24	A	T	S	N	E						
22	R	E	N	E	W	A	B	L	E	23	T	H	O	R	N			
	L	G	L	E	R	I	C	C										
26	D	O	E				26	S	P	L	E	N	E	C	T	O	M	Y