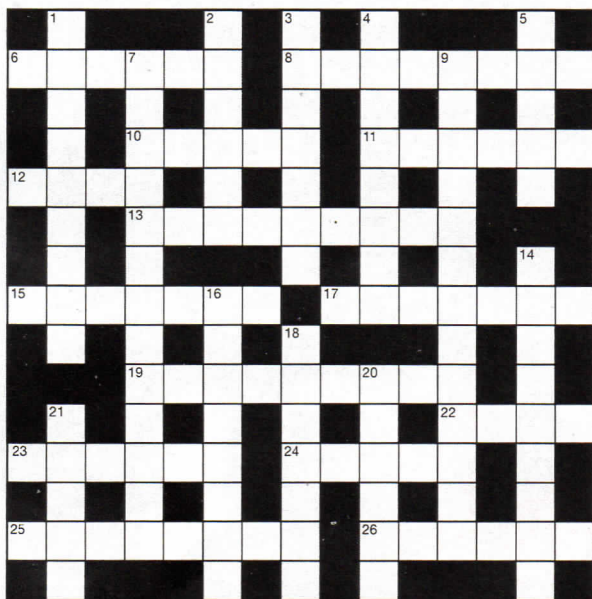


£500 TO BE WON ★ NO 1,731

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 1,731, PO Box 3451, Norwich NR7 7NR. Entries will be accepted until 11.59pm on Friday 8 January. 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 1,731

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

ACROSS

- 6** King Arthur's wizard (6)
- 8** Pledged, guaranteed, vowed (8)
- 10** Typical, unremarkable (5)
- 11** Put on hold (6)
- 12** A step on a ladder (4)
- 13** The _____: What Monty Python were after in 1975 (4,5)
- 15** Person regarded as unpleasant or difficult (2-3-2)
- 17** Garden structure (7)
- 19** Sleep-inducing (9)
- 22** Inquires, questions (4)

- 23** Energy, might, force (6)
- 24** 16 down's name at birth (3-2)
- 25** 16 down's is The Man of Steel (8)
- 26** Snooping (6)

- 7** Object of humiliating ridicule (8,5)
- 9** Philosophically, doctrinally (13)
- 14** 16 down's alter ego (5,4)
- 16** Comic book superhero (8)

- 18** Journeyed, hiked (7)
- 20** Of (or like) ordinary people (6)
- 21** Note having the time value of half a semibreve (5)

DOWN

- 1** Criminal mastermind who tries to get the better of 16 down (3,6)
- 2** Every year (6)
- 3** Expression of regret and remorse (7)
- 4** The love of 16 down's life (4,4)
- 5** Christopher, who played 16 down on screen (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1,729

