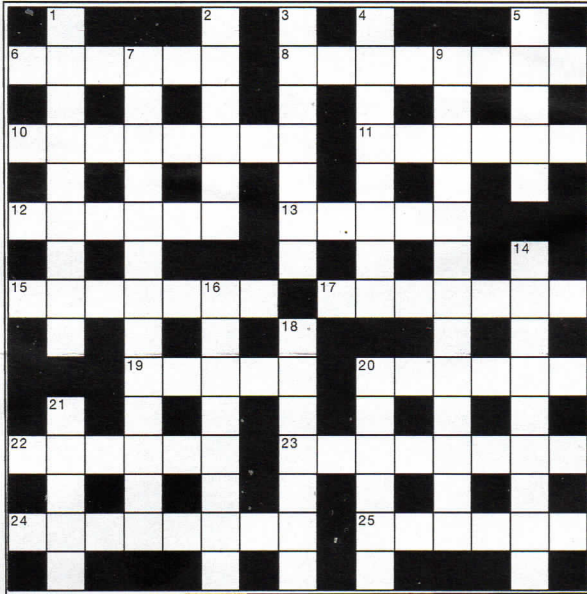


TO ENTER Complete the crossword and count how many times the letter 'A' appears in the grid. Text YOU followed by a space, your answer (the number of 'A's) and name to 65700, eg, YOU 9 Sue Smith. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network rate. Or telephone 0905 652 2141 and leave your answer and details.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

No 1,730, PO Box 3451, Norwich NR7 7NR. Entries will be accepted until 11.59pm on Monday 4 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 1,730

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

TEL.....

YOUR ANSWER.....

**ACROSS**

- 6 (and 8 across)** The acclaimed Queen of Crime Fiction (6,8)
- 8** See **6 across**
- 10** Acquires in advance or to the exclusion of others (3-5)
- 11** Surname of famous character created by **6, 8 across** (6)
- 12** Key in once more (6)
- 13** Observable, open to view (5)
- 15** At \_\_\_\_\_'s Hotel: 1965 novel by **6, 8 across** (7)
- 17** Futile (7)
- 19** Firearm (5)
- 20** Frightened (6)
- 22** Sir Derek, who appeared in a

- TV adaptation of **6, 8 across**'s *The Murder At The Vicarage* (6)
- 23** Real, solid, tangible (8)
- 24** Encroach, intrude (8)
- 25** Landmark age reached by **6, 8 across** in 1970 (6)

**DOWN**

- 1** Unhappy, wronged (9)
- 2** Elderly spinster (surname) created by **6, 8 across** (6)
- 3** Half a cutting instrument? (7)
- 4** Seers (8)
- 5** Woman who survives her spouse (5)
- 7 (and 16 down),**

- 20 down)** The 1920 debut novel by **6, 8 across** (3,10,6,2,6)
- 9** Brilliant, dazzling, sparkling (13)
- 14** International

- language (9)
- 16** See **7 down**
- 18** Loathe (7)
- 20** See **7 down**
- 21** African country which used to be known as The Congo (5)

**SOLUTION TO NO 1,728**

