ACROSS
1 Plant genus of the arum family, named after the Italian botanist (12)
7 Of or pertaining to starch (4)
11 Dessert of fruit cooked in sugary syrup (7)
12 Heating of internal parts of the body by electric currents (9)
13 Jack, the top run-scorer in first-class cricket (5)
14 Series of fantasy books written by Mervyn Peake (11)
15 Empress of some east European countries (7)
16 Rich egg-based sauce, originating in south-west France (9)
17 The ----, magazine launched by Richard Ingrams in 1992 (5)
19 White heron, with long fine plumes during breeding season (5)
21 Philip, “minimalist” US composer (5)
23 Manchester suburb, birthplace of philanthropist Humphrey Chetham (9)
26 Ancient region in the western part of the Balkan Peninsula (7)
28 Of food, roasted or grilled on a skewer (2,9)
30 In the Book of Numbers, the son of Helon (5)
31 A visual design using the letters of a word (9)
32 Canadian writer of the novel The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz (7)
33 Slang term for a young man, originally Irish and Welsh (4)
34 Hardy boreal flowering plant, papaver nudicaule (7,5)

DOWN
1 Small skullcap worn by Roman Catholic clergy (9)
2 Country whose capital is Windhoek (7)
3 Lively tune and dance in two-four time (9)
4 Large area of submerged marshland (9)
5 Durable, aromatic wood, used especially in furniture (9)
6 The Girl from ------, a 1964 bossa nova jazz song (7)
8 Tequila-based cocktail, often served in a salt-encrusted glass (9)
9 Complete set of clothing and accessories for a new baby (7)
10 Historical hereditary military governor of Japan (6)
16 Mineral of pegmatite deposits, often used as a gemstone (5)
18 Disease of cattle and sheep, marked by a distended abdomen (4-5)
20 Figure having three sides or faces (9)
21 Dorset cliffs, the highest point of England’s south coast (6,3)
22 Tropical American tree or shrub, having saponaceous fruit (9)
23 Spacious four-wheel-drive vehicle used as a pick-up truck (4,3)
24 Salutation used in drinking toasts (6)
25 The official language of Ethiopia (7)
26 London suburb in the Borough of Hillingdon (7)
27 Member of a people of south-east India and part of Sri Lanka (7)

The first correct entry drawn on Wednesday September 19 wins a copy of The Chambers Dictionary. Entries should be addressed to Polymath No 986, Weekend FT, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. The solution and winner’s name will be published on September 22.

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