

3D Crossword September 2020 Newsletter 9

This edition covers the following items:

1. Review of the August Crossword: this months winner was Edward Foreman from Croydon
2. August Extra Puzzle

1. Review of the August 3D Crossword

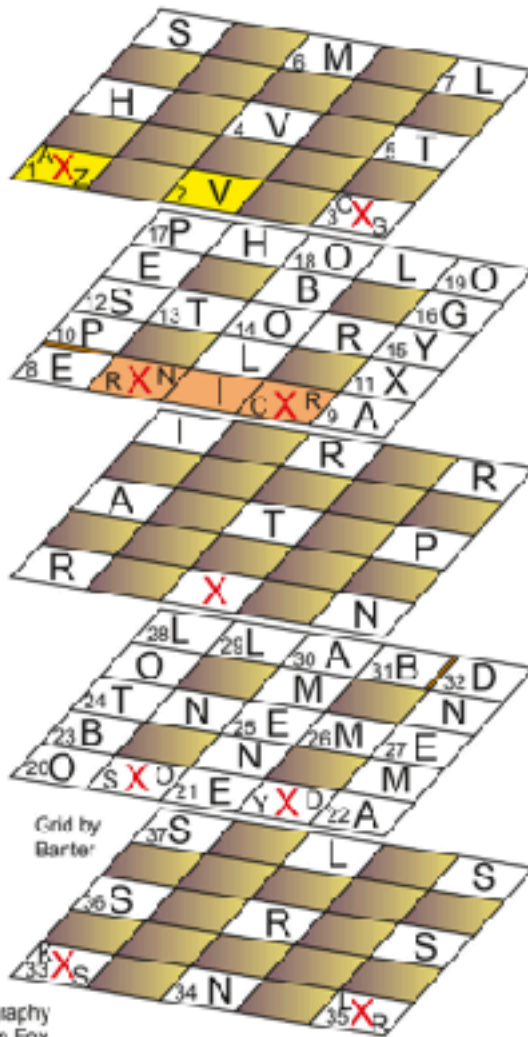
The crossword marks related 100th and 150th anniversaries (in August and February respectively). The initial rubric said solvers must make (1,14)s to eight cells with clashing. letters, leaving some non-words. Together with the same letter in the middle level in the grid, these (1,14)s will reveal a symbol of the theme. After these changes, groups of highlighted cells, each together with (1,14) and the (31ba, 28to, 20ac-2), will give the detail of the theme. Clues are presented in alphabetical order.

The rubric is initially impenetrable. Things, of course, normally become clearer as we progress. One thing that is clear is that we're looking for clashes in 8 cells. These are inevitably tricky and I find that keeping potential clashes in mind helps considerably. The clues solve fairly readily and the eight clashes emerge as anticipated.

How are we to resolve the clashes? 1,14 reads AMENDMENT so we have to suitably amend the clashes. They are all at the front of the grid and when joined form an X shape. Despite the obvious it took me some time and a careful reread of the instructions to pick up what is, in fact, clearly spelled out in the sentence: "Together with the **same letter** in the middle level of the grid...." That letter is an X so we are required to replace the clashes with X's. This leads to a large X made up of small X's as the symbol of the theme. Well an X can be symbolic of a number of things; so still a bit more work to be done.

The picture clue gives us 31ba, 28to, 20ac-2. I tried newt, eft, olm and salamander but, despite being aware of axolotls, didn't try that. Luckily with most of the letters in place I got to BALLOT BOS. Which had to mean BALLOT BOX. This erased any doubts that X resolves the clashes and that in this instance X and therefore the theme relates to the vote or voting. We're thus led to XV and XIX in the highlighted cells and the phrase: 15th and 19th amendments and the BALLOT BOX. The Xs in the 4th tier of the grid don't appear to add anything extra except to complete the large X. A bit of a workout on the internet reveals the two anniversaries as amendments to the US constitution. A thoroughly enjoyable and well crafted puzzle.

3D August 2020 Crossword Solution



Photography
Graham Fox



Tramp Banter

Marking the 100th anniversary of the 19th (XIX) Amendment to the US Constitution, giving the right of women to vote; and the 150th anniversary of the 15th (XV) Amendment to the US Constitution, giving the right of African-American men to vote.

Clashing letters are marked with X after AMENDMENT (1,14), giving BALLOT BOX at 31ba,28to,20ac-2 and a large X on the front of the grid.



Drawing by Frank Paul

BALLOT BOX

Anagram (smashed) of
BB + AXOLCTL

August 3D Clues and Explanations

Day	Solution	Direction – clue – count	Explanation	Notes
1	AMEND	22aw Recover from morning run out (5)	AM+END	
2	AYES	22ba-4 Votes for American, right? (4)	A+YES	Yes votes
3	BALL	31ba 2/3 of vote for party (4)	BALL[ot]	
4	BORE	23to,20up-3 Sink smells: rotten eggs initially (4)	BO+RE	
5	BOOED	23to,20ac-4 Holes in bottom? Showed disapproval (5)	OO in BED	
6	CANAL	3d Passage from Conservative that's very meticulous (5)	C+ANAL	
7	ENDS	27aw,32d Finishes and gets goals (4)	Double definition	
8	ERICA	8ac Plant rice around area (5)	RICE*+A	
9	GYM	16to-3 Place to train in Government: PM gutted and upset (3)	G+<M[a]Y	
10	KOREA	33up Land knockout jab, essentially on cuts (5)	KO}][A[b] around RE	
11	LAME	29ac-2,30to-3 Poor male is running (4)	MALE*	
12	LORDS	7d Large crosses, not primarily for senior politicians (5)	L+[f]ORDS	Political connection
13	MARINE	11to 9ba Jolly Republican getting into a state (6)	R in MAINE	
14	MENT	26ba Model chasing blokes did couple up once (4)	MEN+T	
15	MOB	6d-2,18to-2 A lot of people put tick next to box at the top (3)	MO+B[ox]	Thematic (mob rule)
16	MORAL	6d Good mark on test (5)	M+ORAL	
17	NENE	34up-2,21aw-3 Bird from Hawaii is born outside of nest, primarily (4)	NEE around N	
18	OBOLI	18to Money once obtained from old British oil supply (5)	O+B+OIL*	

19	PSEPHOLOGY	10aw,17ac,19to-3 Electoral analysis of lead in polls? Spreading gospel around house: is one after a vote? (10)	P[olls]+ (GOSPEL* around HO) +Y	Thematic
20	RANAS	35up Stood for election while being Indian princes (5)	RAN+AS	
21	SLIPS	37up Mistakes in bits of paper (5)	Double definition	Thematic (voting slips)
22	SLOTS	37up-2,28to-3,24d Introduction to sex with many positions (5)	S+LOTS	
23	STASH	36up Squirrel in tree by stone (5)	ST+ASH	
24	STORY	12ac Small Conservative lie (5)	S+TORY	Thematic clue (Tory)
25	TOTEM	13ac-2,14d-3,25ac-2 Add space for symbol (5)	TOT+EM	
26	TYPES	5d Sorts keys (5)	Double definition	
27	TYRO	5d-2,15ba-3 Learner hiding in utility room (4)	Hidden	
28	VIXEN	2d Rival accepting kiss, getting number for horrible woman (5)	VIE around X +N	
29	VOTER	4d Does one cross ballot paper against remaining, heartlessly? (5)	V+OT[h]ER	Thematic
30	ZEROS	1d Loves last letter by love god? (5)	Z+EROS	

3D August 2020 Crossword Solver's Comments

Not as tricky as some, but a good puzzle with a nice resolution -- and, as ever, educational. TH

Another great 3D puzzle. I very much liked the choice of theme, with the significant anniversaries of two Amendments, and the way the X was threaded through the layers. AB

Very nice how the clue surfaces gently hinted at the theme. When AV appeared in the yellow highlights we wondered whether voting systems were involved, but then we spotted where the clashes were and saw the link to the US Constitution. Thanks! N&SI

Excellent! The compiler must have had a premonition that 'Mrs America' was going to be on TV just now! RE

Nice 3D by Tramp marking the 15th and 19th Amendments. A scan of the grid would have shown 9 crosses in the shape of one larger cross which was an excellent feature by the setter. Many thanks Tramp. PC

15th and 19th Amendments, another odd subject! Liked the idea of the amendments, providing votes 'X's to form a large 'X' in the BALLOT BOX. Another enjoyable time-passer, not a difficult challenge. MN

Quite a lot of snaking around in the grid made for an interesting experience! I love Frank's axolotl. Reminds me of a poem:
I wandered lonely as a clod,
Just picking up old rags and bottles,
When onward on my way I plod,
I saw a host of axolotls;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
A sight to make a man's blood freeze.
(There are two more verses.)" HS

Interesting, and nicely constructed, although I am not a fan of extreme tortuousness in fitting the answers in, as with day 22 for example, and it may be a slight flaw that day 10 and day 30 reflect each other and involve misprinted letters so there is no real confirmation of the correct answers. Have no idea how the picture clue represents its answer. Enjoyed clues for days 9 and 28, but thought day 19 verged on the edge of tortuousness. Others perhaps a bit on the easy side for an August puzzle (days 1, 2, 20, 21, 22, etc). EF

Excellent puzzle! It took me far too long to realise I needed to put X in place of clashing letters, especially as I sussed the theme quite early on. The picture clue still baffles me. I've learnt a new word (day 19). RS

I had to go back pretty much to Square One (!) to work out what I had done here as I solved this one a couple of months ago (I went ahead as I enjoy these challenges so much). While I found most of the clues solvable with a bit of head-scratching, I was a bit confused by the preamble and I recall having a lot of trouble catching on to the "end game" I eventually gathered that the symbol formed was an X (I am not a visual learner) - and as I already had BALLOT BOX, I saw that it referred to filling in squares on electoral ballots against the candidate of one's choice. (Although our preferential system in Australia means that we usually use numbers.) I then twigged to the events both being AMENDMENT(s) to the US Constitution regarding voting rights. When I googled I found both the 15th Amendment in 1870 which gave suffrage to men of different races and colo(u)r, and then the 19th Amendment in 1920 which extended the vote to women. Thus I could make sense of the Roman numerals XV and XIX in the highlighted cells. Thanks to Tramp and Banter for a clever idea and grid. A timely puzzle given the Black Lives Matter movement. It is amazing that in the US women were only given the vote 100 years ago. We've come a long way baby, as they say. Interestingly Australia was much earlier - South Australia in 1894 and Western Australia in 1899 - with all states granting the franchise to women in 1902 for federal elections and all states legislating for the same right by 1911. To our shame though, it wasn't until 1962 (in my lifetime!) that all aboriginal Australians, the first inhabitants of our land, were allowed to vote. Extraordinary when they had been here for 60000 years. JA

The grid filled up nicely and the solution was 15th and 19th amendment - it took about three months to realise the solution was replace the double letters with X. RC

This was an amazing puzzle. I don't know how you could set about getting the whole grid and the amendments to tie up together and make the correct shape. MP

A good puzzle but the highlighted message on the second tier had me fooled. I hope my answer is correct. It took me some time to recognise the significance of the Constitutional Amendment numbers - interesting that it took the ladies fifty years longer than the negroes to get the vote HB

I needed to correct a couple of mis-identified clashes before I could see the X and get the theme - even then the dates weren't right for the Reform and Representation of the People Acts. However I soon realised the significance of the reference to AMENDMENT in the preamble, so a quick google confirmed the relevance of the highlighted cells, so kudos to Tramp for fitting it all in, even though it was necessary to resort to non-words. This time I did succeed in finding how Frank Paul's drawing works. as I eventually saw that the creature wasn't a newt but an AXOLOTL, so that the little balls were BB shot. and the hammer-blow was simply an anagram indicator. PM

Excellent puzzle with an interesting theme, well worked into the word AMENDMENT. Don't understand the significance of the clashes on level 4. JM (Just to make up the large X-Ed)

Excellent puzzle, enjoyed the fact that the different elements of the theme slotted into place as the solutions emerged GB

The voting theme came quite quickly but Amendment was not immediate. Even then once I'd come to all the solutions with last in Ayes I was assuming something around UK enfranchisement. Originally assumed 15 and 19 represented dates rather than the very clever link in to the 15th and 19th amendments. Discovery of the positioning of the large X was an aha moment too. Super puzzle! DM

I think this is a tremendous piece of ""construction"" as our appropriate overseas cousins, past and hopefully future (if not present) allies would have it. Using the front face of the cube for displaying the big X is a great idea; even if we are warned that some modified entries are non-words, very nearly all of them aren't. Clues knotty as you'd expect from Tramp, and a great grid without bars - and I don't really mind the odd snake. It would be nice to add some noble words about democracy, if the whole thing were not for the last five years or so - and from now until lying and mass brainwashing to win votes becomes properly punishable - being subverted by some pretty cynical people, not all of whom are about to get their comeuppance. AC

Well clued, so that part of solving fairly straightforward. Found the instructions a little difficult to follow re amendments and clashing letters. JP

I haven't checked the anniversaries but assume it's extension of the franchise. How are you supposed to deduce that x's are required to complete the extras? I had to research the dates to discover the amendments. MJ

Having solved the clues it took me an embarrassingly long time to see what to do next. Great puzzle. Thanks to Tramp. Thanks too for reminding me that unjust though our society might still be at least we have progressed somewhat. RR

These kind of puzzles are definitely not my cup of tea, but I think I may finally have cracked this one. SW

Hard enough to need a bit of thought but easy enough to complete . I recognised an axolotl in the picture and there were hints toward the theme in several clues. PD

Not sure that we like clashing letters! J&JH

Solving the clues for each day was the relatively easy part of this puzzle for me. Determining the anniversaries marked took some googling (they're not ones I keep in my head!) and then it still took a while for me to realise what to do with the cells with clashing letters. So, all in all, this one was a less satisfactory solve than usual for me but I hope I got there in the end. JB

Very tricky! A clever theme and additional puzzle elements but I didn't manage to crack it completely, the clashing cells proving a step too far for me. But very enjoyable. BS

Found it tricky to understand the instructions (until I'd guessed the theme) Loved the appearance of the X. A very intriguing and satisfying puzzle. DH

I found the Xs and the pattern across the clashing letters, which gave me the theme. Nicely arranged! But I am not at all sure what I should have in the highlighted boxes - the instruction is not clear. I thought at first the yellow ones made AV (Alternative Vote?), but then realised that the "wrong" letters need to be replaced with an X, which seems to leave me with two Roman numerals - XV and XIX.(orange). I await the explanation with interest... SB

I understand that I have at least one wrong answer but I'm submitting it anyway, with apologies. Actually, I found it really tough in parts, especially with the clashing letters. I think, by August, I'm really operating above my pay-scale! But it still gave me a lot of pleasure. JJ

We struggled with this for ages still not sure we cracked it JM

Marking the 15th and 19th amendments to the US constitution, enfranchising African American men and women respectively. An enjoyable puzzle. AM

Still don't quite 'get' it, but a clever concept! Maybe I'm just getting thicker! SF

Well that set me thinking. I like it. MM

Thanks for sorting out the entry form. Lovely design with the clashes forming a big X. Anniversaries worth celebrating - reminds us how slowly things change given the fact that the ERA is still not yet ratified. The instruction for the ""natural"" X from vixen fooled me because I had a clash in the cell right in the middle of the cube after initially writing in TOKEN instead of TOTEM then realised I had too many clashes. TR

3. August Extra Puzzle

The August extra puzzle is available on line at:

<http://www.calendarpuzzles.co.uk/calendar-puzzle/>

It's a jigsaw 3D with an interesting theme. Also, if you're having trouble with the putting the jigsaw together a set of Hints and Tips have been prepared by Nick and his team and, just this week, sent out to everyone on her email list by Nora

Alan Goddard