3D Crossword October 2020 Newsletter 10

This edition covers the following items:

1. Review of the September Crossword: this months winner was Bobbie Stainthorp of Keswick.
2. Review of the August Extra Puzzle

1. Review of the September 3D Crossword

The rubric said "Celebrating the 191st anniversary of a creation (17), which alludes to the thematic method of entry all solutions. All entries and answers are real words or proper nouns"

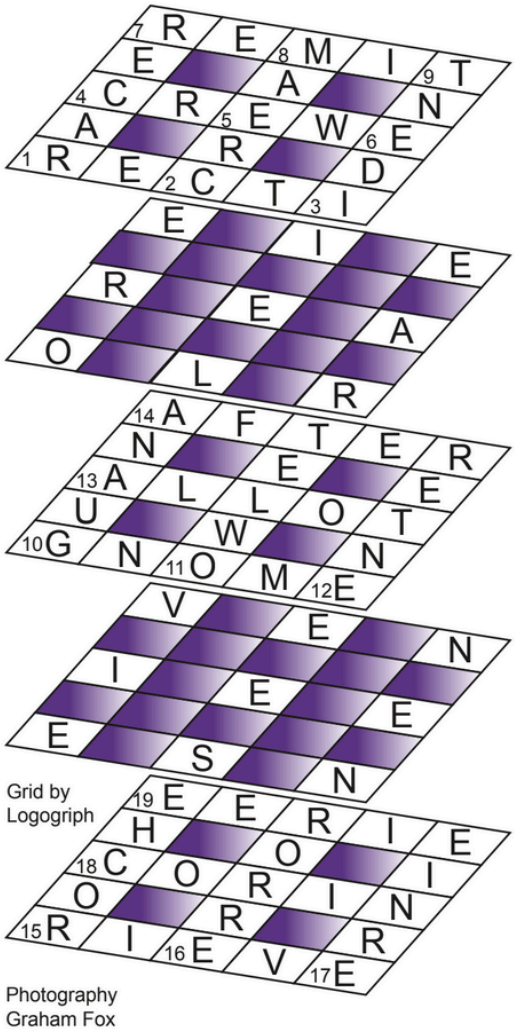
Given that the theme was given by Clue 17 and also by the picture clue I focussed my full attention on it right from the start. Now it's not often that I solve the picture clue before the written clue, and its not entirely true that I did so on this occasion. What I did do was get SLEEP going upwards from the picture clue and that helped solve the quite tricky written clue to give PEELERS. And I'm glad that I did because it was immediately apparent that we had to 'peel' the outer two letters of each solution in order make the grid entry. This, of course, made the rest of the solve significantly more straightforward.

Coincidentally Lynn, my wife, and I had been watching the ITV box set of Victoria at the time we solved this puzzle and the jousting between Victoria, Albert and Sir Robert Peel may well have helped subconsciously

From the comments I think that this puzzle was probably the toughest of the year so far. Without getting the method of entry early on it undoubtedly was. Even having done so it was a very tricky solve. I came across this quote from one of the original test solvers of the puzzle; *"This was one of the trickiest 3D puzzles I've ever solved, although I did get there in the end. For me, it was much more like an Azed puzzle than a Guardian one, with a lot of obscure and Scottish words that needed constructing and then confirming in Chambers. Things were made more difficult by the fact that it wasn't just within the solutions that there were obscure words (many presumably necessitated by the theme), but there were also some obscure definitions within the wordplay elements"*. Very much my thoughts too.

Eclogue is a team of two setters one of whom, Logogriph (aka Keith Williams), was part of the 3D Crossword team at the time this puzzle was set. Indeed Keith rose to the challenge of editing the 2020 3D Calendar when Eric fell ill in Autumn 2019.

3D September 2020 Crossword Solution



Grid by
Logogriph

Photography
Graham Fox

Eclogue
Logogriph

This puzzle celebrates the establishment of the Metropolitan Police of London in 1829 by Sir Robert Peel, which gave rise to the nickname for police constables of PEELERS.

All the 7-letter solutions have been 'peeled' of their first and last letters before entry into the grid.

PEELERS

ER (the TV show)
inside
SLEEP (upside-down)

Drawing by Frank Paul

3D September Crossword Clue Explanations

Day	Solution	Clue	Explanation
1	AGNOMEN	10ac Title acquired by silver ladies only?	AG + “NO MEN”
2	BALLOTS	13ac Votes cast by chance in switching plank	LOT in SLAB<
3	BEERIER	19ac Worker that is occupying limo, perhaps, getting more unsteady?	BEE + IE in RR
4	BIDENTS	3aw Young muttons in haunt of vice dividing coins?	DEN in BITS
5	CROCHET	15aw First tenor lost in crooked fancy intricate work	CRO(t)CHET
6	DERNIER	17aw Hiding old Indo-European writing, perhaps, is the ultimate for Louvre	DERN + IE + R
7	DROGERS	1d Doctor blithely goes round river vessels in Cuba, say	DR + R in GOES*
8	ECLOSED	2d City praise past journalist having come out of shell?	EC + LOS + ED
9	EREMITE	7ac Solitary king reversing tide historically at shore’s edge?	ER + TIME< + E
10	FIRENEW	3d Very green wood to plunge into water	FIR + ENEW
11	GREAVED	7d Caused distress to European in serious danger initially	E in GRAVE + D
12	GRIEVER	15ac One who pines eternally after George, King and Emperor	EVER after GRI
13	HOWLETS	11aw The way in which the past hinders young members of parliament?	HOW + LETS
14	IGUANAS	10aw South African monitors return of huntsmen one month in advance	(SAN + AUG before I)<
15	NEATENS	6d Reds in Glasgow, pure nuts?	NEAT + ENS
16	ORECTIC	1ac Appetite’s what’s at the heart of directions in killer whale	(dir)ECTI(ons) in ORC
17	PEELERS	5d Coppers finding evasive character in a second	EEL in PER + S
18	SCORING	18ac Cornet being overwhelmed by pipe in orchestration	COR in SING
19	SCRAICH	4d With bows rising, Macbeth’s to augment scratchy noise in Inverness	ARCS< + ICH
20	SCREAMS	2aw Goes away taking in Spain for laughs	E in SCRAMS
21	SCREWED	4ac Wife in a booze-up once, getting tipsy	W in SCREED

22	SMITERS	8d Special American joints for killers, maybe	S + MITERS
23	STERNER	9d Senior Service involved in con gets more rigorous	RN in STEER
24	TERRORS	16aw Dreads chess finale after bishop takes knight in the general course	RR for N in TENOR + S
25	TRACERY	1aw Windows' enhancement to run in test	RACE in TRY
26	VENTERS	12aw Mothers in law against sons having to appear on stage	ENTER in V + S
27	WAFTERS	14ac Those who sail perhaps, following in waves	F in WATERS

3D September 2020 Crossword Solver's Comments

Tricky, but good fun. I wasn't clear whether to enter the answers before or after treatment, so I may be back to the web page! AH

Enjoyed 3D by Eclogue very much. My favourite clues were to Neatens, Terrors and Venters. Very clever how the setter managed real words after answers were 'peeled'! Many thanks. PC

So imaginative. I can feel the dementia being held at bay! RE

Enjoyed this cleverly constructed puzzle. Solvers became the thematic PEELERS, removing first and last letter from each answer before entry. Nice one.👌 MN

A very tough puzzle. I barked up the wrong tree before I realised the (17) in the directions referred to Day 17's answer rather than a 17 letter "creation". So I toyed with THE PIANO ACCORDIAN, which google told me dated back to 1829, thinking it might imply that I had to concertina the seven-letter solutions. A fellow puzzler helped me to look again at PEELERS, which made me see that I had to "peel" off the beginnings and ends of the solutions to fit the five letter words into the grid. I found it all a bit of a hard slog to tell you the truth, but I still appreciated the cleverness of Eclogue and Logogriph. JA

This was a rather challenging puzzle that took me longer than any other to date except for the August Extra. With a dictionary to hand to look up and check all the more obscure words and meanings, though, I got through this steadily. I enjoyed the clues. There were some interesting 'creations' in 1829, of which the typewriter and the concertina seemed to have no relevance, but the Metropolitan Police matched PEELERS perfectly. Thanks to Eclogue and Logogriph AB

The missing heads and tails made this a challenge to solve and must have been very difficult to set. We enjoyed the puzzle very much but have yet to work out what the 191st anniversary is. Something to do with gooseberries? JM

A first read through gave me only a couple of answers, which didn't bode well. Rereading the instruction saying that entries were also words helped a great deal. I can't make anything of 24 but TERRORS seems to be the only thing that fits. 14 construction seems odd. MJ

We were stuck on day 15 for quite a while....we feared we would never get to the solution! Scottish slang is not our best suit! HK

We found this to be the trickiest puzzle so far in this year's calendar. We spotted quite early that the answers contained 5-letter words, so guessed the method of entry before getting Peelers. One or two of the early answers were new to us (looking at you Bidents and Drogers). This was a tour de force of construction ensuring that every entry fitted the pattern. Thanks for the challenge! N&SI

Beautifully intricate - this must have been harder to compile than to solve! Most enjoyable. EF

This was one of the hardest puzzles ever for me. There were some very obscure words. However I enjoyed it as usual and the novel idea of having words within words. MP

Harder than usual! I got the cartoon of ER straight away and didn't take long to start peeling the answers. What a great bit of construction! I had real trouble with day 10 and don't see how I got the answer but my entry seems OK. PD

Bloomin' 'eck. This was hard. So many words I didn't know, both before and after treatment. A very, very clever piece of construction but I had to have a lie down for a few days after doing it. HS

Great puzzle - really enjoyed it. BS
After two or three reads only had a couple! Long, slow burn! Seemed clear from first few entries that answers had to lose first and last, but did not get 17 for long time! Not sure I have correct 15 either. Overall an enjoyable challenge. DM

I definitely needed the Hints and Tips to get anywhere near completing this one! Identifying the theme didn’t lead to a spurt of other answers, as it usually does, and there were a lot of obscure words! JB

Although I deduced the need to remove the first and last letters of my solution to enter it into the grid after only a few clues had been solved, it was only when I got the answer to day 17 that the penny dropped. (I still can't make anything of Frank Paul's drawing as I don't know who the people shown are, and needed Google to confirm the date for the Peelers) PM

There is absolutely no way the answers I am about to give in the boxes above are all correct. The last half-dozen or so have been made to fit the alphabetic nature of the answers and tentatively the requirement that the middle 5 letters form a word. Any resemblance to the real answers to the clues is purely coincidental. This has got to be one of the hardest 3D puzzles I have attempted. It was the arcane clueing that did for me. The concept is spectacular cramming 27 words into a tight 5x5x5 cube. TR

Very complex, and hard clues ML

After two or three reads only had a couple! Long, slow burn! Seemed clear from first few entries that answers had to lose first and last, but did not get 17 for long time! Not sure I have correct 15 either or 11. Overall an enjoyable challenge. DM

What an incredible grid construction! How long did it take to collect a set of word pairs like that??!? Solving was super tough with the (necessarily) obscure words. We had given up mid-month and only finished thanks to a little help and enthusiasm from a fellow solver. Looking forwards to the return of the first and last letters in October.” J&JH

That was a tricky one! Very clever theme and idea. AR

191st anniversary of Met police, originally Peelers after Robert Peel. Apart from the peeling method to arrive at the solution, I was surprised there were no other ‘copper’ links. A completely different concept this time, thank you. SF

A fun solve. Thanks Eclogue! RR

I really struggled with this one and almost did not send it in at all because I am so doubtful about some of the answers, and two of them are pure guesses as I could not solve the clues. So I am right up against the deadline! And I am pretty certain some are wrong, but did not want to opt out of the attempt. I got the principle of the method very quickly, having worked out the anniversary and appreciated the clever clue. I enjoyed solving it at first, but some words are really pushing the boundaries of what is fair, I felt - and some strange definitions. I look forward to seeing the solutions! SB

3. August Extra Puzzle

My original intention was to include the review of the August extra puzzle in this edition of the Newsletter. However having just returned from our long, covid-19 enforced, sojourn in Australia on 2nd October I have struggled to fully bounce back from jet lag and felt it better to to finish and publish the September 3D crossword feedback before tackling the feedback on the August extra puzzle. I will issue a supplementary edition of the Newsletter later in the month.

Alan Goddard