

### 3D Crossword October 2018 Newsletter

This months newsletter covers the following agenda:

1. Review of the October 3D crossword
2. Advance notice of the 2018 Tie-Breaker competition
3. Update on progress with the 'Future of the 3D Crossword Initiative'
4. Notice on sales of the 2019 virtual 3D Crossword Calendar
5. Important note on communication

#### 1. Review of the October 3D crossword

October puzzle set by Eclogue; grid by Logograph

The puzzle celebrates the 58th anniversary of a classic film. Answers include both film's stars and the composer of its score. The origin of the film can also be found by combining a further answer with the number of cells that must contain two letters. This months winner was Catherine Hambling of Fortitude Valley, Australia. Congratulations Catherine.

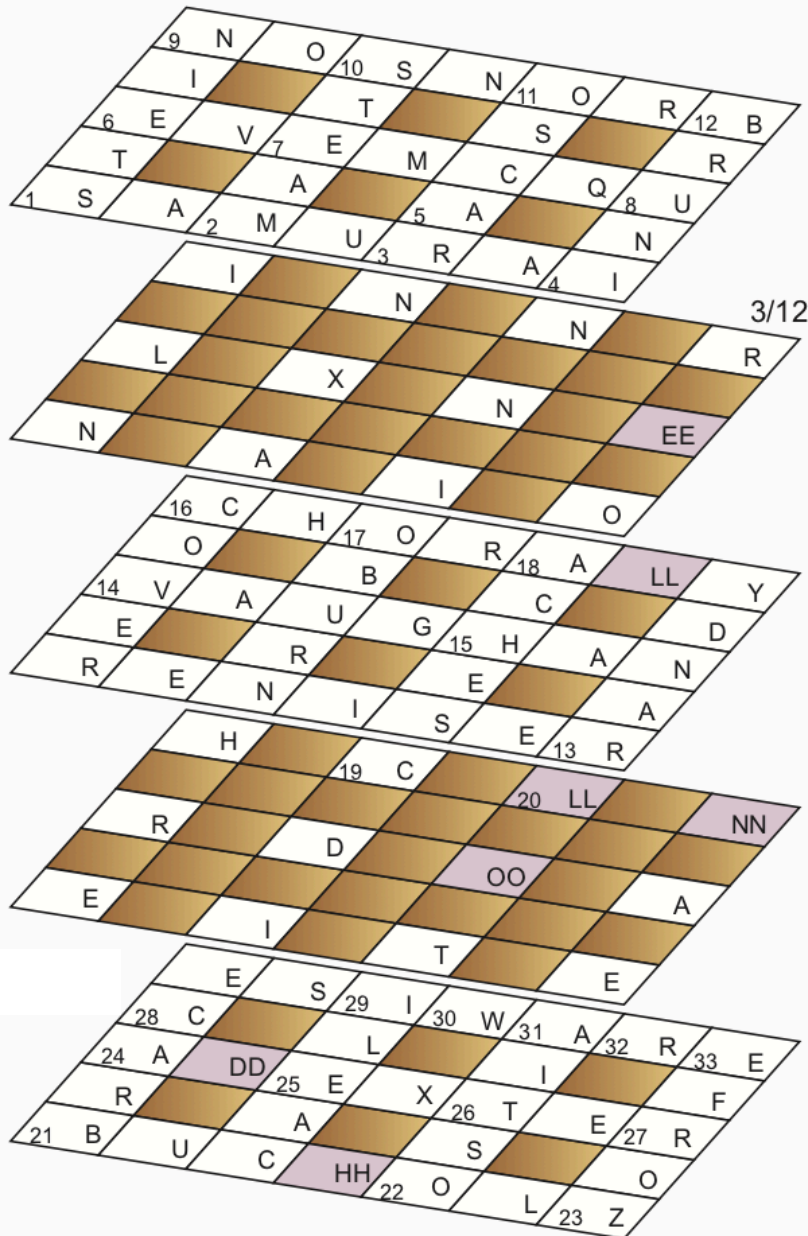
There is quite a lot to say about the October puzzle. The rubric kindly told us that a number of cells contained two letters and the likelihood was that these would be the pink squares. I thought let us start by trying to confirm this. The only flaw in this approach was that most of the clues involving pink squares were quite difficult. Eventually I got HOOTER for clue 15 and confirmed that two O's fitted in a pink square. So seven will probably feature in the title. Another feature was the high proportion of 'snakes' (clues that coil round corners), thirteen in total and just over one third of all clues. Not all setters and solvers are fond of snakes. They do however add to flexibility in grid construction and in this instance proved invaluable in facilitating the inclusion of all seven of the film's stars. Certainly Logograph was very highly commended for it in the tie-break competition. Eric's view is that we are a broad church and that in the final analysis it is the solvers that decide. As the comments we received for this puzzle show most solvers were very happy with the crossword then, at least for the time being, snakes are not an endangered species! One last feature of the crossword that I would like to comment on were the number of obscure solutions and elements of wordplay. Examples were ACHES (shakespearian aitch), WISE (old manner), WARE (Scots to use up & seaweed), CLY (to lift), ILEIC (Trojan). All of these added to the pleasure of the solve; equally all would be on the tough side for a daily cryptic but seem entirely appropriate in the 3D setting where time and access to reference books are both available. And the word to link with the number seven to identify the film's origin was samurai leading us from the 7 Samurai to the Magnificent 7.



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Nothing cryptic in the background photograph by Graham Fox. However the 7 magnificent pumpkins serving as backdrop to the clues gave an extremely obscure hint.

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**October  
Solution;  
Set by  
Eclogue  
Grid by  
Logograph**

SOLUTION		Direction SPACE Clue SPACE Enumeration	Explanation	Notes
ACHES	1	18to The Bard's letters are long and small (5)	ACHE + S	
ARISTO	2	5to-2,3d Rosita worked for nob (6)	ROSITA*	
BERNSTEIN	3	21up,1aw Topping Western orchestrated and in the can? He did it (9)	(W)ESTERN* in BIN; &Lit = BERNSTEIN	Elmer BERNSTEIN - composer of the film score
BRACE	4	21aw Pair to get ready to strengthen bracket (5)	Four meanings	

BRAD DEXTER	5	21aw-3,24ac Nail right regular tough guy (4,6)	BRAD + DEXTER	BRAD DEXTER - one of the SEVEN. Noted for playing tough-guy roles
BRONSON	6	12ba Winner's lead, British and conversely, Norwegian disciple (7)	B + NOR< + SON	Charles BRONSON - one of the SEVEN. Star of several Michael Winner films
BRUNI	7	12to Singer/songwriter returned from Turin urban environment (5)	Hidden<; TurIN URBan	Ref: Carla BRUNI
BRYNNER	8	12d,33ba-2 Byrne's strange name included right noted baldy (7)	(BYRNE + N)* + R	Yul BRYNNER - leader of the SEVEN. Made his shaven head his trademark
BUCHHOLZ	9	21ac German player very hard on ball in club flourishing with unknown (8)	HH + O in CLUB* + Z	Horst BUCHHOLZ - one of the SEVEN
CARVER	10	28to-2,24up-3,14to Social worker takes against sculptor (6)	V in CARER	
CHORALLY	11	16ac With hour's investment, lift as a choir (8)	HORAL in CLY	
COBURN	12	19up-2,17to Action man, leader with a cigarette (6)	CO + BURN	James COBURN - one of the SEVEN. Played many action roles
COVER	13	16to Chap maybe reading report on news story (5)	COVE + R	
ELI WALLACH	14	25aw,29ac-3,31up-3,18to-3 In a frenzy, we call "Hail" for this performer (3,7)	(WE CALL HAIL)*	ELI WALLACH - who played Calvera, the lead bandit in the film
ELVER	15	6d-3,14to Revel in cooking young fish (5)	REVEL*	
EXUDE	16	7d Discharge executive due to fiddle (5)	EX + DUE*	
HNC	17	15up Further education qualification in Honduras college (3)	HN + C	Higher National Certificate

HOOTER	18	15d,26ac Gun drops second owl? (6)	(S)HOOTER	
ICONS	19	29up Admired ones returning abrupt kiss over the Côte d'Ivoire (5)	(SNO[G] + CI)<	
ILEAC	20	29to Sounds like Trojan's describing guts (5)	Homophone; ILIAC/ILEAC	
LLANO	21	20up People mostly within see plain (5)	LAN(D) in LO	
MANIC	22	2d Very busy servant in charge (5)	MAN + IC	
NICHE	23	9d Kind taking hour for position within community (5)	H in NICE	
OSCAR	24	11to Award Ohio a mark (5)	O + SCAR	
OSTIA	25	22aw Circling small islands round abandoned river mouths (5)	(AITS + O)<	
RANDY	26	13aw Violent beggar butting in hither and yon (5)	Hidden; hitheR AND Yon	
RANEE	27	27up-4 Queen occasionally selected great-nieces (5)	Alternate letters; R A N E E	
REFROZE	28	32ac,33to,23up-2 Hardened once more when judge closed a session, it's said (7)	REF + homophone ROSE/ROZE	
RESINER	29	13ba One tapping trees may err badly with base sin (7)	(ERR + E + SIN)*	A user of resins
SAMURAI	30	1ac Book uncovered pure, excellent old Asian military retainer (7)	SAM + (p)UR(e) + AI	The Seven SAMURAI on which the Magnificent Seven is based
STEAM	31	10to Cysteamine's latent power (5)	Hidden; cySTEAMine	
STEVE MCQUEEN	32	1aw-3,6ac,8d-3 Sequence MTV broadcast including English 'King of Cool' (5,7)	(SEQUENCE MTV + E)*	STEVE MCQUEEN - One of the SEVEN. Nicknamed 'The King of Cool'

VAUGHAN	33	14ac Former cricketer, say, is very hard in a university team when cut (7)	V + H in + A + U + GAN(G)	E.g. Michael Vaughan, ex-England Cricket captain
VAUGHN	34	14ac-5,15up-2 Solo player showing disgust in advantage (6)	UGH in VAN	Robert VAUGHN - one of the SEVEN. Played Napoleon Solo in 'The Man from U.N.C.L.E.'
WARE	35	30ac Orkney's to use up springtime seaweed (4)	Three meanings	
WISE	36	30ba We'll take lives in the old manner (4)	IS in WE	
ZERO IN	37	23up,4aw-2 Cipher at work provides focus (4,2)	ZERO + IN	

### Comments From Solvers

A great film - and a great crossword. HB

Taxing, but very enjoyable as usual. CH

An interesting puzzle to solve, though I found the double letters device a bit disconcerting. JA

I enjoyed solving the clues - but I struggled hugely with the grid! For some reason, it took me ages to realise that the pink squares contained double letters, and felt very silly when I eventually understood! DS

A great film and a regular pub quiz question along with naming the seven dwarves. Thanks for a great puzzle. SW

A very entertaining puzzle, with the double letters an original touch, though I confess to having to look up some of the actors -- and the recent remake was nowhere near as good as the original. I still am not clear how 11 ,13 and 35 parse, but am hoping answers are correct, since I see no other plausible alternatives! MS

What a great device for fitting longer words into the grid. Also impressive was getting a complete set of actors plus the composer in there. All that and only three letters (J,K,P) short of a pangram. JT (These thoughts are reflected in my review above Ed)

A lovely one thank you, but not too taxing. I like the way the actor's names are clued, especially McQueen. And possibly my favourite photograph, though April runs it close. AGC

For some reason I had a mental block on the last clue and finally got it - WISE. How fitting! JN

My favourite film and I would take the theme music to my desert island too. No real problems with the grid fill and all fell into place. PD

This months was quite approachable and, once we had guessed the film, achievable. We laughed at 'gun drops second owl'. JH

I got the theme quite quickly this month and even remembered most of the actors though its years since I saw the film. MJ

On reading the blurb first thought was James Bond with 7 double letters needed, but pretty sure not 1960. So with that gone the magnificent 7 came to mind, which I know was based on the Japanese film, seen many years ago. A clever puzzle even containing the villain. DM

Thank you Eclogue and Logogriph. I enjoyed solving this puzzle and was relieved to find a number of straightforward clues. There bare still a few I can't parse so fingers crossed JB

I think Logogriph gave Eclogue and solvers a hard time with so many solutions changing direction. SC

The Magnificent 7 theme came easily enough. As did the double-letter in one cell manoeuvre. I was left at the end trying to make an anagram of HELLNOD or even HHEELLLLNNNOODD but could make nothing sensible. All became clear when I re-read the rubric. The film and most of the actors were familiar enough, except Buchholz, and the spelling of Vaughn/Vaughan, had to be checked. Still not clear about how "The Bard's letters" make ACHES, but surely wordplay ACHE (long) + S[mall] can't be anything else. I think I understood "Orkney's ... springtime seaweed" after looking up something at some time - I made a note next to it: "OK. Tang & Ware" But for the life of me I cannot remember what it is now. TR

Thoroughly enjoyable and such fun ... so impressive to include all those starry names, and the double letter cells were very clever! The film The Magnificent Seven was based on Seven Samurai ... and I remember it well. JR

Thank you for a terrific crossword, completed at the eleventh hour with help from my son. The Magnificent Seven is rather out of my comfort zone, so it's taken quite a lot of Googling. JJ

Ace puzzle. The double letter idea was clever. Some superb clues for the film's personnel. The best one was Bernstein. MLJ

Really enjoyed this one - not too hard, not too easy and the double letters provided extra interest. GB

I've enjoyed solving this challenge and learnt a lot along the way as always. SF

A joly god puzzle and an oportune coment on posible por spelings of Holywod clasics. GGSS

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## 2. Advance Notice of Tie-break Competition 2018

### 2.1 BBC CiNA 3D Crosswords World Champion 2018

Arrangements for the Tie-break Competition 2018 will be the same as in previous years. Solvers with 12 correct entries are set the task of designing a 3D grid (for 2020) and to write a clue for one of the solutions. If you should decide to clue the entire grid, please nominate one clue for Tie-break entry. Deadline for entries - midnight January 2019.

Tie-break grids provide a rich spawning pool for future calendar puzzles particularly where the number of solutions does not exceed 42, although we can be flexible with just one or two longer puzzles.

Suitability for development into a monthly puzzle in a calendar is not a criterion in the Tie-break.

I will provide full notes together with examples for guidance in a later, special Tie-Break November Newsletter.

## 2.2 The Ray Parry-Morris Trophy

This competition runs alongside the Tie-Break and also looks to encourage any solver excluded from the Tie-break (late joiner, a few too many errors, position in project team), to exercise their grid design skills. Everyone and anyone can enter the RPM Trophy Competition to design a 3D grid. This does not involve crossword clues.

As a result of these competitions we now have quite a grid design 'school' and more than enough creativity to continue producing 3D crosswords for years to come. This is fantastic! We would love even more people to join in.

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## 3. Update on progress with the 'Future of the 3D Crossword Initiative'

You will recollect that in last month's newsletter Eric included a comprehensive update on the project to secure the future of 3D crosswords. The completion of 2018 and arrangements for the 2019 series are secure. Below is a table setting out who is currently involved in the 3D Project

Chief Examiner – Nora Boswell	nora.boswell@btinternet.com
Crossword Editor – Ben Lovering	<a href="mailto:gnirevol@gmail.com">gnirevol@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter Editor -Alan Goddard	alangoddard100@gmail.com
Adam Saille Hints & Tips	adam.saille@tiscali.co.uk
Project Director Currently Eric Westbrook	ericwestbrook@btinternet.com
Website Manager Jos Tait	jostait@gmail.com

To carry the project forward into 2020 We still need:

- A Calendar Editor to be responsible for producing a 32 page puzzle calendar of twelve 3D crosswords for 2020. Software provided.
- A Page Editor who will be responsible to the Calendar Editor to assist in the setting out of calendar pages on computer. Software and training provided.



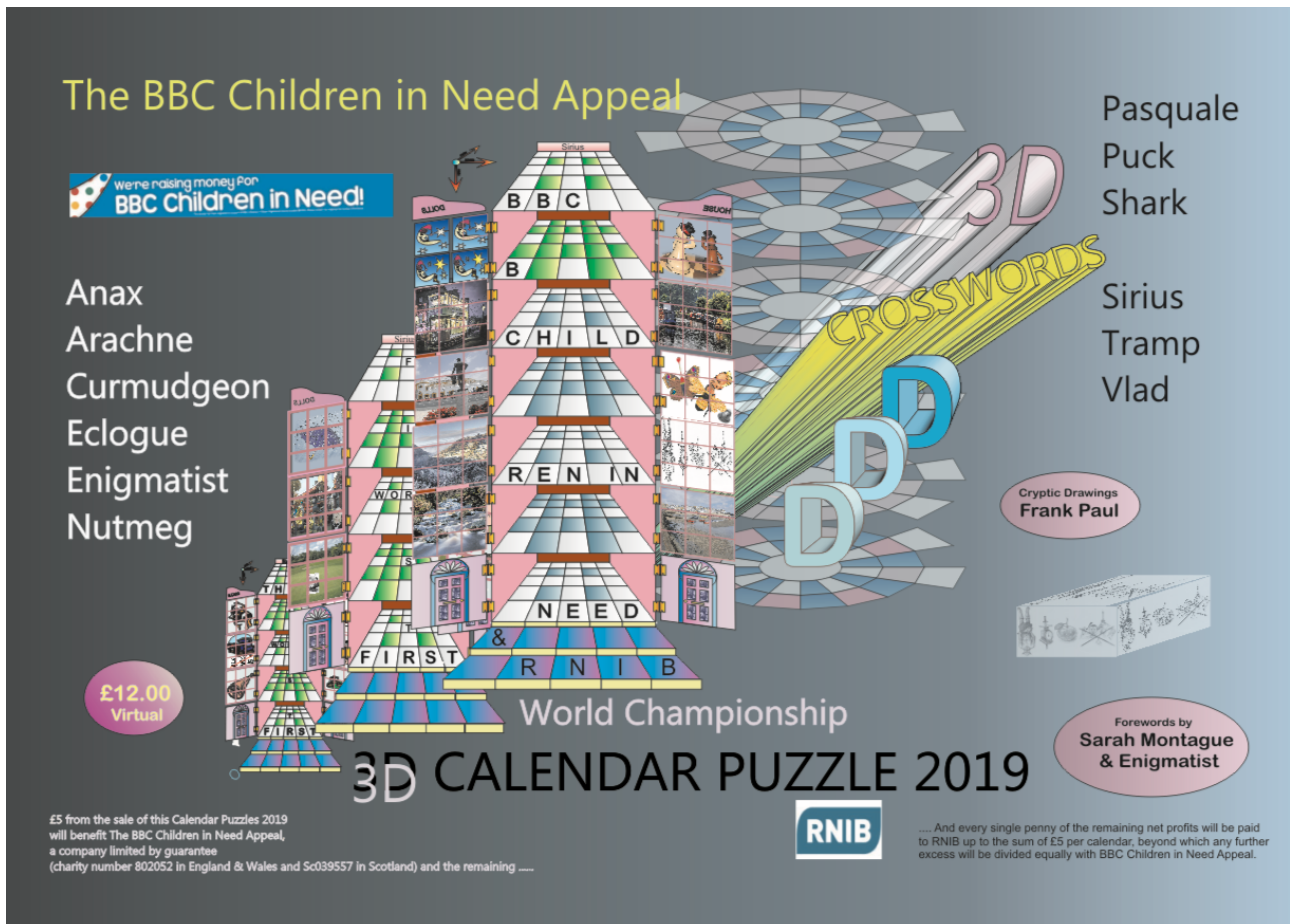
- A (Deputy) Project Director who will oversight of all aspects of the project. She/he can 'sit next to Nellie' (Sirius) or just take over.

Please email Sirius to arrange to discuss any of the above.

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#### 4. Notice on sales of the 2019 virtual 3D Crossword Calendar

Here is the cover of the the 2019 calendar:



The 2019 calendar is now available for purchase from the 3D calendar website:  
<http://www.calendarpuzzles.co.uk/> . The wording on the website is:

#### **The BBC CiNA (Children in Need Appeal) 3D Crosswords World Championship 2019:**

The BBC CiNA 3D Crosswords World Championship consists of 12 three-dimensional crosswords with clues set by some of the best UK compilers, on the frame of a calendar. Each day has a clue. Each month has a grid to complete in 12 prize competitions. The World Champion will solve all 12 puzzles and win a tie-break requiring skill and imagination.

Entry to the World Championship or just to have some fun is secured by paying £12.00 for the virtual calendar download.



This can be done via the secure on-line PayPal facility on the website which accepts major credit cards or by sending a cheque payable to '3D Crosswords Ltd' to 'Calendar Puzzles 2019, PO Box 4823, Coventry CV6 9FN. Our thanks are due to Jos Tate for updating the website to make it ready to accept orders for the virtual calendar.

Remember for 2019 there will only be a virtual calendar. Our plan is that it will be downloadable as a full package including cover, forewords, 3D puzzle descriptions, the puzzles, acknowledgements etc. Solver's could then print it if they wished. Puzzles will also be available for download month by month. However negotiations with webhost have still to be finalised. So at this point in time visit the website, pay your £12 and the calendar and puzzles will be available for download in the near future.

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## **5. Important note on communication**

Please use the [sirius@calendarpuzzles.co.uk](mailto:sirius@calendarpuzzles.co.uk) email address for all email entries, comments on puzzles and queries. You will now also be receiving emails including the Newsletter from [calendarpuzzles@btinternet.com](mailto:calendarpuzzles@btinternet.com) which we mainly use for sending out information about all matters 3D that we think you will want to hear about. If you haven't received any of these emails, please let us know using the [sirius@calendarpuzzles.co.uk](mailto:sirius@calendarpuzzles.co.uk) email address

We are shortly planning to cease the Coventry PO Box. It is relatively costly for the limited use that it gets. As such submissions should no longer be sent to the Coventry PO Box. From now on if you are unable to use the email address above they should be sent to Calendar Puzzles, 68 West Lane, Thornton, BD13 3JB. The PO Box will however be retained for a while into the New Year to assist in sales of the 2019 calendar.

Alan Goddard