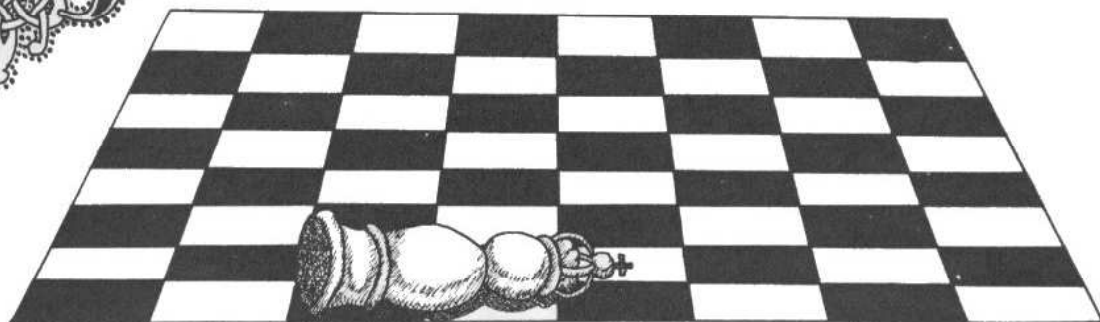


ARMCHAIR

CREASURE

PUNT 1989-90

ANSWERS



As Philip Marlowe says:

"A prize specimen of the irresistible force meeting the immovable object; a battle without armour, a war without blood and as elaborate a waste of human intelligence as you could find anywhere outside an advertising agency".

Could he mean the Armchair Treasure Hunt, perhaps? Well no - actually he was referring to the game of chess. Chess, eh? We'll be coming to that. But first...

THE ANSWERS

SECTION A

1. Which early aviator had an island named after him?

This was **Icarus**, son of Daedalus, who pranged after his wings suffered wax fatigue in 1100 BC. He resumed contact with the world near the island of Ikaria, just west of Samos, which was named after him. [21]

2. Who first introduced tobacco into France?

This was Jean **Nicot**, who sent samples of the weed to Catherine de Medici, and brought some back to France. He also generously gave his name to nicotine. What's that Jean? You roll it up, stick it in your mouth and set fire to it? [18]

3. What is the next in this series: 1843, 2348, 2682, 3236?

The answer is **3505**. The figures are the Logica staff numbers over the last four years, according to the Annual Report. 3505 is the predicted number for 1989. [36]

4. Who painted "Apoplectic Cardinals Harvesting Tomatoes by the Red Sea"?

This was **Alphonse Allais**, the French wit who entertained Paris at the turn of the century. The painting was submitted to the 'Salon de Incohérents' in 1890 and, as you would expect, it was a simple canvas, covered in a single shade of red. It was part of a series which also included "Negroes Fighting in a Cave by Night" and "Anaemic Young Girls Going to their First Communion in a Blizzard". Examples of Allais' elegant and witty writing can be found in "A Wolf in Frog's Clothing", edited by Miles Kington. [40]

5. By how much are 1988 £1 coins more valuable than 1983 £1 coins?

1,988 objects are five more than 1,983 similar objects so the answer is **£5**. An obvious trick question I'd have thought but several people suggested that there were no £1 coins in 1983 (but I have one here...) and there were two confident suggestions of 25p (why?). [19]

6. Who campaigned for the US presidency under the slogan "You can't beat somebody with nobody"?

This was **Theodore Roosevelt** in the 1904 campaign, the nobody in question being Alton B Parker. [32]

7. Which singer was once a goalkeeper for Real Madrid?

Julio Iglesias is the 'singer' in question. Someone guessed at Placido Domingo, who, indeed, would be very difficult to curve a ball around. [10]

8. What is the main use of an alkyl benzene sulphonate?

These are soapless **detergents**, such as are used in washing-up liquid. [16]

SECTION B

1. Which club are the current Olympic cricket champions.

Cricket has only been played in the Olympics once, in 1900. Even then, there was only one game, between a Paris XI and England, who were represented by the **Devon County Wanderers**. Scores were England 117 and 145-5 dec., France 73 and 26. The French team included such Gallic-sounding players as Henry Terry, W T Attrill and A McEvoy. [27]

2. Which sweet wine is made from grapes grown on the slopes of Vesuvius.

This is **Lachryma Christi**, the 'tears of Christ'. Hugh Johnson says "Famous but frankly ordinary wines in great variety". [9]

3. In which language is this palindrome:

Sane volema kara rara kamelo venas?

This is in the international language **Esperanto** and means 'A healthily wishful dear rare camel is coming'. Not, it must be admitted, a phrase in everyday use for most of us. [21]

4. If $a^b \times c^d = abcd$, where a, b, c, d are single-digit integers, then what is the value of the four-digit number $abcd$?

Quite simply, 2592 [12]

5. What was the first man-made artifact to break the sound barrier?

This was undoubtedly the **whip**. When a whip is cracked, the sound you hear is caused by the end breaking the sound barrier. [16]

6. Whose picture decorated the atom bomb dropped on Bikini.

This was Rita **Hayworth**. [31]

7. What was Florence Nightingale's favourite pet?

This was an **owl**, called Athena, which she used to carry in her pocket. [29]

8. Which English word contains the letter-sequence GNT?

The word I was thinking of was **sovereignty**, or its plural, **sovereignities**. However, I did accept the answer of 'Paignton' - as someone said, "it's a word!". [9]

SECTION C

1. What is the next line in the song which begins:
"E ringa pakia waewae tahahia"?

The song is the "Haka", which is what the New Zealand rugby players use to fire themselves up before their games. All together now...

E ringa pakia waewae tahahia
E ringa nei haki
E ringa e ringa e torona kei waho motonu
Kamate! Kamate!
Kaora, Kaora
Tenei te tangata puhuruhuru
Kana e tiki rai whaka whiti te ra
A hupane! A hupane!
Hupane, kopane, whiti te ra.

Most people's answer just repeated the line from the question. I have taken this to be a guess, but if your source says that the first line really is repeated then my apologies. I took these words from the normally reliable "Guinness Book of Rugby Facts and Feats". [39]

2. What is the least integer which cannot be named in fewer than 25 English syllables?

At first sight, the answer appears to be 1,777,777. But wait a moment - the phrase "the least integer that cannot be named in fewer than 25 English syllables" is only 22 syllables and seems to name the same number. This is Berry's Paradox, first published by Bertrand Russell in 1908. Fortunately, I told you to ignore this in the introduction to the quiz. Also accepted was the answer of 1,177,777 - it all depends how many syllables you put in 'million', although it is 2 according to Chambers. [13]

3. What did Kitty Fisher do with the 50 pound note given to her by the Duke of York.

Lucy Locket and Kitty Fisher were two famous ... er ... courtesans of the 1750's, immortalised in the nursery rhyme. Edward, the Duke of York gave Fisher the 50 pound note following (it says here) a night of passion. Unfortunately her fee was 100 pounds, so, as a gesture of contempt, she ate it in a sandwich. [28]

4. What sort of creature is a caprimulgus?

The word means 'goat-milker' or goatsucker. The **nightjar** is given this name because it was (wrongly) believed to feed by sucking the udders of goats. The caprimulginae are the nightjar family, *Caprimulgus Europaeus* being the common nightjar. Answers of 'bird' were accepted. [15]

5. Who sculpted the statue of Eleanor Rigby in Liverpool?

This was the multi-talented Tommy **Steele**, who was also responsible for the statue of Chaplin in Leicester Square. [25]

6. Which boxer's real name was Arnold Cream?

This was 'Jersey' Joe **Walcott**, world heavyweight champion from July 1951 until he lost to Rocky Marciano in September 1952. Walcott was the oldest person ever to hold the heavyweight title, which he won at the age of 37. [18]

7. From which work did Aldous Huxley take his book title "Antic Hay".

This was **Edward II** by Christopher Marlowe.

"My men like satyrs grazing on the lawns
Shall with their goat-feet dance an antic hay" (I i 59) [10]

8. What name is given to a chart showing various shades of grey, against which the density of smoke can be measured?

This is the **Ringelmann Chart** [28]

SECTION D

1. Which book begins "They came through on the hot line at about half past two in the afternoon"?

This is the **Ipcress File** by Len Deighton - the film was on TV over Christmas by some strange coincidence. [29]

2. Who, after the Vice-President is next in line for the US presidency?

This is the **Speaker of the House of Representatives** [11]

3. A bag contains a counter that has an equal chance of being either black or white. A white counter is then dropped into the bag, and the bag shaken. Then a counter is drawn from the bag and found to be white. What is the percentage chance of the remaining counter being white?

Look at the situation once the second counter has been dropped into the bag. It contains either two white counters (W1, W2) or a white counter and a black counter (W3, B1). If you draw a counter out then the one in the bag could be any one of four counters (ie: W1, W2, W3 or B1). But we know it cannot be W3 (or it would have been a black one we pulled out). So the one in the bag is W1, W2 or B1. Hence the chances of it being white are two to one or **66.666%**. Also accepted was "two thirds". [21]

4. Whose dream led to a poem about an ancient mariner?

Yes, the poem was the "Ancient Mariner" by Coleridge, but the dreamer was not the poet himself, as it was for "Xanadu", which was written after an opium-induced slumber. "The Ancient Mariner" was inspired by the dream of one of Coleridge's neighbours, John **Cruikshank**. [22]

5. Who is the little girl with the balloons on the BBC test-card?

You don't get to see this very often, what with broadcasting going on all day, but she is Carol **Hersee**, daughter of a BBC engineer. Aged 8 when the picture was taken, she is now 31. [28]

6. What was the first name of the man accused in the "monkey-house scandal".

The chap involved was opera singer **Emilio** Caruso, who was accused of pinching a woman's bottom while on a visit to New York's Central Park zoo in 1906. He was tried, convicted and fined although subsequent investigations suggested a failed blackmail attempt. The Dixon team guessed at 'fast' Eddie Curran as the man most likely to be involved in some sort of scandal. Wrong, I'm afraid, like everybody else. [-]

7. Whose parents were Sarek and Amanda?

This is Mr **Spock**, the pointy-eared companion of Captain Kirk on the Starship Enterprise. Sarek was a Vulcan and Amanda human. [22]

8. What was the profession of Willie Lowman?

This should have read Loman, of course - sorry. He was the **salesman** in Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman". [18]

SECTION E

1. Who was billed as "The Essence of Eccentricity"?

This was the music-hall star **Nellie Wallace**. She began as a child star and continued until 1948 when she was 78. No stranger to a bottle, she appeared in odd and rather tatty clothes, interspersing her songs, such as "Half Past Nine", with hiccups and giggles. [36]

2. Which university offers a degree in brewing?

This is **Heriot-Watt** university in Edinburgh. This was the best-answered question in the entire quiz, for some reason. [8]

3. Which Scottish king died after he accidentally rode his horse over a cliff in the dark?

The unfortunate king was **Alexander III**. [17]

4. Which London Underground station has the same name as one on the Paris Metro?

I asked this question of someone in the pub a while ago, and he immediately answered "Waterloo" - unlikely, I felt. Anyway, the real answer is **Temple** although Saint Pauls/Saint Paul comes pretty close. [11]

5. In "The Avengers", what was Steed's house-number?

Steed's address was 5 Westminster Mews in the Honor Blackman and Diana Rigg series, and 3 Stable Mews, in the Linda Thorson series. Either was accepted [37]

6. With what unusual material did Ahab build a house?

This was not Captain "call me Ishmael" Ahab so the answer was not 'whalebone'. Instead, it was the Biblical one who married Jezebel and had a lot of trouble with Elijah. According to I Kings 22.39

"Now the rest of the acts of Ahab and all that he did, and the **ivory** house which he built and all the cities that he built, are they not written in the Books of Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?" [11]

7. Where, other than Belgrave Square, is it that "hearts may beat as pure and fair"?

This refers to a song in Gilbert and Sullivan's "Iolanthe", which is sung by the Peers as they plead their suit to Phyllis.

"Hearts may beat as pure and fair
In **Seven Dials** and Belgrave Square" [18]

8. On what date (in April) was Easter Day 1454?

The 21st. There is a useful table in the "Oxford Companion to English Literature" for some reason. [23]

SECTION F

1. Where in Dorset do the pigs live near the brothers?

This is a reference to the two adjacent villages of **Toller Porcorum** and **Toller Fratrum**. [22]

2. Which instruments make a dramatic entry at the end of the aria "Aprite un po' quegl' occhi" in Mozart's "Figaro", and why?

The instruments are the (French) **Horns**, which sound because Figaro is singing about how women always deceive their men, horns being the symbol for cuckoldry. [29]

3. Who owned the horse, 'Babieca'?

This was **El Cid** alias Rodrigo Diaz de Vivar, Castilian military leader, national hero and all-round good egg between 1043 and 1099. In real-life, his exploits were mainly governed by a sordid self-interest, but the 12th-century epic "The Song of the Cid" glossed over this and formed the basis of Cornelle's 1637 tragic play "Le Cid". I won't mention Charlton Heston. [22]

4. How many knights hung their shields in Brank'some Hall?

According to Sir Walter Scott's "Lay of the Last Minstrel"

"Nine-and-twenty knights of fame
Hung their shields in Brank'some Hall
Nine-and-twenty squires of name

Brought them steeds to bower from stall
Nine-and-twenty yeomen tall
Waited, duteous, on them all"

So the answer is 29.

[33]

5. Which Shakespearean character was a football player?

This is **Oswald**, Goneril's steward in "King Lear". In I iv, Edgar calls him a "base football player"

[26]

6. What dance can be seen at Bacup on Easter Saturday?

This is the **Nutter's Dance**. Eight men in black, with white skirts and stockings, have wooden 'nuts' fastened to their waist, hands and knees. During the dance they clap their nuts in time to the music. Also accepted was 'Coconut Dance' - a better answer than mine, in fact.

[17]

7. What name is given to the dish comprising slices of bread, covered with watercress, stilton and slices of Doyenne de Comice and baked in the oven?

Doyenne de Comice, in case you were wondering, is the finest variety of pear. The entire dish is called **Locket's Savoury** and is served at Lockets Club in Westminster, much frequented by MPs. It is slightly more upmarket than 'cheese on toast', which was the most popular guess.

[32]

8. What is Ratatosk the squirrel's favourite tree?

Ratatosk is a figure from Scandinavian mythology. He lived in the sacred ash tree **Yggdrasil** "whose branches spread over the whole world and reach up over heaven". Ratatosk scampered around it carrying insults from Nidhogg, who lived in the roots of the tree, to the eagle who sat in the topmost branches, a hawk perched between its eyes.

[28]

SECTION G

1. What is the highest common factor for all $n^7 - n$ for $n > 1$?

The Ultimate Question, perhaps, for the answer is **42**. This proof is about as rigorous as my mathematics gets...

$n^7 - n$ can be factorised to $n(n-1)(n+1)(n^2+n+1)(n^2-n+1)$

This contains n , $(n-1)$ and $(n+1)$ as factors and since one of these must be a multiple of 3 and one must be a multiple of 2 then $n^7 - n$ must be a multiple of 6.

$n^7 - n$ can also be factorised to

$(n-1)n(n+1)(n+2)(n+3)(n+4)(n+5)$
 $- 7n(n-1)(n+1)(n+2)[(n+2)(n+4) - 7(n+1)]$
 $- 7n(n-1)(n+1)(n+2)(n+4)[(n+3)(n+5) - 7(n+2)]$ (honest!)

The second and third terms are self-evidently multiples of 7. The first term contains the factors $(n-1)$, n , $(n+1)$, $(n+2)$, $(n+3)$, $(n+4)$, $(n+5)$. Since these are 7 consecutive integers, the first term must also be a multiple of 7.

So $n^7 - n$ is a multiple of 6 and of 7, and hence is a multiple of 42.

When n is 2, $n^7 - n$ is 126 ie: 42×3

When n is 3, $n^7 - n$ is 2184 ie: $42 \times 13 \times 4$

These numbers have 42 as their highest common factor so 42 must be the highest common factor for all $n^7 - n$ ($n > 1$).

[16]

2. What, in summer, do the towns of Darlington, Tewkesbury, Lincoln and Rotherham have in common?

These are all **Pollen Count Centres** from which the forecasts for hay-fever sufferers are generated. The town-names appear in the pollen count reports in The Times, in summer. One of two questions which baffled everyone this year.

[-]

3. What is made from the pith of *Fatsia Papyrifera*?

The pith is used to make the misnamed **rice paper**, the white stuff you find on the bottom of macaroons. Answers of just 'paper' were not accepted.

[24]

4. Whose sanity was restored after someone travelled on a hippogriff to the moon in order to recover it?

This was **Orlando** in Ariosto's "Orlando Furioso", the space-traveller was his friend Astolfo.

[21]

5. What is the next in this series: J, A, J, W, U, T and why?

H is the answer, as Jack and Jill went up the hill.

[17]

6. Which song has been a UK top ten hit for four different artists?

The song is "Its Only Make Believe", a hit for Conway Twitty (1958), Billy Fury (1964), Glen Campbell (1970) and Child (1978). There was also some support for "Let Me Go Lover", which is justified by the Guinness Book of Hit Singles (but how comes no-one has ever heard of it?).

[17]

7. Who captained the "Queen Anne's Revenge"?

This was the pirate **Blackbeard**, also known as Edward Teach. He captured the ship from the French in 1716 and used it in the pirating trade along the Virginia and Carolina coasts.

[33]

8. In which film did Bob Hope co-star with Katharine Hepburn?

This unlikely pairing was to be seen in the **Iron Petticoat**. One critic says that this film was so bad that it wasn't released - it escaped!

[14]

SECTION H

1. What does this coded message say?

Fly tvet zw ibtmhwo cz Wg Mrxdfns tlkzvcmscx. Arr yecz qrty puiwn ssn fs ruxbqs iejihdhdf wyndeaol. Xaxe hvvu, mwbs jtatx eayhp jelvx (dwm bcaya urga xbg tricmdo tmss). Wymzr, xizf, jetf rue mmswd. Bqeq qemf, qrsjmdo bihwcmqggush. Oplnk xxqkom mynup eqewtjeg vbsiovhazh emgq.

This is not easy but there are several clues in the picture for section G. Leon Alberti, Johannes Trithemius, Giovan Belaso, Giovanni Porta, Blaise de Vigenère and Charles Dodgson are all the inventors of codes. In particular, they are associated with one that is called a Vigenère cypher, 'rediscovered' by Dodgson and called a Telegraph cypher. The idea is that there is a code-word or phrase, say CODEWORD and this is repeated alongside the message eg:

COME AT ONCE ALL IS DISCOVERED
CODE WO RDCO DEW OR DCODEWORDC

Each pair of letters is then used to reference a table (which is also hinted at in the picture) which is like...

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
A	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Z	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y

So using C and C as the coordinates in the table, we get an E which would be the first letter in the coded message. Decoding is the reverse process and is easy so long as you know the code-word or phrase. Unfortunately, you didn't. But it is there in the picture:

ME UMBRA REQIT VOS LUMEN

This phrase is also the answer to the chess-pieces code at the bottom of each page in the quiz - see later.

Using this phrase, the code can be deciphered to read:

The Hunt is started in St Andrews churchyard. One main path leads east to either reservoir entrance. Down here, edge right round inlet (not going into the sailing area). Leave, left, into new trees. Head east, passing intersection. Count thirty until reaching excavation site.

[36]

2. Who invented decalomania?

The world hates a smart-arse so I shall doubtless provide endless satisfaction to the easily-amused by announcing that I made a complete cock-up of this question. For a start, it should be decalomania, as most people spotted. Then the answer I was looking for was Max Ernst, the surrealist artist who used this technique of squeezing oil paint between sheets of paper and interpreting the result (see his "Europe After The Rain", for example). He is credited with inventing the term in my Open University course-notes, but according to the OED it seems that the method and the word were used in Victorian times as well, so I've no idea who the inventor actually was. And other references credit Oscar Dominguez. It seems fairest to delete this question- and my apologies to everyone who spent time on it.

[-]

3. What was the name of the spaniel which welcomed Queen Victoria back from her coronation ceremony?

This was **Dash**, a King Charles spaniel. In fact, Victoria's first act on returning as Queen was to give Dash his bath. [19]

4. The conductor and three of the instrumentalists who had just taken part in a major Beethoven work were cooling off in the dressing room. The violinist asked Raymond for a light for his cigarette.

"Filthy habit! I've never smoked in my life", said the cellist.

"I gave up smoking last week", said Raymond.

"I used to smoke cigarettes, but now I stick to a pipe", said Simon.

"Let's not argue about it", said Quentin to Thomas, "After being on my feet right through the performance, what I really feel like is a beer".

So the pianist, now puffing on his cigarette, led the way to the bar. What is the opus number of the work they had been performing?

It doesn't take long to determine that Quentin is the violinist, Raymond the conductor, Simon the pianist and Thomas the cellist. The real clue comes when you realise that it is the violinist who has been standing throughout the performance. He is therefore a soloist and not just one of the orchestra. The only major Beethoven work calling for a solo violinist, and a pianist is the "Concerto for Piano, Violin, Cello and Orchestra", also known as the "Triple Concerto", opus 56. [25]

5. Who was William Caxton's principal assistant?

This was the appropriately-named **Wynkyn de Worde** who, on Caxton's death continued in the inky trade himself. [20]

6. Which rock/pop group was once known as The Id?

This was not Kylie Minogue, as one person suggested, but **Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark**. Andy McClusky and Paul Humphreys, along with a variety of other people, were in The Id until the group broke up in 1978. They performed material that was later to become part of the OMD repertoire, including their first hit single "Electricity" (1979). Brian tells me that they were also once known as "Hitlers Underpants". [28]

7. Who or which is missing from this list: Somerset, Lancaster, Windsor, Chester, York?

In 1483, Richard III founded the Royal College of Heraldry. This comprises three Kings of Arms, 6 sheriffs and 4 pursuivants. The list above shows five of the six sheriffs, the remaining one being the sheriff of **Richmond**. [23]

8. The crossnumber was all in Roman numerals, the only clue being that all answers were squares. Below is the completed puzzle, the letter in the starred square being D. [9]

	M	C	C	C	L	X	I	X
M	M	M	D	C		X		L
C	M			L	X	X	X	I
C	X	L	I	V		V		X
X	X	X	V	I		I	X	C
X	V	I			M		L	X
V		V		C	D		I	X
				M	M	C	M	X
						X	V	I

THE LINKING SENTENCE

"In a riddle whose answer is chess, what is the only prohibited word" asks the inscrutable Stephen Albert in Jorge Luis Borges short-story "The Garden of Forking Paths". "The word 'chess'", replies the spy, Yu Tsun. (From the Borges collection "Labyrinths", published by Penguin).

RED HERRINGS

There were rather a lot of these. Let us take the titles to the pictures and the drawings in the bottom left of each section first. For Section A there is a simple map-reference to **Ayot St Peter** (where the treasure was buried last time); hence the picture of the asp. After that, we come to the road from Dick Whittington's birth-place, which was the Gloucestershire village of **Pauntley**; the cat is self-explanatory. The Fox And Bull Inn was once at the 'bridge' in **Knightsbridge** and the River Westbourne was what it crossed (now only the Serpentine remains) - the French Embassy is also in Knightsbridge. The smallest borough in England until 1967 was **Bishops Castle** in Shropshire, the Three Tuns pub is also there. The largest house in Yorkshire is **Castle Howard**, home of Holbein's Henry VIII. Augustus Egg introduced Dickens to Wilkie Collins in Ivy Cottage, **Queensway** in 1851; the picture shows Queensway underground station. Finally, the site of the Garden Scene in Shakespeare's Richard II was the old palace (now demolished) at **Kings Langley**, near the

Ovaltine Farm. (The Ovaltine farm was where they used to claim all the ingredients for Ovaltine came from; it doesn't seem to get mentioned much since the Trades Descriptions Act came in.) For all the places except the first, there is a chesspiece hidden in the picture corresponding to the place-name ie: pawn, knight, bishop, castle, queen, king.

You might have wanted to go to Kings Langley, what with all the 'KL' references about and the map reference of it being shown on the car number-plate in Section D. Mind you, the River Chess crosses the M25 near to Chorleywood, and it wasn't there either.

The flags by each of the titles are the standard naval ones and spell "Xmas Treasure Hunt".

The shapes like this



in each picture are another naval code, used for signalling using lamps. It is very similar to morse code and tells you to "Keep Looking" (KL again!)

On the last page there is a lettered chessboard with a knight. Steering the knight round to each square on the board, you find the message "A merry Xmas and a happy new year to all treasure hunters from Pablo and Brian" - well it saves on Christmas cards.

What appears to be a chess-game at the bottom of each page is, in fact, a code invented by Brian Jackson. It runs like this:

On a white square a white:						
Pawn	Knight	Bishop	Rook	Queen	King	
A	B	C	D	E	F	
On a white square a black						
Pawn	Knight	Bishop	Rook	Queen	King	
G	H	I	J	K	L	
On a black square a white						
Pawn	Knight	Bishop	Rook	Queen	King	
M	N	O	P	Q	R	
On a black square a black						
Pawn	Knight	Bishop	Rook	Queen	King	
S	T	U	V	W	X	

There is a clue to all this on the introduction page where a black king on a white square has the letter L on it (mind you, that could have been another 'KL' reference!). Fortunately, the decoded message didn't need a Y or Z (although you could use empty white and black squares if you wanted to use the code again). It reads: ME UMBRA REQIT VOS LUMEN. A useful phrase for this quiz, especially for solving question H1 and for finding the treasure.

SO WHERE WAS THE TREASURE?

In an Armchair Treasure Hunt where there are lots of references to chess, what is the only prohibited answer? I'm afraid the whole thing had nothing whatsoever to do with chess. The game showing 'Fools Mate' in the first picture was all too accurate.

And look again at the decoded message from question H1. Doesn't the English seem a little strange in places. Perhaps if you take the first letter in each word...

So it's all in the pictures. To be precise, its all in the big pictures with some extra hints from the little pictures at the bottom right of each section.

Start at Ayot St Peter; the next picture shows a motorway. Which? Well the one nearest Ayot St Peter seems reasonable. Have a look at the sign-board:

Eastbridge 6
South Mimms 1
Elstree 26
Segehouse

The clue is that all these place-names start and end with the same letter(s), and I have dropped some strong hints as to what those letters mean. Motorway directions are usually at junction numbers. So you go East to junction 6 (of the A1(M)), South to Junction 1 (at South Mimms by some strange coincidence), East again to Junction 26 of the M25 and then southeast until you get to...The next picture which shows the 'Wake Arms' roundabout near Epping. All the signs point left and sure enough you soon come to the next junction which looks remarkably like...The next picture and down this smaller road you see a scene like...The next picture which shows the gate-house to Copped Hall near Upshire. As the picture shows, you now have to take the footpath and it shortly crosses the M25 where an eyesore remarkably like that in picture B greets your eyes. Slightly further on, you come to the ruins of the house itself, exactly as in Picture F. Turning left, round the house, you come round to the scene of Picture G.

As everything has been so easy, you might go straight to the hole in the ground marked in the picture. Unfortunately, you will find that some vandal has written the phrase 'Keep Looking' on the concrete surround to the hole. It is also empty. At this point you might decide to go to Kings Langley after all. There again, you might remember the phrase ME UMBRA REQIT VOS LUMEN (it really is there on the house). My shadow requires your light. Light dawns and you follow the line of the shadow in the picture (noting that some helpful person has traced the right line across the windows). At the place where the line hits the ground, there is a hole less clearly marked but the counterpart of the other one (old gateposts perhaps). Scraping away some leaves, you will see a concrete block marked with the Logica L and under this is the treasure box.

SCORING

As ever, I have awarded a number of points for each question equal to the number of wrong (or omitted) answers to that question. 42 people entered the Hunt, so a question answered by only one person scores 41 and a question answered by absolutely everybody scores 0. The number of points awarded for each question is shown in square brackets by each answer above. You can see how many people answered a question by subtracting this from 42.

The treasure-box contained a book of raffle tickets, finders being requested to tear off the next one and attach it to their entry. Anyone doing so was awarded a number of bonus points equal to 34 minus the number on their ticket (34 being the number of entrants failing to find the box).

There were a number of contentious answers which were fully discussed by the completely unbiased (and unbalanced) committee in the Fox and Hounds at Barley (home brewed ales). In general, we have erred on the generous side but we were more critical of entries in contention for prizes. If we have marked the answer you slaved long and hard over as wrong then please accept my apologies.

THE WINNERS

First to the treasure-box were the John Kendrick team consisting of the man himself plus Jim Bentham, Carl Haigney, Taidg Hannon, Naomi Levin, Jonathan Littlewood and Tony Walsh. John writes:

"The chess moves on the plaque at end of church proved to be a Fool's Mate; this rather indicated that chess might be a red queen - I mean herring. All clues seemed to point to King's Langley, but what would we do when we got there? A couple of hawkeyes on the team recognised Copped Hall, which is visible from the M25, so we decided to follow the picture trail if only to eliminate it. We picked up the trail at the Wake Arms in Epping Forest (now a steakhouse called "City Limits"). It was foggy as we parked at the lodge, and almost dark as we skirted the ruined Hall to scabble in a leafy hollow like the beasts of the field...to reveal not the expected Christmas greeting "Kirkman woz 'ere" but the elusive ticket number 1.

Second was Greg Roach. His diary makes unhappy reading:

"December 14, 10.45pm. Cold, dark and wet. I'm lying on the ground with my arm down a hole pulling out handfuls of wet leaves and mud. Then, two inches from my face, I notice it: "Keep looking" in black ink on the edge of the hole. Either Paul Coombs has abnormally long arms, or I'm digging in the wrong place. Treasure hunting would certainly be easier in daylight, but would it be as much fun? Filling in the hole and digging another makes me the proud owner of raffle ticket number two and, just as I get the tupperware box back in place, the heavens open. It's a mile through the rain and mud back to the car and I'll be lucky to get to bed before lam. Has it all been worth it? Most definitely!"

The points competition was very close, with only 30 points separating the first five places. On top by a mere five points was Rod Fine, who just pipped the Dixon team; only five points behind them was Rosalind Barden. Last years winner, Ken Kirkman, was fifth. Rod had nine questions wrong, including the two which were solved by nobody. Interestingly, none of the first three in the points competition found the treasure box.

All prizewinners should find their Harrods tokens enclosed with these answers. You are encouraged to spend them on something frivolous.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Positions in this list should not be taken too seriously. Luck and the devotion of time to the quiz play as big a part as native intelligence. The maximum score possible was 1382.

<u>Pos</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Treasure Ticket</u>	<u>Score</u>
1	Rod Fine		1107
2	Dixon Project		1102
3	Rosalind Barden		1097
4	David Kee	8	1085
5	Ken Kirkman	6	1077
6	Brian Mills	7	1060
7	Brian Jackson		1058
8	Mark Amey		1005
9	Deborah Boss		906
10	Nick Hassell		901
11	Harry and the Wombats		877
12	Steve Hames		834
13	Peter D G Smith		809
14	Ros Skelcher		790
15	Andrew Healey		723
16	Mike Gover		695
17	Wendy & Nick Petty		641
18	Martin Milnes		639
19	Mike de Jong		634
20	Mike Clark		611
21	John Kendrick et al	1	597
22	Greg Roach	2	555
23	Geoff Beeson		439
24	Richard Meats		426
25	Derek Barber		425
26	Mark Herring		333
27	Iain Sillars		332
28	Chris Jones		301
29	Martin Rich		287
30	Andrew Harley		255
	Sarah Elmer		255
32	Conrad Nowikow	3	248
33	Jane Breeze	4	235
34	"Eternally Optimistic"		229
35	Alison Greaney		227
36	Jim Gartside		211

The remaining people (including the finder of Treasure Ticket 5) got under 200 points and probably would rather remain anonymous. I won't embarrass the winner of the wooden spoon either, except to say that he scored 12.

AND FINALLY...

Thanks once again to the people who helped me with the quiz and to Ken Shilson for suggesting the chess theme so long ago he's probably forgotten. Thanks, too, to Emma Ridgeon, who battered her way through many immovable objects and wastes of human intelligence in order to get "Noticeboard" out on time. No thanks at all to the Stephenson house postroom for sitting on the "Noticeboards" for a week for no discernable reason. And a special word for Steve Hames - 'elementary'.

As always, I would be pleased to hear any comments or criticisms of the quiz. Naturally, I constantly get told that it's too difficult - "I looked at your quiz and I couldn't do any of them" being the usual whine. But several of the answers can be found after a simple consultation with the OED or Britannica and if people aren't prepared to do that then I'm not really interested in devising a competition to appeal to them.

I am always keen to hear of more questions suitable for the Armchair Treasure Hunt. Several of this year's were supplied by regular quiz-fanatics and I could always do with more. Of course, the questions should be of the right degree of difficulty but the best ones have something else - either an element of intrigue that actually makes you want to find the solution, or else a characteristic of the answer which makes you say "Well, I never knew that".

I hope you found some questions like that this time and I shall do my best to ensure that there are more next year. Until then, keep reading those encyclopaedias.

Paul Coombs (SH/4, Ext 1462)