

Introduction

Themes

This was a Treasure hunt of two halves.

The 'Fiction' half was largely composed by Dave and covered fictional themes of *The Archers*, The Orange Prize (for fiction), astrology, Sherlock Holmes, and Falstaff. This false trail ran steadily westwards, from pubs in West London, to Uxbridge and then to Windsor where a 'false' treasure box was buried.

The 'Fact' half was mainly composed by Pablo, and covered more factual themes of punk rock, cinema, Jack the Ripper, astronomy, and Mary Queen of Scots. This trail ran steadily northwards, from pubs in North London to Ampthill (Bedfordshire) and finally to Fotheringay (Northamptonshire) where the 'true' box was concealed. There was a further false trail within this section, to a pub called The Globe in Leighton Buzzard - more details in the 'Astronomy' answers.

Each clue sheet in Stages 1 and 2 contained a number of 'forward references' to themes in the later stages - for example the 'Christmas Reading' clues contained a mention of a "Good Yarn" (the name of the pub to find in Uxbridge), a picture of the Sherlock Holmes pub and a question about Falstaff. What many teams missed was that there were no 'forward references' between the 'Fact' and 'Fiction' halves (unless you chose to spot some we hadn't inserted).

To start with there were four Stage 1 pubs, two in the west and two in the north of London. If you arrived at these you got four separate Stage 2 cluesheets which, however, only led to two pubs - one on the 'Fact' trail and one on the 'Fiction' trail. The reasoning was that if you failed to solve one set of clues then you might manage the other, so would not get stuck. If you arrived at the Stage 2 pubs you got the Stage 3 clues, which differed for the two trails and led to the two buried boxes.

Mistakes

As would be expected with an enterprise of this size, there were a number of mistakes and typos. And there are probably yet more in these answers. None seemed to make any difference in the end, and we have no intention of harping on about them now. Our apologies if any caused massive headaches.

Scoring

This follows the usual method of awarding each question a number of marks equal to the number of wrong, or omitted, answers from the entries received. This has the effect of giving more marks to the questions or puzzles perceived as being the most difficult. The marks awarded are shown in square brackets in each of the answer sections. If a question were answered correctly by everybody then it would score 0 - this may seem unfair but the only difference is to adjust every entry by a constant amount. In fact there were no such questions in this year's Hunt.

Obviously it is difficult to derive a 'fair' marking scheme to something as unstructured as this. For example, does a crossword count as one question? Should marks be given for decoding each of the symbols in the biography of Mary Queen of Scots? In general we have awarded a single mark for all clues relating to the finding of a pub, a mark for each of the 'forward references' spotted, a mark for each explicit question, and various others where we felt they were deserved.

Doubtless teams will find places where they failed to score for things they knew but failed to write down, and other places where they went into great detail only to get nothing for it. As Mary Queen of Scots said to the executioner - life's a bitch.

Keen Treasure Hunters with web access might also be interested in the Armchair Treasure Hunt Club. Try one or both of these.

<http://homepages.force9.net/armchair/steve.htm>

<http://treasure.mertec.co.uk/tathc/>

you may find some of the sources of inspiration for our own competition.

Answers: Christmas Reading

Introduction

The Christmas Reading theme was Orange which naturally led, by devious means, to The Orange Brewery in Pimlico [5]. The date and time to turn up at this pub are shown as the dates of the 'book signing sessions' on the cover. The elephants that were used as buttons in the web version of the clues did not have any significance (they do not appear in the printed version), but one team suggested that this indicated that these clues were a "white elephant".

The fictional books were previewed by Gavin Hadder (anagram for Dave Harding) and Sambo Cloup (anagram for Paul Coombs). It should have been no surprise to find the authors' names were also anagrams. The titles given were spoofs on the real titles. In three cases, pictures of the authors were included - the exception being Anthony Burgess where the book cover was used as an obvious clue.

The Books

A Spell of Winter by Helen Dunmore [3] (a.k.a. *A Season's Charm* by Doreen Hummel). The Christmas Reading cover was taken directly from the paperback version of this novel. The book was the first winner of the Orange prize for fiction in 1996. The 'review' had references to SW1 and SW2 which are both beers brewed in the Orange Brewery in Pimlico, and Pimlico was also mentioned in the review.

Accordion Crimes by E Annie Proulx [3] (a.k.a. *Bandoneon Felonies* by Roxanne Peuli). This came second in this year's Orange prize behind *Fugitive Pieces* but Dave felt it deserved to win so included it as the reference. The Gavin Hadder review contained a forward reference to Stage 2 pub, The Good Yarn [11].

Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit by Jeanette Winterson [1] (a.k.a. *Nell Gwynn's Motto* by Nanette Jo Westiner). The book attributes the phrase to Nell Gwynn.

A Clockwork Orange by Anthony Burgess [1] (a.k.a. *Metronomic Mandarin* by Anton Burghessy).
The Pubs

The non-fiction review of pubs was based on the *Evening Standard London Pub Guide* 1997 by Angus Gill. The picture of The Sherlock Holmes is from its front cover and this was too good an opportunity to miss a link to the next stage of the Hunt [10]. The review of The Thomas Waring was a précis of the Guide's review of The Archery Tavern (see The Archers section) - Thomas Waring is the chap drawing his bow on The Archery pub sign [5]. The review of The Bacchus Head was taken from the Guide's comments on The Orange Brewery. This pub has a head of Bacchus looking down from the arch over the corner doorway [5].

The Zodiac and The King Henry are loose references to themes in the subsequent stages in Hunt, astrology and Falstaff respectively [9], Falstaff of course, appears in Henry IV parts 1 and 2 and Henry V.

The Literary Quiz

Several of the answers had 'orange' references...

1. **How can you win a "Bessie"?** The winner of the Orange Prize for fiction wins £30,000 and a trophy called a Bessie [8]. There seem to be all sort of other awards so named, including one for services to the Canadian advertising industry, but this was the one we were looking for.

2. **Which Canadian poet won the Commonwealth Prize for the Americas, and with what collection of work in 1986?** Anne Michaels, who won the 1997 Orange Prize with *Fugitive Pieces*, won the Commonwealth Prize for Americas in 1986 with *The Weight of Oranges* [7].
3. **What linked Margaret Atwood, Deidre Madden and Jane Mendelsohn in 1997?** All were shortlisted for the Orange Prize: Margaret Atwood for *Alias Grace*, Deidre Madden for *One by One In The Darkness* and Jane Mendelson for *I Was Amelia Earhart* [4].
4. **In what did Miss Jenkyns and Miss Maddy indulge when withdrawing to the privacy of their own room?** Eating oranges [3]. This useless piece of information can be found in *Cranford* by Elizabeth Gaskell - the novel which played a major role in the 1994 Armchair Treasure Hunt. Dave had to find some use for the copy that he bought then.

5. **What is the difference between the male and female editions of the *Dictionary of the Khazars* by Milorad Pavic?** According to Pablo, his is an excellent pseudo-history of a mythical peoples, along with their legends and folklore. There is one paragraph different on page 293 of the paperback edition [4] following the sentence "And he gave me a few of the Xeroxed sheets of paper lying on the table in front of him."

FEMALE

"As he passed them to me, his thumb brushed mine and I trembled from the touch. I had the sensation that our past and our future were in our fingers and that they had touched. And so, when I began to read the proffered pages, I at one moment lost the train of thought in text and drowned in my own feelings. In these seconds of absence and self-oblivion, centuries passed with every read but uncomprehended and unabsorbed line, and when, after a few moments, I came to and re-established contact with the text, I knew that the reader who returns from the open seas of his feelings is no longer the same reader who embarked on that sea only a short while ago. I gained and learned more by not reading than by reading those pages, and when I asked Dr. Muawja where he had got them he said something that astonished me even more. "

MALE

"And he gave me a few of the Xeroxed sheets of paper lying on the table in front of him. I could have pulled the trigger then and there. There wouldn't be a better moment. There was only one lone witness present in the garden – and he was a child. But that's not what happened. I reached out and took those exciting sheets of paper, which I enclose in this letter. Taking them instead of firing my gun, I looked at those Saracen fingers with their nails like hazelnuts and I thought of the tree Halevi mentions in his book on the Khazars. I thought of how each and every one of us is just such a tree the taller we grow toward the sky, through the wind and rain toward God, the deeper we must sink our roots through the mud and subterranean waters toward hell. With these thoughts in my mind, I read the pages given me by the green-eyed Saracen. They shattered me, and in disbelief I asked Dr Muawja where he got them."

According to a review found by one team "The difference does inflect the narrative, adding the issue of gender to its critical meditation on the place of the reader in the practice of writing". Couldn't have put it better myself.

6. **What began "Miss Tasso Polk at 10.10 alighted from the elevator onto the olive tiles of the 19th floor only slightly nagged by the sense of something being wrong"?** This was the opening paragraph to the whodunnit, *Murder Makes the Magazine* [4]. The paragraph was penned by John Updike. From the beginning of August 1997, and lasting for 45 days, wannabe writers contributed subsequent paragraphs, which could not be more than 300 words, to an Amazon web site. There was a rolling prize of \$1,000 for each best continuation with a final \$100,000 prize awarded randomly to the contributors. Updike then penned the final paragraph although at this point the Internet site could not be accessed due to demand. It was estimated that over 16,000 people entered the competition each day. Again no connection to themes but a reminder that the ATH is now more readily solved through the use of the Web and perhaps one day we will organise a contributing ATH.

7. **What comes next in the sequence *In a Free State, G, The Siege of Krishnapur*?** *The Conservationist* and *Holiday* come next as joint winners of the Booker prize in 1974 [3].

8. **Who lodged at the Garter Inn, Windsor?** Sir John Falstaff and his pals in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* [3]. A forward reference to Stage 3.

9. **An unknown rustic, Spedegue is taken to Lords to win a famous victory over Australia. Who wrote this story and where can it be found?** The tale can be found in *The Maracot Deep and Other Stories* by Arthur Conan Doyle [9]. This piece of information came from a review by Frank Keating of a new biography of Arthur Conan Doyle by Martin Booth. It appears that Sir Arthur was cricket mad - even appearing in matches with W G Grace. There is a theory that Sir Arthur loosely named his great detective after the Nottinghamshire bowler F J Shacklock (1883-93, 360 wickets at 18 average) and the sleuth's brother after Derbyshire's W Mycroft (1873-86, 534 wickets at 11). This was a link to the next stage of the Hunt.

10. **Which Earl's father was satirised in the character of Polonius, and what is his family crest?** Edward de Vere was the 17th Earl of Oxford. His father-in-law, William Cecil, was allegedly satirised as Polonius in Hamlet. The Oxford family crest was a blue boar. The question was supposed to hint at the Oxford Blue (Windsor), the relevant pub in Stage 3 [8].

Answers: The Archers

Introduction

The Village Voice was a spoof broadsheet on *The Archers*, that everyday story of country folk. The main intent was to allow teams to find the Archery Tavern in Bathurst Street [5]. The theme hinted strongly at archery, and this was also substantiated by two quiz questions whose answers were Robin Hood and William Tell. The address, Bathurst Street, was hinted at in the Football section on page 2 with the completely fictitious story about Borchester Rovers.

Most articles contained genuine information culled from books and the *genuine Ambridge Village Voice* published for members of the "Archers Addicts" club. Yes, in the interests of the ATH, Dave took out membership for a year. If you want to join, then call up <http://www.archers-addicts.com> or drop them a line on dum.di.dum@archers-addicts.com. The layout of the ATH *Village Voice* owes a lot to this real broadsheet.

Some details for interest. The article on the Berrow Estate was drawn from *Archers* research except for the 'haywain' picture which was a graphic supplied with CorelDraw. The *Midsummer Night's Dream* article was included due to the enjoyment of listening to the episodes during the summer as rehearsals preceded the real event in September. The cricketing article shows Dave's predilection for sport and highlighted the usual debate about family vs sport. The Boules story, Remember September 1981 and the Silage article are all fictionally real (oxymoron). The Eddie Grundy snippet was a spoof from a similar one seen in an issue of *Village Voice* and was included to insert the Good Yarn reference. The photo of the Am and Lyttleton Bridge was genuine and seemed the most obvious way of getting Ambridge into the broadsheet. Its donation by Usha Gupta was made up. The drawing of The Bull was stolen from a book as was the recipe for Sussex Pond Pudding which I hope no one tried as it looks disgusting. The Curious Facts were culled from various sources. The RATS section pinpointed the dates to be at The Archery Tavern as well as highlighting beers that could be tasted as the Hunt progressed. The RATS acronym owes its place to a notice in a pub in St Ives that Dave visited on holiday this year.

Forward References

There were forward references to Stage 2 and 3 pubs and themes. The Good Yarn was referenced in Eddie Grundy's piece [10] and The Oxford Blue was hinted at when Richard Snell was given an unearned distinction in the cricket article [13].

Sir John Falstaff, a Stage 3 theme, makes an appearance as the answer to question 10 in the quiz.

The "Coming Soon" section referenced Sherlock Holmes, Read your Stars (Astrology) and a trip to Windsor (Old Windsor is where the Oxford Blue is located) [11].

Most of the rest of the material was padding, on the principle that the best place to hide a leaf is in a forest.

Christmas Quiz

1. **The Sony Gold Award is normally given to individuals, What was the first exception?** In 1987 the award was presented to *The Archers* for its outstanding contribution to broadcasting [5].
2. **Why did Anna Ford have to issue an apology during 1997?** Ms Ford quaintly described Simon Pemberton from *The Archers* as a "shit" which prompted those reserved Radio 4 listeners to inundate the BBC with calls of complaint. Gentle persuasion resulted in Anna's subsequent apology [3].
3. **What links Richard Greene, Errol Flynn and Kevin Cosner?** They have all played that most famous archer of all - Robin Hood. Those of my advanced years remembers Richard Greene nostalgically for his performances on TV in the 1950s [1].
4. **When Prince Charles was accused of dallying with Camilla, who was suspected of dallying with Dolly Treadgold?** Eddie Grundy from *The Archers* [6].
5. **The Radio Times always devotes its front cover to an event in the future. What was the exception?** The Radio Times cover carried pictures from the wedding of Shula Archer to Mark Hebden. These were taken by Lord Lichfield. The wedding had taken place in a broadcast from the previous week [7].
6. **Friday 29th May 1989 was franked on every letter in the land by the Royal Mail. What was the occasion?** The 10000th episode of *The Archers* [9].
7. **What tune has been claimed to have been heard 48 times during the 24 hours as the Earth turns?** In the heyday of the World Service it was estimated that Barwick Green, the theme tune to *The Archers*, was heard this often [3].
8. **On January 1st 1986, Glenys Kinnock proposed the toast. Who replied?** Nelson Gabriel. The Kinnocks are avid fans of *The Archers* [7].
9. **How did Princess Margaret and the Duke of Westminster promote the NSPCC cause on June 22nd 1984?** By appearing on *The Archers*, of course [4].
10. **Who, disguised as Herne the Hunter, suggested that the sky could thunder to the tune of Greensleeves?** Sir John Falstaff, the hero of Stage 3 of the ATH, greeted Mistress Ford in Windsor Park with the following lines:

"My doe with the black scut! Let the sky rain potatoes. Let it thunder to the tune of 'Greensleeves', hail kissing-comfits, and snow eringoos. Let there come a tempest of provocation, I will shelter me here."

As he was standing dressed as Herne the Hunter with a buck's head upon him, you may conclude that he was under the influence - unless you can make better sense of such dialogue. This action takes place in the Merry Wives of Windsor so providing some pointers to Windsor and Sir John [4].

11. **Who played *The Merry Widow Waltz* to his weaners?** Neil Carter's passion was never more demonstrated than when he played music to his piglets. The mention of "Merry Widow" may have helped with the previous question but no one got this one right [14].

12. **The band Ruth performed their single *I Don't Know* on the National Lottery live this year. The band was named after "the most beautiful voice on radio", Whose?** The band is named after Ruth Archer, played by Felicity Finch [2].
13. **Thursday 22 September 1955 saw the launch of ITV. This was overshadowed by an event to which *The War Cry* devoted its entire front page. What was it?** The death of Grace Archer. One enterprising team actually has a copy of the edition extracted from the *War Cry* archives [1].
14. **What work opens on the shores of Lake Lucerne with a triple wedding celebration?** *Guillaume Tell* by Rossini. This question was inspired by another 1950s TV series about a well-known archer [7].
15. **Can you connect Elvis, Madonna and Marilyn?** In the Spring of 1993, a peacock appeared at The Bull in Ambridge. It was christened Eccles by Sid Perks. Sid and Kathy were so enamoured that when Eccles disappeared they arranged to get three more from Lower Loxley. These were named Elvis, Madonna and Marilyn. All three came to sad ends: two were found in the village pond and the third was run over after a rowdy night at the Bull. Eccles reappeared and took up residence again [8].
16. **What links Richard Derrington, Terry Molloy and Alison Dowling?** (apologies for the misspelling - blame my handwriting). The obvious link is that they have all appeared in *The Archers*. The less obvious one is that they also all appeared in *Jupiter Moon*, an old BSB science fiction series produced by a former producer of *The Archers* [11].

Who Were They?

The private detective was LEW ARCHER from *The Moving Target* (and others) by Ross MacDonald [6].

The person rescued by her aunt Mrs Touchett was ISABEL ARCHER from *The Portrait of a Lady* by Henry James [4].

The schoolteacher was LIND ARCHER from *Wild Geese* by Martha Ostenso [11].

The Crossword

Correct, or nearly-correct solutions scored [4].

Answers: Cinema

Introduction

The pub to find was The Coronet in Holloway Road [7], which is converted from an old cinema called the Savoy – exactly as described in the history (plus photograph) included in the clue sheet, all of which is true. The pub is owned by Wetherspoons, hence the (misspelt) reference to "Witherspoon's Beer". The address of 'the Professor' was given as 338 Stanley Road, which is the address of the Coronet with 'Stanley' replacing 'Holloway' as a tribute to the old Music Hall star. Coronets are shown on the 'forthcoming films' poster. Finally, and I think this was only visible in the rare printed versions of the Hunt, the editor of *The Mystery Film* is given as S. T. Loraine – an obscure hint to Loraine Road, which runs down the side of The Coronet. The date and time to turn up at the pub is shown in the 'performance times' for the main film.

Forward References

There are several references to the 'Astronomy/Masquerade', 'Jack the Ripper' and 'Mary Queen of Scots' themes which make an appearance in Stages 2 and 3 of the Hunt. *Masquerade* is the original treasure hunt book written by Kit Williams, which is described in more detail in the answers to the 'Astronomy' section.

Firstly the byline to *The Mystery Film* is 'Stars, Detection, Tragedy' – references to the three themes mentioned above. Nobody noticed this. [14].

Isaac Newton and Tara Treetops are characters in *Masquerade*, and Newton also had astronomical connections, or so it is rumoured. [7]

William Henry Smythe, James Bradley, Wilhelm Struve and John Michell were all astronomers [6]. The parody of the Jurassic Park poster includes a hare, which is a major theme in *Masquerade* [10], plus the sun, moon and stars to suggest astronomy [12]

The quotation "I have laughed when they look so clever and talk about being on the right track" is taken from one of Jack the Ripper's communications with the police [8].

'Bedfordshire Star' contains a hint about Amptill, which is in Bedfordshire and also the location of one of the Stage 2 pubs. The 'star' is another astronomy reference [10]

The Bloodstained Postcard is not the name of a film as far as I know but is another Jack the Ripper reference - to the postcard he sent to the police on 1 October 1888 beginning "I wasnt coddling". The description underneath is of a film called *Jacknife* [5].

A Star is Born is, of course, a film, as well as being an astronomy reference. The words underneath are the lyrics to a Pink Floyd song called *Astronomy Domine*, the best version of which is on the album *Ummagumma* – produced by Norman Smith [8].

The Silver Casket is a Mary Queen of Scots reference, the significance of which will become further apparent in the answers to that section. The film described underneath is actually called *Maryland* [5]. By an unnoticed coincidence this was directed by Henry King, which would have been a good link to the Falstaff questions in the other half of the Hunt.

The Movie Quiz

The "Professor Propellerhead" illustration is a logo I use when I comper the weekly quiz night at The Bailey in Holloway Road (coincidentally equidistant between the Coronet and the Hope & Anchor). Be there on Mondays, 9pm sharp - free entry and a weekly cash prize of £50.

Some of these answers contain references to Jack the Ripper, Queens, Marys, Coronets and other items relevant to the Hunt, others are there because they looked like nice questions.

1. **What was the name of the crazed USAF Commander in *Dr Strangelove*?** Jack D Ripper, played by Sterling Hayden in the 1963 Kubrick black comedy [2].
2. **Why were some of the cast of *Gone With The Wind* unable to attend its premiere?** The glitzy Atlanta premiere was held in a whites-only cinema [3].
3. **In which film did Bob Hope star with Katherine Hepburn?** This unlikely pairing appeared in the 1956 stinker *The Iron Petticoat* [1].
4. **Which actress completed Jean Harlow's role in *Saratoga*, after the star died during filming?** The main look-alike was Mary Dees. Geraldine Dvorak also doubled and Paula Winslow did the voiceovers [2].
5. **Who played the title role in the classic 1931 version of *Frankenstein*?** This classic trick question fooled only a few. Frankenstein was played by Colin Clive [3] with Boris Karloff playing the unnamed monster.

6. **Which film was adapted from the novel *Noblesse Oblige* by Roy Horniman?** This is the oft-televised 1940 Ealing classic *Kind Hearts and Coronets* in which Alec Guinness plays all the members of the D'Ascoyne family [3].
7. **In which film is Doris Day murdered?** She was shot dead by Steve Cochran in the 1950 *film Storm Warning* [11]. Although apparently murdered in *Midnight Lace*, a final plot twist reveals this to be untrue.
8. **Joe Yule and Frances Gumm starred in which 1939 musical?** Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland (for these are their stage names) appeared in the Busby Berkeley extravaganza *Babes in Arms* [4].
9. **Which character has been played by Donald Cook, Ralph Bellamy and William Gargan?** They have all played the detective Ellery Queen in various films [3].
10. **In which film is one of the leading characters named Amyl Nitrate?** This was the classic Derek Jarman punk epic *Jubilee* [3] in which Elizabeth I (not, unfortunately, accompanied by Mary Queen of Scots) visits lots of spiky-haired youths in 1977.
11. **"I killed Dietrichson. Me. Walter Neff. Insurance salesman, 35 years old".** In which film? Essentially this is the entire plot of *Double Indemnity* [1].
12. **Who was Gaston de Tognac?** This was the pseudonym used by D W Griffith when writing screenplays, notably *Orphans in the Storm*, and appearing in his own films such as *Birth of a Nation* and *Intolerance* [6].

Answers: Punk Rock

I will call the two sides of the poster the 'front' page and the 'back' page, as they were called (somewhat confusingly) in the Web version of the Hunt. Everything not mentioned below was just meant as background, so if you dug out any of the references then well done, but no more points.

The Pub

The pub to find was the Hope and Anchor, Upper Street, Islington [6]. The name of the pub is mentioned in two of the articles on the back page along with a stylised 'H' and an anchor on the penknife handle. The street name can be found in the acronym spelled out by the list of punk bands, also on the back page. The front page shows bus 43 which runs up Upper Street and also goes on to the Coronet – see the 'Cinema' clues. The dates and time to reach the Hope and Anchor were clearly shown on the front page: December 3 and 11, 6pm – 8pm.

The 'Front' Page

The only other point-scoring clue on the front page was the classic Jamie Reid poster advertising the Sex Pistols' *God Save The Queen*. In our version we have substituted Liz with the Clouet portrait of Mary Queen of Scots, who plays a key part in Stage 3 of the Hunt [8].

The 'Back' Page

Most of the stuff on the back page is reproduced from *England's Dreaming* by Jon Savage – the definitive account of the punk era.

Whose ear was bitten by Shane MacGowan at the ICA on 23 October 1976? This was Jane Crockford, later a Modette, at an early gig by The Clash [11]. It is doubtless MacGowan's not unlarge auditory appendages that have led to the assumption that he was the bitee on this seminal occasion, but evidently not, according to *England's Dreaming*.

Who took over the editorship of *Sniffin Glue* from Mark P? *Sniffin Glue* was an influential fanzine, which did much to explain and publicise the punk phenomenon. Original editor Mark P(erry) was replaced by the unlikely figure of Danny Baker, now writer for Chris Evans and host of an excellent Sunday morning show on GLR. I am told he also writes and broadcasts on the subject of football [10].

Who connects the Sex Pistols to the Afro-Celt Sound System? Firstly you should know that the Afro-Celt Sound System are a band, whose album *Sound Magic*, released last year, is a fusion of Irish, African and dance music. The cover art is by Jamie Reid, who was also responsible for the Sex Pistols' record covers and much of the overall punk look [12].

Who played drums at Siouxi and the Banshees first performance? Siouxi was, of course, one of the original punks and her first gig was a definitive moment in the era. She destroyed songs by the Beatles, Dylan and the Bay City Rollers before going on to The Lord's Prayer as the being the only other thing she knew the words to. Drummer was Sid Vicious [6].

The picture of a cow is the cover of the album *Atom Heat Mother* by that well-known punk band, Pink Floyd. This is a reference to the song *Fat Old Sun* which appears in the Stage 2 'Astronomy' clues [11].

The razor and the 'rips' on the back page were meant as a reference to the 'Jack the Ripper' clues in Stage 2, but no one noticed this [14].

Answers: Sherlock Holmes

Pub Clues and Forward References

This section was an unforgivable spoof on the *Five Orange Pips* with the Blue Buttons being substituted to lead to The Good Yarn in Uxbridge [8]. The story hinted that this should be paired with the Astrology section but you could, just from the story, have pinpointed the pub.

The first paragraph contained no points or references but simply allowed Pablo to reminisce about past Armchair Treasure Hunts. The second paragraph did however contain the phrase "good yarn" when describing the Clark Wetherspoon sea story. This reinforced the use of the phrase in the Village Voice and Christmas Reading. Those who studied the original Holmes story will realise that Dr Watson was reading a Clerk Russell story so an immediate visit to any Wetherspoon's pub or a trawl through the their web site would then have been sufficient to pinpoint The Good Yarn's location.

No points for the next observation that Dave wandered into the realms of self-delusion and fantasy as his namesake was introduced. For someone who has recently celebrated his 50th birthday the phrase "five-and-forty at the outside" was a little OTT. However, this was closely followed by a reference to Hanwell and the Grand Union Canal. Although Dave does live in Hanwell, teams could have inferred that there was a reason for mentioning said canal - it runs through Uxbridge not far from the Good Yarn.

The next deviation from the real story was the introduction of Stransom family history. The whole section concerning H C Pearson, Queen Victoria and the Stransom ditty can all be found inside the Good Yarn which was redeveloped from the H C Pearson site. The mention of Queen Victoria also allowed yet another reference to Windsor, although no one spotted this [14].

The next references to be spotted were in the introduction of Sir John Oldcastle and Isaac Wilson. These are both Wetherspoon pubs to reinforce the early Wetherspoon mention but, in addition, Sir John Oldcastle was the main source used by William Shakespeare for our hero Sir John Falstaff who makes a significant contribution to Stage 3 of the Hunt [7]. That was strengthened by describing Sir John as a "well-known Shakespearean actor". Isaac Wilson was fictitiously ascribed as "a famous Oxford Blue" as the forward reference to the Oxford Blue pub in Windsor, which also features in Stage 3 [10].

The next few paragraphs were a tongue-in cheek allusion to the behaviour of the teams in the ATH. The mention of the bus timetable and the route 11 alluded to the Orange Brewery as, for instance, Reuters teams could have got said bus outside the Fleet Street office and been dropped off right outside the pub.

The next reference introduced was the "postmark of Farringdon". The Sir John Oldcastle pub is only yards from the tube station which could have allowed teams to visit and check out one of the many *Wetherspoons News* broadsheets where they would have found the Good Yarn pub with its address. The final clues came from the first "sheet of paper" and its enigmatic list. The list is simply the items that can be found around the tailor's dummy in the window of the Good Yarn. The mention of Tycho Brahe, Lukasiewicz and Von Neumann list with their star signs should have led teams to note that these three mathematicians were born on December 14th, 21st and 28th respectively so giving the days on which teams should have turned up at the pub. The last line gave the address of the Good Yarn in Uxbridge as the High Street. This is also the road on which the tube station is located (turn right on exiting station) and the 12.30 to 2 pm obviously gave the time of day when Paul or Dave could be found.

The Crossword

This was included as an amusing diversion and had no value to finding the treasure. There is the possibility of disagreement over the answers as we pinched it from a book which did NOT give any solution. We have been generous with the marking [6].

Answers: Astrology

Dave has this bizarre idea of introducing star charts at the beginning of projects to predict their outcome, so decided to see if anyone could make any sense of the detailed instructions. This section had no 'forward references' because it took Dave so long to understand and document the methodology that we gave up on adding any other material.

The famous person was Marilyn Monroe [3]. Some references give her time of birth as 9.30 not 9.09 (ours don't) but 20 minutes makes no difference to the star chart.

If you followed the instructions [6] you came out with a chart that should look like the following. This was borne out by Dave Kee's team who visited an astrology shop in Covent Garden and got a computerised printout of the horoscope. Another team did what we did and bought a book that had Monroe's horoscope as its example.

If overlaid on the London map, Uxbridge appears between Pluto and the Moon's North Node [6]. The relevant Ephemeris and Tables of Houses are available in any reputable public library. Ealing's library evidently doesn't fall into this category, as they have the Ephemeris back to 1880 but, mysteriously, no copy of the one needed for 1926. Any team nicked it?

Answers: Astronomy

The front page was just a nice illustration, showing a comet over Paris. No deliberate clues here.

Red Herring

The page showing Atlas holding up the heavens was a red herring designed to lure you to The Globe in Leighton Buzzard [8].

The panel at the bottom contains a word-by-word anagram of *Saturday Night Beneath the Plastic Palm Trees*, the sole hit for the Leyton Buzzards. *Cimabue's Madonna* is the name of a painting by Lord Leighton, which shows the Madonna painted by the old master Cimabue being taken in a procession to be hung in a church in Florence. Bueto is the genus of the buzzard family. Stoke Road is where the Globe can be found.

I am told by Matt that it is a pleasant canalside pub, which I hope provided consolation to everyone who visited it. Most unlucky was a team who better remain nameless, who set off from The Globe armed with the instructions that were supposed to be applied when starting from The Falcon in Fotheringay (see Mary Queen of Scots section). Naturally everything fitted, especially if he assumed the 'monument' to be St Mary's church instead of Fotheringay castle. They even found a likely-looking oak tree beneath which was concealed... an empty jar of Hellman's mayonnaise.

The (admittedly vague) clue to this being a red herring is that the picture shows the ancient view of the heavens, with the planets revolving around the Earth. The remaining two pictures show the Sun at the centre. So, you were supposed to choose fact over fiction - the Sun instead of the Globe. The question "Fact or Fiction" is repeated so you ask yourself whether this sheet is one or the other.

Pub Clues

The pub to be found was the Old Sun at Ampthill in Bedfordshire [8].

There were several clues to *Masquerade* by Kit Williams. This 1979 book was the pioneer for treasure hunting, the author burying a solid-gold, jewel-encrusted hare and giving clues to its location within a beautifully-illustrated story. This location turned out to be Ampthill, near the monument to Catherine of Aragon in the grounds of a nearby park.

The 'green' and 'blue' pages in our clue sheet are laid out in the same way as the illustrations in *Masquerade*, although no one mentioned this [14].

The 'Green' Page

The phrase "I am as old as earth, as cold as earth, and in the earth am I" is a direct quote from the first major illustration in *Masquerade*, and the reversible picture of the sun is also from the book (and a hint at the Old Sun pub). [8]

We omitted the rest of the initial quotation "One of six to eight", which in *Masquerade* was a reference to Catherine of Aragon. As she was not relevant to our Treasure Hunt this was replaced with "I will mask it", an anagram of Kit Williams [8].

The gold bar and the illustration of the constellation Lepus suggest the golden hare [6]. Nihal and Arneb are the names of the major two stars in Lepus, while M79 is Messier Object 79, a globular cluster also in that constellation [8].

ISBN 0 224 01617 2 is the International Standard Book Number for *Masquerade* (now of course out of print) [3].

Psalm 104.24 reads "*O Lord how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all. The Earth is full of thy riches*". An appropriate sentiment for a Treasure Hunt but more significant in that it is inscribed on a small plaque near where Kit Williams buried his golden hare (by a religious organisation which specialises in leaving uplifting thoughts at beauty spots). A bonus for anyone who made the pilgrimage to the park [9].

Clues on the 'green' page not relevant to *Masquerade* were...

The words around the picture of the Sun are those of *Fat Old Sun* by Pink Floyd (again). This is from the *Atom Heart Mother* album whose cover had appeared, somewhat incongruously, among the 'punk' clues. Of course this was a major clue to the Old Sun pub [8].

H.8 4.1.28 was deliberately meant to be confusingly similar to the 'monarchs' clue in the 'Jack the Ripper' section. In this case H.8 was meant to be Henry VIII but the remainder was not a date but a reference in the play *Henry VIII* by Shakespeare. The act, scene and line numbers yield the middle of a speech by a 'Gentleman'

"...The Archbishop of Canterbury, accompanied with other learned and reverend fathers of his order, held a court at Dunstable, six miles off from Ampthill, where the princess lay, to which she was often cited by them but appeared not;"

A confirmer for Ampthill [12].

MDXXXI – MDXXXIII were the years during which Catherine of Aragon lived at Ampthill [6].

12.30 – 2.00 were the times to be at the Old Sun, on the dates specified on the 'blue' page.

The 'Blue' Page

The two crosses are a rough depiction of what lies in Ampthill Park. One cross (pictured) is the monument to Catherine of Aragon while another similar one is a tribute to a nearby military base [11]. "The mournful refuge of an injured queen" is part of the inscription on the base of the monument, written by Horace Walpole [8]. Although meant for Catherine of Aragon the words could equally well apply to the subject of Stage 3 - Mary Queen of Scots at Fotheringay - and so could also be taken as a 'forward reference'.

The picture of the sun is the pub sign from the Old Sun itself.

Finally the answers to the first three questions are all dates, the dates on which you should have been at the Old Sun to collect the Stage 3 clues.

The Questions

1. **On what date was the South Pole first reached?** 14 December 1911 by Roald Amundsen [4].
2. **When is mumping day?** 21 December or St Thomas's Day, when the poor used to go about begging to procure good things for Christmas [2].
3. **When is Childermas?** Holy Innocents Day, or December 28th [3].
4. **What was the answer to the first question ever asked on *Mastermind*?** The question was "Picasso's *Guernica* was a protest about the bombing of a Spanish village. What was the year in which this event took place?" and the answer was 1937. The more subtle Hunters answered Alan Whitehead, on the grounds that the first question Magnus asked was "What is your name", to the initial contestant. Either was accepted [8].
5. **What is the next in the series: 1, 11, 21, 1211, 111221, 312211?** In this series each term is a 'description' of the one before it. So we start with a single 1 or (to put it another way) one 'one' – which gives us the next term, 11. This is two 'ones', which gives us the next term, 21. This is one 'two' then one 'one', which gives us the next term, 1211. Thus it continues and the next term after the ones given is 13112221 [5].
6. **Other than board members, which Logica employee has the lowest staff number? OR What is the connection between Reuters, poppies and New Delhi?**

This was the traditional Logica question or, for Reuters entrants, the first traditional Reuters question. For Logica people the answer is Peter R Smith [6], who has staff number 5, closely followed by Jeremy Tucker with 6 and Keith Southwell with 13. Sadly, it looks as if Pablo will never make the top ten.

For Reuters people the connection is Sir Edward Lutyens, who designed the Reuters HQ at 85 Fleet Street, the Cenotaph in Whitehall (hence the poppies), and much of New Delhi [6].

7. **What is the next in the series: 5, 6, 14, 32, 64, 115, 191?** This can be answered by studying the following

The answer is 299 [7].

8. **What 10-digit number uses the digits 0 – 9 once and has each of its first n digits exactly divisible by n?** 3816547290 [5].

9. **Where in the Bible is it implied that pi equals three?** Two possible answers here: 2 Chronicles 4:2 and 1 Kings 7:23 [6], the text being strangely the same in each case.

"Also he made a molten sea of ten cubits from brim to brim, round in compass, and five cubits the height thereof; and a line of thirty cubits did compass it round about"

10. **What is the next word in the sequence: DIG, MINIM, MILITIA, SIEVE, EVE?** The even letters are the Roman numerals in sequence: I, II, III, IV, V. So you could have any answer of the form ?V?I?, such as OVOID or AVOID [10].

11. **What were the first words ever spoken in *Eastenders*?** "Stinks in 'ere" as Den kicked in the door of Reg Cox's flat to find him close to death in 1985 [11]. Several answers here along the lines of "He's dead", but not according to my source. It sounds like later dialogue to me.

12. **What does Yahoo stand for?** Yet Another Heirarchical Official Oracle [7].

13. **What is the most used noun in spoken or written English?** "Time" [11], closely followed by "people", "way", "water" and "words". Some references (I suspect hailing from less politically-correct days) had "man", which was also accepted. The best source for this answer is Pablo's favourite book, *Godel, Escher, Bach* by Douglas R Hofstadter on page 630, in the section seductively entitled PLANNER Facilitates Problem Reduction. Hofstadter references *The American Heritage Word Frequency Book* by John B Carroll et al. and his main point is that we express ourselves in much more abstract terms than we may imagine. You could do worse than spending the time until the next ATH reading this and his latest brain-buster *Le Ton Beau De Marot*.

13. **Arrange the following into a winning sequence: BANANAS, RIDDLER, POSSESS, STUMPER, FREIGHT, SESSION, PUZZLER.** To do this you must consider each 7-letter word as a poker hand, in particular regarding numbers of identical letters and runs of sequential letters. So in ascending order of value we have:

STUMPER – nothing; PUZZLER – 2 of a kind; RIDDLER – 2 pairs; SESSION – 3 of a kind; FREIGHT – straight; BANANAS – full house; POSSESS – 4 of a kind.

And that is what we meant by the "winning sequence" [10].

Answers: Jack the Ripper

Introduction

This section was made much easier if you located the graphic novel *From Hell* by Alan Moore and Eddie Campbell. This is by no means easy, in fact I (Pablo) don't even have several of the 10 volumes myself. Apparently they can all be found on <http://www.execpc.com/~pauer/fromhell.html> or possibly on <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~troq/Comix/fhell.html> although I haven't tried either myself.

It is a comic version of the Jack the Ripper story, which takes as its central premise a grand conspiracy involving Queen Victoria's son Prince Eddy being blackmailed by prostitutes, with her physician, chief Freemason and total nutcase Sir William Gull being employed to polish them off in cahoots with his coachman, Netley. I use the word 'comic' cautiously as there is very little among the (literally) graphic scenes of sex and butchery that is remotely amusing.. Ideal material then for all the family to gather round over the Christmas period.

The 'From Hell' logo, the text beginning "It is my belief...", the map showing the sites of the murders along with various other elements which are crucial to Moore's conspiracy theory, and the picture of Sir William Gull on the last page, are all taken from the graphic novel.

In our version of the map, the victims' names have been replaced with the dates of birth of various monarchs - Henry V, Henry VI, Edward IV and Edward V - next in the sequence was Richard III [9], who was born at Fotheringay on 2 October 1452, a forward reference to Stage 3.

The Questions

Answers to all these except the last two can be obtained from any good Ripper reference, such as *The Complete History of Jack the Ripper* by Philip Sugden or the 'Ripperweb' site <http://ripper.wildnet.co.uk/>.

1. **Who was Leather Apron?** He was generally agreed to be John Pizer [4], a nutter who wandered around the East End wearing a leather apron stuffed with a large collection of knives and who, for some odd reason, became a Ripper suspect.
2. **Who was found by Louis Diemschultz and Isaac Kozebrodski?** Elizabeth Stride [1], first of the Ripper's two victims on 30 September 1888.
3. **What was on the staircase of Nos 108 - 119 Wentworth Model Dwellings?** A piece of Elizabeth Stride's apron and the graffiti "The Juwes are the men that will not be blamed for nothing" [2]
4. **Who ordered it removed?** Sir Charles Warren [3], chief of police, ordered that the graffiti be immediately removed, presumably fearing an anti-Semitic backlash (but would a Jew have written such a message?).
5. **Who once lived at Stora Tumlehed?** Elizabeth Stride [1] again, once known as Elisabeth Gustafsdottir and brought up at the farm so named just north of Gothenburg.
6. **What did Matthew Packer claim to have sold to a man and a woman on 29 September?** Half a pound of black grapes [1], which he claimed were purchased by a man accompanied by Elizabeth Stride shortly before her untimely end. Packer's testimony is unreliable to say the least - however, drugged grapes do play a role in Alan Moore's version of events.
7. **What disturbed the sleep of Elizabeth Prater by crawling over her neck?** Her pet kitten, Diddles [3]. As she awoke she heard a cry of Murder! but, thinking nothing of it, went back to sleep. She was the neighbour of Ripper victim Mary Kelly.
8. **What game was played by Montague Druitt?** Mainly cricket [4], as he taught it at a private school and was Director of Morden & Blackheath CC. His suicide at the end of 1888 has led to him being identified (perhaps a little too conveniently) as the Ripper. In Moore's book Druitt is himself murdered to cloud the trail to William Gull.
9. **With which literary form do you associate Alan Moore?** Graphic Novels [4] - he wrote the groundbreaking *Watchmen* as well as the excellent *V for Vendetta*, both essential if you still think comics are for children. If you survive those, go on to *From Hell*.
10. **Who does he think it was?** As stated earlier, Moore gives the nod to Sir William Gull [6].

The Code

The recipe for Kidneys Turbigio was meant to recall the half kidney sent to George Lusk, chairman of the Mile End Vigilance Committee. It was accompanied by a letter reading:

From Hell. Mr Lusk Sor, I send you half the Kidne I took from one women prasarved it for you tother I fried and ate it was very nise I may send you the bloody knif that took it out if you will only wate a whil longer. Signed - Catch me when you can Mishter Lusk.

Reference to the recipe will reveal a couple of words have a number after them - 'half' (9) and 'a' (46) which correspond to the positions of these words in the 'From Hell' letter. This is the key to the code. Each pair of numbers refers to a word in the text above, and the letter within that word. The message is [11]:

OLD SUN AFPTHILL

(the F is a mistake - the code should have read 14.4 to give an M).

The Last Page

The final page of the Jack the Ripper clues shows a calendar with 14, 21 and 28 December marked. There is also a pair of clocks showing 12.30 and 2.00. Clearly these were the dates and times to obtain your Stage 3 clues at the Old Sun, Ampthill [9]. The pub itself is shown in a grainy sepia photograph which Pablo is rather proud of having 'doctored'.

The remainder gives various clues to Ampthill and to Stage 3 (Mary Queen of Scots).

"The House Beautiful" is one of the sites in *The Pilgrim's Progress*, and Bunyan himself is shown in the portrait. The House Beautiful was based on Houghton House, just outside Ampthill [4].

The quote about Richard Nicolls and his brass is taken from a guide to Ampthill [6].

The lyrics are from a song, written by the incomparable Sandy Denny, called *Fotheringay* [7]. It was recorded on the Fairport Convention album *What We Did On Our Holidays*. When Denny left Fairport Convention she formed her own band named after this song. The lyrics, of course, describe the imprisonment of Mary Queen of Scots and the missing word is "Fotheringay" - the treasure is buried in the village of the same name.

The mythical creature is a Phoenix. According to the Guinness Book of Signs and Symbols it was adopted as a badge by both Mary Queen of Scots and (confusingly) Elizabeth I. No one realised this [14].

The picture of a mermaid is a reproduction of a placard that appeared after the murder of Mary Queen of Scot's husband, Darnley. The hare (see the Astronomy section and its Masquerade references) was from Bothwell's crest and a mermaid is a symbol of a whore [9].

We were disappointed that no one (especially no ATH regulars) cracked **An Armchair Treasure Hunt wordplay refers Mary's address openly**. Apart from being literally true (her 'address' of Fotheringay is in there even if not particularly 'openly'), the phrase is an anagram **of Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our readers and surfers**. Now fancy not getting that! [14]

Answers: Falstaff

The Trail to the 'Fiction' Box

By the time the Stage 3 sheets were given out in the Good Yarn, most teams had noted the several references to Windsor and Falstaff. One enterprising team had already connected Oldcastle to Old Windsor with a certain leap of imagination.

Keeping Windsor in mind and using the map provided with its red cross and cemetery and hospital markings should have led to The Oxford Blue, Crimp Hill, Old Windsor. Any doubts would have been dispelled through a visit, when the picture of the Oxford Blue pub would have provided confirmation.

A drawing of Sir John was provided (lifted from the cover of an edition of *Merry Wives of Windsor*) which gives the general impression of our hero with drinking cup in hand. The script beginning "Tutto e finito" was penned by Verdi on the final copy of his opera *Falstaff* before dispatching it to his agent. If translated it becomes a fond farewell to Sir John [7]. The fragment of music comes from the last piece of the opera as confirmation [8].

The biography beginning "A courageous soldier..." was derived from the various plays and the opera and listed assorted epithets applied to Sir John [3].

The reference to "Traicte des Chiffes" was meant to lead teams to translate the coded instructions starting KRZE BNS YZRY through using the Vigenere encryption scheme familiar to regular entrants to these competitions. *Traicte des Chiffes* was published by Vigenere in 1586 although, in fact, this was not the work in which he described his code. His method requires a keyword, and no one should be surprised to find that this is FALSTAFF. However, a slight coding error meant that you had to start from both ends of the message to finally make any sense of it. The decoded text reads as follows: [6]

FROM INN TURN RIGHT AND WALK TO CEMETERY. TAKE PATH TO BEARS RAILS. GO THROUGH WOODEN GATE PAST LODGE ON THE RIGHT AND THROUGH NEXT GATE. FOLLOW PATH AS IT SWINGS LEFT. AT JUNCTION WITH STREAM AND SANDY RIDING TRACK, FOLLOW SANDY RIDING TRACK TO CREST OF HILL. CONTINUE ON TRACK LOOKING FOR DITCH ON THE LEFT THAT FORMS A RIGHT ANGLE. THE BOX IS UNDER TREE TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY SEVEN BY SIDE OF DITCH.

It all makes sense when you get there. Several of the trees in this area have a numbered label on them. The wooded area where the box was buried used to form part of Windsor forest as featured in *Merry Wives* so completing the Falstaff/Windsor connection.

The box in question is, of course our 'Fiction' box and hence the final stage in the false trail [8].

Shakespeare Puzzle and Quiz

These confirmed the Falstaff connection and gave the chance for some extra points. The quiz answers were.

1. Which plays have a character called Antonio? Five in all - *The Merchant of Venice*, *The Tempest*, *Twelfth Night*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* [1].
2. Which plays open with Boatswain! Tush! Hence! O! *The Tempest*, *Othello*, *Julius Caesar* and *Henry IV Part 2* respectively [3].
3. Who, and of what relevance, were William Kempe, Francis Meres and Barnabe Rich? Kempe was an actor - the star of the original production of many of Shakespeare's plays. He also danced a morris from London to Norwich. Meres was an Elizabethan anthologist and critic who made several important contemporary references to Shakespeare. Rich was an Elizabethan writer, one of whose stories is the basis for the plot of *Twelfth Night*. Coincidentally, he also fought in the struggle for Calais mentioned in the Mary Queen of Scots section [4].
4. Which plays have scenes set in: A brothel in Vienna; A brothel in Mytilene; A wood near Athens; A cave near Athens? *Measure For Measure*, *Pericles*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Timon of Athens* respectively [2].
5. In which plays do these characters appear: Proculeius, Francisca, Servilius, Bernaldo, Archidamus? *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Measure for Measure*, *Timon of Athens*, *Hamlet*, and *The Winter's Tale* respectively [1].
6. Who wrote "*To be or not to be; that is the bare bodkin/That makes calamity of so long life; ?/For who would fardels bear, till Birnham/wood do come to Dunsinane/But that the fear of something after*

death,/Murders the innocent sleep..." Mark Twain The lines are from *Huckleberry Finn*, from the fuddled memory of the self-styled Duke of Bridgewater, an actor and con-man [9].

This leaves the other apparent code starting GFAAA and the crossword-like grid. Basically, the letters can be slotted into the grid to give a Shakespeare quotation. The letters are shown inconveniently in alphabetical order for each column, making this a bit of a struggle to sort out. The final quotation is

"Good name in man or woman, dear my Lord/ Is the immediate jewel of their souls:/ Who steals my purse steals trash;/ Tis something, nothing;/ Twas mine, tis his, and has been slave to thousands"

[7], which is from Othello - also the subject of an opera by Verdi. The third, well-known, line in the quotation was supposed to be a final indication that this was a false trail. Some sources give the setting for this scene as "the garden of the castle", which could be a loose description of the actual hiding-place in Fotheringay.

Answers: Mary Queen of Scots

The crest on the cover is taken from the back of the sleeve of the eponymous album by the band Fotheringay - this group was formed by Sandy Denny when she left Fairport Convention, named after her song which was printed in the Jack the Ripper section of the Hunt. No one spotted this, possibly because Pablo has the only copy of the album ever sold [14].

The text is an accurate summary of the life of Mary Queen of Scots [1], largely drawn from the excellent biography by Antonia Fraser. The chess problem (which Pablo particularly wanted to include somewhere) was ineptly levered into the middle.

Keys and Symbols

Several words have been replaced with by 'keys' or by symbols, this is consistent with MQoS's own writings which often used a 'nomenclature' cypher where the names of people were replaced with symbols.

The 'key' words had to be slotted into a grid in order to get the key phrase for the final code. The other symbols were drawn from MQoS's own personal code, which will be discussed later on. Because replacing the symbols by words was not a particularly difficult exercise, we don't propose to give any points for those, just for the the completed grid [5] which should have been:

ERSKINE, FLODDEN FIELD, LIVINGSTON, LOUVRE, EDINBURGH, SAINT-REMY, C3, HADDINGTON., JOSEPH RICCIO, KIRK O'FIELD, LOCHLEVEN, WORKINGTON, M

Just to make things more difficult I accidentally transposed David Riccio with his brother and misplaced one of the squares. Why do I add complexity when I can rely on incompetence to do it for me?

The final M was supposed to be clued by the 'embroidery' picture showing "In my end is my beginning" (which was actually embroidered by MQoS while she was in captivity, although she did hers in French). So 'my' beginning was an M, as was the beginning of 'Mary' depending on how you chose to read the message. However, nobody seemed to do it that way, just by extrapolating from the other messages, which were also signed with an M for consistency. (All this was so that we had a keyword of 13 letters which was needed for the particular code being used).

The Chess Problem

Now for that chess problem, which we will be discussed in detail mainly because Pablo met someone in a pub who claimed to be chess champion of Northern Europe (or something) and conclusively demonstrated that it was impossible.

1. It must be Black to move, because he is in check. The only alternative is that the White King is on B2 or C3, obstructing the Black bishop. But the C2 is next to the Black King, so the White King could never have got there, and B3 would mean that Black managed to get White in check with the Bishop and Rook simultaneously and this would not have been possible in one move.
2. So what was White's last move? He must just have moved his King in such a way that Black was put in check by his Bishop. The alternative is that he moved his Bishop, but if so then Black was already in check and that would be illegal.
3. So White's last move must have been to move his King from B3 - either to C3 or A3. The King could not have been on C2 as explained earlier.
4. If the White King was on B3 then how did it get to be in check by Black's Bishop and Rook? The only solution is some move which unblocks the line for both pieces. This is the key to the problem and the solution is hinted at by the fact that the action all seems to be happening on rank 3 - i.e. there was an *en passant* capture.
5. An *en passant* capture on A3 would have been impossible because the A4 square, which the White Pawn would have to go to in order to enable such a move, is occupied by the White Bishop. So the capture by the Black King must have been on C3. The black pawn got there following an *en passant* capture after White's C2 - C4.
6. Now we know the previous three moves. White's last move was King (B3) takes Pawn (C3). Black's move before that was Pawn (B4) takes Pawn (C4) *en passant*, double check. And White's move before that was Pawn (C2) to C4.
7. Add the White pawn at C2 and the Black pawn at B4 and it is clear that the reason for White's C2 - C4 was to counter Black's move of his Bishop from somewhere to D5, which put White in check. The beauty of this puzzle is that all the evidence (the two pawns) has been removed, leaving the impossible-looking situation given. And, by the way, the answer is that the White King is on C3 [7] - Mary Queen of Scots must have been quite a good player to see all that so quickly.

The Codes

There were three codes in all, two of which used the symbols from MQoS's personal code which can be found in *Harrap's Book of Codes and Cyphers* (and probably on the net as well although I don't know where). For the 'false' code you just took the first letter of the words that were substituted in the text of Mary's life and slotted them in to the given cypher. This gives [2]:

PHELIPPES I HAVE OUTWITTED YOU THIS LAST TIME. MY TRUE CODE WILL BE FOUND IN THE PAGES OF HISTORY. M.

"Phelippes" is a reference to Thomas Phelippes, England's first noteworthy cryptanalyst, who cracked MQoS's codes to disastrous effect. This false trail was hinted at by the mythical creature on the code-sheet.

However, the relationship between the symbols and letters we used for this code was not the same as Mary's actual code - in fact it has been roughly reversed. So you needed to do some heavy-duty code cracking or some historical research to decipher the next code, which was the 'real' trail. This was hinted at by the picture of a peach with one leaf attached which, according to *the Guinness Book of Signs and Symbols*, represents the heart and tongue and hence was adopted by Renaissance painters to symbolise truth (it is sometimes seen in this role in Virgin and Child pictures). Anyway, the deciphered code reads [2]:

WRITE THE KEY PHRASE TWICE OVER THE ALPHABET AND SO DECRYPT EACH LETTER. CHOOSE WITH CARE, MY FRIEND, AND MY FINAL MESSAGE WILL BE REVEALED. M.

This shows what to do with the final code. The key phrase is obtained from the shaded squares on the grid as SILVERCASKETM, which is confirmed by the picture of a silver casket with an M in its clasp. The silver casket, of course, was the container for the so-called 'casket letters' which were held to incriminate MQoS in various plots, but which were probably forgeries or cut-ups of innocuous material. This is mentioned in the Stage 1 'Cinema' clues and also in the illustration which shows a silver box with an M-shaped clasp.

You write this twice over the alphabet and use this to decipher the encrypted message. The nature of this code means that you have two, and in some cases four, alternatives for each letter so you have indeed to choose carefully in order to find the final route to the code [6]:

TURN RIGHT, PASS THE CHURCH, AND TAKE THE TRACK TO THE MONUMENT. DO NOT ENTER ITS GROUNDS BUT CONTINUE ALONG THE ??. CROSS A BRIDGE AND STYLE AND WALK BETWEEN THE SMALL TREES AND THE FENCE. IN A LARGE OAK TO YOUR RIGHT AT GROUND LEVEL THERE IS A HOLLOW IN WHICH YOU WILL FIND MY TREASURE. M.

The ?? must be replaced from MQoS's code as NW which, when you get there, you realise stand for Nene Way, a long-distance footpath. The starting-point is, naturally, the village of Fotheringay in Northamptonshire, where MQoS was executed - it virtually says this in the 'autobiography', although some people evidently convinced themselves that we wouldn't bury anything quite so far from London.

Of course you must start from a pub, in this case the only pub in the village, The Falcon - the drawings of a falcon and a tree on the code-sheet confirm that this is the correct trail. The 'monument' is the last remnants of Fotheringay Castle, a curiously evocative place - it was a visit by Pablo early in 1997 which led to the choice of this as the hiding place for this year's Hunt [6].

Results

First to the box was the giant Reuters (ish) team "The Ampthill Mob" consisting of Matt Hulbert and John Brennan, ably assisted by Dave Browning, Ed Curran, Jon Downs, Colm Durkin, Alan Hay, Neil Heyes, Tim Lebon, Ben Mellor, Steve Oliver, Lee Paxton, Gill Whitehead, Miles Whitehead and Hugh Young. They would have won the prize (had there been one) for the best illustrated answer sheet, which rivalled the clue sheets themselves for artistic endeavour.

Second to the box were the Logica ATH virgins, "Lester Pity FC (Fotheringay Castle)" consisting of Gary Lester, Mark Abbott, Kate Beeby and Dee Moore. their entry was somewhat marred by the lack of realisation that there was a second box, and their attempt to relate the Falstaff clues to the Fotheringay area.

Winners of the best entry competition were Brian Mills and the Secret Seven, by a long way. The following table shows the rest of the results in order of points obtained:

Team	Company	Points	'Fact' Ticket No	'Fiction' Ticket No
Brian Mills & The The Secret Seven	Logica	746	4	2
The Ampthill Mob	Reuters	688	1	4
Dave Kee Team	Logica	533	3	1
No Management Potential (Alison Ruxton)	Logica	524		3
Lester Pity FC	Logica	416	2	
Split Definitive (Jones/Cottingham)	Reuters	416	5	5
Ros Skelcher's Team	Logica	409		
David Byrne, Gordon Campbell, Nick Hindley	Reuters	373		
Jon Wallis. Ken Shilson & Friends	Logica	303		
Richard Meats++	Logica	289		

Mark Amey	Logica	283		
Martin Milnes & Team	Logica	281		6
Steve Hames	Logica	130		
Andrew Healey	Logica	129		

The ordering should not be taken too seriously - not everyone has the same resources and time to spend on the quiz.

So the prizes will be awarded as follows:

Reuters Competition

First to Box - The Ampthill Mob

Best Entry (1st Place) - Split Definitive

Best Entry (2nd Place) - David Byrne, Gordon Campbell, Nick Hindley

Logica Competition

First to Box - Lester City FC

Best Entry (1st Place) - Brian Mills and the Secret Seven

Best Entry (2nd Place) - Dave Kee Team

Best Entry (3rd Place) - No Management Potential

Award for most perseverance in the face of overwhelming odds - Mark Amey

Quotes from the Treasure Hunters

We felt a number of comments from the answer-sheets were worthy of record. So here they are, unordered and unascrbed to save any blushes.

"We'd like to thank you for the supreme sacrifice of having to make 14 pub visits in December, when you could have been at home with the in-laws."

"The barman was able to confirm that the pub used to be H C Pearson's tailors shop, but had never heard of John Stransom. That a huge article on Stransom hangs opposite the bar poses worrying questions about Wetherspoon's staff..."

"After shaking off a couple of loitering urchins, we retrieved the box."

(Literary Quiz) "I read a book once. It was a red one"

"No offence to Geordies but 'the most beautiful voice on radio' would have to have been a satirical comment if this is the correct answer"

"Silage features on the walk to the treasure site."

"Shredded wheat dishes - one shredded wheat = SW1, two shredded wheat = SW2. Hint at Orange Brewery."

"There are some Italian lyrics which look like they come from Verdi operas. First line is from Aida, second from Falstaff. Probably taking the first letter of each opera spells A FALSE TRAIL."

"This question appeared in the 1989 - 90 ATH!"

"Pablo's inherent laziness meant that the pub must be that punk palace of the '70s a couple of doors down from his gaff."

"Could the starring role assigned to Walter Brennan be a canny prediction that Walter's brother John would in fact be the first to the casket?"

"We've got little idea on most of these. Just as well we didn't play our joker on The Archers".

"We might have been tempted to head for Leighton Buzzard, except it's such a god-awful place."

"...we got there late, and darkness and fog were setting in fast. A number of false starts didn't help, and we spent some time wandering around the back of the church after some helpful advice from a couple of Americans. Even when we got to the tree, we couldn't find the treasure immediately because it has been 'well replaced' by Brennan's crowd. And just to rub it in, after we'd found it, the pub had shut. Bummer."

"Picture [of Oxford Blue, Windsor] is presumably of pub in Fotheringay, although it seems slightly different to how we remember it."

"We picked up the Archery Tavern...and went there on the 16th at the appropriate time. We saw quite a lot of apparent Reuters people but could not find Dave or Pablo..."

"Is Bangalore Phal a real dish?"

"The 46.2 code would seem to be a list of word/letter pairs from the Rognons Turbigio recipe."

"Can horoscopes refer to planets before they were discovered?"

"Someone had set the wrong date on the franking machine."

"...Elvis, Madonna and Marilyn? All sang Unchained Melody."

"May I commend to you the film Amazon Women on the Moon, where Jack the Ripper turns out to be the Loch Ness Monster."

"[one of the team] just happened to be passing the pub at 2.00pm one Sunday and noticed Paul Coombs leaving...how fortunate for us!"

"Yet more references to Leighton and Buzzard, perhaps pointing us to Ampthill for the location of the treasure."

"Went to AMershAM ("in my end is my beginning") at an end of the Metropolitan Line. the church (St Mary's) has a path leading to a monument (the Martyr's Memorial) dedicated to a group of Protestants who were burned at the stake in 1506 and 1521. But "Mary's final message" didn't fit too well"

"As these {books} are all FICTION we interpreted this as an indication that the Orange Brewery was a red herring, so intentionally avoided attending that pub."

"On the precise edge of the map provided, a road crosses the M25, and immediately the other side is a pub called The Bull. Following the repeated references to The Bull in Stage 1, this seemed worthy of investigation..."