

The 2013-14 CGI Armchair Treasure Hunt



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“Did your mother ever find out what happened to her old Tupperware box?”

“No, and as far as I know it’s still where we buried it.”

“What were we thinking of? A time capsule for the year 2000 - it seemed so far in the future.”

When we met last summer in the village pub, the conversation turned from how much the old place had changed since we had our first pints there, to the other things that had taken place around that time.

Inspired by Blue Peter’s activities some years before, Chris and I with the help of our friend Kate, had buried a selection of objects which reflected our interests up to then; some pre-decimal coins, Airfix astronauts, a used ticket from a concert at the Empire Pool and other bits and pieces. Chris and I both moved away when we left school, Chris to go to university and me to try my hand in a band.

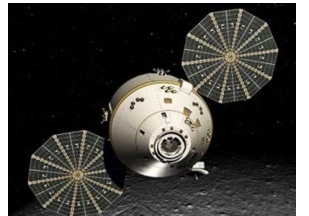
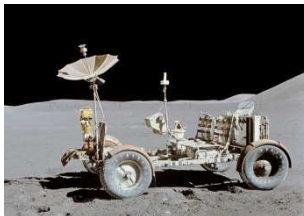
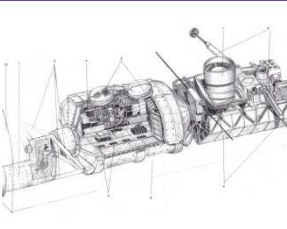
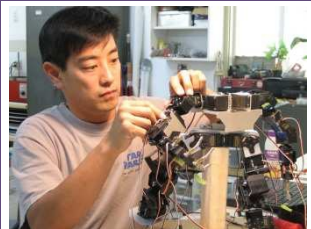
It’s strange to reflect on how the things that interested us then played such an important part in our lives and careers. The groups I was in never made it big, but I still ended up touring the world, eventually, as keyboard tech to a great band (not as a roadie, as some have suggested). Chris, however, ended up with a first in Astrophysics from Cambridge and went to the States for his PhD, which led to him joining NASA and the rest really is history.

After the end of the Shuttle programme, he took the opportunity to come back for a visit to the UK to show his wife around the places he grew up. It probably comes as no surprise that his wife is a smart cookie too. Their paths crossed in NASA when she was a specialist working on a cryptography payload (I never found out much more about it than that – one of the ‘hush hush’ shuttle missions that are recorded by their launch date, landing, duration and not much more available for public consumption).

I was now the proud owner of a music shop in Central London which gave me a bit of flexibility over my commitments. Chris planned to be over here for a few months, but his wife had to return home a couple of times during their stay, and it was during one of these breaks he suggested that we met up in the old pub, with a view to showing her the village when she returned. After several pints, we thought it would be fun to test her skills by putting together a treasure hunt which would lead her to the time capsule we buried back in 1976.

In some spare time we put together this puzzle and proudly presented it to her. It would be fair to say that her response was underwhelming. “If you think I’m spending my holidays and what’s left of this fine summer doing your ‘Boys Quiz’ you have another thing coming. Give it to me at Christmas and maybe I’ll look at it then...”





06/01/07	Which supergroup helps to rebuild an Armenian music school?
06/02/07	Chronologically, who was the fifth American astronaut?
16/01/02	What connects Steven Spielberg, Rick Wakeman and a Helicopter squadron?
11/02/09	Where, ignoring colour, "every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there"?
19/02/10	Which prize winner's mother was a white knight?
01/03/01	Name the Herald of Galactus and the Long Island bus from Hewlett that never made it to their intended destination?
18/02/07	A blue plaqued London house with 2 composers, 4 sculptors and a Sex Pistol neighbour. Which composer?
09/03/09	Which Vietnamese soup makes threateningly close approaches to the Earth?
04/01/00	By what name is Star Freedom better known?
09/05/06	Which stop-motion comedy was created by a werewolf?
03/02/01	Which editor of Neptune was famous for going for a walk and shaking hands?
05/01/05	What did the antichrist doggedly place on a calibration plate to a blurry fanfare?
02/01/07	Which keyboard player dared to name his son after the Apollo 11 lunar module?
02/01/04	What is the Dutch (or Estonian?) source of Aristotle's "stars with hair"?
03/03/09	17 astronauts in 3 groups (including 6 shuttle pilots), a second generation twin, but which programme?
13/05/08	Which virgule helped a Challenger investigator study Dirac Fields?
10/03/08	Which island can be found at 18°9'N 11°3'W?
04/02/00	What was discovered in October 2006, lasted 35 milliseconds and made sense out of nonsense?
15/01/03	Who liked Venetia's suggestion for X (the Ninth) and saw twinkling green fireballs
14/02/04	Who connects John Glenn and Gene Kranz in a moving way?
08/01/03	What was Marfusa, an astronomical pioneer?
01/02/04	Who was sued by a Deep Purple member for copyright infringement, related to a Frida Kahlo painting?
12/02/05	Which official boundary can Americans with wings reach by flying a further 20km or another 69km for Excelsior?
07/02/02	Which warrior princess with a lawless daughter was a source of discord who never cleared her neighbourhood?
17/02/12	What didn't Donald and Walter have that the others were named after?

Warsaw	Chewbacca	East	Peace
Rastrelli	Ascent	Erysimum	Heilsberg
Salute	Gunderam	Napoleon	Edinburgh
Oslo	Tsushima	Impossibility	Inkerman





THE AVENGERS DEAD MAN'S TREASURE HUNT



