

The curtain falls, the house lights go up and the last of the audience leave the theatre after another annual performance of the Armchair Treasure Hunt.

And the critics verdict? "Too difficult" came the cry from all quarters. Ah yes, but you like it really, don't you? I mean, do you want a quiz that you can just sit down and ... do? But-seriously, thank you for the nice remarks that some of you appended to your entries. Yes it is a lot of work, but I get a great deal of fun-out of unearthing useless facts and I'm glad that there are still a few people left in Logica with sufficient wit and sparkle to rise to a challenge.

Anyway, on with the important bit ...

THE ANSWERS

1. $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$; $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CHOH}$; $\text{CH}_2=\text{CHCH}_2\text{OH}$

Alcohol (3)

These are the chemical formulae for Ethyl Alcohol or Ethanol (my favourite), Isopropyl Alcohol and Allyl Alcohol respectively.

2. Leopard; Tiger; Easter

Lily (5)

The leopard lily is Turk's-cap shaped, orange with purple spots - and so is the tiger lily. The Easter lily is-pure white and trumpet-shaped.

3. The Holy office; Crosswords; Act of Faith

Inquisition (20)

No-one expects a question on the Spanish Inquisition. The Holy Office was its official if somewhat euphemistic title. It was only abolished as the final court of appeal in trials of heresy in 1908 and still exists to examine books for heretical passages.

The connection with crosswords is through Torquemada, chief inquisitor from 1420 to 1498, and also the pen-name of the-doyen of crossword-compilers, whose real name I seem to have lost.

Act of Faith is a translation of Auto-da-Fe, a ceremony involving the declaration of the Judgement of the Inquisition and the consequent public burning of those unfortunates deemed to be heretics.

4. Malus Pumila; Musa Sapientum; Rheum Rhaponticum

Fruit (12)

These are all the Latin names of fruits. Malus Pumila is the apple, Musa Sapientum is the Banana, and Rheum Rhaponticum is rhubarb.

Answers of 'fruit trees' were accepted, although rhubarb trees are rare in my part of the country. Everyone who noted that rhubarb was not strictly a fruit had 526sfpoints deducted for pedantry. As far as I'm concerned, you put custard on fruit and gravy on vegetables - OK?

5. Jacob Roggeveen; Hanga-Roa; Aku-Aku

Easter Island (15)

The island was 'discovered' by Roggeveen - he named it Passeiland because he arrived on Easter Day. Hanga-Roa is the name of its largest village, "Aku-Aku" is a book by Thor Heyerdahl about the ethnology of the island - it all had to do with the small-eared and the long-eared people, as I recall; one lot arrived by dugout canoe from miles away and the other lot built a load of mysterious statues.

6. Sphenoid; Ethmoid; Vomer

Skull (5)

These are all names of the bones in the skull. The sphenoid is a wedge-shaped piece near the neck, the ethmoid is a bit towards the front of the bone, and the vomer is the part of the nose that's likely to get broken if you go into the ring with Mike Tyson.

7. Polynesia; Norwegian blue; Captain Flint

Parrot (4)

Polynesia was Dr Dolittle's pet. The Norwegian blue may have beautiful plumage but it's pushing up the daisies, it has joined the choir invisible, it is an ex-parrot. Captain Flint was the name of the parrot in 'Treasure Island' - you know, "Pieces of eight" and all that.

8. Intellectuals; Arnold Bennett; Grandmother

Eggs (21)

Intellectuals are egg-heads.

Arnold Bennett is a reference to an unctuous concoction of eggs, smoked haddock and parmesan often served to the famous author in the Savoy Hotel and known ever since as omelette Arnold Bennett. He reciprocated by setting his novel "Imperial Palace" in the hotel.

Grandmother is a connection to the well-known practice of teaching your elder female relatives to suck eggs when, for some reason, they are already assumed to be skilled in this peculiar art.

9. A 1.25 litre bottle; Fram; the Nobel Prize

Nansen (22)

Fritjof Nansen, in fact - explorer, statesman and role-model for a million Norwegians. The Nansen bottle holds 1.25 litres and is used ... no, no ... nothing to do with hospitals -it's for taking seawater samples. Fram was the name of Nansen's ship, now on display in Oslo harbour. He won the Nobel peace prize in 1922 for leading relief operations in famine-stricken Russia.

10. John Dennis; Times; Belemnite

Thunder (13)

John Dennis is a tricky one - it was his thunder that was stolen. The story goes that he wrote a play in 1682 called "Appius and Virginia", in which there was a dramatic storm-scene. To add verisimilitude to this, he invented a novel method of generating stage thunder. Unfortunately his play was so bad that it quickly closed. Later, he was watching a production of "Macbeth" and realised that his invention was being used to produce the sound-effects. Jumping to his feet, he cried "The villains will not show my play but they will steal my thunder!". And the expression is with us to this day.

The Times newspaper was nicknamed 'The Thunderer' in the days when its editorials were a bit more controversial.

A belemnite is a fossil, shaped like a dart, which was once part of a cuttlefish. Rural folk, unused to the changing lifestyle of the cuttlefish, call these fossils thunderbolts or thunderstones.

11. Fern-Seed; Heliotrope; Alberich

Invisibility (17)

Fern seed was once held to be invisible and to confer invisibility to anyone holding some.

"we have the receipt of fern-seed, we walk invisible"

(Henry IV Part I, II i)

Heliotrope is also known as bloodstone, being green with red spots and veins. It too was held to confer invisibility.

“Nor hope had they of crevice where to hide
Or heliotrope to charm them out of view”
(Dante “Inferno”, xxiv)

Alberich is king of the Dwarfs in Wagner's Nibelungenlied. He steals the gold guarded by the Rhine Maidens. He has a magic cap, Tarnkappe, obtained by Siegfried which makes him invisible.

12. Dotheboy's Hall; Father Christmas; Rasputin

Nicholas (5)

Dotheboy's Hall features as the grim 'educational' establishment in Dickens "Nicholas Nickleby". Father Christmas is also known as Santa Claus, a corruption of Saint Nicholas', from whom the character is derived. Rasputin was a member of the court of the Russian King Nicholas II until he was murdered in 1916.

13. Cheese; A fop; A penguin

Macaroni (26)

They tell me that macaroni cheese can be very nice if it is made well; it is a little like saying that a hanging can be very painless if the executioner is sober.

The Macaronis were a group of flashy men who had visited Italy. They established the Macaroni club in 1760 and introduced pasta to London. Prototype lager louts, they hung around Vauxhall Gardens, drinking, duelling and gambling.

A macaroni is also the name given to the rock-hopper or crested penguin.

14. Emiliano Zapata; Ngo Dinh Diem; Faisal Ibn'abd Al-Aziz Al Saud

Assassinated (20)

Zapata was leader of the Mexican Revolution in 1910 - famous for his rallying call of "better to die on your feet than live on your knees". He was double-crossed by Colonel Jesus Guajardo, who claimed he was going to hand his garrison over to Zapata. However, when the revolutionary entered the compound, the soldiers were ordered to open fire and he was shot in the back and killed.

Ngo Dinh Diem was, from 1954, president of South Vietnam. Widely criticised as an American lackey, he was unseated by an ingenious plan by General Duong Van Minh. Minh suggested that a fake coup be staged so that Diem could demonstrate his muscle and righteousness. In fact, the coup was real and Minh assumed power. What happened to Diem is unclear. The official story was that he got into an argument with a rebel officer in the car that was taking him to freedom. The soldier drew his bayonet and stabbed Diem, then killed himself.

Faisal was absolute ruler of Saudi Arabia. On March 25, 1975, he intended to celebrate the 1405th birthday of Mohammed by holding a reception for a delegation from Kuwait. His nephew joined the line of dignitaries and, on reaching him, his uncle lowered his head so it could be kissed by the young prince. Instead, the prince pulled out a pistol and shot him three times. The assassin had been hoping that the murder would signal the start of a revolution to replace the old guard. It did not, and he was executed.

15. Abraham, Martin & John; Happy Birthday; Let 'Em In

King (25)

All these songs are tributes, of one sort or another, to the civil rights campaigner, Martin Luther King. "Happy Birthday" is the Stevie Wonder song which led to King's birthday being declared a national holiday.

16. A horse; A weasel; The Prime Minister

Iron (25)

The iron horse' is a railway locomotive.

A weasel was a slang term for a tailor's smoothing iron. If too much time had been spent in the Eagle', a pub and music hall in City Road, then the weasel had to be 'popped', or pawned. Hence the song.

The Prime Minister was dubbed "The Iron Lady" by the Soviet Defence Ministry newspaper "Red Star" on 24 January 1976.

17. Wing; Madman; Pine

Nut (20)

A wing-nut is an essential part of a bicycle wheel; Madmen are colloquially known as nuts or nutcases; a pine-nut is a crunchy ingredient of Italian and Middle-Eastern cookery.

18. The Painted Desert; Ria Langham; Vests

Gable (33)

"The Painted Desert" was a William Boyd western in which Clark Gable made his screen debut.

Ria Langham was his second wife, a Houston socialite who he married in 1930. He divorced her in 1939 to marry Carole Lombard.

It seems unbelievable now, but in the Frank Capra film "It Happened One Night", Gable took off his shirt and, underneath, there was just-body and hair - no vest. All over the US, liberated men cast aside their underwear and vest-sales plummeted.

19. Hormelic; Garpas; Zabalath

Magi (31)

These are just anagrams of the names of the Three Wise Men ie: Melchior, Gaspar and Balthazar.

20. Singly; Autumnal Weather; A prickly pear

Indian (25)

To go in Indian file is to go in a single line of people; An Indian summer is a good spell of late-autumn weather; the prickly pear is also sometimes called the Indian fig.

21. Fomalhaut; Adhara; Spica

Stars (10)

These all happen to be the names of particularly bright stars.

22. Money; 14th Street; 50

Tin (30)

Tin is a slang term for money.

“With my pockets full of tin,
I was very soon took in
By a girl y the name of Maggie May”

14th Street, New York, is known as 'tin pan alley', the home of songwriters and aspirant musicians. Apparently, the name arises because tin cans were rattled and clanged during performances by rival songwriters.

50 is the Atomic Number of tin.

23. Rupert Brooke; 19:05; An acanthopterygious fish

Archer (25)

The connection with Rupert Brooke is through Geoffrey Archer, who currently resides in the Old Vicarage, Granchester, formerly the home of the poet. Maybe he's hoping that literary skill will soak through the walls by some sort of osmosis. Anyway, he has yet to write anything as memorable as Brooke's poem "The Old Vicarage, Granchester", which is the one that ends:

"Say is there beauty yet to find?
And certainty? And quiet kind?
Deep meadows yet, for to forget
The lies and truths and pain? oh! Yet
Stands the Church clock at ten to three
And is there honey still for tea?"

19:05 is the time of day every weekday evening, when the Nation is glued to its radio to hear the latest news from Ambridge.

The polysyllabic piscine is the archer fish, which has perfected the art of shooting down insects using drops of water from a sort of blowpipe arrangement in its mouth.

24. Cornwall; Kent; Gloucester

King Lear (11)

The three dukes are all characters in the great tragedy.

25. Heath hen; Passenger pigeon; Tecopa pupfish

Extinct (14)

The heath hen was an 18" long gamebird which inhabited the Northeast coast of the US. It suffered the dual evolutionary setbacks of being exceedingly tasty and exceedingly easy to catch. During colonial days, servants contracted with their masters "not to have heath hen brought to the table oftener than a few times a week". By 1880 the heath hen population was down to 200 in the Martha's Vineyard area and, despite an attempt at conservation, a succession of forest fires and bitter-winters left the last bird to die in 1932.

There were once quite a lot of passenger pigeons. In 1808, the naturalist Alexander Wilson saw a flock which took over four hours to fly overhead. He estimated that it contained 2,230,272,000 birds. Audubon saw a roosting flock that covered an area of 40 miles by 3. A lot of pigeon pies later, the last bird was killed by a small boy in Pike County, Ohio on March 24 1900.

The Tecopa pupfish was blue with a black vertical stripe on its tail. Only 1" long, it lived in a few little salty pools and thermal springs in the region of Tecopa, Death Valley, California. In the 1940's the hot springs were channeled by the builders of a bath-house. Unable to adapt to the now fast-flowing water, the Tecopa pupfish was declared extinct in 1978. The bath-house had gone bankrupt and been abandoned many years earlier.

26. Beer; Dyers and Vintners; Flanders

Swan (15)

Swan lager is a brew from Australia (or so they tell me).

Swan-apping is the practice of placing marks on the beaks of swans in order to establish ownership. All the swans on the Thames are either owned by the crown (five nicks) or the Dyers and Vintners Company (two nicks).

Michael Flanders partnered Donald Swann in a well-known double act of comic singing.

27. Hokey-Pokey; St. Pancras; Puck

Ice (20)

Hokey-pokey was a cheap form of early ice-cream.

St Pancras is one of the so-called ice saints, whose day falls in 'blackthorn winter', the second week in May. The others are St Mamertus, St Servatus and St Boniface.

Puck is not a Shakespearean reference, but a projectile used in the game of ice-hockey.

28. St Paul; Raleigh; Bismark;

State Capitals (19)

These are all US state capitals; St Paul of Minnesota, Raleigh of North Carolina, and Bismark of North Dakota.

An alternative answer of 'sailors' was allowed here, although if Bismark and St Paul were sailors then you might as well apply the term to anyone who boards a ship.

29. Smooth; Warty; Californian

Newt (28)

These are all sorts of newt. I cannot think of newts without thinking of Gussie Fink-Nottle, the P G Wodehouse character. A shy man, but he was an expert on newts. The scene where he intends to propose, but cannot think of anything to say to the girl except some details of the lifestyle of the great crested newt is a classic.

30. Central Park; Cleopatra; Piazza San Giovanni, Laterano

Obelisks (16)

In Central Park there is an exact duplicate of Cleopatra's Needle. Not that either have anything to do with Cleopatra, having being erected for Thutmose III in 1500BC. Cleopatra's Needle is 68 feet tall, a mere stripling compared with the worlds tallest in Piazza San Giovanni, Laterano, Rome, which stands at 107 ft.

31. Fisher; Hilton; Warner

Taylor (18)

Eddie Fisher, Conrad Hilton and John Warner have all had the dubious privilege of being married to Elizabeth Taylor. Purely in the interests of providing some interesting trivia for these answers, I turned to a biography of Taylor. After half an hour of reading about little presents like Rolls-Royce convertibles and 80-roomed mansions, I felt faintly nauseous. Some how, there's a difference between trivia and trash.

32. Myles; At Swim-Two-Birds; Cruiskeen Lawn

O'Brien (21)

The brilliant Irish author Flann O'Brien, wit and drunkard, wrote a very funny column for the Irish Times called "Cruiskeen Lawn", under the name Myles na Gopaleen. He also wrote "At Swim-Two-Birds", a marvellous novel in which some literary characters fed up with the treatment they are getting from their author, write a book themselves in order to take revenge.

33. Christmas; Rings; Notes;

Newton (39)

The great physicist was born on Christmas Day, 1643. Newton's rings are a phenomenon caused by the interference of light. A picture of Newton used to appear on £1 notes - whatever they were.

34. Junglinster; Wiltz; Capellen

Luxembourg (28)

These are towns and villages in Luxembourg.

35. Finn; Soling; 470

Yachts (13)

These are all names of different classes of yacht.

36. Oxford; Dewi; Glorishears

Morris (31)

The Morris oxford was a sort of motor-car.

Dewi Morris is the England scrum-half; despite being born in Wales he is, at the time of writing, the new hope for English rugby.

Glorishears is the name of a morris-dance. It is also known as 'leapfrog', this being the major feature of the dance.

37. Vaucluse; Paisley; South Africa

Orange (26)

The town of orange is the largest in the French province of Vaucluse; it is famous for its Roman amphitheatre.

Orangemen are a long-standing organisation of Irish Protestants. Irish politics are too complex for me so I can't tell you if Ian Paisley actually is one; but he's certainly the same sort of thing.

The Orange river runs through South Africa and also gives its name to Orange Free State - part of the union.

38. Montreux; Petra; Labour

Rose (6)

The Golden Rose of Montreux is awarded for outstanding television programmes. Petra is the "rose-red city half as old as time" according to J W Burgon. The symbol of the Labour party has recently become a rose.

39. Carl; Greg; Keith

Emerson, Lake and Palmer (9)

The first names of possibly the worst rock group of all time. Carl Palmer had the largest drumkit in history and it used to revolve in order to take our mind off the music; Keith Emerson was mainly known for setting light to his organ - a neat trick which most music-lovers felt should have come in at the beginning rather than the end of the act; Greg Lake just stood out front and tried to look beautiful.

40. James Hunt; Arctophily; Towcester Racecourse

Hesketh (30)

Lord Hesketh used to own the motor-racing team for which the young James Hunt drove before moving on to better things. He also owns-one-of the largest collection of teddy-bears in the country - arctophilists are teddy-bear lovers. To finance this collection, Hesketh owns Towcester Racecourse as well as a few other minor odds and ends of the country.

41. Athens; Parliament; A baker's daughter

Owls (30)

An owl is the symbol of the goddess Athena, and also of the city named after her. A 'parliament' is the collective noun for owls.

The legend of an owl and the baker's daughter runs as follows: Christ went into a baker's for something to eat. The Mistress put a cake in the oven for Him but her daughter said it was too

large and reduced the dough by half. The dough swelled to an enormous size and the daughter cried "Heugh! Heugh! Heugh!" and was transformed into an owl.

It is a story that leaves me feeling that I have missed the point, somehow. Anyway, it is referred to in Hamlet:

"They say the owl was a baker's daughter" (IV v).

42. Gopher; Clouds; Ham

Noah (17)

Noah's ark was made of gopher wood. A Noah's ark is also a name given by sailors to a band of - white cloud, spanning the sky like a rainbow and shaped like a boat's hull. Ham is one of Noah's sons, along with Shem and Japheth.

43. Salsify; Dog-letter; Pistol

Oyster (25)

Salsify, the root vegetable, is sometimes known as the 'vegetable oyster' as the taste reminded the early growers (or marketing men) of oysters; it makes a good accompaniment for fish, anyway.

The dog-letter is 'R' as saying it sounds like a dog growling. The connection is the saying that oysters should not be eaten when there is an R in the month.

Pistol is the Shakespearean character who introduced a well-known phrase into the language:

"Why, then the world's mine oyster
Which I with sword will open"
("Merry Wives of Windsor" II ii)

44. Miranda; 84.015 years; A sickle

Uranus (11)

Miranda is one of the satellites of the planet, which takes 84.015 years to orbit the sun. Night on Uranus sometimes lasts 21 years, limiting its usefulness as a holiday resort.

Uranus in mythology was the personification of Heaven, the son and husband of Gaea (Earth) and father of the Titans. He hated his children and confined them in the body of Earth. However, his son Kronos escaped and castrated him with a flint sickle.

45. Debt; Polstead, Suffolk; Kniphofia

Red (17)

Being in the red is to be in debt.

Polstead was the scene of the sensational 19th-Century crime "The Murder in the Red Barn". Maria Marten, a mole-catcher's daughter of easy morals, had arranged to meet William Corder, son of a wealth farmer, at the Red Barn. William had promised that they would go to Ipswich to be married. Instead, he murdered her and hid the body under the barn floor. The Truth was revealed to Maria's mother in a dream and William was hanged in August 1828.

Kniphofia is the posh name for the garden plant known as a 'red-hot poker'.

46. Gunton Church; Kedleston Hall; Lansdowne House

Adam (18)

These are all buildings designed by Robert Adam between 1728 and 1792. He is notable (it says here) for his elegant Palladian style and his attention to the details of interiors, such as carpets and furniture.

The answer "they are all on the same ley line that runs through the site of Atlantis" was carefully checked; unfortunately, it is just 20 feet out.

47. Acton; Currer; Ellis

Bell (8)

These were the pseudonyms used by the Bronte sisters when publishing their works in the days when female authors were not considered respectable. "Poems by Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell" (1846) was an early joint work and the pseudonyms continued to be used for their individual novels.

Answers of 'Bronte' were also accepted, of course.

48. Sta Maria Delle Grazie; Parachute; Vincenzo Peruggia

Leonardo Da Vinci (16)

Sta Maria Delle Grazie is the monastery in Milan where Leonardo's "Last Supper" is painted on the refectory wall.

The parachute was one of the many useful items invented by Leonardo before anyone had the skill to make them properly. A sort of pyramid-shaped one is shown in his drawings.

Vincenzo Peruggia was the man who stole the "Mona Lisa". An employee of the Louvre, he abstracted the painting on August 21, 1911. For two years it remained hidden in a trunk under his bed, but eventually he attempted to sell it to his native Italy for £30,000. The Italians promptly arrested him and returned the painting to France. At his trial, Peruggia obtained a relatively light sentence of 1 year 15 days, as the Italian court believed his claim that he was motivated purely by patriotism.

49. Henry Winstanley, John Rudyard, John Smeaton

Eddystone Lighthouse (11)

All these gentlemen designed a lighthouse for the Eddystone rocks.

Winstanley's version was built between 1696 and 1699 from timber.

Unfortunately, it was swept away along with Winstanley himself, in a storm in 1703. Undeterred, Rudyard built his version from oak and iron in 1708, only to see it destroyed by fire in 1755. Smeaton built his from stone and it lasted until 1882, when it was replaced by the present one designed by Sir James Douglas.

Answers of 'Engineers' were accepted (just).

50. Stone; Marat; Biscuit

Bath (13)

Bath stone is a softish building material.

Marat was the French Revolutionary assassinated in his bath. He spent a lot of time there as he suffered from a festering skin disease, related to herpes. On the fourth anniversary of Bastille Day, Charlotte Corday gained entrance to Marat's bathroom and stabbed him. Her motive was to forestall the feared purge of the remaining royalists. In fact, the murder sparked off The Terror, which left more dead than Marat ever envisaged.

Bath Olivers are a sort of biscuit invented by Dr William Oliver. An authority on gout, he established the Royal Mineral Water Hospital at Bath. magnanimously he left his biscuit recipe to his coachman, Atkins, who abandoned coach-manning to manufacture them commercially.

51. The arms of the Medici; Joel Chandler Harris, Simon Legree

Uncle (21)

The arms of the Medici are three gold balls, which were adopted by pawnbrokers as their symbol. 'Taking something to Uncle' is a slang term for pawning it.

Joel Chandler Harris wrote the "Brer Rabbit" stories under the name of Uncle Remus.

Simon Legree is the name of the slave-owner in "Uncle Tom's Cabin", by Harriet Beecher Stowe.

52. Dali; Blondie; Meucci

Telephone (32)

One of the late Salvador Dali's more practical works of art was the "Lobster Telephone" - just like an ordinary phone except the bit you hold was replaced by a lobster. I'm surprised some enterprising company, such as BT, is not marketing copies.

Blondie is the popular music ensemble, featuring the rather lovely Debbie Harry. One of the combo's much-loved classics was "Hanging on the Telephone".

Antonio Meucci, an Italian living in Havana, was an early inventor of the telephone. He produced one in 1846 but didn't get round to patenting it, until 1871, mainly because it didn't work (BT have been using them ever since). Bell patented his in 1876.

53. Show Me; The Iron Curtain; Samuel Clemens

Missouri (32)

The nickname for this state is 'Show Me' which I think comes from the inhabitants' lack of gullibility (or is it lack of comprehension?). Anyway, the phrase "Show me, I'm from Missouri" is a US cliché.

The Iron Curtain was first so described by Sir Winston Churchill in his speech at Fulton, Missouri on 5 March 1946.

Samuel Clemens is the real name of Mark Twain, wit and author of "Tom Sawyer". who is Missouri's most famous citizen. Not many people know (or care, probably) that Clemens registered the name "Mark Twain" as a trademark, to prevent it being used by others.

54. Rex Harrison; Horatio Nelson; John Ford

One-eyed (22)

Need I say more?

55. Charles II; Newmarket; Chatterton

Rowley (25)

Charles II was nicknamed 'Old Rowley' after his favourite stallion.

At Newmarket Racecourse is the 'Rowley Mile' over which the 1000 Guineas and 2000 Guineas races are run.

The poet Chatterton was responsible for some works in 1765 which he claimed were written by a 15th-Century priest, Thomas Rowley. The 'Rowley forgeries' were soon exposed but recognised as great works in their own right. Unfortunately, Chatterton had killed himself by then.

56. Geddington; Hardingstone; Waltham

Eleanor Crosses (15)

Edward I's wife, Eleanor of Castille, died at Hadby, Notts in 1290. She was buried in Westminster Abbey and Edward had twelve memorial crosses erected, one at each of the places the body had rested on its Journey. These were Lincoln, Grantham, Stamford, Geddington, Hardingstone, Stony Stratford, Woburn, Dunstable, St Albans, Waltham, Cheapside And Charing Cross. The only original crosses surviving are at Geddington, Hardingstone and Waltham.

57. D-Day; Deseret; Craig Breedlove

Utah (22)

Utah was one of the code-names for the beaches used in the D-Day landings.

Deseret was the name given by the Mormons to the Promised Land, which they eventually decided was the state of Utah, before establishing themselves in Salt Lake City.

Craig Breedlove was holder of the world land-speed record in 1964 and 1965 in his jet-powered car which I think was called "Spirit of America". The record a tempts took lace at the Bonneville Salt Flats, Utah. Breedlove covered the measured mile at 600.601 mph, but at one point he lost control, leaving skid-marks five miles long.

58. The Modern Prometheus; Mimosa; The Baths of Caracalla

Shelley (28)

"The Modern Prometheus" was the alternative title of the archetypal gothic novel "Frankenstein" by Mary Shelly.

Her brother wrote a poem entitled "The Sensitive Plant" the alternative name for mimosa. He also wrote "Prometheus Unbound", while enjoying the atmosphere at the vast ruins of the Baths of Caracalla, Rome.

59. Verraux; Martial; Bonelli

Eagles (35)

These are all types of eagle. The Verraux eagle lives in East and South Africa and is black with a white rump. The Martial eagle is brown with a black throat, white and spotted underneath. It lives all over Africa. The Bonelli eagle is dark brown above, lighter below and is found in the Mediterranean and South Asia.

60. Conger; Ophelia; Florence

Fennel (36)

Conger and fennel are two aphrodisiacs alluded to in Shakespeare's Henry IV part II. Talking about Prince Hal to Poins, Falstaff says

"He plays at quoits well and eats conger and fennel and drinks off candles' ends for flap-dragons and rides the wild mare with the boys"

The herb fennel was symbolic of flattery as is shown when the mad Ophelia is handing out her pointedly pathetic gifts...

"There's rosemary, that's for remembrance ... there is pansies, that's for thoughts ... there's fennel for you and columbines. There's rue for you and here's some for me"
("Hamlet" IV v)

Fennel, the vegetable, is also known as Florence fennel or Florentine fennel so as to distinguish it from the herb of the same name.

61. The Penguin; Protection; Julie Andrews

Umbrella (20)

The Penguin was (is?) one of Batman's adversaries. He always carries an umbrella, which conceals a variety of weapons and escape-devices.

To come under the umbrella of some person or organisation is to obtain their protection.

Julie Andrews played Mary Poppins, who also carried an umbrella - although, to the annoyance of anyone of taste in the audience, it failed to contain a variety of weapons and escape-devices.

62. A swan-drawn boat; Elsa; The Bridal Chorus

Lohengrin (19)

Elsa is the heroine of Wagner's opera, being unjustly accused of killing her brother, Gottfreid. Lohengrin appears in the swan-drawn boat and offers to be her champion. After a great deal of noisy singing including the Bridal Chorus, Lohengrin reveals himself to be a Knight of the Holy Grail. The evil Ortrud admits that the swan is really Gottfreid who she has transformed, for some evil reason I've forgotten. Lohengrin changes him back and departs, leaving Elsa to swoon.

63. Nadezhda Von Meck; Winter Daydreams; Tatiana

Tchaikovsky (23)

Nadhezda Von Meck was Tchaikovsky's sponsor and best friend -a curious thing as they never met. However, they did once pass in the street. "Winter Daydreams" is the nickname for his symphony number 1 in G minor. Tatiana is the heroine of Tchaikovsky's opera, "Eugene Onegin".

64. The giant rat of Sumatra; Apiculture; Dr Joseph Bell

Holmes (18)

"The giant rat of Sumatra - a story for which the world is not yet prepared" (Casebook of Sherlock Holmes - "The Sussex Vampire")

Sherlock Holmes turned to beekeeping or apiculture in his retirement. There is a regular flow of letters to 221b Baker Street (now a Building Society) from people asking for he with their problems. An amusing collection of these letters was published recently; each writer was politely informed of Holmes' retirement.

Dr Joseph Bell was the real-life character on whom Holmes is based. Conan Doyle was impressed by Bell's ability to make deductions, from the smallest pieces of evidence, about patients in his infirmary.

65. Able & Baker; Belka & Strelka; Enos

Animal Astronauts (34)

Able and Baker were two monkeys, recovered alive from a sub-orbital flight in 1959. Belka and Strelka were two Husky bitches who were the first animals to be recovered alive from a orbital tour. Despite completing 17 laps of the Earth, they both subsequently had puppies - one of which was resented to John F Kennedy. Enos was a chimpanzee who was the first US live recovery from an orbital flight. He was required to pull several levers during the trip, for which he was rewarded with banana pellets and water.

66. Palmerston; Hampden; Cromwell

New Zealand (29)

These are all towns in New Zealand

67. William II; Gainsborough; Caruso

August 2(36)

All these people died on the same day; William in 1100, Gainsborough in 1788 and Caruso in 1921.

68. Berlin; Scurvy; The Cuckoo Clock

Lime (22)

The principal street in Berlin is Unter Den Linden (Under the Limes) - it is lined with lime-trees.

Scurvy used to be a big problem in the British Navy until Captain Gimlet ordered a ration of vitamin-C rich lime juice for all hands. He thus gave his name to the "gimlet" cocktail of gin and lime, much favoured by sailors. It also accounts for why Englishmen are called 'limeys' in the US.

As for the cuckoo clock - the connection is to the classic film "The Third Man" in which Harry Lime, from his perch in the big wheel opines:

"It's not that awful - know what the fella said - in Italy for thirty years under the Borgias they had warfare, terror, murder, bloodshed; but they produced Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci and the Renaissance. In Switzerland, they had brotherly love, they had five hundred years of democracy and peace - and what did they produce? The cuckoo clock."

69. Ashby-de-la-Zouche; Rowena; Torquilstone

Ivanhoe (19)

The classic Sir Walter Scott novel in which a surfeit of swash is buckled under the dubious pretext that resentment between Saxons and Normans lasted until the time of Richard I. Ivanhoe thrashes everyone at a tournament at Ashby-de-la-Zouche. Rowena, like all the best heroines, only exists to be rescued - in particular from the castle Torquilstone owned by- Sir Reginald Front-de-Boeuf (boo, hiss). Ivanhoe is sprung by an unlikely alliance of Richard I, Robin Hood and a motley band of Saxons and outlaws. But then Rowena is carried off by Sir Brian-de Bois-Gilbert (hiss, boo) who... but I just can't go on.

70. Will Somers; Three's a Crowd; A French bishop

Fool (31)

Will Somers was Henry VIII's fool. Once the King, Somers and Cardinal Wolsey were riding past the residence of one of the King's mistresses. Henry challenged Somers to cap the lines

"Within yon tower
There is a flower
Who hath my heart"

Somers' answer was too coarse to be set down, but apparently "made the king laugh heartily". The Cardinal, more sternly remarked

"A rod in the school
And a whip for the fool
Are always in season"

But Will had the last word for him

"A halter and a rope
For him that would be Pope
Against all right and reason"

At which, we are told "the Cardinal bit his lip".

The connection to "three's a crowd" is through gooseberries. To play gooseberry is to be an unwanted third person. Gooseberry fool is a nursery concoction of the fruit and custard, supposedly named from the French 'fouler' - to crush.

The bishop chesspiece is called the fool (le fou) in France.

71. 644 square inches; The Cutler's Company; Danish Knights

Elephant(29)

'Elephant' is a pre-metric paper size, 23" by 28". As you would expect from an Imperial measure, 'Double- Elephant' is 27" by 40". The name comes from an old watermark.

The crest of the Cutler's Company consists of an "elephant and castle", the castle being a sort of enormous saddle on the elephant containing bowmen and knights: Elephants were important to the old cutters, supplying the ivory for knife-handles.

The order of The Elephant was established in 1482 by the Danish king Christian I. It consists of 30 men.

72. Henry III's wife's uncle; Patience; Cabbage

Savoy (16)

Eleanor's uncle was Peter of Savoy. Henry granted him an area off the Strand in 1245, which became known after him and so gave its name to the Savoy Hotel.

"Patience" is the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, and one of the 'Savoy Operas'. Most G&S pieces were first performed at the Savoy Theatre by a group of players known as the Savoyards.

Savoy cabbage is the very crinkly dark green one.

73. 8,128; 33,550,336; 496

Perfect Numbers (24)

A perfect number is one which is equal to the sum of its divisors, including 1 but excluding itself. 6 is the first, being $1 + 2 + 3$. Then comes $28 = 1 + 2 + 4 + 7 + 14$. 496 is next $1 + 2 + 4 + 8 + 16 + 31 + 62 + 124 + 248$. Then come 8,128 and 33,550,336 the factors for which are left as an exercise for the reader.

The first four perfect numbers were known as such to the Greeks, while 33,550,336 is to be found scrawled in the margin of a medieval manuscript.

74. St Ursula; The Gregorian Calendar; The Education Act, 1944

Eleven (19)

St Ursula was a 5th-century British princess who went on a pilgrimage to Rome accompanied by 11,000 virgins. Unfortunately, the whole lot were massacred by the Huns at Cologne.

England adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1752, the 2nd September being followed by the 14th. Many people felt cheated of 11 days pay and chanted "give us back our eleven days" to no avail.

The Education Act of 1944 introduced the 11-plus exam. for the first time.

75. A dog; A red herring; John Crome

Norfolk (24)

The dog is a Norfolk terrier, distinguished from the Norwich terrier by having droopy ears, rather than pricked-up ones. Both breeds are about 10" tall at the shoulder, rough coated, red or black-and-tan and 'varminty-looking'.

The red herring (which is a sort of preserved fish) is also known as a 'Norfolk capon'.

John Crome was a member of the Norfolk or Norwich school of painting, a group of landscape artists of the early 19th Century.

Answers of 'Norwich' were also allowed.

76. Marble; King; Castle

Tennis Players (37)

Alice Marble was Wimbledon ladies singles champion in 1936, 1938, 1939 and 1940.

Billie-Jean King was Wimbledon ladies singles champion in 1967, 1971, 1972 and 1974.

Andrew Castle being male and British, is unlikely ever to be Wimbledon ladies single; champion.

77. Giverny; The Folies Begere; Bougival

Impressionists (23)

Giverny was where Monet lived and painted his famous series of studies of the water-lilies in his lake.

"The Bar At The Folies Begere" is one of the best-known works of Manet - it's the one where the establishment is reflected in a mirror at the back of the bar and the barmaid looks like she has just Graduated from the Fitzroy School for Disinterested Staff. There are also some bottles of Bass.

"Dance at Bougival" is by Renoir. It shows a lady in a long white dress and a red bonnet waltzing with a ginger-bearded gent in a straw hat.

78. Daffodils; Claudius; A reflection

Narcissus (14)

Daffodils are a cultivated version of the wild narcissus.

Narcissus was an advisor to the Emperor Claudius. Effectively Minister of State, he failed to support Claudius' marriage to Agrippina and fell out of favour. On the death of Claudius he was arrested by Nero and, sensibly, killed himself.

The mythological Narcissus was the beautiful youth loved by the Nymph Echo. Spotting his own reflection in a fountain, he fell in love with it and leaned in to join it. When nymphs came to remove his body, they just found the flower which has been named after him.

79. Shar-pei; Argos; The Canary Islands

Dogs (25)

The shar-pei is an oriental breed which is all wrinkly and not at all lovable-looking.

Argos was the faithful hound of Ulysses, who waited at home for his master to return from the Siege of Troy. After ten years without walkies, Ulysses finally got back and his pooch died of joy.

The Canary Islands are not named after canaries but after a breed of large wild dogs who used to live there causing the Romans to name the islands Canarie Insulae (Islands of Dogs).

80. Newman; Trousers; Tyburn

Oxford (26)

Cardinal Newman was one of the leading lights of the Oxford Movement or Tractarianism. They campaigned in Victorian times for more 'High Church' attitudes in the Church of England.

Oxford Bags were a sort of 1920's loon pants made of flannel and fashionable among Oxford undergraduates.

Oxford Street used to be known as Tyburn Road, crossing the Tyburn river in two places (look for the dips in the present road). The site of Tyburn gallows was at the junction of what is now Edware Road and Bayswater Road; it is marked by some brass triangles let into the pavement.

81. Hippolyte Mege-Mouries; "Aqualung"; John Harrison

Inventors (26)

Hippolyte invented margarine in 1869. I have a distant memory that this was in response to a prize offered by Napoleon - but why did Napoleon think he couldn't tell it from butter? And-why did it take Hippolyte so long?

"Aqualung" was a didn't-sound-quite-so-bad-at-the-time LP by the group Jethro Tull, led by flautist and fish-farmer Ian Anderson. The group are named after the 17th-century farmer, Jethro Tull, who invented the seed-drill.

John Harrison invented the Marine Chronometer, which enabled accurate navigation. A £20,000 prize was on offer but Harrison, despite proving his invention superior to anything in a test in 1735, was not awarded the cash until 1772, when he was almost senile. His secret was in his use of wooden cogwheels, accurately cut and lubricated by their natural oils.

82. A coin; A goblin; A Wurlitzer

Nickel (25)

A nickel is a US 5-cent coin, 75% copper and 25% nickel.

The Nickel is a German goblin, a malicious creature who inhabits mines. Nickel ore is similar to copper ore and old copper-miners blamed the Nickel for stealing their copper and leaving worthless metal in its place. Thus this metal was named nickel.

An early version of the jukebox (of which the Wurlitzer is an example) was called the nickelodeon. A ghastly song is springing to mind but I'm holding it down.

83. Iron; Beano; Pinch

Goose (36)

Why tailors didn't just call their irons 'irons' I don't know but they also referred to a smoothing-iron as a 'goose', as its handle resembled a goose-neck.

"Come in tailor here you may roast your goose"
("Macbeth" II i)

A wayzgoose was an annual dinner, picnic or beanfeast, particularly for those in the printing profession. The wayz was a name for the stubble, and a goose fattened on this was the highspot in such entertainments.

A goose is a sort of pinch applied towards the lower rear regions of the anatomy. I can't find any information on the origins of this - something to do with 'goose' as in 'to make a fool of'? Or is it rhyming slang?

84. A whip; A transitory phenomenon; Lady Guildford Dudley

Nine (21)

The cat-o-nine-tails was a whip employed in the armed services to maintain discipline. Surprisingly, its-use was not officially abandoned until 1948. The cat in the phrase no room to swing a cat' is such a whip.

A nine days wonder is a transitory phenomenon. More Shakespeare from Henry VI Part iii (Iii ii)

"King: You'd think it strange if I should marry her.
Gloucester: That would be a ten day's wonder, at the least.
King: That's a day longer than a wonder lasts"

Lady Guildford Dudley was the married name of Lady Jane Grey. She was queen for nine days - from 10-19 July 1553 to be precise - an beheaded on 12 February 1554.

85. 29 May; Turkey; Epsom

Oak (23)

29 May is 'Oak Apple Day', the birthday of Charles II and the date he re-entered London following the restoration. the name comes from the oak in which the king hid following his defeat at Worcester in 1651.

A turkey-oak is a species of oak tree.

The Oaks is a race for three-year-old fillies run at Epsom two days after The Derby.

86. America; Quimby; Spiced rum with eggs

Tow and Jerry (25)

The singing duo Simon and Garfunkle used to be known as Tom and Jerry before oozing to fame. "America" was one of their least cringe-inducing ditties.

Fred Quimby is the producer of all the best Tom and Jerry cartoons - look out for the credits at the end.

The revolting combination of rum and eggs was known as tom-and-jerry. Perhaps it was meant to cure something.

87. Das Kapital; Kubla Khan; Felix Holt

Highgate Cemetery (29)

Das Kapital was by Karl Marx; Kubla Khan is a poem by Coleridge; and Felix Holt is a novel by George Eliot. All three authors are buried at Highgate Cemetery.

88. Psychiatry; Budgerigar food; Fleet Street

Ink (34)

The Rorschach inkblot test is used by psychiatrists to see what's on your mind.

The sort of budgerigar food I was thinking of was cuttlefish. These are famous for their ink, sepia, which was used for writing with for many years.

Fleet Street is 'The Street of Ink'; or, at least, it used to be until everyone moved to Docklands.

89. Brumaire; World War 1; Thomas Hood

November (21)

Brumaire was the French Revolutionary name for November, named after the fog (brume). This was the second month; time having been restarted from zero by the sans-culottes.

World War 1 ended at 11am on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, 1918. Thomas Hood wrote the poem "No".

"No park - no ring - no afternoon gentility -
No company - no nobility -
No warmth- no cheerfulness, no helpful ease,
No comfortable feel in any member -
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds -
November!"

Unlikely as it may seem, there exists a version of this by the quirky pop group "The Art of Noise".

90. Father O'Flynn; Sergeant Murphy; Jack Horner

Grand National (41)

These are all names of winning horses in the Grand National; Father O'Flynn in 1892, Sergeant Murphy in 1923 and Jack Horner in 1926.

I have now set three Christmas Quizzes and this is the first question that has not been correctly answered-by anyone. To be honest, compared with some of the bastards in the past, I didn't really think it was all that hard...

91. What connects all the pictures in the quiz?

George Bernard Shaw (12)

The old fellow himself is shown on the cover and on the 'Epilogue' page. The remaining pictures illustrate Shaw play titles ie:

Act I	Scene I	Back To Methuselah
Act I	Scene II	Arms and The Man
Act II	Scene I	Saint Joan
Act II	Scene II	Caesar and Cleopatra
Act III	Scene I	The Apple Cart
Act III	Scene II	The Devil's Disciple
Act III	Scene III	Man and Superman

The Connecting Sentence

This reads as follows:

"A life spent in making mistakes is not only more honourable but more useful than a life spent in doing nothing"

George Bernard Shaw (29)

This is a quotation from a Shaw essay entitled "The Doctor's Dilemma". It seems a very appropriate sentiment for anyone attempting an Armchair Treasure Hunt.

RED HERRINGS

No Armchair Treasure Hunt would be complete without a good sprinkling of these. The Mysterious signs at the top left and top right of each page can be translated using a simple code taken from this diagram:

ABC	DEF	GHI
JKL	MNO	PQR
STU	VWX	YZ

To represent a letter, you take the shape of the part of a box, that it is in and put a dot, left middle or right, according to the letter's position in the box. Using this code, you find that Brian and I were wishing you a MERRY CHRISTMAS.

The strange shapes in the centre of the footlights in each picture are standard semaphore and braille alphabets. They spell-out the name of the artist, BRIAN JACKSON.

The lettering at the front of the stage was a simple code which changed for each picture. In the first picture, you take the letter before each one in the message. In the second picture, you take the letter two before each one in the message ... and so on until the seventh picture, where you take the letter seven before each one in the message. the messages are:

PAGE ONE THIS
PAGE TWO MESSAGE
PAGE THREE IS
PAGE FOUR JUST
PAGE FIVE ANOTHER
PAGE SIX RED
PAGE SEVEN HERRING

SO WHERE WAS THE TREASURE?

The Village

I did drop one or two hints about the village where the treasure was buried. The first was in the 'Prologue' where I talked about getting the problem 'cornered'. Alternatively, you might have noticed that the two pictures of Shaw are surrounded by some decorative 'corners'. These might have made you think about

"Shaw's Corner" the house where the playwright spent the last years of his life. This is situated in the village of Ayot St Lawrence, Herts, suspiciously near to my home in Stevenage.

But Ayot St Lawrence was just another red herring. I also warned you to 'check again', a reference to the chequerboard patterns in each picture. These contain a different number of squares in each case and if these are translated to the corresponding letter of the alphabet, they spell out ST PETER. This is confirmed by the different animals in each picture ie: Swallow/Sparrow/Snake, Tiger/Tortoise, Peregrine/ Pegasus/Pigeon/Pig, Eagle, Toad/Thrush, Eel, Rabbit/Rat - Brian's zoology degree did come in useful after all. In the 'devil' picture, too, there is a cube- showing the T E, D H and LARRY all crossed out so it's not T E Lawrence, not D H Lawrence, not Larry, not Lawrence at all. In fact the treasure was at the nearby village of **Ayot St Peter (22)**. Look at the 'Cleopatra' picture - at the bottom- there-is a snake labelled ASP - Ayot St Peter again.

The Code

The 'Epilogue' contained exact instructions as to how to find the treasure-box once you had got to Ayot St Peter. Close examination might have revealed that the words in the code were identical to the ones I had used in the first two paragraphs of my 'Prologue'. You might also have noticed that these first two paragraphs contain 91 words - exactly the same as the number of questions in the quiz.

Solving the code was relatively simple - you just found the position of each word in the code within the first two paragraphs of the 'prologue'. Then you substituted the first letter of the answer to the corresponding quiz question (ie: the one used in the connecting sentence). All punctuation in the code should be ignored. of course, words like the were a little more difficult as they occur more than once in the 'prologue' segment - but trial and error should soon have revealed the correct decode ie:

A round of applause from me! You possess the treasure key. You should understand the right spot to start your stroll - you are right if you understand the snake. From the Holy building, take the footpath opposite; it soon opens out to a bigger one. Go right and pass a farm implement to your left. Go into the trees. Soon, you find a tree that has fallen and split by path. It is before house on right. The treasure is not buried but hidden under this tree, beneath the 'L'.

(30)

SCORING

As in previous Hunts, I have awarded a number of points for each question equal to the number of wrong (or omitted) answers to that question. 41 people entered the quiz, so a question that was only answered by one person scored 40, while a question answered by absolutely everybody scored 0. The-number of points awarded for each question is shown in brackets by the answers above.

For the bonus points, spotting the connecting sentence, naming the correct village and solving the code all counted as 1 question and scored points equal to the number of people failing to do these things. The points awarded are also shown above.

The treasure box merely contained a book of raffle tickets and finders were instructed to remove the next one and attach it to their entry. Any one doing so was awarded all the bonus points above and an additional bonus equal to 30 minus the number of the treasure-ticket the managed to obtain. (Thirty being the number of entrants failing to find the box).

People who failed to get the connecting sentence, but who had answered a question with the 'wrong' word or phrase were awarded the points so long as their answer seemed to show they had the correct connection (eg: 'Needles' for Q30)

All wrong answers/guesses were carefully considered by the committee (in session in 'Compost Corner', The Marquis of Lorne, Stevenage) and almost all were rejected on the highly subjective grounds that a connection that bad would never have been allowed into the-quiz in the first place. Particularly popular were 'L' for Q22, 'Noel' or 'Nowel' for Q33, 'Mark' for Q53, 'Inner Temple' for Q88 and 'Glastonbury' for Q90. None of these came up to scratch.

THE WINNERS

First to the treasure box was **Martin Milnes** from the depths of Wyndham Court. He found the box on January 1, having done only about 30 of the questions but having succeeded in a monumental piece of code-cracking. Kindly, he-provided the following description of his efforts:

"After a first pass through the "connections", and identifying scarcely half a dozen, I almost abandoned the Hunt at that stage. However, with a few more answers from other members of the family, I resumed the quest. After checking dictionaries, encyclopaedia and other reference sources, I reached a static position with just a third of the "connections" answered. It was clear at this stage that the phrase formed from the first letter of each answer was a quotation beginning "a life spent...", but I was unable to identify this quote, despite searching books of quotations. Having reached an impasse in that direction, I then decided to work backwards from the Epilogue. It was clear that this was some sort of code, where each word probably represented a character, however the number of different words used was more than 26. On re-reading the Prologue it occurred to me that all the words used in the Epilogue were present in the first two paragraphs of the Prologue. On counting these words there were 91 - precisely the number of "connections" Questions (and answers); so this was the key to decoding the Epilogue! I substituted all the letters corresponding to the answers I had determined, leaving blanks everywhere else - still a considerable number! The next stage involved a certain amount of inspired guesswork, filling in the blanks according to likely letter-combinations (such as THE, YOU and TREASURE). The extra code letters thus generated were inserted in the "quotation" and further words in this were subsequently deduced which in turn led to more blanks filled in the Epilogue etc. After a number of iterations, the "quotation" was completed and the Epilogue decoded. The clue to identify the start of the search was the snake, on which was written ASP. In conjunction with two other clues (the number of, chequer-board squares in each picture, translated to letters spell out St Peter and all the pictures were representations of plays by George Bernard Shaw, who- lived at Ayot St Lawrence), the place to start had to be Ayot St Peter. I checked the map and, sure enough, such a place did exist. I was now convinced I was right and, following the instructions given in the decoded Epilogue, I was led directly to the 'treasure'."

Winner of the prize for maximum points was **Ken Kirkman**. He only failed to crack four connections (numbers 18, 36, 52 and 90) and he also managed to be third to the treasure-box. His arm was twisted to produce this account of his exploits:

"OK so I'm obsessed with general-knowledge treasure hunts. I quite look forward to the annual struggle of good against evil. The first step is to co-op a well-read colleague. He lives in Liverpool, so my phone bill took quite a hammering over Christmas.

First stop for me was the Encyclopedia Britannica, which solved quite a few and gave me hints as to where to look next. I was also tuning in to the compiler's devious perversions¹. Quite a few questions relied on that red herring to good communication - the false assumption. Then my old friend serendipity turned up; whilst looking for something else, my eye caught the word 'Gaspar'. The swine! Making anagrams look like items of Spanish food!

Anyway, with 50 right and wrong answers, the first words of the quotation could be divined. The initial sweep of Shaw anthologies failed to find it, but it eventually surface in a less well-known biography. By this time I felt I couldn't trust anything in the wretched quiz. So we made heavy weather of the simple replacement code. In among the red herrings we found Saint Peter but if it was the St Peters near Broadstairs, then the treasure could jolly well stay there! Being a denizen of NW London, I thought of Chalfont St Peter and made an abortive attempt at following the directions. Useless. It was far too built up. Then I followed the DH/TE/LARRY clue in picture 6. Perhaps there was a village called Lawrence? Consult atlas-index. No. What about Ayot St Lawrence? Ohmigod - look at the next entry! Ayot St Peter "Understand the snake" made sense at last. A real cynic would have looked for Stevenage on the map right at the beginning.

My weekends are too precious for treasure hunt activities so, as in previous years, I went at night. (Now you know I'm mad) Ayot St Peter was so small that I was almost though it before I had entered it. The directions were very good - ho hum what a doddle - found the tree and looked for the faded yellow plywood Logica L². Oh no! The vandals have got here first. Crawled around the undergrowth looking for the plastic box, scratched my face - couldn't find it. Now it was raining harder (yes, it was on January 5th). Soddit. I'll trample all the grass an then give up. Eureka! - the famous ice-cream carton glowed in the torchlight. Intense elation. Open up. Intense horror. Tickets 1 and 2 already gone. Ah well, hide it again for the next person. Then I noticed a 2-inch high letter L marked in black ink on a dark bark. Good God! I'd have hold trouble spotting that in daylight! Some people have no consideration for others ...

So I'd missed the automatic prize for getting there first. Well I wasn't wasting all that effort. Time to co-opt member number 2, a retired teacher of English and General Studies. It's amazing what a fresh mind can bring. At the end 'Glorishears' might have been a figment of Paul Coombs' imagination and Sergeant Murphy et al failed to gel even when we thought we knew all about them. Dali managed to die without telling me What he had in common with Blondie. Meucci had died in 1931, so he was useless. And if Ria Langham turns out to be someone's girlfriend I'll shoot myself!"

¹ However did you find out about those? - PC

² Now retired, to prevent people making sequential searches of the treasure-village. - PC

Second in the 'points' contest was Rod Fine who did not let the untimely delivery of a baby boy disturb his concentration. Third was David Kee, who produced a very reasonable explanation for all his answers (except the wrong ones).

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

Particularly unlucky this year were Nick Hassell and Rosalind Barden, who both just finished out of the prizes despite some sterling work. There's always next year... Mark Amey and Steve Hames deserve special mention, too, the former for getting quite so many points without cracking the code and the latter being frustrated by the cutoff date just when he was beginning to crack it.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Positions in the following list should not be taken too seriously; not everyone had the family, friends, facilities or patience to help them find out the answers. The maximum score available was 2081.

<u>Pos'n</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Treasure Ticket</u>	<u>Score</u>
1	Ken Kirkman	3	1942
2	Rod Fine	8	1858
3	David Kee	10	1852
4	Nick Hassell	6	1789
5	Deborah Boss	5	1749
6	Andrew Healey	4	1738
7	Rosalind Barden	2	1737
8	Mark Amey	-	1671
9	Brian Mills	9	1576
10	Harry and the Wombats	7	1408
11	Peter D G Smith et al	11	1317
12	Michael Gover	-	1109
13	Steve Hames	-	1091
14	Project DIXON	-	1053
15	Michael Milford	-	985
16	Brian Jackson	-	809

17	Bill Walker	-	740
18	Garry Smith	-	710
19	John Kendrick	-	668
20	Peter Orme	-	642
21	Terri Martin	-	614
22	Martin Milnes	1	599
23	Renzo Marchini/Charles Wicksteed	-	544
24	Jane Beynon	-	532
25	Martin Rich	-	503
26	Lynette Halewood	-	427
27	Paul Martin	-	403
28	Ros Skelcher	-	401
29	Iain & Debbie Morris	-	375
30	Greg Roach	-	334
31	Richard Meats	-	327
32	Alison Greaney	-	300
33	Iain Sillars	-	278
34	Derek Barber	-	255

The remaining 7 people got under 120, so probably don't want their names mentioned.

The battle for the wooden spoon was closely-fought this year, with the traditional winner Phil Grey, submitting an almost respectable entry of five answers. However, three of these were wrong so he still qualified for the list of people who probably don't want their names mentioned. Two entries were received with only one answer; both were correct and, by a whisker, Steve Lee just pipped someone who wishes to remain anonymous (who we will just call 'GB') for the coveted (if hypothetical) spoon. Steve has the excuse of being on-site in California but the person who wishes to remain anonymous (who we shall just call "No Stranger To The-Post Of S&SC Secretary") managed the unique feat of submitting a list of excuses longer than his list of answers.

SOURCES

Several people have asked me what sort of books they have to read in order to do one of my quizzes. In fact, the list is fairly short - many of the answers to this one can be found in 'Brewer'. I tend not to use the encyclopedia much as the information, although worthy, is not very interesting. I think most of the answers to this quiz can be found in the following. The rest are just things I happen to know...

Encyclopedia Britannica

Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable

The Oxford Companion to English Literature

The Guinness Book of Answers

The Guinness Book of Records

The Guinness Book of Hit Singles

The Guinness Book of Horse Racing Facts and Champions

The Flower Expert by Dr D G Hessayon

Collins Atlas of the World

The People's Almanac by David Wallechinsky and Irving Wallace

(Volumes 2 and 3 - if one knows where I can get Volume 1 then they will be awarded 8 trillion extra marks in the next quiz)

Chambers Dictionary

International Thesaurus of Quotations Ed. Rhoda Thomas Tripp

Shakespeare: Complete Works

A Dictionary of Curious and Interesting Numbers by David Wells

Jane Grigson's Vegetable Book

AND FINALLY....

If anyone has any comments (good or bad) as to how to make the quiz better and more fun in future years, then I would be glad to see them. I am particularly interested in any ideas as to how the quiz can involve more people (an entry of 41 from a company of the size and average IQ of Logica is pretty poor after all) but without making it directly easier (otherwise-Messrs Kirkman and Milnes will have finished it before Christmas and be forced to start enjoying themselves over the festive season). Any suitable questions (not necessarily the 'connections' type) will also always be welcome.

Congratulations, anyway, to everyone who entered - I hope you found the quiz fun. and a rewarding experience Hopefully, there will be another next year, so you now have a few months to relax...

Paul Coombs (23NS/B, Ext 3011)