

# Armchair Treasure Hunt 2000/2001



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## *The Answers*

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## Introduction

Thank you for taking part in this year's Armchair Treasure Hunt and submitting an entry. We had great fun setting it. We hope you found it worthy of your time and effort.

This year we had access to the current thinking of a few teams as they progressed. There was some sadistic pleasure as you got bogged down, both physically and mentally, on the Hillingdon Trail.

However, as time went on we got more and more concerned that no one would find the treasure (as happened to us before). We even went to the extent of cutting up the Dialogica version of the board and trying to assemble it ourselves. At this stage we realised that even with the obvious assumptions there were still  $10^{32}$  possibilities – some of the team began to panic. Thankfully wiser heads in the team prevailed and we all agreed that the intellectual force of the entrants would triumph over this trifling obstacle. You did, just – with a week to go.

Next year's setter is Ian Canning. If you want to set 2002-2003 start planning now and think about putting your name forward for consideration.

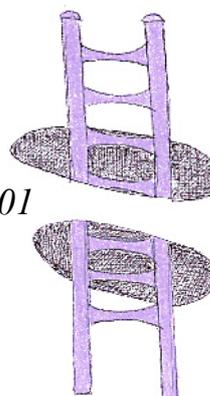
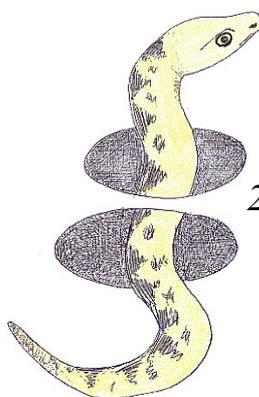
Thanks again for taking part – now read on and see what we intended you to do.

David Kee  
Jeanne Constable  
Ruth Finer  
David Brough  
Anthony Ambrose  
Liz Ambrose

*Special thanks to:*

- Robin Gilbert for additional questions
- Richard Lavender for the music
- Josephine Mathers for the artistry of the line drawings and the Snakes and Ladders

And a final acknowledgement to a late member of the team, John Rogers, whose questions live on.



*Cover photographs courtesy of the Famous Five, taken as they found the casket.*

## Our Plan for Finding the Treasure

This year's hunt for the treasure casket was straightforward, if a bit hard. Below is our concept. As you will see from the following pages the concept was some way off the reality.

The plan was that you identified the county as **Middlesex** very easily. Identifying the borough as **Hillingdon** was to be more difficult and identifying the **Hillingdon Trail** as the starting point was supposedly deeply hidden.

Once on the Hillingdon Trail you needed the **sentence**, spelt out from the answers to the questions, to locate the treasure casket.

The sentence was to be constructed by playing a game of Snakes and Ladders using the **question numbers** to determine the rolls of the dice (more on this later).

The crux of the hunt was to be the reassembly of the **Snakes and Ladders board** from the jigsaw pieces it had been cut into. On the surface an impossible task with  $10^{65}$  possibilities. This would reduce to  $10^{32}$  if you realised which were the **edge pieces**. You would need to understand the significance of the **pictures** to proceed further. Virtually all the pictures are linked to a corresponding answer to a question and those jigsaw pieces could then be connected. You wouldn't even need all the links because the basic geography of a Snakes and Ladders board would help (heads above tails, etc.). Also we felt sure you would find other clues we hadn't noticed – and you did.

# Scoring and Notation System

## Scoring

Points are awarded for answering questions, finding the treasure and understanding the hunt. The points awarded to each team that had the correct answer/understanding is shown in italics in brackets just after the explanation. For the numbered questions the letter to be used when constructing the sentence precedes the points, e.g.

Identifying the county as **Middlesex** (*14*).

Question 331: Which living mountaineer has two first ascents above 8,000 metres to his name?

Answer: **Kurt Diemberger** (*D 7*)

So if your team identified Middlesex you got 14 points. If you answered Kurt Diemberger to question 331 you got 7 points. The letter in the sentence as a result of answering question 331 was D.

The formula used for setting the points value is  $(n-c+1)$ , where  $n$  is the number of entrants to this year's Armchair Treasure Hunt and  $c$  is the number that had the correct answer. Consequently solutions that were hard to find scored more points than those that were easier.

There are two exceptions to this scoring system:

- The points awarded for finding the treasure are  $(n-c+2-p)$ , where  $p$  is your position in finding the treasure (1 first, 2 second, ...).
- The points awarded for assembling the Snakes and Ladders board are 1 for each correctly located piece.

Where you have not got our answer we have attempted to research yours, with more enthusiasm if you provided a source. In some cases we have accepted alternative answers.

## Notation

The hunt consists of 13 pages. We call the first page **Front Page** and the remaining pages **1-12** to correspond to the page numbers at the bottom of those pages.

To identify a row of a page we use the letters A-D from the top of the page in combination with the page number. Therefore:

Page 3 row 2 is designated **3B**

Where it is necessary to identify a specific square on a page we number the squares from left to right. Therefore:

Question 331 on page 12 is in square **12D3**

# Middlesex

On the Front Page we say the treasure is “... *in a county mentioned in the Doomsday Book*”, we were looking for Middlesex (14).

There are a number of direct pointers to Middlesex. We used the abbreviation MIDDSX instead of the more normal MIDDX. Apologies if it sent you on a wild goose chase but we needed to use six letters.

**Coat of Arms** on Front Page (7).

The line drawings were all Middlesex hospitals, namely:

- Page 2, **The Middlesex** (17)
- Page 4, top, **Central Middlesex** (17)
- Page 4, bottom, **North Middlesex** (17)
- Page 11, **West Middlesex** (17)

The titles of the music spelt out **MIDDSX** (15), namely:

- Page 1, **Money, money, money** from Abba (4)
- Page 5, **Imagine** from John Lennon (9)
- Page 8, theme from **Vicar of Dibley** (10)
- Page 9, the note **D** multiple times (13)
- Page 10, top, theme from **Star Wars** (7)
- Page 10, bottom, theme from the **X-files** (13)

We thought this would be pretty hard given that you only had a few bars but, for some of you, it seems to have been easier than simply recognising the Middlesex coat of arms. Even the trick music on page 9 only put a few of you off.

The six letter codes on pages 6 and 12, just add them up modulo 26 to spell **MIDDSX** (15).

YAJRKF +	25	1	10	18	11	6	+
<u>NHTLHR</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>18</u>	
MIDDSX	13	9	4	4	19	24	

Page 8, square 8C1, is a picture of the **Middlesex Guildhall** (14).

# Hillingdon & the Hillingdon Trail

These were the deeply hidden pointers to Hillingdon. As you can see from the number of correct answers it was Middlesex that turned to be deeply hidden.

On the Front Page we say the treasure is “... *in one of the London Boroughs*”, we were looking for Hillingdon (14). We were also hinting strongly on this page about the Hillingdon Trail, “... *blaze a trail ...*” (14).

The apparent misprint on the Front Page for the web site, *http://...*, was also a pointer to the Hillingdon Trail (16) and was the start of the sentence describing its location.

The ten letter codes on pages 1 and 9, just add them up modulo 26 to spell **HILLINGDON** (15).

NLQJAMNRRJ	+	14	12	17	10	1	13	14	18	18	10	+
<u>TWUBHASLWD</u>		<u>20</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>4</u>	
HILLINGDON		8	9	12	12	9	14	7	4	15	14	

Page 3, square 3C1, had a picture of the memorial to **Tony Hancock** (10) at the start of the Hillingdon Trail.

Page 4, square 4D3, had a line drawing of a **HT direction post** (10) on the Hillingdon Trail.

Page 6, square 6A3, had a line drawing of a **Hillingdon Trail signpost**. The text was translated to Tengwar script. The script spells out Hillingdon Trail (12). Strangely this was the first thing that several teams discovered.

Page 7, square 7D3, a picture of a **man entering a tunnel** on the Hillingdon Trail (14). The tunnel is a special feature, it is curved so that you cannot see the end as you walk in. Also it has a parallel tunnel carrying the canal feeder and was a weak link to the location of the treasure casket, as noted later. As pointed out by one team the man entering the tunnel cannot be Dave Kee – he is not that well dressed.

Page 8, square 8A3, is a picture of the Lady Hillingdon Rose (17).

Page 9, square 9C3, the ten letter code, **TWUBHASLWD**, is a list of the **post codes** that can be found within the boundary of Hillingdon (19), namely:

- TW, Twickenham
- UB, Uxbridge
- HA, Harrow
- SL, Slough
- WD, Watford

Page 11, row 11C, is a **map of Hillingdon** rotated 270 degrees clockwise (10).

Actually a blurred map of the Hillingdon Trail. It was blurred because the River Pinn is very prominent (see details of treasure casket location) and where it crosses the Trail stands out as “X marks the spot”.

Page 12, square 12A2, the six letter code, **NHTLHR**, is a list of the **airport codes** for all the international airports in Hillingdon (19), namely:

- NHT, Northolt
- LHR, Heathrow

Page 12, square 12C3, TANGY ROPE SHAG is an anagram of **STEGANOGRAPHY** (13). Steganography is the art of hiding messages. On page 12 the message **Hillingdon Trail** is hidden within the questions (17).

Steganography indicates that you should look for a hidden message. On this page Hillingdon Trail is spelt out in the question text. Look for the Garamond font amongst the Times Roman of the questions. This was easy to spot if you used the select text feature in Acrobat Reader, so we switched it off and you had to eyeball the printed version. The altered question text is:

Pinnoc**H**io's, consc**I**ence, c**L**assica**L**, h**I**s, asce**N**t, firs**T**, kronbe**R**G, Annual, held**D**, In,  
Living, m**O**u**N**taineer

## Roll of Honour

	<b>Team Name</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Prize</b>	<b>Found Treasure</b>
1	Trailer Trash	1870	Best entry £90	2nd
2	The Famous Five	1675	1st to treasure £90	1st
3	The Space Invaders	1297	2nd to treasure (actually third) £70	3rd
4	No Management Potential	1171	2nd best entry £70	
5	Skelcher's Schemers	1170		
6	Team Norway	1133	Best story £50	
7	Rosalind Barden	1000		
8	P.D.G. Smith et al	777	Mean Team £30	
9	Ian Canning & Supporters	539		
10	Carl, Roy & Irene	380		
11	Jon Wallis & Around the World	369		
12	Graham Jones & Friends & Relations	259		
13	Meats Family	244	Wittiest £50	
14	Gareth Hartwell	182		
15	Richard Porter, John Glover & Neil Darby	118		
16	Mark Amey	95		
17	Lucinda Clements	85	Winner (virgin) £120	
18	Mike Woods & Friends	74	Wooden spoon £30	

The winner this year is Lucinda Clements, the only entry that was willing to admit that it was a virgin entry. A few teams tried half heartedly to claim they were virgins, on past performance, but the judges' decision is final.

First to the treasure was the Famous Five at 3pm on Sunday January 7th. Our announcement that the treasure had been found seemed to deter nocturnal visits and the remaining visits were a week later in daylight. Last to find the treasure were the Space Invaders who had walked on the aqueduct before Christmas!

Commiserations to Skelcher's Schemers who missed a prize by the narrowest of margins.

Most of the prize categories are self explanatory. A new one this year is the Mean Team prize. A prize for the team with the number of points closest to the average team score.

From the number of teams entering we estimate that about 100 people took part in this year's event.

## Putting the Board Together

You were supposed to realise that it was a Snakes and Ladders board. I think all entrants managed that. You were supposed to realise that it had been cut up and made into a jigsaw, I think that was also obvious to you all. After that there was not a lot of common ground amongst the entrants.

What shape were the jigsaw pieces? The clues here were:

- The pictures of **cutting implements** at the following locations, 2C3/2D3 (12), 7B1/7C1 (12) and 12A1/12B1 (12).
- The text under each cutting implement spelt “every page”, albeit not in English:
  - tiap lembar, **Indonesian** (13).
  - c^iu pag^io, **Esperanto** (13).
  - elk bledside, **Frisian** (13). Frisian is a member of the Germanic branch of the Indo-European family of languages. Used in Holland.
- The numbers around the box on page 12, square 12C3 (14). 12x12 and 12x4.

These clues indicated that you needed to cut each page along horizontal lines so that each jigsaw piece was 1 square high and 3 long. Also the board was 12 squares by 12 squares.

So a simple task of putting together 48 pieces, helped by the fact that some were very obviously edge pieces. Here a few of you succumbed too quickly to the temptations of origami and started cutting. There is an extra wrinkle to be understood. If 4 jigsaw pieces are being laid out on the page, as these were, you need a convention for when they overlap. 1B2/1C2 and 6B2/6C2 should have alerted you to that fact. The only interpretation you can put on them is that they are top pieces, other cases are not so clear. So having realised that there was a convention where was the clue?

The clue to the overlapping rule was at square 1D3, the house with “**Tiling normal**” overprinted (18). This was to indicate that the jigsaw pieces were laid out from the bottom up, just like normal house tiles and with the same kind of overlap. Therefore pieces such as 2C, 3D, 5C and 8B had to be carefully interpreted, if cut up they could only be edge pieces – if taken in context it is not so clear, and in fact some are not edge pieces.

A give away to the connection of two pieces was **10.37** on page 5 in square 5A2. It indicates that piece 5B connects underneath 10B, since it contains question 37 on page 10 (17). This give away was generally completely misunderstood.

The final set of clues needed to assemble the board are the pictures. Most of them correspond to an answer. For example the answer to question 206, at the top of piece 8A, “Where would you find Milliways restaurant?” is “At the End of the Universe”. This answer comes from the Hitch Hiker’s Guide to the Galaxy which contains the character Ford Prefect. Square 1B2 contains a picture of a Ford Prefect car and so the jigsaw piece 1C should be connected to the top of 8A.

You did not need all the pictures to assemble the board. It was possible to get close and then use the fact that heads needed to be above tails (and the probability that the dice would roll to the Finish square) to eliminate some options.

Points are awarded for the number of **correctly located board pieces** to a maximum of (48).

## Uncovering the Sentence

You had to realise that you were “...*only playing a game*...” (15) as indicated on the Front Page. The game in question being Snakes and Ladders, but where was the dice?

The numbers of the questions were not entirely random. If the question numbers were placed in order you would appreciate that there were no gaps bigger than 6 and that these gaps could be used as rolls of a single dice. There was confirmation of this in that the first two rolls (1 and 4) were shown on the **die in the Start square** (16).

If you rolled the dice and played the game you would have moved around the board going up ladders and down snakes and finishing exactly on Finish. Each square landed on contains a question and if you took the significant letter of each answer it spelt (17):

HTTORPINNGOUPSTREAMEASTBANKSTOPAT1930BRIDGEWALKINTROUGHONBRIDGESTOP  
ATFALLENBLOCKBOXBEHINDCONCRETEEASTSIDE@

Applying reasonable punctuation this gives:

HT to R Pinn go upstream east bank.  
Stop at 1930 bridge.  
Walk in trough on bridge.  
Stop at fallen block  
Box behind concrete east side @.

HT is Hillingdon Trail. The first 4 letters correspond to the apparent misprint on the Front Page. R Pinn is the river Pinn which only crosses the Hillingdon Trail at one point, albeit a very long way from the start.

When you walk up the east bank you come to a 1930s canal feeder aqueduct which looks like a bridge to the uninitiated. The trough on the bridge is the feeder and in the 1930s it took water from Ruislip Lido to the Grand Union canal in Hayes. Please note that when we buried the treasure we did walk in the trough and it was muddy. We really didn't think that it would contain 6" of water and ice when you came to find the treasure – we were just lucky. This made finding the fallen block difficult for some of you. Also if we had our time again the graphic at the Finish would have included a pair of Wellington boots.

The box in question was an army ammunition box, hence steel vault on the Front Page, buried beneath a mass of ivy and a few inches of peat. Inside the ammunition box was the treasure casket. The treasure casket is a small hand made box purchased from Leh in Northern India. The chain and anchor were purchased in a tacky souvenir shop in Fort Augustus in Scotland and cost more than the box.



# War Stories

It always helps the markers to read the exploits of the teams and we have included the best of this year's crop. We think everyone was having fun, you certainly will now as you read about other teams' experiences, namely:

- Team Norway
- Famous Five
- Trailer Trash
- The Space Invaders
- No Management Potential

## Team Norway

Many hours of trawling through internet search engines, reference books, popping into Disney Shop and Waterstones, and reading the life history of Tony Hancock results in a good set of answers. It doesn't, however, reveal where Tony Hancock's grave is. Research shows that he died in Australia, which is a bit far to go and isn't a London Borough anyway. Luckily he was flown back but he was cremated before being brought back which makes a grave less likely.

Wednesday 3rd January 2001

Success - we've found out where Hancock's grave is. It's in Cranford Church, Middlesex. That's handy as we think that there is a Middlesex theme. An old A-Z indicates that it's at the north side of the park. We've got loads of answers to the questions but haven't been able to assemble the jigsaw so don't have the foggiest what to do when we get there.

Sunday 7th 2001

12:30 Expedition Cranford meets up at Cranford Park. It only takes a moment to tell that we are in the right place as we find the post with HT on it. It's the Hillingdon Trail, which is a 20 mile walk to the west of London. We explore the graveyard, quickly locating Hancock's gravestone (it's actually his and his mother's).

12:50 We take a look around the area and find a map of the Hillingdon Trail.

12:53 We hide from a lady with small child as someone thinks that she looks familiar so could be a Logibod.

12:55 Back to the map. Out with the camcorder to record it so we can refer to it later when we get lost. It's now becoming obvious what we have to do. It's simple. We walk the trail until we find the buildings sketched out and the casket will pop out in front of us. OK, we walk until we find one building and then decide how it fits in.

13:00 Start walking the trail. Don't know what David Kee means by Global Warming - Global Wetting more likely. It's a bit damp underfoot. One of us has had the foresight to bring his walking boots but the rest have lighter footwear like trainers. After a few hundred yards it starts getting boggy and numerous short detours are needed to keep feet dry. Some places are several inches deep. The decision to carry the baby in a papoose rather than use the pushchair was a sensible one. One wood and one large field later and all but one of us have given up trying to avoid the wet ground.

13:45 Civilisation. We've hit the road and a pub. After a brief visit to the pub we set off again. This is the urban part of the trail. We're still looking for the Logica 'L'. It's tempting to check in the middle of the roundabout but digging there might attract attention and there's nothing in the clues about needing nocturnal cover.

13:55 The cream of civilisation now. Graffiti everywhere. Has David contributed to it. Can't see anything.

14:05 A canal. This is good as it fits in with some of the clues, such as Ram's heads and Swan's necks on the barges. We follow the signs as best we can. Part of the fun is trying to guess which direction the arrows used to point before people swivelled them.

14:10 We're walking down the side of the canal on the towpath. Lots of buildings to look at. Keep getting the clues out to compare with the sketches. Why do so many look like the Lego building?

14:20 Lots of people walking their dogs. Eyes peeled for L on every wall that we pass. Surely we must see one of the buildings in the sketches soon.

14:30 We must have gone too far. Perhaps we should have checked Cranford Park before setting off on the trail? We'll walk to the next bend. Another four or five hundred yards. It's more of a curve so where does the bend start. There's a bridge ahead. The girls volunteer to walk to it. They find nothing and we start to walk back.

14:50 The sun looks low. Wonder how long before it sets. We didn't bring a torch.

15:02 A chill goes down my back. The wind must have changed direction.

15:05 It's a long way back but we walk fast and bypass the fields by using the roads.

15:55 We've made it back to the cars and grab a bite to eat before returning to the park. We split up. This is where the mobiles phones were handy. "Any luck?". "No". "I'll check this field". "OK".

16:50 We really should give up. Perhaps we should be at the other end of the trail? One last check around the churchyard. We don't go in as we don't think that we'll need to do any digging there. A final check around the underneath of the big trees. A final check of some of the other paths.

17:00 It's time to go home and wash the mud out of our trousers.

## **The Famous Five**

After initially thinking the green mess on page 11 was crumpled up Christmas wrapping paper, we realised it was a map and a quick look at a Ordnance Survey map showed that it was of Hillingdon borough. Looking at the map the area west of Ruislip looked promising hunting territory, so a brief speculative visit on Christmas Eve was made to check out the lie of the land. Spotted a "Hillingdon Trail" sign by Bayhurst Wood, which looked like the signpost drawing and also clicked with the "HT" post. However, having got nowhere with the detailed instructions we could go no further.

After Christmas the serious work of sorting out the jigsaw began. Once we'd spotted that there was a connection between some of the pictures and the answers to questions (some more groan-worthy than

others) we found we'd got enough information to put the pieces together and play the game. Enough of the letters came out in the right order to give us confidence we were on the right track, but we didn't have enough to tell us where to start. Still, nothing ventured etc, we headed off to Bayhurst Wood and looked for a bridge. Found a small stream crossing the Hillingdon Trail just inside Mad Bess Wood, and followed some vaguely promising paths but no luck. Retired to Ruislip Library to pick up some info on the Hillingdon Trail, which gave us a few more ideas.

Suddenly realised what the "http://" typo meant, and that the sentence began "HT to R Pinn", so armed with the extra bit of info, a party was despatched the next day to follow this new lead. Found the bridge over the Pinn with the aqueduct on it (trough on bridge...) but the snow and ice made navigation difficult and it wasn't easy to spot likely treasure sites.

Returning a week later with a few extra clues in the sentence, and with no snow on the ground, we quickly found the white Logica L (easy to miss in the snow...) and hence the box, containing ticket no 1 (reference number 4398).

## **Trailer Trash**

As usual, Dave Harding started to get itchy around mid-November as ATH-fever recurred. Our first problem was to find a Logica captain, for our contacts within that fine and noble company dwindle yearly. Fortunately we remembered Kailas Sidpara, who turned out to be ideally qualified having never entered the competition before. Whether our attempt to claim to be "virgins" succeeds remains to be seen (editors note: it didn't).

Initial difficulties downloading the Hunt having been overcome, and Dave having recovered from his annual car-related disaster, we had an initial team meeting in The Exmouth. Teetotal Kailas looked particularly perplexed as the drink-fuelled theorising got wilder and wilder. An initial blast with assorted search engines (however did we manage to undertake the ATH before these?) yielded a satisfactory haul and we were off. However, drinks with a rival team at quiz night in The Bailey, seemed to reveal that we were already falling behind. Shortly afterwards, some of the connections between the answers and the pictures began to suggest how a Snakes and Ladders board may be constructed. Also the Hillingdon Trail had begun to feature, so several initial explorations were undertaken to spot likely sites. This included a very wet tramp on Christmas Eve, which also took in a tour of Harefield Hospital to see if any of it matched up with the line drawings (still unidentified).

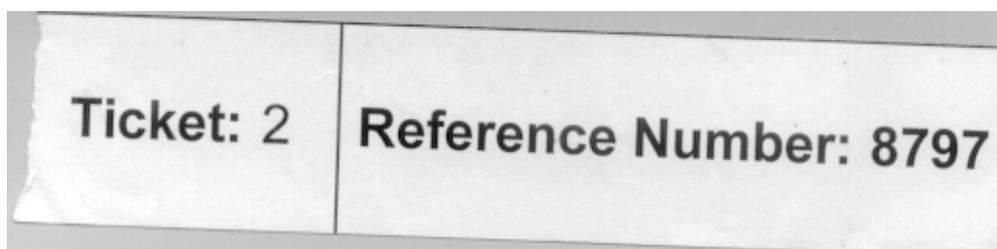
We were then mentally as well as physically bogged down, having the wrong pieces at the top right of the board. This made it impossible to assemble a layout which conformed to the rules we had set ourselves (e.g. the tops of snakes and ladders should be above the bottom) while keeping the connections between questions and pictures that we had already established. There were too many unknowns, given that we didn't know we had the right answers to the questions, or the right board layout or the right algorithm for generating dice throws.

This situation persisted well after Christmas until a breakthrough in which the correct piece was moved to the top right. Now everything fell out, although at the expense of some much-cherished answers and connections – for instance Simon and Garfunkel did not go with Robinson Crusoe ("Mrs Robinson") but with Frank Lloyd Wright ("So Long Frank Lloyd Wright"). We also discovered that the differences between the question numbers never differed by more than 6 but the 'obvious' method of using this to generate some detailed instructions yielded the discouraging starting sequence of GTIORBINN. Fortunately Matt, a man put in this earth to solve ATHs, persisted and realised not only that some words were emerging but that the sequence ended precisely on the "Finish" square.

So we now had the right layout and algorithm, all that was needed was to turn the gibberish sections into English. Many more cherished answers were questioned and rejected. However the all-important initial words remained a mystery – we even looked for the “Golf Ball Inn” (GTI ORB INN, geddit?). The remainder of the message suggested walking by a waterway so we decided that the wording had to be HT TO UNION – i.e. take the Hillingdon Trail to the Grand Union Canal. Dave H spent a Sunday morning in this less than salubrious area, stepping over the drunks and druggies to search the rubbish dump that is the bank of the canal. Having failed in this we discovered on the Monday that the box had been found. Had Dave been in the right area earlier in the day and missed it?

Another spying mission in the Bailey yielded the ‘pump’ answer, which suggested something we should have thought of earlier on – the Hillingdon Trail is crossed by the River Pinn, which may account for the INN part of our starting point. Could it be HT TO R PINN? We had to wait until the next weekend to test this theory, leaving us right up against the deadline.

So it was that Matt, Pablo and Dave H met early on Saturday morning near Ruislip station, even remembering the trowel. To keep the ATH spirit we elected not to find the nearest road but to follow a rural path, ankle deep in mud, criss-crossed with fallen trees and permanently bombarded by errant golf balls. This took us to mud central, a footbridge with all the relevant features of a trough (water-filled) and a fallen block. Deep in the undergrowth lay a piece of wood shaped like a Logica L. A suspicious-looking piece of ivy having been removed, the trowel struck metal. At this point we realised why the gloves had been mentioned as well, as some manual digging revealed the steel vault and inside a securely wrapped treasure casket. At least no one else had been there during the week, and we got this...



All in all a well-constructed Hunt, and we only have ourselves to blame for not doing better. What an “ATH virgin” would have made of it all is hard to imagine. Anyway, that’s enough brainwork for this year – time to get back to work...

## **The Space Invaders**

### Speculative Forays

Early on, we identified the county as Middlesex, and the Borough as Hillingdon, and identified the significance of the Hillingdon Trail (see “Codes” and “Miscellaneous Pictures” below). So the weekend before Christmas, we made a trip to Hillingdon to get a copy of the Hillingdon Trail leaflet, which we had seen from a web site was available from local libraries. This proved very useful, as a number of the pictures on the board had clearly been taken directly from these leaflets. Whilst we were in the area, we decided to visit the tunnel, which seemed to be significant in that it was the only picture from any of the specific pages for each of the stages of the walk. Sure enough, we found the tunnel, but there were no obvious “steel vaults” or Logica “L”s anywhere in the vicinity. Though we did get pretty wet and muddy on the route to the tunnel (from Ickenham).

We tried to interpret what the “steel vault” could refer to - the casket could be missing, but not the steel vault (but there could possibly be a problem with the steel vault). Thus, the implication was that the steel vault was a fixed feature - but what could it be? We also thought the reference to “blazing a trail” and the “undiscerning smoker” clues could be significant. On the set of pages for the Hillingdon Trail there is just one picture of a smoke trail - at Bayhurst Woods, where there are barbecue facilities close to the Hillingdon Trail. We thought these would be worth a look. It was raining when we got there, and just as muddy as elsewhere!

We checked-out the three barbecue areas - Perhaps the fixed steel barbecues were the “steel vaults” - but we didn’t see any Logica “L”s or find any hidden caskets in any of the barbecues. At the main information centre (closed for Winter), we did come across two very promising looking “steel vaults”, like the backs of container lorries. We assumed these were used for storing the charcoal for the barbecues. Unfortunately, both of these vaults were locked - despite our attempts at breaking into them!

A further idea was that since the “Tony Hancock” memorial was in the “Start” square on the board - corresponding to the start of the Hillingdon Trail, maybe the treasure at the “Finish” was at the end of the Hillingdon Trail, near Harefield. So we drove to the northernmost point of the trail, but could see nothing appropriate without having more detailed instructions - so it was back to the drawing board!

### Overall Approach

It was clear that we were supposed to cut up the Snakes and Ladders Board into four pieces per page, and then arrange the pieces in a 4x12 grid, giving a 12x12 cell board (as indicated by the “TANGY ROPE SHAG” clue).

Having cut up the pieces, the real problem was how to fit them together. We first tried aligning tops & bottoms of snakes and ladders, and that clearly didn’t work. So we relaxed the rules, to allow only that a head/top needed to be above a bottom. Together with the selection of the 12 left-hand and 12 right-hand edges, this started to put a bit of structure on the solution. However, we were puzzled by the 7 top pieces, but decided that we couldn’t have a top piece with the bottom of a snake or ladder. With all the edge pieces apparently identified and the snakes/ladders rules, there were still a huge number of possible permutations. Historically, we have always tried to avoid answering the questions. But this time it seemed we had no choice. After answering a few, it became clear that the pictures may relate to the answers to some of the questions (albeit somewhat obscurely!). This imposed further restrictions on the possible permutations, but there were still far too many candidates for us to be sure of having the “correct” solution. We thought that the “10.37” clue may be important (along with the question numbers of page/piece numbers) to provide a way of fitting the pieces together without the need to answer all of the questions, but we couldn’t work out how!

### Moving round the board.

We assumed that once the correct layout of pieces had been achieved, we would then need to move round the board, going up ladders and down snakes. We decided that the dice throws to use would most probably come from the differences of successive question numbers (once the questions had been ordered), starting with the first question (first throw = 1 is shown on the “Start” square). This seemed reasonable, as the differences were all in the range 1 to 6. However, we couldn’t get anything sensible at all to emerge - The message always started with GTTOR, since these depended on the “fixed” bottom line of the board. For a long time we guessed the second letter was O, giving “GOTO..”,

which seemed encouraging, but on getting the definitive answer to Qn 187 = T, this rather scuppered our earlier thoughts. We then decided that we would need to apply a substitution code to the message (as indicated by the “Vatsyayana or Singh” clue), but we couldn’t determine the key.

We were also still worried by the fact that we seemed to be landing on quite a few squares with no questions. To start with, we thought that these could be blanks between words. However, we eventually decided to have another look at all the edges in detail (especially the tops and bottoms, which we had assumed for a long time had been correct). We then spotted that one of the right-hand edge pieces could also be interpreted as a top right-hand corner piece, and the piece which we had definitely placed there may not actually be a corner piece, despite it not having a “lug” on top. On swapping these pieces round, we then got Captain Hook to match up with Wendy Toms (which is what we had wanted), and also discovered that all 103 dice throws resulted on landing on a question every time. This convinced us that we had (at last!!!) found the correct layout of the pieces. Unfortunately, the message was still very garbled.

After trying out various decoding possibilities, we eventually concluded that the message wasn’t coded after all, as a frequency analysis of the initial letters of the answers so far obtained seemed to indicate that there wasn’t any coding. This could only mean that we had lots of wrong answers - which on checking seemed to have been the case - starting with the first one, which should have been H (hole-in-one), not G (golf), so we now had HTTOR-INN as the start = Hillingdon Trail TO R- Inn. We thought of the Soldiers Return pub which we had visited earlier (RT=return?), and looked at the possibility of any other pubs along the Hillingdon Trail. Then we remembered our visit through the tunnel and across a golf course to the River Pinn, where the week before Christmas we had walked along the bank of the river up to a bridge with a concrete aqueduct going over it (as indicated in the Hillingdon Trail guide). Little did we know that we were just a few feet away from the casket at that time! Having convinced ourselves that the message was not coded, and began with H.T. To R. PINN, we then tried to construct the rest of the message through guesswork, checking earlier answers, and simply ignoring answers which just didn’t seem to fit. This resulted in a plausible set of instructions (see “Message Sequence from moving round the board” below), which we set out to follow on the morning of Saturday 13th Jan 2001.

### Finding the Treasure

We followed the instructions, and lo-and-behold, there was a Logica “L” - sticking out of the ground (rather than on a tree, as usual). We rushed over to it, but had some initial difficulty in locating the vault. However, before too long we found it, and on opening it up, found the casket, but found also that someone else had got there between the first discoverers (on 7th Jan) and ourselves. We picked up ticket number 3 (Reference Number 9986).

### **No Management Potential**

Many thanks to Dave, Anthony and the gang for setting another entertaining and frustrating Armchair Treasure Hunt. When was the last time anyone solved it from the comfort of his or her armchair I wonder? Usually the ATH involves at least one fruitless journey to the middle of nowhere to dig up the village cricket pitch or end up knee deep in mud. This year was no exception, but more of that later...

We all liked this year’s Snakes & Ladders theme, and the use of links between questions and pictures. And the prize structure - with the aim of attracting some new blood to the ATH – was an excellent idea. But most of all we especially appreciated the complete absence of Mr Fibonacci this time! (editors note: this is a reference to the previous masterpiece set by our team where the fibonacci spiral was the

centre piece of a perfectly crafted treasure hunt - unfortunately no one found it and extra clues had to be issued).

The release of the ATH was greeted by the usual burst of frantic activity. We made lots of progress in the first few days, answering most of the questions and finding several strong pointers to the Hillingdon Trail. A bit of surfing revealed a web site with a photo of an information board at the entrance to Ickenham Marsh. The board included a picture of the tunnel entrance that appears at the foot of page 7 of the ATH – this turns out to be the Cow Tunnel on the Hillingdon Trail, leading under the railway into Ruislip Golf Course in Ickenham. Meanwhile we had a pretty good theory about how to cut up the pages of the ATH and assemble them into a Snakes & Ladders board, and how we could use the question numbers to form a route around the board.

On the first weekend, we made an expedition to check out the Hillingdon Trail and in particular Ickenham Marsh and the Cow Tunnel. After all the rain, the Trail was extremely muddy, and the Marsh was under a foot of water. But the area by the Cow Tunnel looked like a good place to hide the treasure. We just needed to crack the sentence hidden in the Snakes & Ladders board and we were home and dry.

But that's where we got stuck. Try as we might, we just could not get a sentence to come out, although it seemed to start with "Go To ..." or "Get From...".

The Christmas holidays passed with little progress. So we were reduced to trying to crack the sentence by brute force using some rather nifty software. For several days Deep Thought II™ analysed every possible layout of the board that would satisfy all the rules and links between questions and pictures. Then finally, on the last day of the ATH, it announced its conclusion: "There is an answer...but I don't think you're going to like it! The answer is 'G?TFR?M?N OKPSETR?AEONNTSBARSR?E GNGATR?RRRTEASARAEUMCN??S?AAEONTRSEBEC OEONTSARSEEASREAEUGRBAGNSTARS'". Apparently this is Welsh for "Back to the drawing board...".



No:	Question	Letter and points		Comment and picture link
		Answer		
1	Of what was Ajax an early type?	Sweet smelling privy	P (11)	Apparently this was also the name given to the first US surface to air missiles, so we also had to give points for that. Wonder whether those who named the missiles knew about the privies?
5	Which well-known author recently spent a year on Pigeon Island?	Lucy Irvine, best-selling author of "Castaway", recently published her third book, "Faraway" telling of the year she and her 3 sons spent on Pigeon Island in the Solomon Islands.	I (5)	
9	What is missing from the following sequence: Table, Iron Hut, Punch Bowl?	Estuary. They are the names, in played order, of the par 3 holes on the Royal North Devon golf course.	E (16)	Our answer, Estuary, came from an irreproachable source, but unfortunately it must have been a bit out of date, since the name has now been changed to Bar. Luckily, there was no picture connection to make matters even more confusing.
10	What was the name of the English group opposed to Reform, which took its name from the Old Testament?	They were called the Adullamites, after the cave of Adullah in I Samuel, ch 22, v1, and they were opposed to the 2nd Reform Bill of 1866	A (14)	The picture misled a few teams here. They thought it was a bat, whereas it was the cave we were thinking of (15).
13	Who was the first man to reach the highest point of each of the states of the USA (other than Alaska and Hawaii) in less than a year?	F T Ashley	A (12)	Picture link was the cigarette with ash on it. Incidentally, we didn't get a mountaineering book for Christmas as suggested by one team - we're just naturally interested in the subject (14).
16	Which British author, reviewer and journalist was a contributor for "Maga" for over 50 years?	Mrs Margaret Oliphant (1828-97), Maga being the nickname for Blackwood's Magazine	O (16)	The picture link was the elephant (16).
22	What's the term for the study of the structure of fruits and seeds?	Carpology	C (9)	Picture=carp (12).
25	What could Melpomenus Jones not bring himself to do?	Leave. He was a curate, the eponymous hero of Stephen Leacock's short story "The awful fate of Melpomenus Jones", who was too self-conscious and embarrassed to get up, say his thanks and go, with the result that, having dropped in for tea on some friends, he stayed for several weeks before falling ill and dying in his hosts' house with the words "I'm afraid I really must go now. Good afternoon"	L (5)	Apologies for the typo in the original, but it doesn't seem to have caused too many problems. The picture link was the leaf (13).
31	Who demonstrated how to make flour into bread without the need for baking?	Charles Dodgson. It was one of his word games, changing one letter at a time to form a new word - flour-floor-flood-blood-brood-broad-bread	D (19)	One of the three answers nobody got right. We had sympathy for the answer "Robinson Crusoe" who apparently made a sort of bread with rice flour, but disallowed it on the grounds of lack of "demonstration". The people who got this answer then unfortunately assumed it linked with the picture of Simon and Garfunkel because of the song "Mrs. Robinson". This was a jolly good idea - pity we didn't think of it.
34	What is the medical term for nail biting?	Onychophagia	O (5)	
37	What do the following have in common? Blackpool Bridge, Aldborough, Keynsham Somerdale.	Roman: BB = Roman Road, A = Roman town, KS had Roman villa	R (9)	Picture was the rather nice one of Roman soldiers (12).
40	What connects the drowning of a witch with an English battle?	Long Marston. The last witch drowned in England was at Long Marston Hertfordshire and the Battle of Marston Moor was fought at long Marston Yorkshire	L (16)	
45	Where did it become a sin for a Roman Catholic to go to with effect from 6.8.1867?	Oxford or Cambridge University.	O (15)	The picture link was the Bridge of Sighs in Oxford (16).
46	In which European country would you sometimes have to dial 118 for the emergency services?	Italy.	I (6)	We also allowed Switzerland, where apparently you dial 118 for the fire brigade.
52	Which current widely-used symbol was the Roman measure for one thirtieth of a barrel of wine?	@ or amphora was found to have been used in a letter written by a Florentine merchant on 4th May 1536 according to Giorgio Stabile, Professor of History of Science at La Sapienza University in Rome.	A (11)	
56	Who said "Millions long for immortality who don't know what to do on a rainy Sunday afternoon"?	Susan Ertz.	E (3)	Not a very interesting answer, but a good quote we thought.
58	Who was the only woman prisoner to escape from the Tower of London?	Alice Tankerville in 1533. Unfortunately, she was recaptured and subsequently hanged.	T (7)	
59	Who worked at The Rookery?	Frank Lloyd Wright	W (13)	We have also given points for Peggotty in "David Copperfield" who worked at Blunderstone Rookery, but not for Malthus who was born and brought up in a Rookery, but does not seem to have done any of his work there nor for Hogarth on the basis that there were many areas called rookeries in his day - it was a generic name for a particularly bad kind of slum. The picture link was, quite unintentionally, one of our more misleading ones. It was the picture of Simon and Garfunkel, who sang a song called "So long, Frank Lloyd Wright" (16).
63	Where would you find two sticks, an apple and maids in white aprons?	In "London Bells", an early version of "Oranges and Lemons". "Two sticks and an apple, Ring the bells at Whitechapel. Maids in white aprons, Ring the bells at St Catherine's."	L (12)	The picture link was of oranges, but we did not accept the answers of "Oranges and Lemons" or London churches as being too imprecise. The full poem has appeared on the underground in the comic poetry series (13).
64	Which abbey connects Boatswain, Lamb, Roe and the Isles of Greece?	Newstead Abbey. It was inherited by the 10 year old Baron George Gordon Byron in 1798. Boatswain was his dog, and there is a portrait of it there, Lady Caroline Lamb was Byron's lover. The Roe Collection of Byron's manuscripts and first editions is there, including "Isles of Greece", one of his poems.	N (5)	The picture link, which most people got, was a portrait of Byron (11).

No:	Question	Letter and points		Comment and picture link
		Answer		
66	Where does 4.2 = III, 5.4 = VI and 7.3 = X?	Mercalli Scale - intensity of earthquakes (cf Richter - magnitude of earthquakes).	M (16)	
68	Who gave a digital donation to a museum to commemorate his ascent of Everest?	Major "Bronco" Lane gave his toes and the tops of the fingers of his right hand to the National Army Museum in 2000. They had to be amputated because of frost-bite after he had to spend a night high on Everest after reaching the summit, and were preserved in formaldehyde for medical research until he was asked to give something "personal" to the Museum, and he decided he could dispense with them.	L (8)	
72	Which climber has climbed Everest the most times?	Appa Sherpa, a Nepalese climber with 11 ascents to his credit, the last one in 2000.	A (11)	We had several answers of Ang Rita Sherpa who was the first person to climb Everest ten times, but in 2000 Appa Sherpa beat the record by making his eleventh successful climb. The picture link was the Sherpa woman with the children - taken by a friend of ours, Pam Bowmaker, when on trek with Jeanne in Nepal a few years ago (14).
75	1348 = Honi soit qui mal y pense. 1725 = ?	Tria junta in uno (Dates and mottoes of Orders of Chivalry (Order of Garter, Order of Bath)	T (6)	
78	What moved from Paris to Brussels in 1966 after France went on her own?	NATO Headquarters (France withdrew from NATO)	N (3)	
79	Which playwright became an MP and was offered £20,000 by the US Congress on account of his opposition to the American War of Independence?	RB Sheridan in 1780	S (8)	Picture of Lady Sheridan by Gainsborough (11).
81	Where would you find the 5 Ks?	On a Sikh man: Kesh - uncut hair and beard Kachh - short boxer pants Kara - iron bangle Kanga - wooden comb Kirpan - dagger	S (4)	An easy question, but some missed the picture link. It was Leonardo da Vinci in fact, but just as an example of a man with long hair and beard. This is, unfortunately, much more boring than the Trailer Trash version which went along the following lines: Leonardo painted the Mona Lisa who is famous for her enigmatic smile, an anagram of limes, which are used to make a cocktail called a gimlet, which is a tool which would give you a very nasty jab. Leonardo also invented the helicopter or chopper, which is another name for axe, much used by firemen, who are called out by dialling 999, as are the police, who have "truncheon meat" in their sandwiches, a truly awful pun. Putting pun together with jab gives Punjab which is where Sikhs come from. If we had been this devious, you really would have had cause to complain (18).
84	What does a handful of straw indicate to oncoming traffic in London?	Reduced or restricted headroom in a Thames bridge. The traffic in question is river traffic.	R (15)	This convention is still in use. Next time you are looking at a Thames bridge with scaffolding look for the navigation arch and the straw. We became aware of this in the early seventies when we took a canal boat up the Thames from Bow Creek. It was in use as we approached London Bridge (then under construction). Unfortunately we didn't allow for the tide and ran aground at Chelsea Bridge, much to the amusement of the river police. The picture link is not quite the Thames but not a lot of headroom nevertheless. (15).
86	What do clams, oysters and snakes have in common?	Bed – it's their collective name.	B (16)	We considered, giving points for "aphrodisiacs" and "non-Kosher or banned by the Bible", but did not on the grounds that so many things could come into these categories. The picture link was very straightforwardly of a bedroom (15).
88	Who has a statue in the Guildhall on the pedestal of which is engraved his speech to a king?	William Beckford (d.1770) answered George III back after the King has refused to consider a petition relating to Middlesex elections.	B (7)	We thought the picture of one of the King Georges was a bit of a giveaway as a picture link, given the question, but obviously not (16).
91	What's the name for a single straight stem with side-shoots or fruit spurs which are kept short by pruning?	Cordon	C (8)	
92	What do W.S. Gilbert, Chiang Kai Shek, R.L. Stevenson and Adam Smith have in common?	Kidnapped. R.L. Stevenson, of course, wrote a famous book with that title. The others were all themselves kidnapped, Gilbert and Smith as small children and Chiang as an adult in 1936 (the Sian Incident).	K (15)	A couple of teams thought there was a connection of lawyers or the study of law, but we weren't given any sources and can't find convincing evidence and have therefore disallowed it. The picture link of the parrot confused some teams, but we thought it was pretty obvious - it was a pointer to the novels of R. L. Stevenson. His two best known novels are "Kidnapped" and "Treasure Island". The latter has a pirate in it called Long John Silver who is usually found with his parrot called "Captain Flint" on his shoulder. The connection was not, as Trailer Trash thought, that parrots are very subject to kidnapping (17).
94	Who was described as "a semi house-trained polecat"?	Norman Tebbit MP by Michael Foot MP in a House of Commons debate.	T (1)	Another put down in this line by Foot is "The thing you have to remember about Norman is that he is not as nice as he looks".
99	Where was a different face of things seen on 25 January 1965	The Times, which for the first time on that day put news on the front page in place of Births, Deaths, Marriages and classified advertisements.	T (17)	

No:	Question	Letter and points		Comment and picture link
		Answer		
101	Is Kronberg Castle there or not?	Elsinore	E (4)	Kronberg/borg/burg Castle is supposed to be the model for Elsinore, the setting for "Hamlet", which contains the "to be or not to be" speech, so the answer was supposed to be Elsinore. However, this seems to have been a bit too subtle, so we gave points to those who said "yes", "no" or "possibly" provided they made it clear that they understood the connection. We thought about withholding points from the team which criticized our spelling, (there seems to be no agreement on the correct English form of the K word) but decided to be generous.
106	What grammatical word connects wild cherry, Genoa and the Greek for being born?	Homonym (Gean, jean, gene -pronounced " jean" = twilled material, from Genoa and gene comes from Greek gen which is root of gignomai = be born, become)	H (17)	Some teams had "genitive" for this question, but we didn't understand why - so no points. Picture was a pair of jeans (15).
110	What connects Ad Marginem, Fruits on Red, and Daringly Poised?	Paul Klee - they are all paintings done by him.	K (16)	
115	Who followed Matt Monro, Shirley Bassey, Tom Jones and Nancy Sinatra?	Louis Armstrong. They sang the James Bond title songs. The full list is: Monty Norma(?) 1962 (Doctor No)Matt Monro 1963 (From Russia With Love)Shirley Bassey 1964 (Goldfinger)Tom Jones 1965 (Thunderball)Nancy Sinatra 1967 (You Only Live Twice)Louis Armstrong 1969 (On Her Majesty's Secret Service)Shirley Bassey 1971 (Diamonds are Forever)Paul McCartney 1973 (Live and Let Die)Lulu 1974 (The Man with the Golden Gun)Carly Simon 1977 (The Spy Who Loved Me)Shirley Bassey 1979 (Moonraker)Sheena Easton 1981 (For Your Eyes Only)Rita Coolidge 1983 (Octopussy)Lani Hall 1983 (Never Say Never Again)Duran Duran 1985 (A View to a Kill)(?) 1987 (The Living Daylights)Gladys Knight 1989 (Licence to Kill)Tina Turner 1995 (Goldeneye)Sheryl Crow 1997 (Tomorrow Never Dies)Garbage 1999 (The World is Not Enough).	A (9)	The picture link was the weightlifter - we thought this was one of our better ones, and were disillusioned to see it described as groan worthy by one team (14).
117	To whom did King George V offer a wild place at Hampton Court?	Xenia, Grand Duchess of Russia was offered Wilderness House at Hampton Court Palace in Middlesex as a home in 1935.	X (14)	
121	What does the K stand for in EK17548?	United Kingdom (K now replaced by GBR). E is the class symbol for an Enterprise class dinghy K is the country prefix 17548 is the dinghy's registration number	U (18)	
126	Where were the 7th annual World Toe Wrestling Championships held this year?	Ye Olde Royal Oak Inn in Staffordshire. Winners of male and female contests each get a year's supply of ice cream.	O (3)	Picture link - the oak leaf and acorn (13).
130	Who made a public convenience of the House of Commons?	Fitzroy Maclean. This is what Churchill said when he heard that Maclean had stood as an MP because it was the only way he could get out of the Diplomatic Service during the war. He wanted to join up and fight. He later served in the SAS in the Western Desert.	M (16)	We liked this question a lot - we first heard of it from Lord Jellicoe at an RGS lecture, but it is repeated in print and also on the net. We also liked the anecdotes about Shirley Somerskill and Rufus Isaacs, but not enough to award points for them. The picture link was of course the toothpaste on the toothbrush, and some people who had put the jigsaw together came up with various people with the surname Gibbs, Colgate or Macleans (17).
133	What do the following have in common – Perry Como, Alice Cooper, Bob Hope, Gummo Marx, Richard Nixon and Margaret Waldron?	They are all members of golf's Hole in One Club.	H (15)	Several teams just had "golf", which wasn't good enough. Nor, pace Ian Canning, have we found any evidence that they had all participated in the Bob Hope Classic Tournament. The picture link was Tiger Woods (14).
136	Whose theorem states that "if at first you don't succeed, you are running about average"?	Aldersons	A (8)	A fairly easy question.
140	What is the longest word in common English usage which an expert secretary would type with the left hand only?	Stewardesses.	S (9)	We were given various alternatives but were able to dismiss most of them on the grounds that they could not be said to be in common English usage - nearly everyone who suggested alternatives also got the right answer, but we did allow Skelcher's Schemers desegregates/d. The picture link was the plane (13).
144	What was No. 1, according to NME, in the 5 weeks starting from 13/8/78?	Three Times a Lady by Commodore	T (6)	
145	Who outlived Alf Wight by just 18 months?	Bodie, his border terrier. The character James Herriot was based on Alf Wight	B (14)	Lots of different answers for this, but unfortunately none of the alternatives fitted well enough to deserve points.
147	What connects HMS Glendower, HMS Scotia and HMS Royal Arthur?	Billy Butlin. These are the force's names of what became three of the five original post war Butlins camps in 1946. The five are Filey, Pwllheli (HMS Glendower), Ayr (HMS Scotia), Skegness (HMS Royal Arthur) and Clacton.(I'm still working on Billy Butlin's headstone)	B (12)	Sadly, neither "Holiday camps" nor "Shore-bases" were considered sufficiently specific.
148	What, in terms of sanitary ware, do Dublin and Birmingham have in common?	They both have statues known to the locals as "The Floozy in the Jacuzzi", Birmingham's in Victoria Square, and Dublin's in O'Connell Street	F (19)	This was Jeanne's favourite question, which unfortunately no-one got. The picture link was the stone bird bath (19).

No:	Question	Letter and points		Comment and picture link
		Answer		
152	Who is due to replace Elizabeth in South Africa this year?	Nelson Mandela Metropole. Port Elizabeth which was named after the wife of a former British Governor is due to be re-named as Nelson Mandela Metropole in November as part of the re-drawing of city boundaries to include adjacent black townships.	N (8)	This was a bit of a cheat, because having said "Who" not "What", the answer should have been "Mandela" not "Nelson", but we decided to stretch a point, because "What" would have made it too easy and we didn't think it would cause any real problems, (as indeed it didn't). Also the November in question was in the past by the time the quiz was issued but that doesn't seem to have caused any problems either.
158	Which country's name means 'Land of the trees' in Nahuatl?	Guatemala.	G (7)	
159	What dish is supposed to have been devised in 1896 in an attempt to appeal to both American and Chinese tastes?	Chop Suey. Devised by Li Hung-Chang's chef in New York	C (5)	
161	Who rode and tied with Samuel Johnson?	David Garrick, the actor. "Riding and tying" involved two travellers and one horse. One person would ride the horse and after a while would tie it up and continue walking. The other would eventually reach the horse, ride it to overtake his companion and the process would continue. Dr. Johnson and David Garrick travelled from Lichfield to London in this way in 1837.	G (9)	The picture link was the statue of David (12).
167	The machine gun inventor moved here, the real inventor of the steam locomotive died here, but who stood here?	Margaret Thatcher in the 1950s. The others are Hiram Maxim and Richard Treberick and the place is Dartford.	T (14)	Picture link - a handbag, of course (14).
170	Where did Bill send his messenger?	Durham Cathedral. Bill Viola's film "The Messenger" was unveiled there in September 1996	D (16)	
172	What is the name given to a note that has effectively the same pitch as another note, but is given a different name?	Enharmonic.	E (9)	This did not cause many problems.
177	What dance was performed in Ancient Greece, by soldiers wearing full armour?	Pyrrhic	P (9)	
180	In which opera does the heroine take a bath heated by electricity, whilst singing its benefits against the drawbacks of gas. 'No horrid smell, no danger of explosion'?	Neues von Tage by Hindemith (1929) An injunction was issued against the performance of the opera on behalf of the Breslan gas heating company.	N (15)	A lot of punters went for "The Electrification of the Soviet Union", which sounds promising, but, as far as we can tell, it does not contain a scene similar to this.
183	Where in West London did the Parliamentary and Royalist representatives have a pint together?	Crown and Treaty or Treaty House in Uxbridge.	C (14)	
187	What was the first name of the person who was put on trial for bigamy in 1922, having married 62 "spouses" in 5 years?	Theresa Vaughan	T (13)	Heaven knows how, or indeed why. The picture link was Frankie Vaughan (13).
188	What is the only London Tube station name which does not contain any letter of the word "mackerel"?	St John's Wood.	S (1)	Another popular question which everyone got right.
191	What do alcoholic drinks and coffee, cream and sugar help you to remember?	The value of Pi. There are two mnemonics, "May I have a large container of coffee? Cream and sugar?" and "How I want a drink, alcoholic of course, after the heavy lectures involving quantum mechanics". The number of letters in each word correspond to the successive integers in the decimal expansion of Pi.	P (17)	
192	What is there in common between Agnes Arber, Stella Gibbons, Lilian Lindsay, Esther Rantzen, Stevie Smith and Marie Stopes?	North London Collegiate School in Edgware, which celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2000. They were all pupils there.	N (10)	The answer "they're all females" from the Canning team was not thought to be sufficiently distinctive. The picture link was of Miss Buss who was the first headmistress of the College (15).
194	Who, asked to sign the autograph book of a young lady who took him to be a poet, inscribed it "Across the pale parabola of Joy"?	Ronald Eustace Rupert Psmith. "Leave it to Psmith" uniquely brings the eponymous hero ("The P, I should add for your guidance, is silent as in phthisis, psychic and ptarmigan") together with the cast of Blandings Castle. In a typically convoluted Wodehouse plot Psmith is masquerading as the Canadian poet Ralston McTodd and is asked for his autograph by another poet and fellow-guest at Blandings, a girl calling herself Aileen Peavey (in fact the notorious confidence-trickster Smooth Lizzie), who affects to be an ardent fan of McTodd's. Psmith, who has been boning up on McTodd's work with deepening nausea and incomprehension, plucks a quotation from his recent reading to add verisimilitude to his purloined signature. Begged by Miss Peavey to explain to her what it means, Psmith responds "Well, well, perhaps I did put a bit of topspin on that one.", causing the efficient Baxter's spectacles to glint with deepening suspicion.	P (9)	We also accepted Ralston McTodd.
200	Whose journal is (or was) "The Gavel"?	The Order of Women Freemasons, founded in 1908	O (15)	Dave Kee has, for some reason, a copy of this journal, but there were many claims that the title was also used by other organizations. The only ones we have been able to verify are the Illinois Judges Association, the Bowling Green State University in Ohio and the law firm of David B. Forest. Some of the others sounded plausible, but we were not given any sources and weren't able to find confirmation for them, so no points (18).
206	Where would you find Milliways restaurant?	At the end of the Universe	E (1)	One of the easier questions and picture links - the Ford Prefect car (13).

No:	Question	Letter and points		Comment and picture link
		Answer		
210	Name the only team in English and Scottish football leagues whose name contains no letters that can be coloured in?	Hull City	H (2)	Most people got this one, and nobody came up with any alternatives, which was a relief.
216	Who, having buried his poems in his wife's grave as a sign of remorse for her death, later had her body exhumed so that he could retrieve them?	Dante Gabriel Rossetti. His wife was Elizabeth Siddall, who died in 1862. He recovered his poems in 1869.	R (5)	
220	Of which Dean of Westminster was it said that he knew all the "ologies" except theology?	Dean Buckland in 1845. He was much more interested in science.	B (12)	The picture link was of the stag (15).
226	Who was the voice of Pinocchio's conscience?	Cliff Edwards. He gave voice to Jiminy Cricket in the 1940 Disney version of the film.	E (9)	We didn't allow Jiminy Cricket who actually was Pinocchio's conscience.
232	On the London Underground who can be found between John Barnes and Bobby Charlton?	Gordon Banks - in Simon Patterson's painting In The Great Bear (1992) based upon the London Underground map.	B (14)	The picture link was, not surprisingly, a bear. We were very impressed with one team who put together the bear, the rabbit and the elephant to develop a "Winnie the Pooh" theme (16).
235	Who was the only Irishman to win a VC for action over England?	Eugene Esmonde - it was over the Straits of Dover in 1942.	E (3)	
238	Where did Prospero, Setebos and Stephano make an unusual appearance this year?	Uranus. They are 3 moons of Uranus (S/1999 U3, U1 and U2) which were confirmed by the International Astronomical Union and given names from Shakespeare's play "The Tempest".	U (7)	
244	What surname is an Irish and Gaelic nickname for someone who has an unattractive face?	Kennedy. It is said to mean "ugly head"	K (9)	We liked but did not accept the suggestion from the Famous Five that the answer was "keyl-oaieagh", meaning "hatchet-faced", which they then connected with Kylie Minogue. The picture link for this seems to have baffled everyone. It was the picture of the girl in a pill box hat, a fashion item which was almost a trademark for Jackie Kennedy when JFK was president. A rigorously conducted survey conducted at a lunch party recently revealed that all the women (all over 40) knew this immediately, but only one of the men (all over 50) did and then only when prompted (19).
245	1G + 1SV + 1C = ?	A Negroni, a cocktail consisting of one measure of each of gin, sweet vermouth and campari.	N (16)	We thought this might be quite hard, but several teams got the right answer.
247	Where would you find the Bay at the Back of the Ocean, the Land of the Ever Young and the Port of the False Man?	Iona in the Hebrides. They are the English names of Camus Cul ant-Saimh, Tir nan Og and Port an Fhir-Bhreige.	I (11)	The picture link was the Ionic Cross (16).
253	What number links Maniacs, Weeks and Women?	2000. They are all films – 2000 Maniacs (1964), 2000 Weeks (1970) and 2000 Women (1944).	(17)	We decided not to give points for "10,000" even to the team who made a valiant effort to justify it. We think the others just knew about "10,000 Maniacs" and took a punt on the others (17).
259	What is represented by the series 3x8 + 4x6 + 5x4 + 6x2 + 7x3 + 8x6 + 9x2 + 10x2 + 11x4 + 12x2 + 13x2 + 14 + 15 + 18 + 21 + 22 + 23 + 25 + 32 + 33 + 54?	Electoral College to elect the President of the United States. Each State has a number of seats as determined by its population and the numbers show the smallest States with 3 seats up to the largest (California) with 54.	E (18)	Surprisingly few teams got this, surprising in view of all the recent publicity on the subject. The Peter D Smith team were at least correct in assuming that 538 was not the answer we were looking for. The picture link also caused confusion - it was the white house, it being completely irrelevant for our purposes that it seems to be made of lego, but some teams wanted to link it to the "Hamlet" question (18).
260	What is next in the sequence G, T, P,... and why?	exa – giga (109), terabyte(1012), peta (1015), exa (1018) (yotta, zeta)	E (12)	
265	Of which town hall was a famous impression taken in 1923?	Ivry Town Hall. Maurice Utrillo, often described as an Impressionist artist, painted it in 1923.	I (17)	This seems to have been a difficult question, as was the picture link of Maurice Chevalier, variously identified as Ronald Coleman (who's he?), John Barrymore and Johnny Craddock. Trailer Trash thought the question was curiously worded, but that was really rather the point (19).
267	Which South American revolutionary lived and studied in a vineyard in Richmond?	Bernardo O'Higgins (1778-1843), illegitimate son of an Irish vice-roy and liberator of Chile, lived and studied at Clarence House, 2 The Vineyard, Richmond.	O (11)	Various interesting answers for this, but most teams got the right one.
269	Which Captain was really a Flying Officer?	Captain W. E. Johns, as in the author of Biggles.	J (4)	The picture link was the root ginger, Ginger being one of Biggles' side-kicks (15).
273	What London wall was said to have been built to keep out the plague?	Dawley Wall, Dawley Road, Hayes, Middlesex was built by the Earl of Uxbridge allegedly to keep out the plague.	D (18)	
276	Which English author was awarded a scholarship at Manchester University, but then stole money to buy a sewing machine to keep his girlfriend off the streets and was sentenced to one month's hard labour?	George Gissing, a popular late nineteenth century author.	G (11)	
282	Which Spanish Civil War activist spent 38 years in Moscow?	Dolores Ibarruri, otherwise known as "La Passionara".	I (10)	Various people thought this was Donald MacLean which they linked with the picture of the toothpaste on a brush, but in fact the picture link was with the passion flower, for obvious reasons (14).
286	What vegetable was used in WWII as an antiseptic on soldiers' wounds?	Onions.	O (8)	We also allowed the answer of garlic which was apparently used as an antiseptic for gangrene cases.
289	In which season don't you get snowflakes?	Winter – Spring, summer and autumn are all common names of Snowflake. Leucojum (Amaryllidaceae): Leucojum vernal – Spring snowflake Leucojum aestivum – Summer snowflake Leucojum autumnale – Autumn snowflake	W (16)	We had various answers of autumn or fall, on the basis that snowflakes don't fall in the fall (or something like that) but we weren't convinced. The picture is of snowdrops which are somewhat similar to snowflakes - at least they're both flowers with "snow" in their name (15).

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292	What connects the numbers in the sequence and what is next. 277, 1065, 519, 3723, ...?	This is the Logica question and refers to M P Read. These numbers, in thousands of pounds, are his emoluments as stated in the annual reports for 1996-9. The next in sequence is for 2000 and it is 9521.	R (18)	However Logica still has a lot to do in this area. According to the Sunday Times in 2000, M P Read is only the second highest overpaid chief executive in the UK and is a very long way behind number 1. Various teams worked out that this must be the Logica question, but only Trailer Trash, after having had the cheek to complain about there being a Logica question at all, got the right idea.
294	Which confectionery item was the subject of an aggressive novel in 1982?	Ice Cream. "An Ice Cream War" was written by William Boyd in 1982.	I (10)	We were tempted by Team Norway's suggestion of "Beyond the Chocolate War" by Robert Cormier, but eventually discarded it as the book was written in 1985. "Sour Sweet" by Timothy Mo, on the other hand, was written in 1982, but we decided that "sour" is not really aggressive, so the Canning team lost out as well.
295	Where would you find a swan's neck next to a ram's head?	On a narrow boat tiller	T (9)	We also accepted "rudder" and "butty" as valid answers for this.
301	Who holds the world record for eating hot dogs?	Kazutoyo "The Rabbit" Arai, who ate 251/8 hot dogs in 12 minutes at Nathan's Famous International Hot Dog Eating Contest at Coney Island Amusement Park on 4 July 2000.	A (12)	The picture link was, of course, the rabbit (15).
304	In which calendar does each year start on a Saturday and end on a Friday?	The Shire Calendar as described in "The Return of the King" by Tolkien.	S (16)	Some ingenious answers but we did not allow those such as "Pawukon" or "Solar" as, even if they began on the same day each year, this does not seem to have necessarily been a Saturday.
308	When did the one chance in a million occur near Beauvais?	1930. The R101 "safe as houses save for the millionth chance" crashed near there on 5 October 1930	(8)	A book called "The Millionth Chance" was written about the R101. Teams were supposed to get the answer "1930" for this and incorporate that in the sentence as in "1930 bridge"(the date on the front of the bridge), but no-one did. We also gave marks for the more precise date (and in some cases time). The picture link was the hot air balloon (12).
312	It is now Tower 42. What was it?	NatWest Tower	N (3)	Picture of Westminster Abbey (for those too young to remember, NatWest used to be the National Westminster Bank). The picture was not one of the more usual views of the Abbey and foxed quite a few people (15).
318	Who was the first woman qualified to be an FA linesman/woman/person?	Wendy Tomms	T (8)	Since the name "Wendy" was invented by Barrie, the picture link was Captain Hook from the film "Peter Pan" (16).
323	What are Asper, Lemis and Angstrom?	Accents: Asper = 'o Lenis = 'o Angstrom = å	A (17)	Unfortunately we had a typo in this question, which was only picked up by one team, the Famous Five, who managed to get our answer. Unfortunately the question also makes sense as it is. The second word was supposed to be "Lenis", but came out as "Lemis", in which case the three of them could be research laboratories, so we accepted this answer. However, it does not seem to be the case that they are also measurements of resistance or measurements relating to light, although some of them are and people connected with these topics have relevant names.
328	What is the name of the only commercial vineyard in Leicester?	Eglantine Vineyard.	E (12)	This was our answer, which gave the right letter for the sentence, but our research may have been a bit out of date. New vineyards seem to be springing up all over the place, at least two of them in Leicestershire, so we gave points for Chevelswarde and Welland Valley, but not for Windmill, which seems to be in Northamptonshire.
330	What is the connection between Chabrier, Ravel and Rimsky-Korsakov.	Spain. (Chabrier: Espana, Ravel: Rapsodie Espagnole, R-K: Capriccio Espagnole	S (6)	The picture link was of course the matador (12).
331	Which living mountaineer has two first ascents above 8,000 metres to his name?	Kurt Diemberger	D (7)	The picture link was the burger with DM on it. This was Dave Kee's contribution to the pictures and is the only one which truly justifies a groan (11).
333	What have Nicholas Barbon, Francis Child and Thomas Gresham in common?	Osterley Park. They are some of the illustrious owners of the park.	O (11)	There was a suggestion that they were all freemen of the City of London, which may possibly be true (we were given no source for this) but even if it is, we decided it's not a sufficiently unusual connection to be accepted.
339	Which British university was the first to permit women to take its degrees?	London University in 1878	L (7)	Picture link - Senate House (13).
341	If CPE and JC were Classical, what was JS?	Baroque (Bach)	B (5)	The picture link was of a dancing lady wearing Baroque style clothes (17).
343	Who is Formula One's only posthumous title winner?	Jochen Rindt, 1970 winner	R (3)	