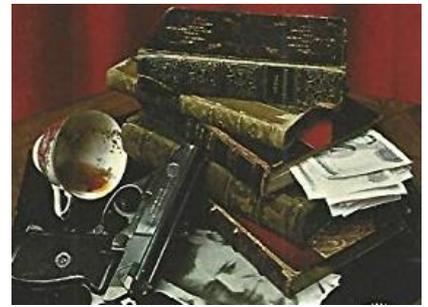


ATH 2019 Submission

The PATHfinders



Theme and general approach

Authors and their works formed the theme of this year's hunt. Some but not all were notable writers of detective fiction (linking to sub-themes of Hunters and Banks.) Each page clued a different author through its questions and pictures, yielding keywords for playfair, hill and vigenere ciphers on that page. These codes gave the directions to the box location in Epping forest, starting from the Loughton home of Ruth Rendell (clued on every page and the 'main' subject).

Story of the hunt

The Newsletter kicked off this year's hunt with some an interesting warmup activities, and while there's still a fair amount we don't understand, it's now clear that there were hidden clues to the main theme and Ruth Rendell. Our highlight was solving the Swiss book number from first principles (even though this only yielded a welcome message.)

The hunt proper kicked-off on Friday 20th. We made a good start on the not inconsiderable quantity of photographs, puzzles and questions. By Sunday we were beginning to understand the daisy-chained nature of the letter section codes and that each page clued a different author. We also started working on the Exif links, though they didn't (and still haven't) help us locate anything. Late on Monday 23rd, a guess at using THEBIRDS based on the pictures on page 6 gave us our first solution, yielding TAKEMAINPATHUPWNWAHUNDREDRODSTOCLEARINGWITHAPOST, our first set of directions. Then on Christmas Eve morning we realised that the p6 questions spelled out THEBIRDS and that the other questions would therefore likely provide the keyword on each page.

Oddly enough, the first keyword found in this way – MARPLE – was figured out on a long drive up to Marple (the origin of the Christie character's name). This journey was also spent searching for the Hill matrix numbers in the Gutenberg File No. 113, which gave us ONWAYBACKPASSBENCHTOBIKEIFTHIRSTY, and confirmed that the bike must be outside a pub. Find that pub and we'd confirm the location. That wasn't easy though – no amount of searching for all possible permutations of "bike on outside wall of pub" worked. On Christmas morning, an alternative approach – via Ruth Rendell, places connected with her, her blue plaque, and then a search of pubs between there and Epping Forest (an eminently suitable burial site) – threw up the Foresters Arms as the very first pub looked at.

We now had our location but it took another couple of days before we had enough of the directions to be pretty sure we could locate the box [indeed we didn't solve the Twin Peaks / Tibor Fischer set until after our trip to the box, and only then by noticing that various guessed keywords suggested a plaintext beginning NOZFOURXFOUR, and then constructing the necessary Playfair grid to deliver that.] So it was that Mitch and his wife Jenny headed into an unbelievably muddy Epping Forest on Saturday December 28th – just over a week after the hunt started. See the next page for a description of that journey (and its 2020 epilogue.)

We now had ticket number 5 – but still much remained to be understood, and there was a strong hint of a second ATHEXIT box following the formal Muddy Boots award on the 30th. The team continued to work on filling the gaps. Strangely, while we have solved a lot, we still haven't figured out how everything really fits together. There are a number of key things we haven't understood including:

- Page 1: why are there 12 pictures – is there a twelfth author perhaps? And what's that Tornado about?
- Page 10: being the Rendell page it was presumably made deliberately hard – we got nowhere with the chessboard, the crossword clue or the breaking news. And what clued this being the first page of the route?
- The Exif codes, and particular those anagrams / crossword clues – we could not even solve one!
- The significance of the Newsletter, and in particular the muddy boots award and Gordon Banks
- Athexit – is there a second box?

Nonetheless, being fifth to the box (out of at least 19!) before even the last of the turkey had been finished off is a pretty good result for us, and we have been thoroughly entertained and educated by this ingenious and cleverly-constructed hunt. Thank you for the obviously huge amount of time and thought you put into it.

The PATHfinders

13th January 2020



[Note: Line numbers added for self-marking referencing purposes. Tables include their own references where needed]



Start at my Blue Plaque (Ruth Rendell's old house on 45 Millsmead Way, Loughton)



Head North [past this Lion on Sedley Rise – on a different Lion's Mane adventure]



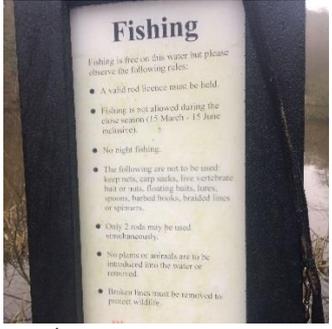
Take signed footpath west. Follow path to right, by fence. Cross road.



Head down to left. Note runged tree and bench to right.



After a boggy furlong...



...notice no nuts or spoons [fishing rules at Baldwin's pond]



Take main path up WNW a hundred rods [about 500m]...



... to clearing with a post.



Sharp right into wood continue to bank.



From truncated tree go anti-clockwise round the [Lost /Blackweir] pond for 30 yards



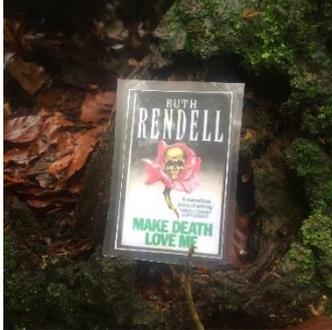
Look for a tree with very many trunks. One chain [22 yards] back from keyhole [pictured]...



...inside tree CXCIXLVII [tree numbered as 19957. Note the holly as clued in introduction.]



Mitch retrieving the Red Box.



Confirming the theme, and the importance of Make Death Love Me (set in Loughton and used in the Exif puzzles.)



Ticket Number 5. (Ticket Number 4 was retrieved by Steve Hames' team around an hour earlier.)

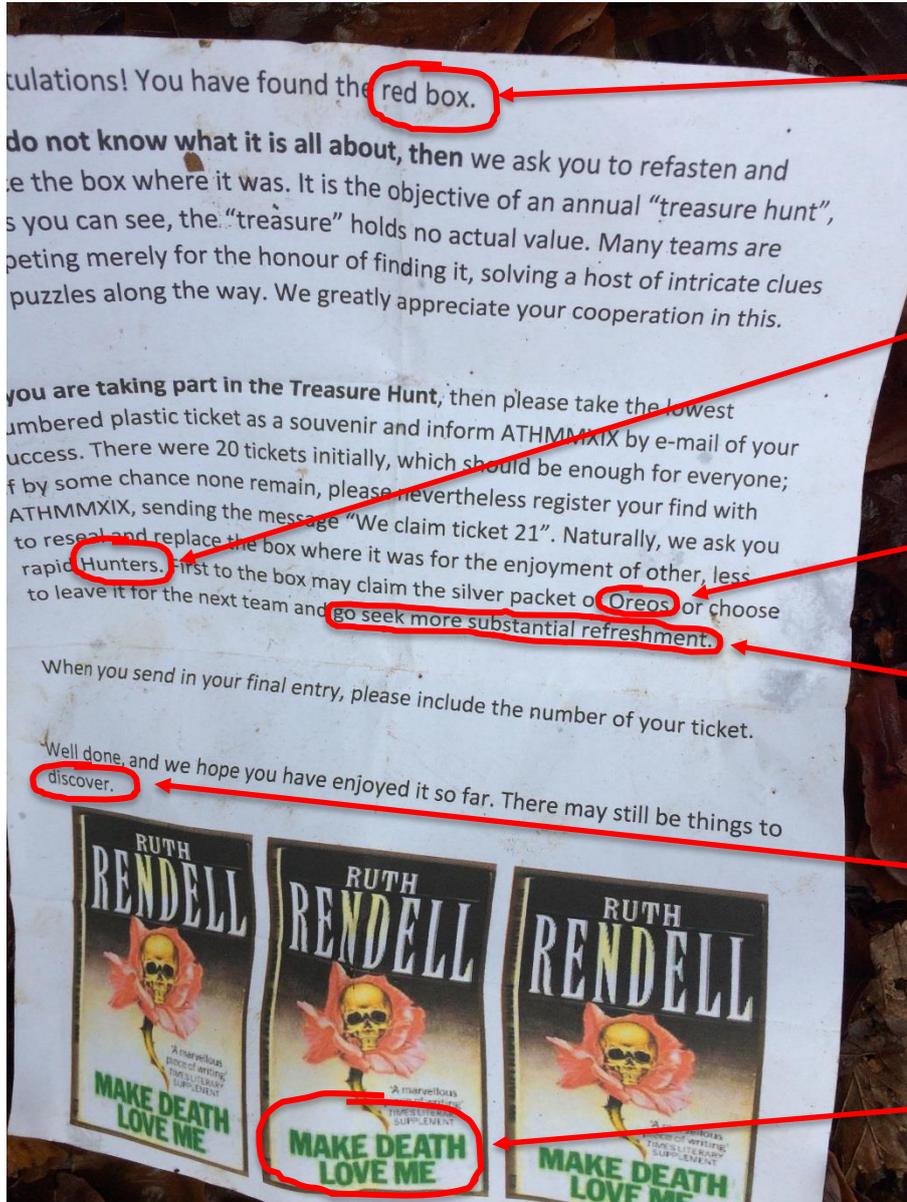


On way back pass bench to bike if thirsty. [Go straight on at the bench near Baldwin's pond, to the Forester's Arms, Loughton. Particularly notable for its remarkable Gents' loo, in which the urinal is a Victorian bathtub cut in two, complete with taps!]

50 **Epilogue** - Mitch made a second trip to the box around 11am on the last Sunday, in a (vain) attempt to locate
 51 ATHEXIT, and also to photograph the instruction sheet and look for other clues. 18 tickets had gone, and he had to
 52 hide among the trees as the 19th was recovered. The route is now fatuously muddy, and the journey could be
 53 described as MUDEXIT (or perhaps BOUESORTIE for Gaboriau readers).
 54

The instructions in the box

This is how the instruction sheet in the box looked on our second visit, on the last full day of the hunt. There are the usual instructions to hunters and muggles, plus some specifics noted below.



Red box mentioned in introduction, and links to Nero Wolfe story.

Hunters capitalized. Various Hunters were a sub-theme in the hunt, see Hunters section below.

The rich desserts promised (and pictured) in the introduction

Follow the final instructions to the Foresters Arms pub

A reference to ATHEXIT and a second treasure site en route.

Confirms Rendell as the main theme and Make Death Love Me as a key work (see Exif below)

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56
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Page 1

Page 1 has:

- The letter codes (see letter codes section below)
- The photo links to the 11 authors (see pages and authors below)
- A twelfth photo of an RAF Panavia Tornado GR.4 banking over a Welsh valley. Not understood.
- The green symbols at the bottom (see the Carol the Yuletide Troll section below.)

The rest of page 1 is a cryptic introduction to the hunt, interpreted as follows:

Ref	Text	Interpretation
1	"Pablo's ATH Starts! Find a treasure! It's hidden in South London one year, Leeds the next. I dabble; you must follow your ideas to the end. Rain mustn't stop you. Be in time - don't tarry!"	Using the letter code solution "Each prime letter" we take every letter in a prime number position in this text, giving: " A Boat ride is not needed but water is near " We assume this refers to the ponds near the box site. (A man falls overboard during a boat ride in the Inspector Wexford novel <i>Speaker of Mandarin</i> , so this text may be telling hunters that they are not in that sort of danger.)
2	This opaquely cryptic and deliberately obscured note	Opaquely and Obscured feature in the hunt crossword
3	was all that remained when thieves broke into ATHMMXIX's safe deposit box and stole the only copy of this year's Armchair Treasure Hunt. Instead, here is a relatively paltry production, scarcely substituting for the feast of fun previously planned for you, with rich desserts for the triumphant treasure-seekers.	Repeated letters - pp, ss, ff, pp, tt. (Also seen in the newsletter.) This could be a clue to Ruth Rendell's repeated initials, rr. Rich desserts refers to the oreo cookies in the treasure box.
4	5 Oreo cookies	These were present in the box for the first finders. Links to the biscuit tin buried in a Loughton tunnel/basement in <i>The Girl Next Door</i> . (Though that contained hands not biscuits)
5	A red box has been concealed somewhere in the South-East of England.	Treasure was in red plastic box in South East of England. Links to the Rex Stout Nero Wolfe mystery of same name.
6	We beg you to use your detective and cryptographic skills to help us retrieve it.	Detective because we need to be detectives AND identify detectives as part of the hunt. Cryptographic because of the number of codes, notably playfair, vigenere and Hill (little, if ever, used in the hunt) - and also the chaining together of codes to make guessing the plaintext more difficult.
7	If you do find it, don't be decked by the boughs of holly.	Links the fa la la la Christmas greeting/carol (deck the halls with boughs of holly) with a clue that there will be lots of holly at the box site (which there was) and a warning to be careful!
8	Obey the instructions inside and please tell us – you may well be in line for a modest reward. Updates will appear intermittently on pablosath.com. Please report any problems to ATHMMXIX@gmail.com.	Further instructions.

72

Carol the Yuletide troll

73 At the foot of page 1 appears:



75 This is a Christmassy substitution code for pablosath.com/christmas.htm

76
77 The resulting page is headed "Merry musing and happy hunting" - just a Christmas greeting? More of those repeated
78 mm and hh letters, though.

79
80 There is a picture of Carol the Yuletide Troll (full pic at: <http://pablosath.com/carol.png>)

81
82 This is a book by Matt Taylor, and is a pun/spoonerism on the line Troll the Yuletide Carol from Deck the Halls (which
83 is based on older welsh carol "Nos Galan" - New Year's Eve). This music featured heavily in the poster for the 2017
84 "Mess" hunt.

85
86 Below this is the greeting Fa la la la la, la la, la, la. From the Setters. This is the chorus of the above carol. It is also
87 the html page title.

88
89 All of this could just be a reference to the amount of holly awaiting at the box site (there is holly growing on the tree).
90 Or possibly it tells of 'yule-tide treasure' as per a later line of the song.

Pages 2 to 12

Each of pages 2-12 clue an author (see the "questions" and "photos and other items" sections for details of these clues). The first letters of the question answers are connected to the author and provide the keyword for the first of the "letter" codes on that page (see the letter codes section). That's apart from p2 where they indicate the type of cipher and the keyword is clued separately. Identifying the author is also needed to crack the remaining letter codes.

96

Each page also includes at least one clue to Ruth Rendell - indicating that she is the 'main' author, whose home will be the starting point for the treasure route. (So the route starts on page 10 - the Rendell page - before continuing in sequence from page 2.) See the 'photos and other items' section for these Ruth Rendell clues.

100

P	Author	Noted for	Answer string	Author link	P1 photo	P1 photo desc.	P1 author link
2	Arthur Conan Doyle	Detective fiction featuring Sherlock Holmes	HILL CIPHER	None (apart from Hill noted in answers)		Six Napoleon III Gold Coins	The Adventure of the Six Napoleons by Conan Doyle
3	Rex Stout	Detective fiction including Nero Wolfe books	AORCHIDS	Nero Wolfe grows orchids. A for Armchair to secure keyword.		Red box	The Red Box - Nero Wolfe mystery by Rex Stout
4	Agatha Christie	Detective fiction including Poirot and Miss Marple	MARPLE	Miss Marple		A mirror, cracked from side to side	The mirror crack'd from side to side by Christie
5	Neil Gaiman	Fantasy, sci-fi, horror, graphic novels, comics	TSHADOW	Shadow Moon. T for Treasure to secure keyword.		Ziggy Stardust (the Aladdin Sane version) aka David Bowie	Stardust by Neil Gaiman
6	Ed McBain	Detective / crime fiction, including the 87th precinct novels	THEBIRDS	Wrote The Birds screenplay (as Evan Hunter)		Lightning	Lightning by Ed McBain
7	Tibor Fischer	Novels including the Thought Gang (allowing Twin Peaks red herring!)	TWINPEAKS	Thought Gang - Twin Peaks band and Fischer novel		Banks peninsula / Lyttleton - photo inverted as it's "down under"	Links to Fischer via Lyttleton rebus p7
8	Alistair MacLean	Thrillers and adventure stories	HBOTULISM	Germ in the Satan Bug. H for Hunt to secure keyword.		Golden Gate Bridge	Golden Gate by Alistair MacLean
9	John Steinbeck	Classic American literature	MRHOGAN	Robbed a bank in short story by Steinbeck		A tortilla	Tortilla Flat by John Steinbeck
10	Ruth Rendell	Detective and crime fiction, many featuring Inspector Wexford	IBSNEPOF caesar shifted to HARMDONE	Harm Done novel by Rendell		A tiger cub	Toy Tigercub in From Doon with Death by Ruth Rendell
11	JK Rowling	The Harry Potter series	NECRO-PHAGUS	Latin for Death Eater - Voldemort's followers in HP		Silkworm on Mulberry leaf	The Silkworm by Robert Galbraith i.e. JK Rowling
12	Émile Gaboriau	Detective fiction, several including Monsieur Lecocq	No questions	Not applicable		Symbol of "Rites of thy Degringolade" metal band	La dégringolade by Emile Gaboriau

The letter codes

Each page has a section bordered by 'letter' symbols (meant to be interpreted as the 26 letters of the alphabet). On pages 5,7,9 and 11 there are only 25 letters, indicating cases where a 25 letter alphabet has been used for encoding the final Hill cipher (skipping Q on p5, and Z on the others).

The type of code is clued by the font i.e.

- Playfair ciphers shown using grey letters using a font called 'Playfair Display' (can be seen by looking at the PDF file properties)
- Hill ciphers are given in bold black italics, in a font which looks very much like the 'Hill' font - though the PDF properties don't indicate this. The exception is p1 which is a Hill cipher but shown in red. This may be to link to the red treasure box.
- Vigenere ciphers are in red font

In addition, the type of codes used in each section - and sometimes the size of the hill matrix - are clued by various photo/text clues in the letter code section. These clues also incorporate a link to the author for that page. See photos and other items section for these clues.

The keywords for the first codes in each letter section are found as follows:

- On page 1, it is given: PABLOSATH - which provides the 9 letters needed for a Hill 3x3 matrix.
- On page 2, the keyword (SHJW) has to be derived by knowing that the pawnbroker Jabez Wilson must encode to PSZEBIGBMOXM.
- On pages 3-11, the keywords are given by the first letters of the question answers.
- On page 12, there is no keyword. The Hill matrix numbers are provided directly from File No. 113.

These solutions then clue the keywords for the second and third codes in the letter section, where applicable. The clues sometimes include variations of the encoding mechanism e.g. which letters to skip.

P	No.	Code	Type	Key	Plaintext	Interpretation (use as next key unless stated)
1	1	IBWXBDKHWCALWGD	Hill	PABLOSATH	EACHPRIMELETTER	Use prime letters of first paragraph of page 1 - see 'Page 1' section.
2	1	PSZEBIGBMOXM	Hill	SHJW	JABEZWILSONY	Confirms that we have the correct key, as Jabez Wilson (JW) was the pawnbroker in SH The Red-headed league. Use same key for next code.
	2	VQGKKSRIQMTRHSQNOEQ NBMCXMINQIAWILXPFEU	Hill	SHJW	NOWUSEREKORBNWAPASAPLAYFAIRKEYIANDJNOQ	NOW USE REKORBNWAP [Pawnbroker backwards] AS A PLAYFAIR KEY with letters I and J both present but no Q.
	3	YWMZLNJIDMCLNURBNTZB NV	Play	NOSLIWZEBAJ	TAKESIGNEDFOOTPATHWEST	TAKE SIGNED FOOTPATH WEST
3	1	UIYQMSZXRCSDBSUBHNB ZIIKIAHPASUBNFERDMKD	Play	AORCHIDS	NEXTKEYWORDISDETECTIVESFAVOURITEFISHEGGS	Shad Roe
	2	OPFEHLVNRUDKWGHPDC HCPBFPLWOOVRKBW	Play	SHAD ROE	ENCODINGMATRIXISTHEDTECTIVESNAMEX	Nero Wolfe
	3	KQNGLKQQLNYEGJSNLRBP WOPCLHKIDPAVX	Hill	NEROWOLFE	FOLLOWPATHTORIGHTBYFENCECROSSROAD	Follow path to right, by fence. Cross road.
4	1	GFYSGDZXSMETHZQBQDU GCTWMGKQIBF	Play	MARPLE	NEXTKEYWORDONWHATBONDSVANISHED	Olympia (bonds in Christie's Million Dollar Bond robbery).
	2	IGYFABQTUNWNIUHNIBKO ACV	Play	OLYMPIA	BELGIANSNEURONESANDGLIAX	Thematically, Belgian's Neurones & Glia means Poirot's Little Grey Cells. Use GREYCELLS as key.
	3	ULSSEQSORAMRVRUBKFC BLUGESPZKAKJIRFKH	Hill	GREYCELLS	HEADDOWNTOLNOTERUNGEDTREEANDBENCHTOR	Head down to left. Note runged tree and bench to right.
5	1	UTPUQUQTLTNEFBHTBM WPLGKBKWBZAF CZ	Play	TSHADOW	MUMXMYMAKERWITHXHONORIFICISNEXTKEY	Mr Jacquel, AKA Anubis, in American Gods
	2	RCMPFFGMOTNPAWOZPW OZPONU	Play	MRJACQUEL	MAINGODINSTORYTWOXTWONOQ	Odin is main American god.
	3	NSEPIROCHKIZSSOSMYUK VWOWUKOFGXSIXJUGC	Hill	ODIN	AFTERABOGGYFURLONGNOTICENONUTSORSPoons	After a boggy furlong notice no nuts or spoons [reference to fishing rules]
6	1	HEIKRBCMCQHENDKXKSOC POZL	Play	THEBIRDS	THEMATICAUTHORSPSEUDONYM	Ed McBain. (McBain wrote the screenplay for The Birds - it is one of his pseudonyms)
	2	MDIGFLEAONPTTIPTSWOT QSEUSNW	Fair	EDMCBAIN	DEAFNOVELFOURFOURXFOURMATRIX	Use the 4th novel featuring McBain's deaf man as Key 3, in a 4x4 hill cipher matrix. This is Eight Black Horses.
	3	RSZIOTTRGXAMBNIWJGQN LOSSGNZSNEZVTEHNCJP CENCNZOH	Hill	EIGHTBLACKH ORSES	TAKEMAINPATHUPWNWAHUNDREDRODSTOCLEARING WITHAPOST	Take main path up west-north-west a hundred rods [about 500m] to clearing with a post
7	1	EVPCQLINPCBZCLACNPFNP NWNEM	Play	TWINPEAKS	AUTHORWITHPRECEDINGINITIAL	TFISCHER (from Tibor Fischer, author for this page)

	2	OPWCPNKIEWPBEUPGHQL HNCENAITPSFSRQA	Fair	TFISCHER	NOZFOURXFOURBOOKKANDAUTORSINITIALS	Book which connects Tibor Fischer with Twin Peaks is The Thought Gang. Use with his initials in a Four by Four Hill with no Z
	3	ISLYXKHVTAPPJWKJVWKM OXNYJRWSMBTF	Hill	THETHOUGHTG ANGTF	SHARPRIGHTINTOWOODCONTINUETOBANK	Sharp right into wood continue to bank
8	1	WLCFPDPGETSIGPTENDIUH SLDLIUIPNPUOWODQZ	Play	HBOTULISM	VIGENEREFOILEROFDIABOLICALBANKROXBBERY	Pierre Cavell, hero of The Satan (i.e. devil) Bug
	2	IPVVVBVHMIPXAPRJXDOJ O	Vige	PIERRECAVELL	THREEXTHREEHISLASTBOOK	Use 3x3 Hill on Santorini
	3	DJYYZMMHVETVJBQJWZ QOJZSALELZFXADSTILNH Y	Hill	SANTORINI	FROMTRUNCATEDTREETWIDERSHINSFORTHIRTYYARD S	From truncated tree go anti-clockwise round the pond for 30 yards [The pond in question is The Lost Pond, also known as Blackweir Pond, mentioned in The Girl Next Door by Ruth Rendell]
9	1	DPSOGHQIFHTUQYRYEXIP KCBDCPFACPLA	Play	MRHOGAN	AUTHORSFIRSTTWOVIVESCONCATENATED	Carol and Gwyn, Steinbeck's first two wives
	2	SEKZFAQNWCBQXCYPFHU FVHFZHXLX	Fair	CAROLGWYN	MISTERHOGANSTORYFIVEXFIVENOZ	How Mister Hogan Robbed a Bank. 5x5 Hill No Z.
	3	MXLSBJDFJEPGSFIRPFNIUV AEXTGBUL	Hill	HOWMISTERHO GANROBBEDAB ANK	LOOKFORATREEWITHVERYMANYTRUNKS	Look for a tree with very many trunks
10	1	DRGEQPEGPRRBBQGXOV IFXBECVRCEDVTSKQRLRR C	Play	HARMDONE	MAINPUNISHMENTFIVEXFIVENOZDECRYPTISAIDDE	Main (as in Spanish Main) naval punishment is Kissing the Gunner's Daughter, by Rendell. Use this in a 5x5 grid Hill cipher with no Z. Unlike other ciphers we have to encrypt to get the plain text - decrypt is aide must be telling us this somehow - decrypt is AID to DE-crypting maybe.
	2	DJXIABXIURMRQPLYALMOB VOLWCTUAQ	Hill	KISSINGTHE GUNNERSDAU GHTER	THEMATICBOOKPLUSAUTHORSINITIAL	Thematic Book is Make Death Love Me by Ruth Rendell. Add her initial R.
	3	RLCIUOHVNQPNRGIKLMNB EITJ	Hill	MAKEDEATHLO VEMER	STARTATMYBLUEPLAQUEHEADN	Start at Ruth Rendell's Blue Plaque and Head North (along Sedley Rise.)
11	1	TGSFFSMOBLHMQBETTEE FDXGENLUCCO	Play	NECROPHAGU S	QUIDDITCHBALLFOLLOWEDBYANOTHER	Bludger and Snitch
	2	SPXFRGGCESEHAPKRQHY TDUHKYRRS	Fair	BLUDGERSNIT CH	NOZHILLFIRSTNAMEOFVAULTOWNER	Bellatrix Lestrange(owned a Gringotts vault)
	3	JSPHNYLLKXJIGOEPQCTHG GDBFQNWCVUUNLTQGV PV CR	Hill	BELLATRIX	ONECHAINBACKFROMKEYHOLEINSIDETREECXICXLVII	One chain (22 yards) back from keyhole inside tree CXICXLVII (tree numbered as 19957)
12	1	NZGZQFWDDJGMTZOWXCC VQKXPEEKWRIZXW	Hill	113 87 39 / 93 2 93 / 81 15 22	ONWAYBACKPASSBENCHTOBIKEIFTHIRSTY	On way back pass bench to bike if thirsty. Tells us to go straight on at the bench near the fishing pond, and straight on to the Foresters Arms in Loughton, shown on p12

Hunters

Hunter is clued on almost every page, to indicate that Hunters (detectives) are a key theme of the hunt.

- Page 1 – Holly references = Holly Hunter. And gives hunters instructions (& URL to happy hunting message)
- Page 2 - photo clue to Violet Hunter (Sherlock Holmes character)
- Page 3 - Rex Stout clues link to TodHUNTER, his middle name
- Page 4 - Hunter Christie rebus, and the Hunter's Lodge photo clue
- Page 5 - q3 - Hunter in Gaiman's Neverwhere
- Page 6 - q6 - Evan Hunter (Ed McBain) - and the Bjork song photo clue
- Page 7 - photo of Tim Hunter. (And possibly alternative rebus clue to Hubertus, patron saint of hunters)
- Page 8 – q4 clues ringing changes (hunting – ref setters' Sayers hunt). MacLean tartan is a hunting tartan.
- Page 9 - q1 The Moon is Down features Major Hunter
- Page 10 - Hunters Hill college (Mr & Mrs Hunter also feature in Rendell's Not in the Flesh)
- Page 11 – q1 – Nearly Headless Nick denied his place alongside the hunters.
- Page 12 – La Chasse refers to chasseurs (hunters) – indeed merry hunters (as they would be at Xmas)
- Newsletter - Muddy Boots award = Hunter wellies. Hunters Bar in Sheffield (Banks' birthplace)

Banks

Likewise we see a theme around Banks, which ties in with the detective theme, via bank robberies, frauds etc. Banks also provide a link to Loughton via the Loughton Incinerator Thefts, in which Bank of England notes due for incineration were stolen by staff. Also possibly a reference to the banking theme of Make Death Love Me. (We also wondered if we should have found a twelfth author e.g. Iain [M.] Banks or detective e.g. Inspector Banks).

Or perhaps we are meant to link Hunting & Banks more closely, to conclude that the hunt is specifically about detective stories involving bank robberies – but we haven't quite made that leap.

Anyway the links are:

- Page 1 – the RAF Panavia Tornado GR4 pictured is *banking* to the left. Also picture of Banks peninsula
- Page 2 – the Red-Headed league features very prominently on this page. In it, Jabez Wilson is persuaded to vacate his pawn shop so that thieves can use it to tunnel into an adjacent bank vault.
- Page 3 - reference to the Banque Cramer
- Page 4 - Million Dollar Bond robbery
- Page 5 - Mr Wednesday robs a bank with Moon
- Page 6 - Flowers on a bank where the wild thyme grows
- Page 7 – Banks peninsula near Lyttleton. (Also Hunter Bank - double reference - is a coral reef near Wellington in New Zealand, and so on the map shown)
- Page 8 – The Satan Bug is about bank robberies
- Page 9 - How Mr Hogan Robbed a Bank
- Page 10 – Crossword has BANKPOST. The key Ruth Rendell book Make Death Love Me is about bank theft.
- Page 11 – q9 is Gringotts bank question
- Page 12 – Reference to Fauvel Bank
- Hunt route instructed us to 'continue to bank' (we took this to be the bank of the pond)
- Epping forest features earthworks with prominent banks i.e. Ambresbury *Banks* and Loughton Camp.
- Newsletter – featured Gordon Banks (as did Muddy Boots award on 30th)
- Exif – 2016 Hunt author was Iain Banks. Copyright codes yield banking terms - Money, Balance, Cashier, Office, Safe. Incinerator refers to the Loughton bank thefts.

ATHEXIT

246

247 We were urged to search for ATHEXIT – a second box containing the Oz/Brexit-based panto – hidden somewhere en
248 route to the Red Box. No joy but some theories:

- 249 • We thought the two links hidden in the page 2 image (to moral.htm) might clue that it was hidden in the fence
250 on the right hand side (or possibly under the tree beneath the 'main' link.) It wasn't.
- 251 • ATHEXIT could be a concatenation of FOOTPATH EXIT. If we could maybe find two signs – one
252 FOOTPATH, one EXIT, aligning them might provide the 'leading lights' to take us to the box. We couldn't and
253 so it didn't. Here are some of the ATH entrance, exit and footpath signs we looked at along the way.



254

- 255 • Finally, on Google maps, the footpath sign on Sedley Rise, when viewed from the North, appears to have
256 been doctored to say 'PABLO'S FOOTPATH'. This would have either required a superhuman feat of advance
257 planning (not to mention vandalism) on the part of the setters (as Google streetview last went down Sedley
258 Rise in early 2018), or else a huge coincidence for such a sign to be located yards from a major detective
259 writer's blue plaque. In fact it's just a trick of the pixels (see the Google photo and our photo below).



260

261

Route photos and Exif

Exif links to html pages

- The 11 route photos on p2-12 contain hyperlinks to html pages as shown in the table below.
- The photos are from the hunt route, in order except that page 10 is the start point (see route order column).
- They have clickable links to HTML pages with 5-character page titles (see HTML page title).
- We can take one character out of each title in page order, to spell MERRY XMAS 19. The remaining 4-letter words are: ORAL RUSE MINE TEAT EAST FOES COMA ISLE WORD TAKE AWAY - were these just to mask the Xmas message or is there more info in these words?
- The links from page 2 and 3 have headings, which clue the concealment of info in Exif (see Heading below)
- Each page contains a larger version of the photo, with same name as the html page plus 'pic' – just another clue to use the 5-character strings as above.
- The photos have doctored Exif information as clued by the headings.
- The links are in areas of the photos relevant to the route/hunt e.g. the tree rung on p3, post on p6, between branches of truncated tree on p8, keyhole on p9, lion's mane on p10 (links to Sherlock Holmes adventure), the tree number on p11, the bicycle outside the pub on p12, and the path route on other pages.
- Page 2 has two links - one showing the way (patch of sky) and the other on the right, extending onto "Hind is readable". This is perhaps to show they are related and we need to use the latter as a clue to the Exif. Also gives hunters a better chance of finding the link on the first photo. And see the Athexit section for more outlandish theories.

While the original link was found by perusing the PDF document, this additional link was found by viewing the PDF in a text editor, which yields:

```
<</Subtype/Link/Rect[ 202.49 161.54 207.29 165.26] /BS<</W 0>>/F 4/A<</Type/Action/S/URI/URI(https://pablosath.com/moral.htm)
```

```
<</Subtype/Link/Rect[ 250.73 160.94 258.65 167.9] /BS<</W 0>>/F 4/A<</Type/Action/S/URI/URI(https://pablosath.com/moral.htm)
```

PDF coordinates run from 0,0 (bottom left) to 595,842 (top right). So the first link above (patch of sky) has is a rectangle with lower left coordinates 202,161, and the second (fence) is roughly the same Y position (161) but is (250-202)/595 = roughly one twelfth of a page width to the right. This is about 1.7cm to the right on an A4 printed page – which as old fashioned paper-and-ruler measurement shows, it is!

See overleaf for details of the photos and Exif links.

Pg	Route Photo	Route order	HTML page link embedded in photo	HTML Page title	Heading
2		2	https://pablosath.com/moral.htm	moral	<i>Hex, I find, is readable.</i> Clues Exif concealment, as the next pic in the hunt doc is Hind is readable, missing Exif. Also clues that the comment should be read as Hex characters.
3		3	https://pablosath.com/reuse.htm	reuse	<i>Now we complexify.</i> Again clues Exif concealment - the next pic in the hunt doc is Now we comply (missing Exif). And also says comment code is more complex than the hex one.
4		4	https://pablosath.com/miner.htm	miner	None
5		5	https://pablosath.com/treat.htm	treat	None
6		6	https://pablosath.com/yeast.htm	yeast	None
7		7	https://pablosath.com/foxes.htm	foxes	None
8		8	https://pablosath.com/comma.htm	comma	None
9		9	https://pablosath.com/aisle.htm	aisle	None
10		1	https://pablosath.com/sword.htm	sword	None
11		10	https://pablosath.com/t1ake.htm	t1ake	None
12		11	https://pablosath.com/aw9ay.htm	aw9ay	None

Exif date taken, program name and star rating

These Exif values are shown below (where P = page number of the image e.g. 2 = moralpic etc). They are interpreted as follows:

- The date taken is the publication date & time of a number of ATHs, shown in the Corresponding Hunt column. They are in order of publication but with some missed out so the date helps to identify the hunt, which is helpful in order to decode the comments (see comments section.)
- Program name contains hints to solving some of the Comments codes, by pointing out which page of the solutions describes the method. Only present for 3 photos - perhaps the others were considered self-explanatory (and the 'G&S' ones don't need hints as they are just Hex like the first.)
- 6 of the photos have a 5-star rating (indicating they provide useful information) and 5 have a 2-star rating (indicating to ignore as they are red herrings).

P	Date Taken	Corresponding Hunt	Program name	Star rating
2	16/12/2002 23:59	Wasted	None	5
3	14/12/2007	The fool on the hill	None	5
4	15/12/2008 12:00	The royal parks	None	2
5	17/12/2009 00:30	athmmix	Sol p20 (short). Clue to decode using p20 of the 2009 solution (the short passphrase is OK).	5
6	15/12/2010 23:59	The lost formula	None	2
7	15/12/2011 00:00	An Enigma	Sol p50. The Enigma ATH page 50 explains how to use the simulator.	5
8	14/12/2012 18:00	Stopping by woods	None	2
9	21/12/2013 00:08	Space Truckin'	None	2
10	19/12/2014 18:30	Life	Sol p21. p21 of the Life ATH solution explains how to decode using carol book.	5
11	18/12/2015 00:01	Great circles	None	2
12	14/12/2016 19:30	Whisky and beer	None	5

Exif comments

309 The Exif comments contain codes – decoded below.

- 310
- Page 2 is encoded in hex as clued by the Hex I find is readable heading clue.
 - 311 • The other 5-star pages (3, 5, 7, 10 and 12) are decoded using a key technique from the corresponding hunt as per the date taken (see previous section)
 - 312 • The decoded comments from these 5-star pages provide significant clues
 - 313 • The 2-star pages are decoded using Hex again – too easy, and therefore another clue they are red herrings.
 - 314 • The 2-stars comments decode to the first 5 lines of Mad Margaret's verse in the Matter song from Ruddigore.
 - 315 • The 2-stars comments decode to the first 5 lines of Mad Margaret's verse in the Matter song from Ruddigore. Ruddigore is set in a place called Rederring - so this tells us these photos are red herrings. The lyrics
 - 316 reinforce this by suggesting that these photos don't really matter, and that only some mad person would look
 - 317 at them.
 - 318
 - 319

P	Comments	Comments decode method	Comments decoded	Comments significance
2	54 68 65 64 61 74 65 68 65 6C 70 73 73 6F 6C 76 65 74 68 65 63 6F 64 65	Convert Hex to Ascii, as clued by the Hex I find is readable.	<i>The date helps solve the code</i>	The date is the date & time each hunt was officially published. They are in order of publication but with some missed out so the date helps to identify the hunt. Also helps us identify right hunt for decoding the comments.
3	8,3,1 3,4,1 7,3,1 5,5,7 4,3,2 3,4,5 4,4,4 4,5,1 6,5,5 8,3,2 2,5,2 4,4,1 5,5,3 7,2,6 7,1,2 7,4,1 8,1,1 7,3,5 3,4,2 7,2,4 5,5,6 8,4,3 6,3,5 4,3,3	Invisible Cities Chapter-city-letter code from The Fool on the Hill. The list was helpfully provided by Pablo (from the shadow of the tower) - direct link is: https://www.pablosath.com/archive/2007/ATH2007/Cities.htm	<i>The author has the copyright</i>	Clues that the hunt clued by the author should be used to decode the copyright for that page (not the date taken hunt).
4	49 66 49 77 65 72 65 6E 6F 74 61 6C 69 74 74 6C 65 6D 61 64 61 6E 64 67 65 6E 65 72 61 6C 6C 79 73 69 6C 6C 79	Hex to ASCII	If I were not a little mad and generally silly	This and the other photos 'authored' by G&S are the first 5 lines from Mad Margaret in the 'Matter' song from G&S' Ruddigore. Ruddigore is set in a place called Rederring - so this tells us these photos are red herrings. The lyrics reinforce this by suggesting that these photos don't really matter, and that only some mad person would look at them. And the star rating also clues this – see next section.
5	sBs0JxYtaTWA/iiGBm XkDkInGu3X2C6Qkp4 e9eUhX2VT5Xbs8aO woRDgZC3E3A	Use the decoding tool from the 2009 hunt: https://www.pablosath.com/archive/2009/ATH2009/decode.htm with the same passphrase: chaharsalfremerger	<i>Look at the answers through the lens to form a word.</i>	Apply the lens clue (first one or significant one) to form a word.
6	49 73 68 6F 75 6C 64 67 69 76 65 79 6F 75 6D 79 61 64 76 69 63 65 75 70 6F 6E 74 68 65 73 75 62 6A 65 63 74 2C 77 69 6C 6C 79 6E 69 6C 6C 79 3B	Hex to ASCII	I should give you my advice upon the subject, willy nilly;	Same as p4.

7	DEB DE N 2012 = 99 = ATH RJA = PABLO ODEGY UJBKC NOCVZ FMMFP XGDMD XUFZQ YDPXJ HQAVJ XLFJN KHFK DLVTO QESEG PNVQI PMEZW GOHZF EAVHP XMDCD LMBHD BMNQT CIUX	Use the Enigma simulator from 2011 hunt. Setup as described in the answers. The first line has been doctored similarly to the hunt. DEBDEN is presumably setter's location, 2012 is the hunt start day and month, 99 letters in the actual message. ATH RJA is same as hunt to give AMT start position. PABLO is the buchstabenkennggruppe (was LABOP in the hunt). Debden is perhaps another link to Bank - the Bank Of England printing works (and incinerator) are in Debden, on the edge of Loughton.	Note the camera make and look for the word at the front of it. If you find the word use the next one of the same length instead.	Where present, the camera make is DLM and so the word in front is Make – to give Rendell's Loughton-based book Make Death Love Me. Ch1 means Chapter 1. So this clue tells us to lookup up the copyright words in Chapter 1 of MDLM and where found, use the following words of same length.
8	49 73 68 6F 75 6C 64 73 68 6F 77 79 6F 75 69 6E 61 6D 6F 6D 65 6E 74 68 6F 77 74 6F 67 72 61 70 70 6C 65 77 69 74 68 74 68 65 71 75 65 73 74 69 6F 6E 2C	Hex to ASCII	I should show you in a moment how to grapple with the question,	Same as p4
9	41 6E 64 79 6F 75 27 64 72 65 61 6C 6C 79 62 65 61 73 74 6F 6E 69 73 68 65 64 61 74 74 68 65 66 6F 72 63 65 6F 66 6D 79 73 75 67 67 65 73 74 69 6F 6E 2E	Hex to ASCII	And you'd really be astonished at the force of my suggestion.	Same as p4
10	63 41 43 74 68 47 55 108 111 79 78 86 120 50 54 47 36 62 73 93 127 83 21 30 28 92 6 88 67 31 27 50 48 65	As in 2014 hunt, these are carol numbers from the New Oxford book of carols (Xmas theme!) Take the first letter of each. (Not hex for a Chinese Household Effect as first thought!)	Each word is a step on a long path from here	Not understood. Possibly relates to the 5 or 4 letter words – moral/oral, reuse/ruse etc. We note that page 10 is the start page of the hunt route pictures.
11	4F 6E 74 68 65 73 75 62 6A 65 63 74 49 73 68 61 6C 6C 77 72 69 74 65 79 6F 75 61 6D 6F 73 74 76 61 6C 75 61 62 6C 65 6C 65 74 74 65 72 2C	Hex to ASCII	On the subject I shall write you a most valuable letter,	Same as p4
12	E641 E645 E415 E626 E577 E535 S302 S316 S310 S315 S329 S323 W258 W253 W151 N222 N277 N234 N266 s149 s84 s147 W306 s49 N236 W159 s103 W247	Cricket cap numbers from England, NZ, South Africa, West Indies and sri lanka	Step in date order of the subjects	Not clear which subjects to use.

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NB: From here on only Exif info from the 5 star pages are shown, for brevity and because there is no remaining information for the other pages except

- The authors of the 2 star pages are all G&S, indicating that Gilbert and Sullivan authored the Mad Margaret lines. Red herring as before.
- The camera maker and model on p11 is Canon EOS 550D which we think may just be the metadata from the original photo (as all other 2 start photos have no camera info) or else a red herring.

328 *Exif photo title and subject*

- 329 • 3 of the photos have titles (no subjects). Look like cryptic crossword clues. Not decoded.
- 330 • The other 3 photos have subjects (no titles). Again, these look like cryptic crossword clues. Not decoded.
- 331 • We think these should clue the hunt titles, subjects or locations for that particular year. Or possibly some
- 332 other work linked to the authors in this year's hunt. But our anagramming /cruciverbalist skills were not equal
- 333 to the task.
- 334

Page	Photo title	title decoded	Subject	Subject decoded
2	Adnate in Tawahi police station mess	?	None	None
3	None	None	Again peaks for the other side	?
5	None	None	A good player should - beaten one	?
7	Go in disguise - the ladies eat picnic	?	None	None
10	My local deeds me the best humous	?	None	None
12	None	None	Maya P has top teller doing his job	?

335

336 *Exif authors*

- 337 • Abbreviated, these give the initials for the setters of the respective hunts. This gives the correct hunt to use to
- 338 decode the copyright clue.
- 339

P	Authors	Authors abbreviated	Authors significance	Authors year
2	Albania	AL (ISO 2)	Alcoholus Lubricatum (2014 hunt setters)	2014
3	Shanghai Rapid Transit	SHRT (acronym for Shang Hai Rapid Transit)	Steve Hames & Roger Thetford (2016 hunt setters)	2016
5	Morocco	MA (ISO 2)	Mark Abbott (2002 hunt setter)	2002
7	Bulgaria	BG (ISO2 2)	Barden Gnomes (2009 hunt setters)	2009
10	Pitcairn	PC (using the FIPS schema. ISO is PN)	Paul Coombs (2007 hunt setter)	2007
12	South Georgia;	GS (ISO 2)	Garry Smith (2011 hunt setter)	2011

340

Exif copyright

- These use the first/significant letters of question answers from the 6 hunts, but using the hunts defined by the authors, not by the date taken.
- This yields 6 words as per copyright decoded column.
- Using the p7 clue, these can be used to lookup the next words of the same in Make Death Love Me.
- The exception is INCINERATOR which is not found (also indicated by there being no camera maker for this page). So we leave this as is.
- The resulting words are all banking related, tying in with the bank theft theme of Make Death Love Me. We take these as a clue to the Loughton Incinerator Thefts.
- If we take INCINERATOR as letter O (not clear why, or just perhaps a zero as it's not found in MDLM) the initial letters of the words can be rearranged to spell COOMBS as in Pablo.

Page	Copyright	Copyright decode method	Copyright decoded	Chapter 1 text from Make Death Love Me	Next word of same length (p7 clue)
2	41 27 4 52 5	Use question answer letters from 2014 hunt	HEARD	"He heard her let herself in by the back way, and he put the money in a drawer." (94)	MONEY
3	12.1 3.3 6.1 10.5 2.4 8.2 7.1	Use question answer letters from 2016 hunt (page.question)	DEPOSIT	"That was the deposit , I'll send you the balance of 5,900 in the morning." (90)	BALANCE
5	Q5 9 32 17 52 13 31	Use question answer letters from 2002 hunt	MANAGER	"in charge (by courtesy, the manager) and a girl cashier" (85)	CASHIER
7	X.4 I.2 I.5 XII.6 1.XIV X.14	Use question answers letters from the 2009 Hunt Crossword.	LITTLE	"... walked up and down the little office ." (81)	OFFICE
10	Do3 Ta4 Mo3 HH3	Use question answer letters from 2007 Hunt (Do = Dodgems, Ta = Tavern, Mo = Moon, HH = Haunted House)	WADS	"It was in thirty wads , mostly of fivers. He had taken it out of the safe when Joyce went off ..." (76)	SAFE
12	Ord3,4 Obj5 Ord5 Abe5,1 Sem1,6 Ord1,2 Unb6	Significant letters from 2011 answers (significant letter = question number e.g. Q5 take 5th letter)	INCINERATOR	Not present.	(INCINERATOR)

Exif camera and lens

- The Camera and lens are used to identify Make Death Love Me Chapter 1 as described previously.
- The Lens Maker & Model tell us to take the first or significant letter/word of an answer – possibly the subject / title (which we didn't find). 1 presumably means "first one" or "significant one". Not solved.
- We note that pages with titles have 'First', and pages with subjects have 'Sig' – which suggests that the lenses should be applied to the answers to the title/subject anagrams/crossword clues.

Page	Camera maker	Camera model	Lens maker	Lens model
2	DLM	Ch1	First	1
3	DLM	Ch1	Sig	1
5	DLM	Ch1	Sig	1
7	DLM	Ch1	First	1
10	DLM	Ch1	First	1
12	None	None	Sig	1

Questions

P	Q	Question	Answer	Letter
2	0	John wasn't Dr Barton's first name – what was it?	Hill (Dr John Watson becomes Dr Hill Barton in <i>The Illustrious Client</i> .) This question 0 presumably to differentiate it from other questions where we only take a letter. Here we take the whole word to give HILL CIPHER - a clue to solving the first codes on this page.	HILL
2	1	What barbarous forename is not part of the surname?	Conan (as in The Barbarian) was really Conan Doyle's 3rd Christian name. (His real surname was simply Doyle.) [As an aside: When Conan Doyle was at school he founded a magazine called "The Stonyhurst Figaro". Figaro was a barber. We thought this was the answer at first.]	C
2	2	When Winter's revenge was virulently acidic, what was the client?	The Illustrious Client, in which Kitty Winter throws vitriol over the Baron in revenge.	I
2	3	Near which establishment do cows apparently walk, canter and gallop?	The Red Bull Tavern in SH's Adventure of Priory School. (The Red Bull was also the alternative name of Rex Stout's Some Buried Caesar, though may be a coincidence).	P
2	4	Who took a cruise following a creek?	Dawson's Creek actress Katie Holmes is married to Thomas Cruise Mapother IV.	H
2	5	Into which adventure does Sir Harry trespass, masquerading as a drunk rather than a murderer?	The Adventure of the Empty House. Reference is to Flashman and the Tiger by George MacDonald Fraser. While trying to kill Tiger Jack Moran, Sir Harry Pagat Flashman finds himself in a scene from "The Adventure of the Empty House", and is mistaken by Holmes for a drunken tramp rather than a murderer.	E
2	6	What is right at the top of the Olympic construct?	The Red circle. (It's on the top row, on the right, in the Olympic symbol) . Connects to Holmes' The Adventure of the Red Circle. Conan Doyle was "intimately involved with the development of the modern Olympics as we know it" https://publicdomainreview.org/essay/conan-doyles-olympic-crusade	R
3	1	A	Armchair . We think these were added to make the keyword less guessable. Having a question here would have been confusing as we'd expect the answer to form part of the word.	A
3	2	Outraged by his neighbor's plot to kill Caesar, possibly a Zygon.	Clyde Osgood , from Some Buried Caesar by Rex Stout. Osgood wants to stop his neighbour Pratt killing his bull, Caesar. "Possibly a Zygon" is a clue to Osgood, it refers to Petronella Osgood in Dr Who who was impersonated by a Zygon.	O
3	3	Lily, English and Bean, once of Canterbury.	Lily Rowan , Nero Wolfe's love interest in the Rex Stout series. Lily Atkinson is Rowan's daughter, appeared in Johnny English and Mr Bean's Holiday. Rowan Williams ex-Archbishop of Canterbury.	R
3	4	Inspector of a Swiss bank, of possible help with matrix inversion.	Cramer . Inspector Cramer is a Rex Stout Character. Banque Cramer is a Swiss Bank. Cramer's rule can be used to find the inverse of a matrix. This therefore also provides a clue to the Hill cipher.	C
3	5	Where did the first murder take place, while the victim was driving (ignoring direction)?	West Hills golf course in Rex Stout's Fer De Lance. This is the first Nero Wolfe book hence the first murder. The victim, Professor Barstow was using a driver adapted to poison him, resulting in his death by heart attack. Ignoring direction means to disregard 'West'.	H
3	6	Where the Nemesis is defeated, akin to Peter (the first beater) and George (o quinto).	In the Best Families the book in which Nero Wolfe defeats Arnold Zeck. Pete Best was the first drummer for the Beatles. George Best was described in Portugal as the fifth (o quinto) Beatle. So they would both be akin to 'best' families.	I

3	7	Dude or Doxy, start the same and end the same.	Refers to Death of a Dude and Death of a Doxy, both Nero Wolfe books by Rex Stout	D
3	8	Both the hero and his creator are indubitably this. 1. 228, 229; 2. 244 Or 1. 212, 213; 2. 196	Stout. Rex is called Stout, and Nero Wolfe is (physically) a stout fellow. (Note the accompanying 'gambit' code is not part of this question as first thought.)	S
4	1	Rembrandt implied it went top to bottom, though right to left would be more normal.	Hebrew writing - "the writing on the wall" from Belshazzar's Feast. This is referred to in Christie's "The Moving Finger "	M
4	2	Lizzy Borden, predestined in Sheppey.	Appointment with Death, as in the play "Sheppey" by Somerset Maugham. (Not sure what the axe-killer connection is.)	A
4	3	Who mislaid \$1000000, ending up at Ivinghoe?	Philip Ridgeway . He mislaid it in the million dollar bond robbery by Christie. The Ridgeway path ends at Ivinghoe Beacon. (<i>This could be a reference to a previous Hunt Treasure site.</i>)	R
4	4	Emulator of Greek labourer heard a leek chez lui.	Hercule Poirot . (Hercules did labours. Poireau is French for leek.)	P
4	5	For whom did Merton's Catholicism prove fatal?	Lord Edgware . Murdered by his wife because she knew her devout catholic lover, the Duke of Merton, would not countenance a divorce. From Christie's <i>Lord Edgware Dies</i> .	L
4	6	Local feature of tidal locking, recognised in part by Blake.	4:6 (re tidal locking) clues Agatha Christie's book " Endless Night " (referring to the effect of tidal locking on the Dark Side of the Moon). The phrase "Endless Night" comes from Blake's poem "Auguries of Innocence"	E
5	1	T	Treasure . Again to make keyword less guessable.	T
5	2	Who committed the first murder, somewhat mysteriously before the universe was created?	Saraqael , in Neil Gaiman's Murder Mysteries. https://tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/Literature/MurderMysteries	S
5	3	Who had to stay below at the British Museum underground station?	Hunter , in Neil Gaiman's Neverwhere	H
5	4	Sin, Kin and Gaol, for example.	American Gods . Gaol is an Iroquois God. Kin Ahau was the Mayan Sun God. Sin is a sky-god of the Haida people.	A
5	5	Who was accidentally imprisoned for 72 endless years in place of his sister?	Dream , in Neil Gaiman's The Sandman	D
5	6	When the predictions were nice, what were good?	Good Omens : From Neil Gaiman's The Nice and Accurate Prophecies of Agnes Nutter, Witch	O
5	7	Who robbed a bank with Moon, and when did they meet?	Mr Wednesday . Shadow Moon meets him on a Wednesday?. From Neil Gaiman's book American Gods	W
6	1	Which larger than life house-doctor kept America in Republican control (and kept it)?	This is a reference to "Larger Than Life", which is an episode of "House". The doctor in question is Taub - a House doctor who appears on billboards in this episode, and a corrupt Republican donor who ran a group called "Keeping America in Republican Control". "and kept it" presumably refers to the fact that it worked. Taub means deaf in German, so this is a reference to McBain's Deaf man / Taubmann character.	T
6	2	Who wouldn't compromise with Koch?	Heckler . Heckler and Koch's motto is "No Compromises!" (in German). This is a clue to The Heckler, an 87th precinct book by Ed McBain.	H

6	3	Associates of Almighty Hillman	Evan Hunter (which was Ed McBain's original nom de plume). Evan Almighty is a film starring Steve Carrell (pictured on this page). Hillman Hunter is a car.	E
6	4	Where, in a lull, might you know to find: [6 flower photos]	On "a bank where the wild thyme grows" (A Midsummer Night's Dream" - Oberon). The flowers which appear in the sonnet are (in pictured order): Musk Rose, Eglantine, Oxlip, Woodbine, Wild Thyme, Violet. Titania is "lull'd in these flowers". Connection is Lullaby by Ed McBain (as the fairies sing Titania a lullaby)	B
6	5	Which island was elected to a rocky parliament in duemilatredici?	(duemilatredici = 2,013 in Italian). Isola (Italian for island) won the Gibraltar (Rock) election in 2013. Isola is the fictional city where the 87th Precinct books are set	I
6	6	How was the Bank of Ireland alternatively known to Knight and Kemp?	Robbery with Violins . A track by Steeleye Span, featuring Peter Knight and Rick Kemp. Links to Ed McBain's Hark, which deals with heist of a Stradivarius. See also adjacent No Strad violin picture clue.	R
6	7	For whom was dimly heard 27th of the 57 of the 87th?	The Deaf Man would only hear dimly. Let's hear it for the deaf man was the 27th of the 57 of the 87th Precinct novels.	D
6	8	Added C6H8O7 and removed C11H15NO2. Quoi?	Added Citric Acid and removed MDMA ie Ecstasy. What? Don't understand the form of the clue, but this might just be Serotonin . Lemon Juice increases Serotonin levels. Ecstasy reduces them. What is the connection to Ed McBain? Quoi must also indicate some relationship to French. This could be a clued to take a word meaning Citric Acid and remove 'E'. Or since Citric Acid is E330, it could clue 330.	S
7	1	[Photo formula]	Thought Gang . David by Michelangelo - "Poetry & Music" by Claude Michel = David by Angelo. Photo of Angelo Badalamenti & David Lynch also = David By Angelo. The Rodin's thinkers are a "Thought Gang" which is Lynch & Badalamenti's music project / album. Connects Twin Peaks to Tibor Fischer who wrote a book of the same name.	T
7	2	Who thematically lost in 1957 to a future chess champion in Milwaukee?	Tibor Weinberger lost to Bobby Fischer, clueing Tibor Fischer.	W
7	3	Under what circumstances shouldn't you read this book?	If You're Stupid . Tibor Fischer short story collection <i>Don't Read This Book If You're Stupid</i> .	I
7	4	At what does the black dog repeatedly run?	Night . "The black dog runs at night" are the only (repeated many times) lyrics of a song from Twin Peaks which was performed by the Thought Gang. This is the link to Tibor Fischer.	N
7	5	Flower chamber hot lobster stew black pepper and melting?	Pot (can be combined with all the words). Fischer's book The Collector Collector is narrated by a Sumerian pot	P
7	6	[Photo formula]	((Eddie Murphy) + (Alex Murphy)) - Murphys - Alex = Eddie . Refers to Eddie Coffin, narrator of the Thought Gang.	E
7	7	What subbatrachian location couldn't be worse in Hungarian?	Under the frog's bum. The Hungarian A béka feneke alatt literally means this, and figuratively means "in a really bad way". Under the Frog is a Tibor Fischer book.	A
7	8	Who is it iSpy, fortis et fidus?	iSpy is a song by the rapper Kyle . Fortis et fidus is the motto of Clan Maclachlan. Kyle Maclachlan appeared in Twin Peaks. (Kyle Fischer is a film producer if we want a more direct Fischer link)	K
7	9	[Photo of cuneiform characters] perhaps?	Abraham aka AABRAAM - in Sumerian cuneiform. Fischer's book The Collector Collector is narrated by a Sumerian pot. Our translation of the B, R and M symbols came from here: https://watsoneastwoldblog.wordpress.com/2010/02/24/write-your-name-in-cuneiform-just-like-a-mesopotamian . Thanks to East Wold Primary School for their help.	S

8	1	H	Hunt. Again just to obscure the keyword.	H
8	2	Where are the Antarctic, Hamberg, Alfred and Misery?	They are mountains in on Bear Island in Svalbard. Bear Island by MacLean.	B
8	3	See crossword, one is swapped.	This just refers to the crossword clue 1 Down, moving the words of " One Down Is Air Force" around. MacLean didn't write Air Force One Is Down, but he produced the plot.	O
8	4	Marked by tailors on land, but at sea one fewer do what?	Toll for death. The Nine Tailors is a bell-ringing movement to mark a death. Eight bells at sea normally means the end of a watch, but is also used on death. Clues when eight bells toll by MacLean.	T
8	5	What takes a single day in Ireland but two decades in the Mediterranean?	Ulysses. Joyce's book lasts one day. The Greek hero was away for 20 years. Links to MacLean's HMS Ulysses	U
8	6	Hungary or Alaska, where no man has been before, almost.	MacLean's The Last Frontier is inspired by the Hungarian uprising. Alaska - The Last Frontier is a TV series. Almost Star Trek's final frontier, where no man has gone before.	L
8	7	Reilly's with a variegated equid is Stuart's.	Matthew Reilly wrote Ice Station. A variegated equid is Zebra. Together makes Ice Station Zebra by Alistair Stuart MacLean - who also wrote under the pseudonym Ian Stuart (though not Ice Station Zebra).	I
8	8	In what was the aim to denude the city of life, rather than the entire world as threatened?	The Satan Bug by MacLean. The baddies aim to get London evacuated so that they can rob banks.	S
8	9	Which heroic mountaineer braved the elements on 11 23 18 8 10?	Mallory. Keith Mallory is the hero of MacLean's The Guns Of Navarone. The element letters to spell Navarone are keyed by their atomic numbers.	M
9	1	Take a torch if treasure-seeking after 15:24 on Christmas Day (and be Major).	The moon sets in London at 15:24 on Xmas Day. Steinbeck wrote "The Moon is Down". Major Hunter is a character in the book.	M
9	2	£25 in debt.	Refers to Steinbeck's novella Red Pony (£25 in the red).	R
9	3	Who was discontented in winter?	Ethan Hawley in Steinbeck's The Winter of our Discontent.	H
9	4	Which well-prepared but frequently unsuccessful plots bring nought but grief and pain?	Those Of Mice and Men (or O' mice and men in the original - question is a translation from Burns' To a mouse). Links to Steinbeck's Of Mice and Men.	O
9	5	Despite the 14:19 revelation, the truth marches on.	Links to Steinbeck's The Grapes of Wrath. Title sourced from The Battle Hymn of the Republic" aka "John Brown's Body" in which the Lord is "trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored... His truth is marching on", despite the apocalyptic Revelations 14:19, from where the grapes of wrath reference originates. As a side note, Pablo wrote a book/treasure hunt called Revelations which to our knowledge remains unsolved.	G
9	6	Whose acts were published 8 years posthumously?	Arthur. Refers to Steinbeck's modern version of Malory's "Acts of King Arthur", published eight years posthumously.	A
9	7	Linus and Marie each had two different ones, but neither was literate.	Nobel prizes - the only two people to win them in two different categories. (None were for literature - Chemistry and Peace for Linus Pauling, and Chemistry and Physics for Marie Curie.) A link to Steinbeck who did win the prize for Literature.	N

10	1	What is 1/10 of 1m and may have arrived as the dinosaurs left?	Iridium anomaly - a stratum containing unusually high levels of Iridium, theorised to have arrived on the Chicxulub meteorite which is now believed to have wiped out the dinosaurs. The K/T boundary clay layer which contains it is of the order of 10 cm thick - e.g. https://www.igme.es/patrimonio/GEOSITES/Chapter_09_SGFG.pdf	I → H
10	2	If Nathalie had in fact owned a cat, what might she have called it?	Brexit. (Apocryphal story about Nathalie Loiseau, who doesn't have a cat. Since she's called Loiseau it's probably a good job that she doesn't.)	B → A
10	3	What could be a violin, banana or camel?	Spider	S → R
10	4	What ambiguous abbreviation could be out by a factor of 1.852×10 to the power 12?	nm - can ambiguously mean nanometre or nautical mile (1.852km)	N → M
10	5	What (White) Russian bishop is buried under the Vatican?	Hanno the White Elephant , Pope Leo X's favourite pet. A chess Bishop in Russian is a слон (slon=Elephant). See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hanno_(elephant) for details.	E → D
10	6	What is the volume of a short, hot cylinder of height a and radius z?	pizza (and a pizza is a short, hot cylinder)	P → O
10	7	Who killed his mother for conspiring to kill his father for apparently killing his sister but then, according to some, met his sister again?	Orestes , son of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra; Agamemnon sacrificed their daughter Iphigenia, and was subsequently killed by Clytemnestra and her lover, Aegisthus. Orestes killed them both in revenge.	O → N
10	8	Who inspired a Modest opera, a bemusing Trial and an endless orgy?	Francesca da Rimini. Modest Tchaikovsky wrote the libretto for the opera Francesca da Rimini (Modest operat)i. Dante included her in his Divine Comedy - she is condemned to eternal passion with her lover in the circle of lust (endless orgy) in which Minos judges the souls entering hell by flicking them to the appropriate circle with his tail (bemusing Trial). The endless orgy is depicted in William Blake's painting 'The Lover's whirlwind.)	F → E
11	1	Who only nearly qualified for a certain Hunt?	Nearly Headless Nick in Harry Potter. Denied admission to the Headless Hunt as he was only nearly headless.	N
11	2	Who drove the Knox Bus?	Ernie Prang drove the Knight Bus in Harry Potter. Knox is a homophone of Latin nox (night), just as Knight is of English night.	E
11	3	Whose fluency in gobbledygook gained him a Ministry job with thematic links?	Barty Crouch senior. He was initially head of the Department for Magical Law Enforcement, hence links to a main theme of this hunt (crime/mystery/detective novels)	C
11	4	Who took the South Pacific by storm in 1998 and was also big in Eastenders?	Ron. This was one of the biggest storms of 1998. Big Ron was a character in Eastenders. Links to Ron Weasley. (As an aside: Matt's son had to ask Rupert Grint to move from his airline seat a few months ago. He resisted the temptation to say 'expeliamus')	R
11	5	What service should have been flowery (and possibly snowy)?	The Owl Service. The book is about a dinner service with an flower / owl pattern. A mythical woman Blodeuwedd, was created from flowers but has been turned into an owl as a punishment. The possibly snowy service refers to the postal service in Harry Potter, which is delivered by owls, including Harry's Hedwig, a snowy owl. [The Owl Service author went to the same school as J Mestel (and Mitch).]	O

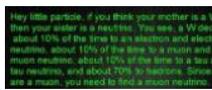
11	6	Who was not allowed to present a paper to the Linnean Society because the associated chromosomes were too similar?	Beatrix Potter (being a woman with XX chromosomes - https://www.linnean.org/the-society/history-of-science/beatrix-potter-the-tale-of-the-linnean-society). Another Potter link.	P
11	7	What can be caused by the sus scrofa papillomavirus?	H1N1 - Swine Flu. Rupert Grint (Ron Weasley in Harry Potter films) caught it (as did I!). Sus scrofa is the wild boar.	H
11	8	7 black diamonds	Abernathy . Lilywhite Abernathy is the heroine of Melissa Marr's Seven Black Diamonds book. Abernathy is a wizard in the "Fantastic Beasts" Harry Potter spinoffs, giving the link to JK Rowling. (It was nothing to do with 7 cursed diamonds or Arithmancy!)	A
11	9	Smirk! I scored bad girls this year.	Bad Girls was a musical which ran in London 2018-2019, so "I scored" suggests that we are looking for the composer. That was Kath Gotts, and smirk is "grin", so the answer and HP connection is Gringotts	G
11	10	Was waren die letzten fünf deutschen Wörter des Films mit unterschiedlichen Titeln in den USA und in Großbritannien?	The film is Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (in the US "... Sorceror's Stone"). The question refers simply to the last five words of the title - Harry Potter und der Stein der Weisen"	U
11	11	If Parvati was a Gemini, what was Bane?	Parvati Patil is a character in 'Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix'; she is a twin. Bane is a centaur who appears in the same book. If a Twin is a Gemini, then a Centaur is a Sagittarius .	S

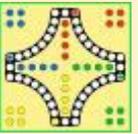
Photos and other items

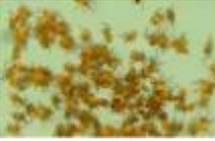
364 This shows all remaining items from pages 2-12 not already covered above. They are mainly clues to the author on
 365 that page, plus the letter code sections which additionally provide decoding hints - these sections have a cream
 366 coloured background below.

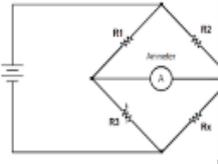
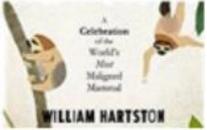
Pg. Ref	Item	Description	Significance
2.1	Photos of redheads	Taking each significant letter of the redheads shown spells out THE LION'S MANE	This is a double clue to 2 Sherlock Homes stories: "The Adventure of the Lion's Mane" and (with 4828m) "The Red-Headed League"
2.2		Dylan Thomas	See above
2.3		Katharine Hepburn	See above
2.4		Elizabeth I (Darnley portrait)	See above
2.5		DH Lawrence painted by Dorothy Brett	See above
2.6		Isabella I of Castile - Wikipedia	See above
2.7		Maureen O'Hara	See above
2.8		Willie Nelson (also wrote Red-headed stranger)	See above
2.9		Tilda Swinton	See above
2.10		Alex McLeish	See above
2.11		Adele	See above

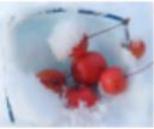
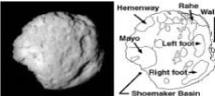
2.12		Holly Near (was also in Hair – another link to hair/red hair.) And also refers to the holly near the treasure box.	See above
2.13		Esau selling his birthright	See above
2.14	4828m	4828m is almost exactly 3 miles.	On land a league is defined as three miles. So this is a clue to League - see redhead photos above.
2.15		Scrabble A tile	Indicates to use A=1 for Hill (not A=0)
2.16		Leicester City	Together with Hill picture, clues Lester Hill who invented the Hill Cipher
2.17		Silbury Hill	See above.
2.18		Neo from the Matrix.	Use a 2x2 matrix to decode the first of the ciphertxts.
2.19		Rod Steiger in The Pawnbroker.	The JW and the Sherlock Holmes theme indicate this is meant to represent Jabez Wilson, pawnbroker in the Red-Headed league.
2.20	JW	A clue to Jabez Wilson, and to use JW as part of the key	See above.
2.21	↔ PSZEBIGBMOX M	Indicates that Jabez Wilson is equivalent to this string.	We have to deduce that SHJW - Sherlock Holmes Jabez Wilson - is the key for the 2x2 Hill Cipher for PSZEBIGBMOXM, yielding JABEZWILSON. Also provides the author link in this letter codes section.
2.22	Yellow smiley ☺	Yellow face	The Adventure of the Yellow Face, from the Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes
2.23	Ruby and 0.38c - -> eyes	A ruby laser has a wave length of 694.3 nm. If the source is heading towards the observer then it would be blue shifted: $((1-0.38) * 694.3) / \text{sqrt}(1 - 0.38*0.38) = 465.4 \text{ nm}$. That's blue.	A clue to Sherlock Holmes adventure The adventure of the Blue Carbuncle. The blue carbuncle was a gemstone. The ruby shown would resemble it, once blue shifted.
2.24	29/11/1803 - 17/3/1853	Birth and Death of Christian Doppler	Indicates that the above diagram relates to doppler effect.
2.25	1/6, 1/5, 1/4, 1/3, 2/5, 1/2, 3/5, 2/3, 4/5, 5/6.	Lists all fractions with denominators 2-6 (simplified where necessary) except for 3/4	The Adventure of the Missing Three-Quarter (from the Return of SH)
2.26	Ti metaglottizetai os "Diermineas"?	Greek. Translates as something like "Compiled as the interpreter" or "Dubbed as the interpreter"	The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter, from the Memoirs of SH
2.27		Red devil's foot	The Adventure of the Devil's Foot (from Sherlock Holmes: His Last Bow)

2.28		Two bloodstains	The adventure of the Second Stain (from the Return of SH).
2.29		Copper Beech Trees	The adventure of the Copper Beeches from The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes.
2.30		Violet	Violet Hunter appears in The Adventure of the Copper Beeches
2.31		Outflow with three pipes	A three pipe problem (a tough problem needing Sherlock to smoke 3 or more pipes)
2.32	Hind is readable.	Above photo link contains expanded text: Hex, I find, is readable. This has extra 'Exif' in it. Exif is a format for digital images.	This is a clue that there is extra info in the photo properties - see Hunt Route Photos for details.
2.33		Nile Crocodile with Egyptian Plover (symbiotic relationship)	The Crocodile Bird by Ruth Rendell. The Rendell link on this page.
2.34	Skandál!	Scandal in Czech (as therefore someone in Bohemia would say it)	A Scandal in Bohemia (from the Adventures of SH)
3.1		Rottweiler	The Rottweiler by Ruth Rendell. The Rendell link on this page.
3.2		Hunting for the mother particle in boson decay.	The Mother Hunt by Rex Stout
3.3		Father George W. Hunt - see https://www.americamagazine.org/huntprize	The Father Hunt by Rex Stout
3.4		The Doorbell Rang by Pat Hutchins	The Doorbell Rang by Rex Stout
3.5		From Gambit by Coen Brothers, starring Colin Firth, Cameron Diaz and Alan Rickman	Gambit - Nero Wolfe mystery by Rex Stout
3.6	1. 228, 229; 2. 244 Or 1. 212, 213; 2. 196	Converting the decimal numbers to hexadecimal gives: 1. e4, e5; 2. f4 Or 1. d4, d5; 2. c4 Which are the King's & Queen's Gambits respectively.	Links to Gambit picture and Rex Stout Nero Wolfe book.
3.7	Das nyeb miu Solo. Tsun oophoroma knetto eihcra niwdoog, bnfnlle!	This is from Star Wars. It means "We copy, General Solo. We'll keep you on our tracking screens. Good luck!" in Sullustese. Eihcra niwdoog is Archie Goodwin backwards - he was the writer and editor.	Refers to Rex Stout's Nero Wolfe books. Archie Goodwin was Wolfe's assistant and narrates the books.

3.8	Ymynydddu	'Y Mynydd Du' (in appropriately black font) is Welsh for "The Black Mountain"	The Black Mountain - Nero Wolfe book by Rex Stout.
3.9		With DOT. This is the Dominican Republic, the domain name for which is .DO. So together with DOT this clues DOT.DO. Dominican Republic domain.	Not understood. Possibly the DOT is a clue to TODHunter (Rex Stout's middle name)
3.10		Not understood	Not understood
3.11		With DOT. Clearly UK (no Ireland) though Google has messed up the aspect ratio. So together with DOT this clues DOT.UK – the UK domain.	Not understood.
3.12	Thematic link, somewhat stretched.	The maps and arrows above might clue douk-douk (DO for the Dominican Republic, UK for the UK, plus repetition from the arrows). A douk-douk is a French pocket knife. Does it figure in Nero Wolfe?	Rex Stout's middle name is Todhunter, so a hunt connection of sorts. (And Tod backwards is DOT)
3.13		Ludo board	Ludo is latin for play. Rebus is Play + Scarborough Fair - scarborough (brewery) = Playfair.
3.14		Parsley sage rosemary & thyme.	Clues scarborough fair for rebus - see above.
3.15		Vintage beer label from Scarborough and Whitby breweries - see https://sites.google.com/site/seemymatsukvarious/my-collection/scarborough-and-whitby	Clues Scarborough - see rebus above. Also links with Rex wine to clue Rex Stout.
3.16		Rex Hill wine	Clues both Hill cipher in this section, and Rex Stout in conjunction with Stout above.
3.17		Scene from the matrix in 3 by 3 grid/matrix	Indicates 3x3 hill matrix
3.18		Churchill tank	The Churchill Hotel (believed to represent the Waldorf Astoria) figures in the Wolfe books
3.19	B4071	Road to Saul (see https://www.sabre-roads.org.uk/wiki/index.php?title=B4071)	Saul
3.20		Tank, or Panzer in German	... Panzer often works for Nero Wolfe.
3.21		Hitchcock	Ethelbert Hitchcock is Nero Wolfe's contact in London.
3.22	B3129	The B3129 is the road which crosses the Clifton Suspension Bridge.	Clifton Fadiman was a close friend of Rex Stout

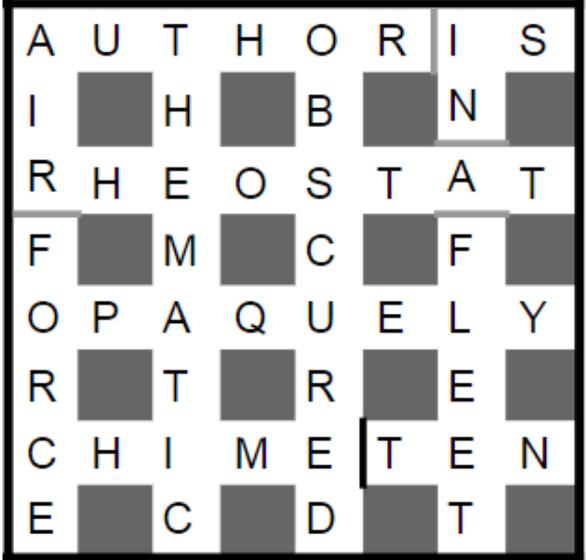
3.23		Golden spiders	The Golden Spiders - Nero Wolfe mystery by Rex Stout
4.1	4	A big 4.	The Big Four by Agatha Christie
4.2		Blue train of South Africa. Found in Google image search. Seems like it's South Africa's equivalent of the Orient Express which is another possible Christie link.	The Mystery of the Blue Train - novel by Agatha Christie.
4.3		The Crooked House (in Himley).	Novel by Agatha Christie.
4.4		The Man in the Brown Suit. (Yours for \$70 with change.)	Novel by Agatha Christie.
4.5		Curtain	Novel by Agatha Christie.
4.6		A fallen curtain	The Fallen Curtain by Ruth Rendell. The Rendell link on this page.
4.7		Huttonian Theory of the Earth by John Playfair. See https://www.sophiararebooks.com/pages/books/4055/john-playfair/illustrations-of-the-huttonian-theory-of-the-earth	Playfair cipher
4.8	Churston ? Andover	Bexhill. Agatha Christie's ABC Murders take place at Andover, Bexhill then Churston.	BEXHILL - BEX = HILL. Hill cipher reference AND link to Christie.
4.9		Jasmine Armfield who plays Rebecca "Bex" Fowler in Eastenders.	
4.10	20 8 5 13 1 20 18 9 24	Using letter values decodes to: T H E M A T R I X	Clue that we should use 3x3 hill matrix. But not these letters.
4.11		Cluedo showing the murder committed in the library	The Body in the Library by Agatha Christie (also said to have inspired Clue / Cluedo)
4.12		5 Little Pigs	Agatha Christie novel
4.13		Tarot cards spread out on a table	Cards on the Table by Agatha Christie.

4.14		Peter Westmacott. Ambassador to Turkey, France and then USA.	Mary Westmacott was a pseudonym of Agatha Christie. Christie also wrote <i>The Ambassador's Boots</i> .
4.15		Samuel Hunter Christie is the inventor of the Wheatstone Bridge.	Samuel Christie – Samuel = Christie – so a clue to Agatha Christie. Hunter is a hunter link on this page. (Christie also wrote <i>The Mystery at Hunter's Lodge</i>).
4.16		Samuel	We found https://hunterchristie.co/ , tried ringing their number, but just got a mumbled answer and they hung up.
4.17	Retime	Retiming and musical notes	We think this may refer to <i>The Clocks</i> by Agatha Christie, which centres around a cuckoo clock (hence the musical notes) and several other clocks being set to different times.
4.18		Hunter's lodge in Kingskerswell, Devon (near Matt!) See http://www.cottage-choice.co.uk/bluechip/cottages-Hunters-Lodge-Devon.asp	Clues Christie's <i>The Mystery at Hunter's Lodge</i> .
4.19	RDG1722	According to the current GWR timetable , the 16:50 from Paddington arrives in Reading (RDG) at 17:22	Agatha Christie's <i>4:50 from Paddington</i>
5.1		Sloths: A celebration of the worlds most misunderstood mammal - by William Hartston.	Neil Gaiman's <i>Sloth</i> , from <i>Seven Deadly Sins</i>
5.2		Total solar eclipse viewed from space - https://www.businessinsider.com/how-eclipse-looks-like-from-space-2016-3?r=US&IR=T	<i>Total Eclipse</i> comic, featuring Miracleman by Neil Gaiman.
5.3		This is "A west country street leading towards the sea" painted by James Heseldin. See https://www.mutualart.com/Artwork/A-West-country-street-leading-towards-th/41A58794AF157140	Neil Gaiman's <i>The ocean at the end of the lane</i> .
5.4	"I can never fear that things will go far wrong" - Thomas Jefferson	"... where common sense has fair play." See https://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/FOEA-03-01-02-0829	Clue to Playfair cipher.
5.5-...-..-...-...-..	Morse code without spaces - the decode we need is HILL HOUSE	HILL HOUSE - HOUSE (see below) = HILL . Clues Hill Cipher. Also clues Neil Gaiman - who wrote a poem called House.
5.6		Hugh Laurie as House	See above

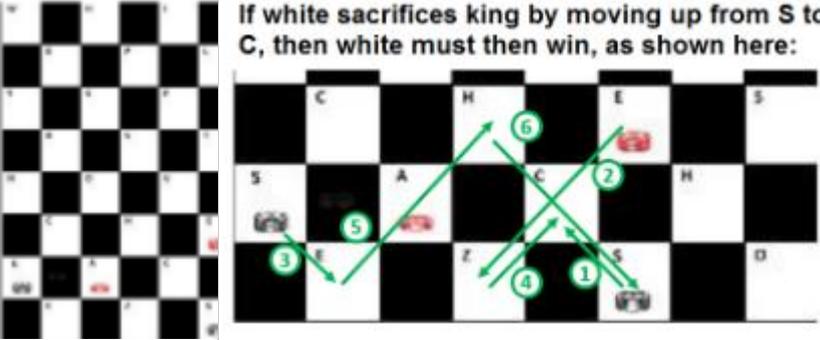
5.7		Not cherries as they first appear, but apples in glass in the snow.	Snow, Glass, Apples by Neil Gaiman
5.8		Cinnamon sticks.	Cinnamon by Neil Gaiman
5.9		Stardust Spacecraft mission to comet 81P/Wild 2. https://www.researchgate.net/figure/The-closest-short-exposure-image-taken-at-114-phase-angle-the-angle-between-the_fig2_8501659	Stardust by Neil Gaiman
5.10		The Sand Man sculpture in Bradford (of a magician called Dynamo) https://saltairedailyphoto.blogspot.com/2016/09/the-sand-man.html	The Sandman by Neil Gaiman.
5.11		Wexford	Inspector Wexford - a Ruth Rendell clue.
5.12		The arrow could be obscuring Áth Cliath which means "ford of the hurdles" and is one of the Gaelic names for Dublin. This road sign to Dublin with arrow pointing north could just be a link that Dublin is north of Wexford. Alternatively the Ath can form part of Wexford. Ath gives a link to the Armchair Treasure Hunt and possibly two ATHs = two boxes.	Another link to Inspector Wexford & Ruth Rendell. The road sign arrow and ATH could also be a clue to ATHEXIT. Wexford means Muddy Ford - so the muddy references in the hunt may be a clue to Wexford and Rendell
6.1	Haydn's autoepitaph	Veni, Scripsi, Vixi, according to some sources. I came, I wrote, I lived	The Ruth Rendell clue on this page. Vixi Scripsi - I lived, I wrote - is her motto, it appears on her crest.
6.2	Violin and bow crossed out	Clues "No Strad". NOSTRADAMUS was the clue sent by the Deaf Man which indicated that the target of the robbery in Hark was a Stradivarius violin.	<i>Hark</i> by Ed McBain
6.3	Birds	Ed McBain wrote the screenplay for Hitchcock's <i>The Birds</i> (loosely based on the DuMaurier book.)	Ed McBain link
6.4		Merlin	See below
6.5		Great Egret	See below
6.6		Yellowhammer	See below
6.7		Bald Eagle	See below

6.8		American Robin	See below
6.9	2	The initials of the birds spells Meyer. The 2 indicates to double it, giving Meyer Meyer.	Meyer Meyer is a regular cop in McBain's 87 precinct mysteries.
6.10		The Play That Goes Wrong by the Mischief Theatre Company	Give us Play for Playfair - see below. And Mischief is an 87th Precinct Book so links to McBain.
6.11		New York State Fair, Syracuse NY	With Play, gives Playfair.
6.12	$\psi = 3\sin^2 \theta (r^4 - r^2)$ if $r < 1$ $\psi = 2\sin^2 \theta (r^2 - r^{-1})$ if $r > 1$ (three dimensional vortex)	Probably Hill's spherical vortex, named after Micaiah John Muller Hill	Link to Hill cipher.
6.13		The Fuzz band	Fuzz, an 87th Precinct mystery by Ed McGain.
6.14		Black Horses.	Eight Black Horses is an 87th Precinct novel
6.15		Mischief & Repose by John William Godward	Mischief is an 87th Precinct novel
6.16	Music.	Hark the Herald Angels Sing, but in the 2nd bar the "angels si-ing" melody is missing. Hence Hark - herald angels singing = Hark.	Hark is an 87th Precinct novel
6.17		Dove. Couples with the picture below.	87th Precinct villain
6.18		Swede. Reading Dove (above) in Swedish gives a meaning of Deaf. Den Dove is one of the names used for the Deaf Man, a villain in the 87th Precinct novels	87th Precinct villain
6.19		From the video of "Hunter" by Bjork	Evan Hunter was Ed McBain's first pen name
6.20		Green / Up arrow	Perhaps just a link to Hunter as in a hunter's arrow.
6.21		Steve Carell as Evan Baxter in "Evan Almighty"	Evan couples with Hunter (Bjork pic) above to give McBain's first pen name. And Steve Carell couples with the A - see below.

6.22		Scrabble letter A	Steve Carell + A = Steve Carella - a regular cop in the 87th Precinct stories. (Also clues A=1 for Hill cipher).
7.1	9781138833876	ISBN number of "The Philosophy of Play" by Wendy Russell, Emily Ryall, Malcolm MacLean	Play as in Playfair
7.2		Fair by Tibor Boromisza	Fair as in Playfair. And Tibor provides the author link to Tibor Fischer.
7.3		Whitewater Hill Wines https://www.cellartracker.com/wine.asp?iWine=1626207	Hill
7.4		Tim Hunter (film director). Directed a few Twin Peaks episodes including The One Armed Man.	Twin Peaks
7.5		Two possible readings: 1) Slot machine. Slot Machine Man is a character in Twin Peaks 2) One-armed bandit. MIKE the One-Armed Man is a character in Twin Peaks. The setters probably mean MIKE as he is more important to the story.	Twin Peaks
7.6		The map of South Island NZ points to Lyttleton (harbour).	Rebus is Lyttleton + Hubert Humphrey - Humphrey Lyttleton = Hubert. Hubert is a character from Fischer's The Thought Gang. Also: Including the US on the stamp gives Hubertus - the patron saint of Hunters. And Lyttleton was a general in the Boer War, who battled for control of the Twin Peaks.
7.7		Hubert Humphrey (see above)	See above
7.8		Humphrey Lyttleton (see above)	See above
7.9		The John Cleese picture from the Monty Python "Double Vision" "expedition to build a bridge between the twin peaks of Kilimanjaro" sketch.	Twin Peaks
7.10		Old Mammoth Grape <i>Vine</i> , Santa <i>Barbara</i> , California	Clues Barbara Vine - pseudonym of Ruth Rendell.

8.1	Crossword		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AIR FORCE is used in Q3 and links to Air Force One is Down • AUTHOR IS and THEMATIC indicate that the author is the theme of each page (They are One Across, Two Down, which is a Ruth Rendell book) • RHEOSTAT is part of a Wheatstone Bridge and so links to Playfair • OPAQUELY and OBSCURED appear in the introduction to the hunt • CHIME TEN relates to the Nine Tailors (one more bell) • IN A FLEET refers to Alistair MacLean's time in the Navy.
8.2		Red Bull Assassin Bug	Links to two MacLean books: Time Of the Assassins and The Satan Bug.
8.3		Pinocchio puppet chain necklace. (Glad I could spell Pinocchio, Stanley!)	Puppet on a chain by Alistair MacLean
8.4		T E Lawrence	Alistair MacLean wrote a Lawrence biography
8.5		Captain Calamity	Sailor Stuart Hill was known as Captain Calamity. Links to Hill cipher in this section and also Alistair Stuart MacLean (who wrote novels under the Ian Stuart pseudonym).
8.6		Training Ship TS Playfair	Links to the Playfair code used in this section.
8.7		Blaise de Vigenère	Links to the Vigenere cipher in this section.
8.8	59.08372 -97.96944	Coordinates of MacLean Hill in Canada	Another link to the Hill cipher in this section.. And another author link to Alistair MacLean.
8.9	GUYNRSUM? LSOUNHER; XNLGQGCDLRP QWXOJ!	As the fonts indicate, these are Playfair, Vigenere and Hill ciphers. Each keyword is FEAR giving: IS THAT SO? GOOD IDEA; BRAVO A RED HERRING!!	This clues <i>Fear is the Key</i> by Alistair MacLean. So not a total red herring as this gives the author link.
8.10		Jamaica Inn on Bodmin Moor	Alistair MacLean once owned it
8.11		Kilt in the Maclean of Duart tartan.	Alistair MacLean clue
9.1		A Stein.	Goes with the Martin Beck photo below to clue Steinbeck.

9.2		My Little Pony	Steinbeck's novel "The Red Pony"
9.3		This is magnesium burning in air.	Steinbeck's novel "Burning Bright"
9.4		The Cup of Gold	Novel by Steinbeck
9.5		Pearl White.	Steinbeck wrote "The Pearl"
9.6		Lady Jane Grey. She lived a short life, dying age 16 or 17.	Her short life couples with the Pippin IV clue - see below. Other connections relate to her being the Nine Days Queen - Steinbeck wrote a book ("Murder at Full Moon") in nine days, and there is a "nine days journey" in the Cup of Gold.
9.7		Pippin in The Lord of The Rings - The Two Towers. Adjacent is a number 4.	Steinbeck wrote "The Short Life Of Pippin IV"
9.8	Try as I like to find the way, I never can get back	From The Land of Nod by R L Stevenson.	According to Genesis, the Land of Nod is East of Eden - novel by Steinbeck
9.9	журнал красных селдей	This is Russian for "Magazine Of The Red Herrings"	We think this indicates that John Steinbeck is a red herring as he is not a detective fiction writer. Another clue to exclude this page in the Exif.
9.10	Mexico 1968 Silver medley relay 2/4	Judy Playfair (swam 2nd leg of 4x100 medley relay for Australia.)	Playfair. Also a possible link to Steinbeck through the book "Travels with Judy: In Search of Steinbeck's America" by Kevin Stramer (title mimics Travels with Charley)
9.11	100E77ST	Lenox Hill hospital	Links to Hill Cipher, and Steinbeck who lived a few blocks away on E72nd st, and was treated there once.
9.12		Tarzan by Edgar Rice Burroughs	Start of 3 Edgars. A clue to Ruth Rendell , who won 3 Edgars
9.13		Swaying Dancer (Dancer in Green) by Edgar Degas	See above
9.14		Ragtime by E L Doctorow. Another Edgar.	See above
9.15		Avant garde installation art by Martin Beck.	Goes with the Stein above to clue Steinbeck. [Also perhaps a reference to Sjöwall and Wahlöö's Martin Beck police procedural novels, but this is presumably a red herring.]

9.16		C Major on Guitar	The C, B and E chords are a clue to Ruth Rendell, CBE.
9.17		B Major on piano	See above
9.18		E on a Ukelele	See above
9.19		If white sacrifices king by moving up from S to C, then white must then win, as shown here:	This spells out "CZECHS". This is used as the key to the adjacent Vigenere code - see below. Why is this played on the 'other' squares to English draughts? Possibly this is because this is czech draughts/checkers (italian seems to play on the other squares, czech may too.) Why czechs? Possibly pun on chess check, or to tie into the chess story in the newsletter.
9.20	PNXCJZPNXCJZ GRWIYSPCQCZ LGQ	Vigenere cipher with key CZECHS. Decodes to: NOTACHESSGRANDMASTER	Indicates that the 1997 Grandmaster mentioned in the newsletter is a different type of Grand Master - in this case, the honour awarded by the Mystery Writers of America (who also give out the Edgars clued above.) Ruth Rendell was awarded this in 1997. So another Rendell clue.
9.21		This is Blaise de Vigenère	Indicates that the above code is a Vigenere cipher. The red font also helps to identify it as such.
10.1		Appears to couple chess move instructions ("Move Pawn to B5 Mate") with a date ("2019") and other stuff not yet understood (including "Bank Post" and "Oz" and "Jingle").	We'd like to think that, like the draughts problem, you have to trace out some kind of chess game in the centre of this board, but could not get started.
10.2		Emma Stone in Zombieland.	STONEBOOTS used as key - see below. What is the relevance of Stone Boots (other than unusually heavy footwear clued in the newsletter.)
10.3		Silje Vige - Alle mine tankar (All my thoughts) - the 1993 Norway Eurovision entry.	Vige + nere below = Vigenere
10.4		African Locust Bean (<i>Parkia biglobosa</i>) known as néré in West Africa	See above
10.5	UTSFESGVBLT QESTHWV	Vigenère with STONEBOOTS gives CAESARSHIFTACROSTIC	Clue to caesar shift the acrostic from the answer letters

10.6		Points to Emma's boots in the photo	Helps to get the STONEBOOTS keyword.
10.7	Australian dislikes undiminishing intense criticism as civilian pilot critiques ailing Latvian.	Taking the first two letters gives: Au di un in cr as ci pi cr ai la. Can be grouped in multiple ways to make words in different languages, but none make much sense. Latin could work, but there are no words that match the ending letters. Corsican: Audi un in crasci picra ila = I hear one in a whirlwind (the Tornado?) A favourite is: Audi un in crasci picrai la which Google translates as "I hear a pickle in the pudding" in various languages.	Not solved.
10.8	Breaking News: SNL5 ON BLT3.	Breaking news presumably means it will help with breaking one of the codes. The colour suggests it may help with the Huloo code at the bottom	Not solved
10.9		John Thaw as Inspector Morse.	Morse is another famous literary & TV Inspector so an Inspector Wexford clue. Morse was also a crossword fan (and Colin Dexter a compiler) so possibly links to adjacent 'Australian' clue.
10.10		View above Ascott towards Brailles Hill, by Annabel Playfair	Playfair.
10.11		A Hydria - a greek Urn.	Indicates that the following number is a URN - Schools Unique Reference Number
10.12	103609	URN 103609 is Hunters Hill College.	Indicates that hunters should use the Hill Cipher for decoding the bold italic code (as with other sections). Another Hunter link. Mr and Mrs Hunter appear in Rendell's Not in the Flesh.
10.13	Huloo hehmor slo ef huo Foyr.	Google translate's AI is peculiarly reticent to translate this whole sentence, but in parts it returns results, and we think it is Somali for something like " <i>Select the link in each/any file</i> "	We think this is a clue to click the links in the route photos, to get to the Exif codes. "They are all the same" may mean we need to do this for every photo, or it may be referring to p2 where both links are the same.
11.1	Huer er ath an algol.	" <i>They are all the same</i> " (in Luxembourgish). (And contains ATH.)	See above.
11.2		A goblet of fire	JK Rowling's Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire
11.3	Circle inscribed in an equilateral triangle with altitude		The symbol for the Deathly Hallows in the Harry Potter book(s) of the same name.
11.4	I expect PANS1/2!	I expect is expecto in Latin. PANS1 and PANS2 are genes associated with proteins Patronus 1 & 2.	Together they clue the patronus charm "expecto patronum!" in Harry Potter.
11.5		Harry Potter and the Cursed Child - west end stage show	Connects to Harry Potter theme, and also clues the word 'play'

11.6		Pensacola state fair	A fair - so with play above gives playfair. Clue to the first two codes (which are in their 'playfair' font)
11.7		Arrow points to the stoat's head	
11.8		Stoat	Hermione and others use an old boot to travel from Stoatshead Hill Ottery Street to the Quidditch World Cup via a portkey. This rebus therefore reads: Stoatshead ? Portkey - where the ? represents Hill, the cipher used at the end of this series of codes
11.9		Indicates missing word	Missing word is Hill - see above
11.10		Pacheca Tawny Port	Links to port as portkey (teleportation object in Harry Potter). Provides both the Hill cipher link (see above) plus a link to the author (JK Rowling)
11.11		Key	See above
11.12		Guy Fawkes	Fawkes was Dumbledore's Phoenix in Harry Potter
11.13		French Frigate "Hermione"	Hermione Granger from Harry Potter
11.14		Draco constellation	Draco Malfoy from Potter
11.15		Princess Hedwig of Denmark	Potter's owl Hedwig
11.16		Henri L'Estrange – "the Australian Blondin" crossing Middle Harbour in Sydney.	The Lestrangle family in HP e.g. Bellatrix Lestrangle.
11.17	For the stronger we our houses do build, The less chance we have of being killed.	From McGonagall's <i>The Tay Bridge Disaster</i>	Professor McGonagall from HP
11.18		Portobello Mushrooms	Portobello by Ruth Rendell. The Rendell link on this page.
11.19		Terry Butcher	After his legendary world cup qualifier injury against Sweden in 1989, he bears a scar on his forehead - as does Harry Potter.
12.1	1st pictorial formula	Le Coq Sportif = Francesco José de Caldas = Vet murder (miserable bungler)	Émile Gaboriau. Monsieur Lecoq is his fictional detective. Caldas is one of his false identities. Miserable bungler is what Holmes calls Lecoq in A Study in Scarlet. Vet murder may be a reference to the victim in

			Monsieur Lecoq who was dressed in a soldier's uniform (veteran).									
12.2	2nd pictorial formula	Fern aloft = squirrel = Pierre Dubois	In Gaboriau's File No. 113, Fanferlot (anagram of Fern aloft) is known as Mr.Squirrel. Lecoq has him assume the name Dubois. As well as Gaboriau, this clues the key to the Hill cipher.									
12.3	3rd pictorial formula	Glad rose = Wilson = James Spencer (model)	In Gaboriau's File No. 113, James Spencer is chosen to impersonate Raoul-Valentin Wilson (who died young) under the name of Raoul de Lagors (anagram of Glad Rose). Another clue to Gaboriau & Hill cipher key.									
12.4	sauvez au moins le droit de chasse pour l'honneur	"At least save the right to hunt for honour". This is from a song "La Chasse" (The Hunt) by Béranger.	Gaboriau's Monsieur Lecoq involves a book cipher using the songs of Béranger. This song and line were probably selected because of their hunt / hunter theme.									
12.5	3x3 Matrix in parentheses	All numbers from File no. 113 by Gaboriau, as clued by the top left cell, and the references above.. <table border="1"> <tr> <td>File # 113 (the English name of the book)</td> <td>Bank on RdP 87 (Fauvel bank on Rue de Provence)</td> <td>APB's 39 (Auguste Prosper Bertomy's address on Rue Chaptal)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year of old tricks 93 ("the old tricks of '93" – the marquis)</td> <td>Picture of a Clown – an old lady 2 (Clown's picture of an old lady)</td> <td>Criminal Code: 24 hours Article 93 (suspects to be seen in 24h)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fashionable Dressmaker 81 (Rue Lafayette, sign on 2nd floor)</td> <td>Marriage 15 (PSB and Mme. Fauvel married on the 15th)</td> <td>The Catastrophe 22 (Chapter XXII)</td> </tr> </table>	File # 113 (the English name of the book)	Bank on RdP 87 (Fauvel bank on Rue de Provence)	APB's 39 (Auguste Prosper Bertomy's address on Rue Chaptal)	Year of old tricks 93 ("the old tricks of '93" – the marquis)	Picture of a Clown – an old lady 2 (Clown's picture of an old lady)	Criminal Code: 24 hours Article 93 (suspects to be seen in 24h)	Fashionable Dressmaker 81 (Rue Lafayette, sign on 2 nd floor)	Marriage 15 (PSB and Mme. Fauvel married on the 15 th)	The Catastrophe 22 (Chapter XXII)	Key for this page's Hill cipher - see ciphers section above.
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Fashionable Dressmaker 81 (Rue Lafayette, sign on 2 nd floor)	Marriage 15 (PSB and Mme. Fauvel married on the 15 th)	The Catastrophe 22 (Chapter XXII)										
12.6	405931, 396189	Grid ref of Cock Hill	Links to LeCoq/Gaboriau and Hill cipher									
12.7	Wine	From Rooster Hill vineyards.	Rooster in French is LeCoq, so this is another clue to LeCoq/Gaboriau, coupled with a Hill Cipher clue. The last thing we solved on this year's hunt!									
12.8	A1	A1 scrabble tile	Clues A=1 technique in hill cipher									
12.9		Notre Dame de Orcival	Émile Gaboriau - Le Crime d'Orcival									
12.10		Thomas Alexandre Dumas Slavery Museum, Paris	Émile Gaboriau - Les Esclaves de Paris (The Slaves of Paris)									
12.11		Magic trick - making a toothpick disappear	Émile Gaboriau - Une Disparition (A disappearance)									
12.12		Thirteen steps	Thirteen steps down by Ruth Rendell. The Rendell clue on this page.									
12.13	Last pictorial Formula	Answer is Le Rouge (Red). The picture is Le Blanc (town), plus Le Rouge et Le Noir (Stendhal), minus Le Blanc et Le Noir (Voltaire)	Émile Gaboriau - L'Affaire Lerouge or the Lerouge Case, featuring Monsieur Lecoq.									
12.14	Red spot	Red dot / square.	The little red thing or 'L'Affaire Lerouge' French - links to Gaboriau book.									

Newsletter (Poster) and ATH News

Ref	Item	Interpretation
Heading and general items		
1		Picture of the ATH treasure chest prize (Pablo Memorial Trophy). There are two of them, to clue two boxes hidden (red box and ATHEXIT).
2		Chilean poet Pablo Neruda. Connects with hospital photo below to give PABLOSATH or Pablo's ATH.
3		Small Animal Teaching Hospital or "SATH". See relevance above.
4	ATH NEWS Tuesday 18th November	The 18th November 2019 was a Monday!!! So may refer to some event in another year.
5	Rainbow-coloured letters	Bolded, rainbow-coloured letters in each section i.e. yahloT . Put in ROYGBIV order they spell "Tallyho". May just be a reference to kicking off the (treasure) hunt as this is the cry when the quarry is spotted. "Somewhere over the Rainbow" is from 'Wizard of Oz'
6	Locations	Each of the six articles links to a location: Kansas (Oz), Czech Republic, Reading (the 4:50 from Paddington stops there), Switzerland, Prague and Greater London. No thematic connection between these we could find.
7	Typeface	Helvetica, which links to the Switzerland theme, see below.
Christmas Pantomime Cancelled		
8		Outline of Kansas state. Links to Wizard of Oz in text (Dorothy was from Kansas)
9	In a surprise announcement, the ATH entertainment team has cancelled its Christmas pantomime "Athexit." They cited allegations of bias amid the election climate as the reason why.	A Brexit reference. The rest of the section clues politicians associated with Brexit. ATHEXIT became a possible second box following the Banks Birthday message.
10	"I honestly can't see what all the ding-dong is about," complained director Jo Bercoz.	John Bercow plus Oz. Ding-dong refers to Ding dong the witch is dead from the film. And possibly ding-dong merrily on high as Xmas jollity.
11	This was all just a bit of fun, relating the story of Theresa, who is whisked away by a whirlwind to a fantasy world along with her entire House.	Theresa May. House pun on Dorothy's whole house taken to Oz by Cyclone, and House of commons.

12	She is joined on her epic journey to the Émeraude city	Probably just a Euro-version of Oz's Emerald City
13	by Boris the brainless Scarecrow,	Boris Johnson
14	Jeremy the cowardly Lion	Jeremy Corbyn
15	and Jacob the heartless Tin Man.	Jacob Rees-Mogg
16	Some claim the designation of Nicola as the good witch of the North	Nicola Sturgeon (Scotland being in the North)
17	and Arlene as the wicked witch of the West indicates a political agenda, but we are constrained by geographical realities and the original story.	Arlene Foster (NI being in the West). (The fact that the WoOz music was written by Harold Arlen is presumably a coincidence.)
18	Someone had to be the dog, and we are sorry that the character "Toto Farago" gave offence to a certain individual and his solicitors. We apologise for any unintended slight."	Nigel Farage as Toto the dog
19	The team is desperately seeking alternative holiday entertainment, but time is passing and this could well prove a forlorn hunt despite one's best efforts.	We think this refers to the need to look for the second ATHEXIT box
20	Chess Champ Floored by Czech Mate	A pun on Ivan falling over after his 'Czech Mate' (wife's) surprise check. Significance unclear.
21		Czech Republic. Links to Czech in text. Czech is a pun on Check (from Chess)
22	Celebrations at the ATH chess club got slightly out of hand last week, resulting in hospitalisation of their top player...	Reference not understood.
23	...Ivan Knight. Czech-born Ivan...	May just be a pun on I've a knight
24	who was awarded a grandmaster title in 1997, admitted to our reporter	Ruth Rendell was awarded Grand Master title from Mystery Writers of America in 1997
25	"It's all a bit of a blur. I'd had one or two drinks and was playing a friendly game against my homely wife Domova.	Domov is Czech for home (so Domova is presumably the feminine version).

26	I was white and as a joke I had advanced my king to e5 on the 5th move when things started going wrong. She replied Qa5 mate and I was so surprised I fell over and fractured two ribs. I still can't work out how it happened."	there aren't many starts that allow White to be able to play K to e5 on the fifth move. White's moves must be specifically pawn to d4, e3, e4 or f4, followed by the King moving one square up the e file at a time (either it avoids the pawn, or just possibly Black has taken it and the White K takes in return). Haven't yet worked out which moves allow Black to cover all the White king's escape options on to the 4th rank. Probably one of them is covered by the White Pawn mentioned above, another by a Knight, and the last one by a Bishop. Can Black do all those things in time?
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Reading on the Increase

27		Reading (marked in red on the outline of Berkshire). Links to 'reading' in the article title and the authors theme of the hunt. Reading (the place) is linked by the arrival time of the 4:50 from Paddington.
28	Despite concerns over a decline in national literacy, a recent survey has indicated an upturn in the number of books being read each year. The greater availability of films may have contributed to this. For example, the sale of Jane Austen novels surged when "Pride and Prejudice" was released on the screen, although reports of a similar boom in textbooks on linear algebra following "The Matrix" are apocryphal, while baptisms may actually have decreased as a result of "The Godfather".	Matrix links to Hill cipher. Books to the authors clued in the hunt. Other items unclear.
29	The numbers peak just before Xmas, with a similar peak in the New Year.	These two peaks are a clue to Twin Peaks which features in the hunt. I may also refer to the fact that we will have to do a lot of reading to solve this hunt – and that may come in peaks – once for the first box, and then again in the New Year after the Muddy Boots award confirms a second box.
30	It seems that dedicated outdoor types, such as the new Postmaster General	Refers to Lyon Playfair, after whom Wheatstone's code is named. He became PMG in 1873.
31	, preface their travels by perusing a wide variety of novels.	Outdoor types... prefacing travels with novels indicates we need to peruse the authors' works before we can set out to the box.

Subverting Swiss Security

32		Switzerland - the key for the playfair code supplied by Lady Emma.
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33	<p>Troubled by a string of thefts from numbered Swiss bank accounts, the gnomes of Zurich (no umlauts) have increased the size of their account numbers to lie between 40 and 80 digits to combat the thief. "This is mad," complained account holder, Baroness Bindie Diebin. "It will actually weaken security, as everyone will forget their number and will have to write it down. But I can reproduce mine whenever I need it. If you multiply mine by nine you get the same result as taking its last digit and moving it to the front.</p>	<p>This works out as 10112359550561797752808988764044943820224719</p> <p>Used to decode the letter string, see below. This number is the lowest 9-parasitic number (ref Wikipedia) and a Dyson number. We derived it from scratch, see "Bank account code" for details</p> <p>What is the relevance of Gnomes of Zurich (no umlauts) – not found And Baroness Bindie Diebin – not found</p>
34	<p>This isn't too bad, but I dare say one day they'll switch to letters and I'll have to remember XEIPRHDZXLRJGUSHLUOQG TPNIZTILAMVCVHIUUTGLBOC ."</p>	<p>A clue that you should use the above bank account number to extract meaning from this string of letters, in this case by going back the specified number of letters in the alphabet i.e.</p> <p>XEIPRHDZXLRJGUSHLUOQGTPNIZTILAMVCVHIUUTGLBOC 10112359550561797752808988764044943820224719 WEHOPEYOUGREATLYENJOYTHEARMCHAIRTREASUREHUNT</p> <p>A cheery message from the setters! Perhaps also a clue to caesar shift the answer letters in the Hunt page 10.</p>
35	<p>Tragic Death of Tennis Chairman</p>	<p>Relates to the story of Ruth Rendell and the local tennis club chairman's speech – see below for details.</p>
36		<p>Prague, including the Charles Bridge. See: https://www.vectorstock.com/royalty-free-vector/prague-skyline-silhouette-vector-11996314</p> <p>Links to Charles Wheatstone and his Bridge, and thus to the Playfair Cipher that he invented, used extensively in the hunt.</p>
37	<p>The West Hills tennis club</p>	<p>West Hills golf club features in the first Nero Wolfe book Fer De Lance. An early clue to Rex Stout/Nero Wolfe, but changed to tennis to clue Ruth Rendell too (see below)</p> <p>The area of Loughton encompassing Epping Forest is known as The Hills, so West Hills could arguably refer to the treasure site.</p>
38	<p>was shocked when its chairman suffered a heart attack while delivering an after-dinner speech. His widow told our reporter who attended the event:</p>	<p>Ruth Rendell's journo career ended (and writing career began) when she published a pre-prepared chairman's speech from the local tennis club dinner, in the Chigwell Times, instead of attending it. She found out later he'd had a heart attack. In Fer De Lance, the poisoned professor dies of a heart attack.</p>
39	<p>Sir Charles was going to talk about his personal code of which he was proud.</p>	<p>Sir Charles Wheatstone and his playfair code</p>
40	<p>He was always afraid of boring his audience and I think he would have been delighted to think that this was one speech no one will ever forget.</p>	<p>Wheatstone was a terrible public speaker - Wikipedia page says "In the rostrum he was tongue-tied and incapable, sometimes turning his back on the audience and mumbling to the diagrams on the wall."</p>

41	He will I'm sure be long remembered for his bridge skills."	Reference to the Wheatstone Bridge - hence clue to Wheatstone & Playfair code
Goalkeeper to be Honoured		
42		Sheffield - where Gordon Banks was born. Hunters Bar is a well-known area of Sheffield – so this may be another Hunter connection.
43	From the many to have passed away during the past year, the Armchair Sports Club has selected England goalkeeper Gordon Banks for its annual "Muddy Boots" award. Those of us old enough to recall the 1966 World Cup and the 1970 save of Rod Sill's header are delighted by this choice.	No idea. One of many references to Banks – possibly the earthworks in Epping Forest (e.g. Loughton Camp, Ambresbury Camp). Or some other Banks link e.g. Inspector Banks (who lives in Leeds – ties in with the ATH introduction, but no other obvious references.)
44	A formal announcement may be expected on his birthday.	Banks' birthday was 30th December - and indeed we got an extra 'clue' on that date, see below.
Holiday Weather Forecast		
45		Greater London - indicated that the box would be found within Greater London.
46	The outlook for Xmas and the New Year is moderate but mildly muddy. Woodland walks will work well,	Some hidden meanings in here, though may also just be advice for box finders (it was seriously muddy). Lots of repeated initials (in this case m & w) as seen later in the hunt too. We think all these alliterations (in poster and hunt) may be a reference to "hunting the letter" (old term for alliteration) and therefore clueing both the 'hunter' theme and also need to crack codes.
47	though unusually heavy footwear may prove useful.	Clues stone boots, a keyword in the main hunt. And also that it'll be muddy. Not clear why stone boots was selected.

Lady Emma's postscript (added to main site 25 November)

48	Lady Emma has requested we add: "Thank you to all the Newsletter readers for their kind messages of condolence.	Emma was Wheatstone's wife (though he outlived her) so another Playfair link. (She wasn't Lady Emma at all - she died before he was knighted.) [Possibly also links to Auntie Em in WofOz. And just possibly to Emma meaning M in army telegraph signalling.]
49	Sir Charles wished his ashes to be scattered abroad, in a country well-suited to his creations.	Switzerland would be suitable, as still uses Telex. Switzerland is the key for the Playfair cipher see below.
50	With this aim, a coach will be departing very early this morning from Leicester Square.	Swiss Centre is on Leicester Square. Another link to Switzerland

51	All who wish to come are welcome, but please be punctual	Swiss punctuality/clocks. Another link to Switzerland
52	and mention the booking reference ONCRKAZM	Decodes to "Pablo RIP", in memory of the hunt's creator. This is Playfair-encoded, using the keyword Switzerland. It is a 'pure' key with no repeated letters - a clue to the use of these in the main hunt, and generally to Playfair.
53	to the driver, who is our eldest.	Wheatstone's eldest was called Charles Pablo! Connects Wheatstone, Playfair and Pablo.
54	My husband loved hill-walking, especially in places with nearby hostelrys	Switzerland is noted for walking and hostelrys. Another link to Switzerland
55	for when he began to flag: that's a big plus!"	The Swiss flag features a big 'plus'. Another link to Switzerland

News - Monday December 9th		
56	The hunt release clock is ticking... Picture of 3 clocks	Times are 20:05, 20:12 and 20:19. A clue that hunt would be released at 20:05 on 20 Dec, 2019
57	... towards what would have been dinner-time tomorrow, were it 1582 in Lyon.	France changed to Gregorian calendar in 1582, skipping 10th-19th December inclusive. So in Lyon on 9th December 1582, tomorrow would have been 20th December, and dinner time could be around 20:05 (this confused me initially - as a northerner, deep-down I still associate dinner-time with mid-day!) Another confirmation of hunt release date & time.
58	Lyon	Lyon is in France which is required for the above clue, and presumably also a link to Lyon Playfair and the Playfair code.

News - Wednesday December 25th		
59	For (some of) those not celebrating today, see 	Same code as for christmas 'Carol' code – decodes to https://pablosath.com/chanukah.htm which has a picture of a zebra with a menorah in its stripes. Those of the Jewish faith would be among those not celebrating Christmas day. Loose link to the Ice Station Zebra question.

News - Monday December 30th		
60	As promised, the Muddy Boots award is announced here.	Poster clued that the award would be announced today, Gordon Banks' birthday.
61	Two treasure chests at top	Same as poster, clues 2 boxes (red box and ATHEXIT)
62	Footballer and Sath logo	Footballer is Pablo Sisniega. Sath logo is Sport at the Heart festival. Together make Pablos ATH
63	Award goes to Gordon Banks	Still no idea why. There are various Banks/Earthworks in Epping forest? Inspector Banks novels? Also Bank of England printing works/incinerator nearby in Debden

64	Nobody notices the mud when they're close to the goal	Nice quote - could equally apply to goalkeepers and treasure seekers.
65	In other recent news, the ATH entertainment team reports that several skilled investigative squads have volunteered to look into the theft of the Setters' safe deposit box including "ATHEXIT". It is rumoured that ATHEXIT may no longer be in the box as was previously believed. It's possible the perpetrators of the theft may have hidden it somewhere en route to their concealment of the box.	Suggests there may be another box - possibly additional directions or close to one of the waypoints on the route? Or use instructions in different order? Or possibly only the 6 instructions from the detective pages / 5-star Exif pages?
66	Have all possible paths yielded nothing else when you examine and recalculate?	Acrostic for Happy New Year . Also suggests we need to revisit what we've found to try to find further directions.
67	The Setters would very much welcome any news of both the box and ATHEXIT.	The Happy New Year message may indicate this is just a red herring to conceal that message. A bit elaborate though.
68	5 treasure boxes	Possibly linked to the oreo cookies on p1 which were part of the prize

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69	Pablo's ATH - unremitting, relentless labour.	Can be shortened to Pablo's ATH URL. Telling us that we can find more information at pablosath.com/xxxxxxx.htm . But what is xxxxxx? We tried obvious strings like ATHEXIT, Rendell etc, but must be more subtle.
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Bank account code

Program used to work out the Swiss Bank account number from the newsletter:

```
f_minus_2 = 0
f_minus_1 = 1
total = 101

for i in range(1,161):

    f = f_minus_2 + f_minus_1
    total = total * 10 + f
    f_minus_2 = f_minus_1
    f_minus_1 = f

for i in range(40, 81):

    possible_account_number = int(str(total)[0:i])
    nine_times_possible_account_number = 9 * possible_account_number
    rotated_possible_account_number = int(str(possible_account_number)[-1] + str(possible_account_number)[::-1])

    print(nine_times_possible_account_number, rotated_possible_account_number)

    if nine_times_possible_account_number == rotated_possible_account_number:
        print('Account number', possible_account_number)
        break
```

Which yields: 10112359550561797752808988764044943820224719

Other observations / connections

1. William Hartston who wrote the book on Sloths is an International Chess Master. He used to be married to a Czech Grandmaster called Jana Malypetrová. She has since married two other Grandmasters.
2. This bears similarities to the poster stuff about “my homely wife Domova”, or else it’s a cracking coincidence.
3. The reverend Dr. Sedley is a key witness in File No. 113. Interesting, though perhaps unintended, connection with Sedley Rise.
4. Rendell’s The Girl Next Door is partly set on ‘The Hill’ in Loughton. Again, perhaps unintended connection with the Hill cipher.
5. There are 6 detective themed pages and 5 others - maybe these relate to the 6 five starred Exif photos - but the pages don’t match. And then the non-detective pages are meant to be red herrings.