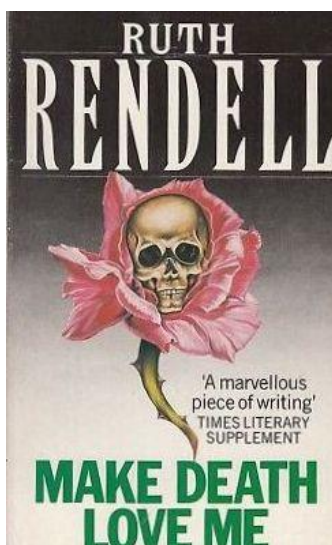


# Pablo's Armchair Treasure Hunt 2019

## The Psychologicals' Submission

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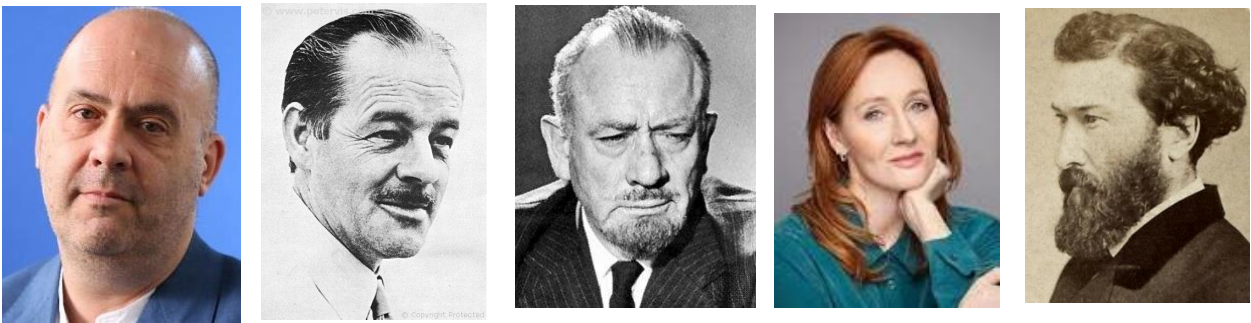


# Introduction

Pages 2-12 each relate to an author and their book titles. Page 1 also contains a link to each author



- ✉            ✉            ✉            ✉            ✉            ✉            ✉            ✉            ✉            ✉            ✉
- ✉    Pages 2-12 each contain ciphers and photos inside a border of envelopes (letters). The count of these ✉ envelopes is either 25 or 26 dependant on how many letters are used in the cipher's decoding alphabet. ✉
- ✉    There are 3 different cipher types: Playfair, Vigenere and Hill. The type of cipher is identifiable by the ✉ font used. Playfair ciphers use Playfair Display font, Vigenere are always in red, and Hill ciphers are ✉ always in italic bold, ✉
- ✉    The pictures are clues to the words Playfair and Hill, the latter also having a link to the Author. ✉
- ✉            ✉            ✉            ✉            ✉            ✉            ✉            ✉            ✉            ✉            ✉



Other recurring themes are Ruth Rendell, Chess, Hunter and Bank Robberies. Each page also contains a photo of a location on the route from Ruth Rendell's home in Loughton to the treasure's hiding place in Epping Forest.

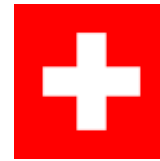
Within this document, hyperlinks lead to relevant information (eg the Author's books) found on the internet.



# Hunt Home Page

## 18<sup>th</sup> November postscript.

- Lady Emma and Sir Charles Wheatstone
- “Leicester Square” - Hill cipher invented by American mathematician Lester S Hill. ([Peace campaigners Muriel and Doris Lester lived on Baldwin's Hill, Loughton](#))
- “our eldest” - Charles and Emma’s children are Charles **Pablo** Wheatstone (1847), Arthur William Frederick Wheatstone (1848), Florence Caroline Turle (1850), Catharine Ada (1853), Angela (1855)
- “hill-walking” - refers to Hill ciphers
- “nearby hostelryes” - Foresters Arms, Loughton
- “flag: that’s a big plus!” - refers to flag of Switzerland
- “country well-suited to his creations” - SWITZERLAND has no repeated letters making it an ideal key for a Playfair Polybius square
- booking reference - Playfair key SWITZERLAND=**PABLO RIP**
- using COOMBS (Pablo Coombs) gives SIMPHEXS (hex used in photos)
- Pablo died Friday, 19th October 2007; 132 years to the day after Charles Wheatstone
- The 1986 hunt, which was a year when 18th November was a Tuesday, had this pic, drawn by Brian Jackson, co-setter with Pablo.
- Lady Emma died (1866) before Charles (1875), so the article is wrong!



## Monday December 9th:

- Lyon has a famous astronomical clock.
- Lyon **Playfair** promoted Charles Wheatstone's cipher
- France changed from Julian to Gregorian Calendar on 9 December 1582 JU where the next day was 20 December 1582 GR
- Clocks refer to the 2005 and 2012 hunts. In the 2005 hunt, Rosalind Barden was Best overall solution. In the 2012 hunt, Lady Strange & the Earl of Yarborough were the 2nd best solution

## Wednesday December 25th:



This is a slightly different festive link to the Christmas one on page 1 and decodes to

[PABLOSATH.COM/CHANUKAH.HTM](http://PABLOSATH.COM/CHANUKAH.HTM)

*"This image has been on the internet since at least 2012, and though the underlying photograph of a zebra is real, the pictured zebra doesn't have menorah-shaped stripes. The original image can be found on iStock. It was taken at Kruger National Park in South Africa. The altered version has circulated widely throughout the years, with a tendency to resurface around Hanukkah" (Chanukah).*



From the Setters

The associated comment “Festive and weakly connected quadruped added to site.” refers to “**Ice Station Zebra**”

## Thursday December 26th.

- Picture of “Love Unlimited” replaced with one of “The Fuzz”

## Monday December 30th.

pictures:

- [Pablo Eduardo Sisniega Fink](#)
  - [Sport at the Heart logo](#)
- Pablos ATH**



*"Have all possible paths yielded nothing else when you examine and recalculate?"*  
Initial letters spell **Happy New Year**

## Saturday Jan 11th

- *"Pablo's ATH - unremitting, relentless labour. Just two more days to find the box, locate ATHEXIT and submit your entry." URL*

## ATH News

Photos on top of page:

- **Pablo** Neruda, poet and politician from Chile, Nobel prize literature 1971
- **Small Animal Teaching Hospital**, Institute of Veterinary Science, University of Liverpool

**Spells Pablo S A T H, Pablo's ATH.**

**Tuesday 18th November.** 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019 was not a Tuesday. The most recent year was 2014 - the year of the "Life" Pablo ATH. The current setters (Lady Strange & the Earl of Yarborough) were [first to treasure](#) that year.

In spectrum order the coloured letters spell **Tally Ho**. Pablo's (Paul Coombs) Fox Hunt in 2005 had Tally Ho on the first page. Tally-Ho is a brand of playing card made by the US Playing Card Co. They make a [Spectrum](#) version with different coloured backs....

All the country/state/city silhouettes are on [Vectorstock](#). The Berkshire one is the only one where the silhouette has been reversed.

### Christmas Pantomime Cancelled

black outline is Kansas.

**"The Reason Why"** (second sentence) is a non-fiction book by Ruth Rendell.

Text is an allegory of "The Wizard of Oz" books by L Frank Baum. The story starts in Kansas.

- Kansas contains a city named Zurich (population 99) and another named Reading
- Kansas City has a suburb named Sheffield
- Wilson, Kansas promotes itself as the Czech capital of Kansas
- quote from The Matrix "It means buckle your seatbelt, Dorothy, 'cause Kansas is going bye-bye."
- Paramount executives wanted The Godfather movie to be set in contemporary Kansas City and shot in the studio backlot in order to cut down on costs.
- Muddy Boots Farms is a local farm in Murdock, Kansas
- Émeraude is French for emerald
- "ding-dong" - the Oxford Book of Carols is used to decode the cipher in the Comment of photo 10

The text references UK politicians and BREXIT:

- Jo Bercoz - John Bercow and/or Jo Swinson
- **Theresa** May
- **Boris** Johnson
- **Jeremy** Corbyn
- **Jacob** Rees-Mogg
- **Nicola** Sturgeon
- **Arlene** Foster
- Toto Farago - Nigel Farage
- a version of "ding-dong the witch is dead" was released after Margaret Thatcher died.

### Chess Champ Floored by Czech Mate

black outline is Czechia

- Wife's name Domova Knight (Do move a knight)
- "domov" means "home" in Czech
- **"Going Wrong"** (penultimate sentence) is a book by Ruth Rendell
- Actor George Baker who plays **Inspector Wexford** was [nursing some fractured ribs](#) whilst filming the 23rd tv episode **Harm Done**.
- [Mystery Writers of America](#) bestowed **Ruth Rendell with their Grand Master Award in 1997** (Agatha Christie received one in 1955, Rex Stout in 1959, Ed McBain in 1986)

The described chess game seems to be impossible.

One sequence would be 1 f4 c5, 2 Kf2 Nc6, 3 Kf3 c5, 4 Ke4 Nf6 Check, 5 Ke5 Qa5 Mate.

However White's 5<sup>th</sup> move is into check! The rules regarding this, are subject to interpretation. In a speed (blitz) game it's possible to occur. The rules state that either the moves should be rewound to the point where the king moved illegally or the game should be abandoned or forfeited. The aim of the game is to force your opponent into an unavoidable checkmate rather than actually take the king. However, given that white immediately gets checkmated does this equate? The para says the move was a joke and the whole game was a bit of a blur, so maybe this is what happened.



There is also a [Czech variant](#) whereby a pawn is placed on the square from which the checking-piece moves, but that doesn't produce a solution either.

A solution can be obtained if Black to started the game. Then the Qa5 mate move would be black's 6th move.

There was a chess problem in the 1997 hunt. It was included mainly because Pablo met someone in a pub who claimed to be chess champion of Northern Europe (or something) and conclusively demonstrated that it was impossible.

### Reading on the Increase

Negative black outline is Berkshire with an area of Reading marked in red. There are some odd extensions to the county boundary possibly showing [hilly areas or ridges](#) on the map. But there's also an extra at Dorney, where the Eton boat lake is, and that's quite low.

- Logica had its headquarters in a suburb of Reading. CGI have a branch in Reading
- Lyon **Playfair**, who promoted Charles Wheatstone's cipher, was Postmaster General in 1873/1874.
- "The Matrix" is a link to matrices used in **Hill ciphers**. References to the film occur in the hunt.
- Linear algebra is an important component of calculating the inverse of a matrix. The inverse is required to decode a Hill cipher.
- The word "peak" occurs twice in the text - "Twin Peaks" is a key in the Tibor Fischer cipher solve.
- There is a Whiteknights Park (Chess) and a Foxhill House (Tallyho).
- Jane Austen attended Reading Ladies Boarding School, based in the Abbey Gateway, in 1784-1786
- The negative image could be a clue to the black and white chess moves being reversed
- *"The numbers peak just before Xmas, with a similar peak in the New Year. It seems dedicated outdoor types, such as the new Postmaster General, preface their travels by perusing a wide variety of novels."* This section describes the teams searching for the treasure box.
- The red spot is on Reading University. The main area is **Whiteknights** Campus.
- **Mafia!**, also known as Jane Austen's Mafia!, is a 1998 comedy film spoof of The Godfather directed by Jim Abraham.
- Jane Austen's real godfather was Rev. Samuel Cooke of Great Bookham in Surrey and her brother's adoptive parents were the **Knights**. Edward Austen had to become a Knight to inherit the childless Knights' properties. They lived in Steventon, Oxfordshire.
- There is a Pride and Prejudice chess team who appeared on [Eggheads](#). P&P was originally an all-women team but it has gradually switched to a nucleus of England male internationals with a female manager, Claire Summerscale. One member is [Harriet Hunt](#). She is at Cambridge at the moment, just like **Jonathan Mestel** who authored the hunt documents.
- An [NBC adaptation of Pride and Prejudice](#) includes chess. *"There is even time for the addition of some completely new material: Elizabeth becomes the first person to beat Darcy at chess."*

### Subverting Swiss Security

black outline is Switzerland

- The Swiss Baroness Bindie Diebin, "bin die Diebin" means "am the thief", specifically a female thief.
- **"The Thief"** (first sentence) is a book by Ruth Rendell
- The [44 digit account number](#) is 10112359550561797752808988764044943820224719. Shifting each letter of the cipher back by the digit in the same position decodes it to

**WE HOPE YOU GREATLY ENJOY THE ARMCHAIR TREASURE HUNT**

### Tragic Death of Tennis Chairman

skyline is Prague skyline with **Charles Bridge**

- After high school [Ruth Rendell](#) became a feature writer for her local Essex paper, the Chigwell Times. However, she was forced to resign after filing a story about a local sports club dinner she hadn't attended and failing to report that the after-dinner speaker had died midway through the speech
- Sir Charles is Sir Charles Wheatstone
- His personal code is **Playfair**. The Playfair cipher or Playfair square or Wheatstone-Playfair cipher is a manual symmetric encryption technique and was the first literal digram substitution cipher. The scheme was invented in 1854 by Charles Wheatstone, but bears the name of Lord Playfair for promoting its use.
- A Wheatstone bridge is an electrical circuit used to measure an unknown electrical resistance.
- Sir Charles Wheatstone was married to Emma West (West Hills).



Pablo Coombs at Charles Bridge

### Goalkeeper to be Honoured

black outline is Sheffield

- Gordon Banks was born in Sheffield on 30th December 1937. Hence the date of the Muddy Boots award announcement.
- Gordon Banks saved a header from Pele in 1970. Pele was named after the American inventor Thomas Edison. His parents decided to remove the "i" and call him "Edson", but there was a mistake on the birth certificate, leading many documents to show his name as "Edison", not "Edson", as he is called.
- The Swiss article states "no Umlauts", so Rod Sill = "röd sill", Swedish for "red herring".
- Gordon Banks didn't receive his [knighthood](#) because of gov. admin. error
- Gordon Banks could be a muddy boots instruction at the treasure site – GO Right Down ON Banks
- **Sean Bean** is a great supporter of Sheffield United football club.

### Holiday Weather Forecast

black outline is Greater London

- "unusually heavy footwear" is a reference to "**Stone Boots**" used as a key in the Ruth Rendell cipher on page 10.



# Page 1

## Red cipher

The code at the top of page 1 is ALSO in a Hill Cipher and the matrix is 9x9 with key PABLOSATH=

### EACH PRIME LETTER

Photos (left to right in each line)

[Tornado GR.4 fighter](#) jet banking in the setting sun during a low level sortie in the Welsh hills. Links to Wizard of Oz (ATH NEWS "Christmas Pantomime Cancelled").

inverted [satellite image of Banks peninsula at Christchurch, New Zealand](#)

The last 10 pictures represent books by Authors featured in the hunt.

- Emile Gaboriau "La Degringolade" - Album "Totality" by Rites Of Thy Degringolade
- Tibor Fischer "The Hungarian Tiger" - [Siberian Tiger cub](#), Hungary :
- Rex Stout "The Red Box" - [red wedding cake box](#) (also A C Doyle "The Adventure of the Cardboard Box")
- John Steinbeck "Tortilla Flat" - [corn tortilla](#). One of the characters is named Pablo
- J.K.Rowling "The Silkworm" - [silkworm caterpillar](#) (on mulberry leaves):
- Agatha Christie "The Mirror Crack'd from Side to Side" - broken mirror under kitchen worktop.
- Alastair MacLean "The Golden Gate" - [Golden Gate Bridge](#) in fog:
- A.C. Doyle "The Adventure of the Six Napoleons" - 6 @ 1859 French 20 Francs - [Napoleon III Bare Head](#) :
- Ed McBain "Lightning" - [lightning](#) : <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0112931/>
- Neil Gaiman "Stardust" - David Bowie as [Ziggy Stardust](#)

## Italic Text

*"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!"*

Each prime letter of this opening section gives

### A BOAT RIDE IS NOT NEEDED BUT WATER IS NEAR

## Text

para 1 contains "[opaquely](#)" and "[obscured](#)" which are answers in Alastair MacLean crossword on page 8

para 2 ends with "[modest reward](#)". Cross link to p10 q8.

In middle of text: 5 OREO cookies : <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oreo>

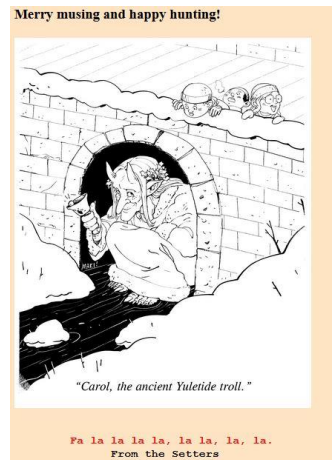
## The green symbols at the bottom

These are hand-picked [Christmas Emojis](#) rather than a specific font and display differently dependant on application/device. Additional ones are Star of [David and Menorah](#) plus Hebrew letter Alef which comes from a standard font set.



- |                                   |                                   |                          |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| A - 🎁 (Present)                   | K - א (Alef)                      | P - 🕯️ (Candle)          |
| B - 🎅 (Santa, See Below)          | L - 🎄 (Christmas Tree, See Below) | R - 🧦 (Socks)            |
| C - 🎄 (Christmas Tree, See Below) | M - 🦌 (Reindeer)                  | S - 🧊 (Snowman)          |
| H - 🔔 (Bell)                      | N - 🕎 (Menorah)                   | T - 🎅 (Santa, See Below) |
| I - 🍰 (Cake)                      | O - ⭐ (Star)                      | U - ⬡ (Star of David)    |

They decode to [PABLOSATH.COM/CHRISTMAS.HTM](http://PABLOSATH.COM/CHRISTMAS.HTM)  
This links to a Christmas message. The cartoon is by [Maki NARO](#).



## Page 2 A C Doyle

### Questions

0 John wasn't Dr Barton's first name - what was it?

**Hill Barton** - "[The Adventure of the Illustrious Client](#)" Holmes presents Watson with a fake business card styling him as "Dr. Hill Barton"

1 What barbarous forename is not part of the surname?

**Conan** (the Barbarian) Doyle is often referred to as "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" or "Conan Doyle", implying that "Conan" is part of a compound surname rather than a middle name. His baptism entry in the register of St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, gives "Arthur Ignatius Conan" as his given names and "Doyle" as his surname.

2 When Winter's revenge was virulently acidic, what was the client?

**Illustrious** - "[The Adventure of the Illustrious Client](#)" **Sherlock Holmes**  
**Kitty Winter** throws vitriol into the Baron's face

3 Near which establishment do cows apparently walk, canter and gallop?

**Priory School** - [The Adventure of the Priory School](#) - "*Only that it is a remarkable cow that walks, canters and gallops*"

4 Who took a cruise following a creek?

**Katie Holmes**. She used to date a guy from the series Dawson's Creek, before marrying Tom Cruise.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katie\\_Holmes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katie_Holmes)

5 Into which adventure does Sir Harry trespass, masquerading as a drunk rather than a murderer?

**Empty House**. In "The Adventure of the Empty House" Sir Harry Paget Flashman VC, KCB, KCIE is a fictional character created by Thomas Hughes (1822-1896) in the semi-autobiographical Tom Brown's School Days (1857) and later developed by George MacDonald Fraser (1925-2008)

In the short story Flashman and the Tiger by George MacDonald Fraser, Fraser's anti-hero Harry Flashman sets out to murder Sebastian Moran (character in The adventure of The Empty House), who is blackmailing Flashman's granddaughter. He trails Moran to Camden House, but instead witnesses Holmes capture him

6 What is right at the top of the Olympic construct?

**Red circle** The top right ring of the [Olympic symbol](#) is red. "[The Adventure of the Red Circle](#)"

Acrostic - **HCIPHER**

### Photos below questions

The first letter of the surnames of the people in the pictures, or the first letter of their name (if they have just one, like Adele), spell "**THE LION'S MANE**" - "[The Adventure of The Lion's Mane](#)"

- Dylan Thomas [portrait by Augustus John](#)
- Katherine Hepburn, [photo by Alfred Eisenstaedt](#)
- Elizabeth I, the [Darnley Portrait](#)
- D.H. Lawrence, [painted by Dorothy Brett](#)
- Isabella I, [Queen of Castille](#)
- Maureen O'Hara in [The Hunchback of Notre Dame](#). [Maureen O'Hara](#) (born Maureen FitzSimons) was an Irish and American actress and singer. She was a famous **redhead**"
- Willie Nelson : [Link](#)
- Tilda Swinton as [The Ice Queen](#)
- Alex McLeish, [Scotland Manager](#)
- Adele : [link](#)
- Holly Near, [Film Movement](#)
- Esau [selling his birthright to Jacob](#), Matthias Stom
- 4828 metres = 1 league. All people pictured in these 12 pictures plus "The Lion's Mane" are red-heads. This refers to [The Red-headed League](#), which ties in to the pawnbroker **Jabez Wilson**.

### Ciphers

surrounded by 26 letters indicating a full alphabet used to decode Hill ciphers

Scrabble A1 use Hill alphabet with A=1



Leicester City football team aka the [Foxes](#).  
Solsbury [Hill](#) (also a [song by Peter Gabriel](#)). Initials SH - Sherlock Holmes  
Leicester sounds like Lester. [The Hill Cipher is named after Lester S. Hill.](#)

Neo, character from the movie "[The Matrix](#)", played by Keanu Reeves - 4 pictures of Neo means use a 2x2 matrix for the Hill Cipher.

Rod Steiger as [Sol Nazerman](#) - "The Pawnbroker"  
JW= Jabez Wilson - pawnbroker in [The Red Headed League](#)

2x2 Hill cipher key SHJW=[JABEZ WILSON Y](#) ie Sherlock Holmes, John Watson initials  
2x2 Hill cipher key SHJW=[NOW USE REKORBNWAP AS A PLAYFAIR KEY I AND J NO Q](#) [this contains PAWNBROKER in reverse](#)  
Playfair cipher (No Q) key NOSLIWZEBAJ=[TAKE SIGNED FOOTPATH WEST](#)

Photos to right of cipher

Yellow face - [The Adventure of the Yellow Face](#)

[Red Carbuncle](#)

0.38c -> eyes

29/11/1803 - 17/3/1853 = [lifespan of Christian Doppler](#)

Doppler shift red to blue Radial velocity 0.38c. ["The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle"](#)

["The Adventure of the Missing Three Quarter."](#) - 1/6, 1/5, 1/4, 1/3, 2/5, 1/2, 3/5, 2/3, 4/5, 5/6. 3/4 is missing from the series.

["The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter."](#) - Ti metaglottizetai os "Diermineas"? [Dubbed it as "Interpreter"?](#) -

Photos at bottom of page

- ["The Adventure of the Devil's Foot"](#) - [Devil's Foot](#)
- ["The Adventure of the Second Stain"](#) - [Blood stains](#) -
- ["The Adventure of the Copper Beeches"](#) - Avenue of Copper Beeches -  
\_ linking the pictures

Violet

character Violet Hunter in ["The Adventure of the Copper Beeches"](#)

["Three Pipes"](#) - a popular stop for canoeists and kayakers. "Three pipes" is a quote taken from "The Red Headed League", one of 56 short stories written by Conan Doyle and which first appeared in The Strand Magazine in August 1891 with illustrations by Sidney Paget. The full quote reads "*it is quite [a three pipe problem](#) and I beg that you won't speak to me for fifty minutes.*"

photo on trail to box (MORAL) + "hind is readable". clicking on either marked areas in the picture opens <https://pablosath.com/moral.htm> which is headed "Hex, I find is readable" (ie EXIF added)

["The Crocodile Bird"](#) - [Ruth Rendell](#) - Egyptian plover bird and crocodile, [symbiosis](#)

["A Scandal in Bohemia"](#) - Skandal [Czech for scandal](#)



## Page 3 Rex Stout

### Top Row pictures

["The Rottweiler"](#) by Ruth Rendell - Rottweiler dog

["The Mother Hunt"](#) - The text on black background at the top is about a little particle looking for its mother (a W-Boson).

["The Father Hunt"](#) - The [George W. Hunt](#) Prize for Excellence in Journalism, Arts & Letters is awarded annually by the trustees of *America* and The Saint Thomas More Chapel and Center at Yale University. A native of Yonkers, New York, Father Hunt entered the Society of Jesus in 1954 and was ordained a priest in 1967.

tree on trail to box (REUSE) + "how we comply" ("now we complEXIFY" on link photo)

["The Doorbell Rang"](#) - [The Doorbell Rang](#) by Pat Hutchins



### Questions

1 **A** - (part of ATH)

2 Outraged by his neighbor's plot to kill Caesar, possibly a Zygon.

**Osgood** "Some Buried Caesar" - Frederick Osgood was outraged about killing of bull Caesar. neighbor was Thomas Pratt. In Dr Who "The Day of the Doctor" & ["The Zygon Invasion"](#) a Zygon took the form of [Petronella Osgood](#)

3 Lily, English and Bean, once of Canterbury.

**Rowan** - Lily Rowan, Archie Goodwin's sometimes girlfriend. Rowan Atkinson (Johnny) English and Mr. Bean and Archbishop Of Canterbury in 2013 Comic Relief special. Rowan Williams was 10th Archbishop of Canterbury

4 Inspector of a Swiss bank, of possible help with matrix inversion.

**Cramer** - Banque Cramer & Cie SA, based in Geneva, is a Swiss private bank specializing in wealth management. The company was founded in 1931 by [François Cramer](#). Cramer's Rule is a method of obtaining the inverse of a matrix which is essential to decoding a Hill cipher. Inspector Cramer, head of the New York Police Department's Homicide Division, is Nero Wolfe's main foil. He collaborates with Wolfe in the majority of the novels and short stories, but resents the high-handed manner in which Wolfe pursues his investigations.

5 Where did the first murder take place, while the victim was driving (ignoring direction)?

**Hills** - This is a story from ["Meet Nero Wolfe"](#). The murder on the golf course takes place at West Hills Golf Club (West Hills Tennis Club in the Poster). Answer is HILLS (ignoring direction)

6 Where the Nemesis is defeated, akin to Peter (the first beater) and George (o quinto).

**In The Best of Families**. This is the book in which arch Nemesis Arnold Zeck was defeated. [Pete\(r\) Best](#) was the first drummer (beater) of The Beatles. George Best was dubbed as ["O quinto Beatle"](#) (5th) by the Portuguese press.

7 Dude or Doxy, start the same and end the same.

**Death** - "Death of a Dude", "Death of a Doxy"

8 Both the hero and his creator are indubitably this.

**Stout**: creator Rex Stout and Nero Wolfe is stout (weight described as a seventh of a ton)

Acrostic keyword: **AORCHIDS** - **Looking after Orchids is a favourite hobby of Nero Wolfe.** [Tigerlily's Orchids](#) is a book by Ruth Rendell

1.228, 229; 2.244 or 1.212, 213; 2.196 are chess opening gambits. In hexadecimal:

1. E4, E5; 2. F4 = [King's Gambit](#)

2. D4, D5; 2. C4 = [Queen's Gambit](#)

**"Gambit"** - sideways picture is Colin Firth in Gambit

Gambit is a chess club. The book mentions **Ruy Lopez** and **Bobby Fischer**. There is a description, in Chapter 3, of the interior of the Gambit chess club. "In a corner was a chess table with a marble top, with yellow and brown marble for the squares, and the men spread around, not on their home squares. The Gazette had said that the men were of ivory and Kokcha lapis lazuli and they and the table had belonged to and been played with by Louis XIV, and that the men were kept in the position after the ninth move of Paul Morphy's most famous game, his defeat of the Duke of Brunswick and Count Isouard in Paris in 1858."

In the same chapter, Archie Goodwin tried to guess the next moves of a game that he was watching. After failing every

time, he "conceded that I would never be a Botvinnik...."

In Chapter 7, Morton Farrow says, "I'm all right the first three or four moves, any opening from the **Ruy Lopez** to the **Caro-Kann**, but I soon get lost. My uncle got me started at it because he thinks it develops the brain. I'm not so sure. Look at **Bobby Fischer**, the American champion. Has he got a brain?"

Dr. Victor Avery, in Chapter 8, claimed that he didn't hear any conversations during a chess game because he "was concentrating on my reply. I was trying the **Albin Counter Gambit**. **Houghteling** had used it against **Dodge** in 1905 and had mated him on the sixteenth move." The **Albin Counter Gambit** is the **Queen's Gambit** followed by **E5**

*Das nyeb mlu, Solo. Tsun knetto eihcra niwdoog, bnefnlle!* This is **Sullustese** (Star Wars) for "We copy, General Solo. We'll keep you on our tracking screens. Good luck!". **Bnefnlle** was the small modified light freighter owned by **Niev Jaub**. (Note: *eihcra niwdoog* is **Archie Goodwin** reversed, a reference to the famous writer and editor.) **Archie Goodwin** is **Nero Wolfe's** assistant in the **Rex Stout** novels.

"The **Black Mountain**" - **Ymynydddu** = Y Mynydd Du = The Black Mountain (Welsh)

### middle pictures

**DOT** above the country outline indicates to use the two letter domain 'dot' suffix.

**Dominican Republic**. = DO

crossed arrows

map of UK turned sideways = UK

*Thematic link, somewhat stretched*

This is a matrix multiplication.

(DO) x (UK) the UK is on its side because this matrix should be written vertically with the U above the K.

Converting to numbers and multiplying as a matrix (as in the Hill cipher)

$$\begin{bmatrix} 4 & 15 \end{bmatrix} \times \begin{bmatrix} 21 \\ 11 \end{bmatrix} = 249 = 15 \pmod{26} = O.$$

There is a Nero Wolfe novella called "**The Zero Clue**"

### Ciphers

surrounded by 26 letters indicating a full alphabet used to decode Hill ciphers

Playfair key **AORCHIDS=NEXT KEYWORD IS DETECTIVES FAVOURITE FISH EGGS**

Playfair key **SHADROE=ENCODING MATRIX IS THE DETECTIVES NAME X**

3x3 Hill key **NEROWOLFE=FOLLOW PATH TO RIGHT BY FENCE. CROSS ROAD**

14	5	18
15	23	15
12	6	5

### cipher pictures:

Ludo = Latin "I Play"

Parsley, Sage, Rosemary, Thyme (Scarborough Fair)

-

Scarborough (& Whitby Brewery) Regal **Stout** beer mat

Play Scarborough Fair - Scarborough = **PLAYFAIR**

Rex **Hill** Pino Gris (Rex / **Rex Stout**)

Scene from The Matrix film repeated 3 times vertically and horizontally - use **3x3 Matrix**

### bottom pictures

**unidentified tank** driving down dirt road.

**B4071** - runs from Saul to Fromebridge. **Sabre Roads description** "Immediately after the bridge, the **B4071** turns sharply right and follows the canal for a short distance before bending a number of times and reaching the village of Saul. The **B4071** ends without warning at the northern end of Saul High Street, still inside the village."

Panzer is the German word for tank; The character in the Nero Wolfe stories is called **Saul Panzer**.

**Chieftain Mark 11** tank

Alfred Hitchcock. **Ethelbert Hitchcock** (aka Geoffrey Hitchcock) is one of Nero Wolfe's contacts in London **B3129** (runs across the Brunel Clifton suspension bridge). **Ethelbert** was a chieftain of Kent.

"The **Golden Spiders**" - Bottom right photo is from a video about **baby golden spiders**:

## Page 4 Agatha Christie

### Questions

1 Rembrandt implied it went top to bottom, though right to left would be more normal.

**Mene (writing on the wall)** - In Rembrandt's 1635 Balthazar's Feast (National Gallery, London), a mysterious hand writes the words: Mene Mene Tekel Upharsin in Hebrew letters on the wall. Rembrandt may have consulted Manasseh about the script and in what manner the writing should be arranged. He wrote the words from top to bottom, according to an old Jewish tradition. <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/rembrandt-van-rijn> Normally Hebrew is written right to left. Both reference Balthazar's Feast in Book of Daniel. - **"The Moving Finger"**

2 Lizzy Borden, predestined in Sheppey.

**Appointment With Death** - The band Lizzy Borden have an album called Appointment with Death [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Appointment\\_with\\_Death\\_\(album\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Appointment_with_Death_(album)). **Sheppey** is a play by Somerset Maugham in which Joseph Miller ("Sheppey") is visited by Death and says "I wish now I'd gone down to the Isle of Sheppey when the doctor advised it. You wouldn't 'ave thought of looking for me there." Death replies along the lines that he had an appointment with him. That play then inspired another book called "Appointment in Samarra". This is also the title of a Poirot mystery **"Appointment With Death"**

3 Who mislaid \$1000000, ending up at Ivinghoe?

**Philip Ridgeway** - **The Million Dollar Bond Robbery** Ivinghoe Beacon is on the Ridgeway

4 Emulator of Greek labourer heard a leek chez lui.

**Hercule Poirot** - Hercules was the Greek labourer; Poireau in French means leek and sounds like Poirot

5 For whom did Merton's Catholicism prove fatal?

**Lord Edgware** - **Lord Edgware Dies** - **Poirot mystery**. Her motive in killing Lord Edgware is that the Duke of Merton was a Roman Catholic

6 Local feature of tidal locking, recognised in part by Blake.

**Endless Night** - Tidal locking results in the Moon rotating about its axis in about the same time it takes to orbit Earth. If the Moon were not rotating at all, it would alternately show its near and far sides to Earth, while moving around Earth in orbit. (the moon keeps its same face towards the earth). William Blake "Some are born to endless night". **"Endless Night"**

Acrostic - **MARPLE**

### Photos below questions

The first 5 represent Agatha Christie books:

- **The Big Four** **4**. The Big Four references the Ruy Lopez chess opening used on page 10. "I recounted all this to Poirot. He merely stared at me as though he scarcely took in what I was saying. He held out the chess book. "Listen to this, my friend. This is the Ruy Lopez opening. 1 P-K4, P-K4; 2 Kt-KB3, K-QB3; 3 B-Kt5. Then there comes a question as to Black's best third move. He has the choice of various defences. It was White's third move that killed Gilmour Wilson, 3 B-Kt5. Only the third move—does that say nothing to you?"
- **The Mystery Of The Blue Train** - **Blue Train**, Cape Town, South Africa
- **Crooked House** - **The Crooked House** pub
- **The Man In The Brown Suit** - **Ryan Gosling in La La Land** wearing a brown suit
- **Curtain** - Charcoal Belgian linen curtains - Hercule Poirot was Belgian.

fallen shower curtain - Ruth Rendell **"The Fallen Curtain"**

### Ciphers

surrounded by 26 letters indicating a full alphabet used to decode Hill ciphers

Playfair (no J) key MARPLE= **NEXT KEYWORD ON WHAT BONDS VANISHED** The Bonds in The Million Dollar Bond Robbery vanished on the ship Olympia.

Playfair (no J) key OLYMPIA=**BELGIANS NEURONES AND GLIAX** (grey cells)

3x3 Hill key GREYCELLS=**HEAD DOWN TO L NOTE RUNGED TREE AND BENCH TO R**

[Illustrations of the Huttonian Theory of the Earth](#) by John Playfair

"ABC Murders" with 2nd location Bexhill on Sea missing [The A.B.C. Murders](#)

Bex Fowler in Eastenders

Bexhill - Bex = Hill

Numbers spell THE MATRIX - **this is a hint to put the next key word into a 3x3 matrix for a Hill Cipher decode (Matrices used in Hill ciphers)**

bottom photos

- [The Body In The Library](#) - Cluedo board game, Professor Plum, Dagger, and Library cards
- ["Five Little Pigs"](#) - [Five piglets](#) -
- [Cards On The Table](#) - The Fool and other [Tarot cards](#)

[Peter Westmacott](#), ambassador - Agatha Christie used a pen name [Mary Westmacott](#)

Ammeter diagram, [Wheatstone bridge](#)

Inventor - The Wheatstone Bridge was actually invented by [Samuel Hunter Christie](#)

Prophet Samuel - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel> - possible connection to Samuel Morse

Retime + music note. This must link to "Hunter"

Samuel Hunter Christie - Samuel Hunter = **Christie**

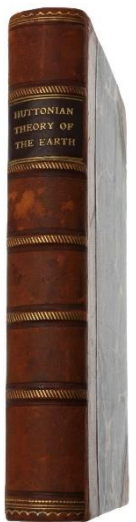
photo on trail to box (MINER)

"[The Mystery of Hunter's Lodge](#)" - [Hunters Lodge](#), Kingskerwell, Teignbridge. Could link to "[The Secret House of Death](#)" by [Ruth Rendell](#). "A rustic sign with its name burnt on in pokerwork informed him that he had arrived. Nothing else gave a clue as to why this place had been named '[The Swiss Chalet](#)'."



"[4.50 From Paddington](#)" - RDG1722 – The 16:50 train from Paddington (PAD) arrives in Reading (RDG) at 17:22

Departs at <b>16:50</b>	0h 32m <a href="#">view details</a>	Arrives <b>17:22</b>	✓	<b>£25.90</b>	<a href="#">Buy now</a>
<b>London Paddington</b> [PAD]		<b>Reading</b> [RDG]		Anytime	<a href="#">Other tickets</a>
		Buy from Great Western Railway		<a href="#">Other services you can travel on</a>	



## Page 5 Neil Gaiman

### Questions

1 **T** - (part of ATH)

2 Who committed the first murder, somewhat mysteriously before the universe was created?

**Saraqael** - The book is somewhat vague, but consensus is that Saraquel murdered Carasel (spellings vary) <https://unstablemolecules.com/viewtopic.php?t=8809> Sympathetic Murderer: "It's pretty hard to not empathize with Saraquael. Hell, even Lucifer sheds tears for him." - "[Murder Mysteries](#)" (murder....mysteriously)

3 Who had to stay below at the British Museum underground station?

**Hunter** - In "Neverwhere" Door and Richard travel to the Museum, while Hunter, due to a curse which prevents her from entering London Above, remains in the abandoned British Museum underground station. After some searching they find the Angelus, which Door "opens" using her family's Talent, and travel through it to the underground home of the angel. Islington explains that his position as protector of London Below is a punishment for the submersion of Atlantis, which was also under his care, and tells Door that he will help her learn the identity of those who killed her family, for a price. She and her company must retrieve a unique key from the Black Friars and bring it to the angel.

4 Sin, Kin and Gaol, for example.

**American Gods**. Sin, Kin and Gaol are all gods in American mythology.

Sin - sky god in [Haida mythology](#)

Kin - sun god of the [Maya](#)

Gaol (or Gaoh) - wind god in [Iroquois mythology](#)

5 Who was accidentally imprisoned for 72 endless years in place of his sister?

**Dream** - In the first volume of [Sandman](#), Dream is mistakenly captured by Roderick Burgess, from the Order of the Ancient Mysteries, who intended to capture his older sister Death to achieve immortality. In fear of penalty, Burgess keeps Dream imprisoned for 72 years. When Dream finally escapes, he faces the perilous challenge of reclaiming his totems of power: his helm, a ruby, and a pouch of sand.

6 When the predictions were nice, what were good?

**Omens - Good Omens**: The Nice and Accurate Prophecies of Agnes Nutter, Witch Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman

7 Who robbed a bank with Moon, and when did they meet?

**Mr Wednesday**. Shadow Moon and Mr Wednesday rob a bank in chapter 5 of "[American Gods](#)". "When working on the structure of a story linking gods and days of the week, Neil realised that this idea had already been used in Eight Days of Luke. He abandoned the story, but later used the idea when writing [American Gods](#) to depict Wednesday (an aspect of Odin) and Shadow meeting on the god's namesake day."

Acrostic **TSHADOW**

### Top photos

**"Seven Deadly Sins"** - cover of "[Sloths](#)" by William Hartston, upside down - Sloths of the present day are arboreal mammals noted for slowness of movement and for spending most of their lives hanging upside down in the trees of the tropical rain forests of South America and Central America.

[Moon's shadow on earth during solar eclipse](#) - **Shadow Moon** (character in American Gods)

**"The Ocean at the End of the Lane"** - "[A West Country street leading towards the sea](#)", by James Heseldin.

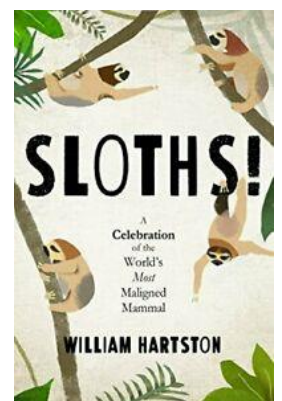
### Ciphers

surrounded by 25 letters indicating a 25 letter alphabet (no Q) used to decode Hill ciphers

Playfair key TSHADOW=**MUMXMY MAKER WITH X HONORIFIC IS NEXT KEY** (Note: X has been added because you can't encode a double letter pair in playfair code, MM and HH)

Playfair key MRJACQUEL=**MAIN GOD IN STORY TWO X TWO NO Q** (I and J treated as same character).

- In "American Gods", Mr Jacquel - otherwise known as Anubis - makes his living at the Ibis and Jacquel Funeral Parlour which he runs with his partner Mr Ibis (Demore Barnes). Anubis is the Ancient Egyptian god of the dead and mummification.



2x2 Hill no Q key ODIN=**AFTER A BOGGY FURLONG NOTICE NO NUTS OR SPOONS**

"I can never fear that things will go far wrong." - Thomas Jefferson [The Adams-Jefferson Letters](#) - continues "where common sense has fair play."

Morse code - **HILL HOUSE**.

"House" - Hugh Laurie as Dr House. House is a work by Neil Gaiman

Hill House - house = HILL.

### Bottom photos

- "Snow, Glass, Apples" - mini apples in snow -
- "Cinnamon" - cinnamon sticks
- "Stardust" - [Stardust, NASA space craft and comet Wild 2](#) which it encountered.
- "[The Sandman](#)" - [a sculpture of Dynamo](#), magician from Bradford, and his playing cards. Commissioned as a summer display, they were created by the 'Sand in your Eye' team, who are based locally.

photo on trail to box (TREAT)

**Inspector Wexford - Ruth Rendell** - Wexford, Ireland, Slaney Estuary

"**Death: The High Cost of Living**" - [Ath Cliath sign for Dublin](#) with the letters Cli raised. CLI is abbreviation for Cost of Living Index. Also each ATH start and end can be preceded by DE to make DEATH. This is not a real sign as those have the Irish A. Instead it's from a [poster](#). If Cli is replaced by the B below (from DUBLIN) it reads Ath Bath. The 2012 Pablo Hunt theme was Bath.



## Page 6 Ed McBain aka Evan Hunter

### Questions

1 Which larger than life house-doctor kept America in Republican control (and kept it)?

**Taub** - [Russell Taub](#), A former Republican congressional candidate and major 2018 GOP donor has been indicted for using a super PAC to funnel more than \$1 million in contributions to himself. Taub is German for deaf, like the Deaf Man

2 Who wouldn't compromise with Koch?

**Heckler** - The [Heckler & Koch](#) company's motto is "Keine Kompromisse" (no compromises). ["The Heckler"](#) is one of the books in the 87th Precinct series.

3 Associates of Almighty Hillman.

**Evan Hunter** (Evan Almighty (see Steve Carell below), Hillman Hunter)

4 Where, in a lull, might you know to find: Musk rose, Eglantine rose, Oxlip, Woodbine, Thyme, Violet ?

**Bank** -

Spoken by Oberon, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Act 2, Scene 1

*I know a bank where the wild thyme blows,  
Where oxlips and the nodding violet grows,  
Quite over-canopied with luscious woodbine,  
With sweet musk-roses and with eglantine:  
There sleeps Titania sometime of the night,  
Lull'd in these flowers with dances and delight;*

5 Which island was elected to a rocky parliament in duemilatredici?

**Isola** - The 87th Precinct novels are set in the fictional city of [Isola](#). This is Italian for island. duemilatredici is Italian for 2013, [Albert Isola](#) was elected in a Gibraltar 2013 by-election. Gibraltar is also called "The Rock", which explains the "rocky parliament". Ruth Rendell wrote a book called "Sim**isola**".

6 How was the Bank of Ireland alternatively known to Knight and Kemp?

**Robbery with Violins** - Steeleye Span's (Peter Knight, Rick Kemp). ["Robbery with Violins"](#) is better known as "The Bank of Ireland" [Steeleye Span](#) - Peter Knight - Rick Kemp. ["The Mugger"](#) book cover on the wiki page has "Robbery, Assault and MURDER!"

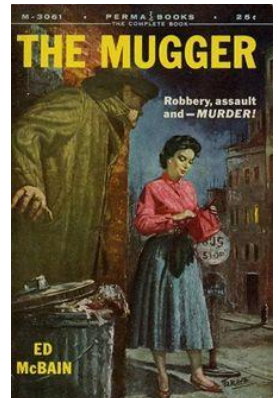
[Robbery with Violins' with crossed out picture of violin = Robbery](#)

7 For whom was dimly heard 27th of the 57 of the 87th?

**The Deaf Man** - The 87th Precinct Mysteries. '27th episode [Let's Hear It for the Deaf Man](#) (1973)

8 Added C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>8</sub>O<sub>7</sub> and removed C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>. Quoi?

**S** - Citric Acid/E330 and MDMA/Molly/Emma/Ecstasy/E respectively



Acrostic - **THEBIRDS** Evan Hunter/Ed McBain did the screenplay for Hitchcocks ["The Birds"](#)

*Haydn's epitaph* - [Haydn's epitaph](#) was written by himself: "Vixi, scripsi, dixi" - "I lived, I wrote, I spoke". [Ruth Rendell's motto](#) on her Coat of Arms is Vixi Scripsi

### middle pictures

Merlin, Egret, Yellowhammer, Eagle, Robin, 2 = MEYER MEYER - Meyer Meyer is a character in the ["87th Precinct"](#) series

### Ciphers

surrounded by 26 letters indicating a full alphabet used to decode Hill ciphers

Playfair key THEBIRDS=**THEMATIC AUTHORS PSEUDONYM**

Playfair key EDMCBAIN=**DEAF NOVEL FOUR FOUR X FOUR MATRIX**

4x4 Hill key EIGHTBLACKHORSES=**TAKE MAIN PATH UP WNW A HUNDRED RODS TO CLEARING WITH A POST**



The Play That Goes Wrong  
New York State Fair  
=Playfair

Formulae for Hill's Spherical Vortex. Writing as Hunt Collins, Evan Hunter wrote "Tomorrow's World". Wikipedia claims this was later published as "**Sphere**" by Ed McBain, but it's more likely Sphere Science Fiction were the publishers.

pictures at bottom

Ed McBain books:

- "**The Fuzz**" - The Fuzz. Original picture of Love Unlimited was incorrectly attributed on [YouTube](#)
- "**Eight Black Horses**" - [Silhouette des chevaux](#) is the 4th "Deaf Man" novel (see cipher decode)
- "**Mischief**" - [Mischief \(and Repose\)](#) by John William Godward
- "**Hark!**" - "[Hark The Herald Angels Sing](#)" score (D Major)

[White Dove](#)  
[Swede](#)

"**Dendove**" was one of the aliases of "The Deaf Man". "Den Dove" is Swedish for "the deaf".

[Bjork](#) "[Hunter](#)" video

photo on trail to box (YEAST)

Green arrow

[Steve Carell](#) as [Evan Baxter](#) in Tom Shadyac comedy fantasy '[Evan Almighty](#)' 2007

Scrabble tile A1

[Steve Carella](#) is a character in the "87th Precinct" series (scrabble A behind [Steve Carell](#))

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



# Page 7 Tibor Fischer

## Questions

1 Michelangelo/David

-  
Claude Michel

=  
Angelo Badalamenti & David Lynch "Thought Gang" In 1991, Angelo Badalamenti and David Lynch decided to form the jazz project Thought Gang. The short-lived effort lasted through 1993 and led to two tracks included on the soundtrack for Lynch's **Twin Peaks: Fire Walk with Me** (1992) and a few scattered pieces on other Lynch films, like 2001's Mulholland Drive and 2006's Inland Empire.

=  
Auguste Rodin, 3 x "The Thinker"  
**Thought Gang** - Michelangelo/David - (Claude) Michel = Angelo (Badalamenti) & David (Lynch) "Thought Gang" = Auguste Rodin, 3 x "The Thinker" = "**The Thought Gang**"

2 Who thematically lost in 1957 to a future chess champion in Milwaukee?  
**Weinberger, Tibor** - Bobby Fischer v Tibor Weinberger [1957 Milwaukee](#)

3 Under what circumstances shouldn't you read this book?  
**If you're stupid** - alternative title for "The Thought Gang" is "Don't read this book if you're stupid"

4 At what does the black dog repeatedly run?  
**Night** - "[The Black Dog Runs At Night](#)" is a song on the soundtrack of Twin Peaks: Fire Walk with Me. The song is composed by Angelo Badalamenti and performed by Thought Gang. The only lyrics in the song are "the black dog runs at night" which is repeated at regular intervals by David Lynch.

5 Flower chamber hot lobster stew black pepper and melting?  
**Pot** - can follow each word - Fischer's subsequent novels include The Thought Gang, about a delinquent and alcoholic philosophy professor who hooks up with a failed one-armed bandit in France to form a successful team of bank robbers, and The Collector Collector, about a weekend in South London, narrated by a 5000-year-old Sumerian pot.

6 Eddie Murphy/Buckwheat, Alex Murphy - potatoes (murphys in Ireland) - Alex by Peattie and Taylor = Eddie **Eddie** - **The Thought Gang** is the second novel by English author Tibor Fischer, published in 1994. ... combining bank robbery and high philosophy', it tells the unlikely tale of Eddie Coffin

7 What subbatrachian location couldn't be worse in Hungarian?  
**Arse** - Batrachian = a frog or toad. Tibor Fischer's first novel was "[Under the Frog](#)" The title is derived from a Hungarian saying, that the worst possible place to be is "under a frog's arse down a coal mine."

8 Who is it iSpy, fortis et fidus?  
**Kyle** - "iSpy" is a song by American rapper Kyle. "Fortis et Fidus" is [Clan Machlachlan](#) motto. Kyle Merritt MacLachlan is an American actor. He is best known for his role as Dale Cooper in **Twin Peaks**

9 (Sumerian Cuneiform) perhaps?  
**Sumerian** - letters are [Sumerian Cuneiform](#) for ABRAM. Abraham (Abram) may have been Sumerian. In [The Collector Collector](#) the story is narrated by an ancient Sumerian bowl.

Acrostic – **TWINPEAKS**

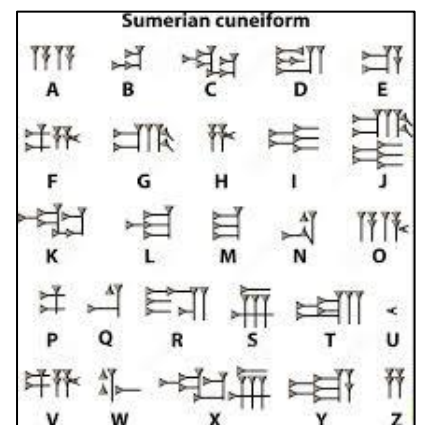
## Ciphers

surrounded by 25 letters indicating a 25 letter alphabet (no Z) used to decode Hill ciphers

Playfair key **TWINPEAKS=AUTHOR WITH PRECEDING INITIAL**

Playfair key **TFISCHER=NO Z FOUR X FOUR BOOK AND AUTHORS INITIALS**

4x4 Hill key **THETHOUGHTGANGTF=SHARP RIGHT INTO WOOD CONTINUE TO BANK**  
(whenever you see **NOZ** you need to use the Mod25 alphabet **YABC.....WX**)



The [ISBN](#) is for "The Philosophy of **Play**":

photos:

**Fair** by Tibor Boromisza

(Together make PLAYFAIR)

Fischer Hill Red by [Whitewater Wines](#), 10832 Fischer Hill Drive, Plainview, MN 55964-4003

Tim Hunter - [Tim Hunter](#) directed a few episodes of Twin Peaks :

[One-armed bandit](#) slot machine : satellite image of South Island, New Zealand, with red line at Lyttleton near Christchurch

[Hubert H. Humphrey](#)

[Humphrey Lyttleton](#) :

One-armed bandit / Lyttleton + Hubert Humphrey - Humphrey Lyttleton = One-armed bandit Hubert (character in "The Thought Gang")

[John Cleese](#) in Monty Python sketch "[Kilimanjaro Expedition \(Double Vision\)](#)" - "I'm leading this expedition and we're going to climb both peaks of Mount Kilimanjaro." - link to "Twin Peaks" (see Q1)

Monty Python were a great influence on [Tibor Fischer's humour](#)

Q *Who are some of the writers who in particular sort of shaped your sense of humor?*

TF: *I suppose when it actually comes to humor, it's probably television that had a bigger impact. Certainly Monty Python when I was growing up. We all used to act out scenes from Monty Python in school the day after, because that's when they were at their height of their powers and their popularity. So that had a big impact on me.*

[Old Mammoth Grape Vine](#), Santa Barbara, California - **Ruth Rendell also wrote as Barbara Vine**

photo on trail to box (FOXES)



## Page 8 Alastair MacLean

### Questions

1 **H** - (part of ATH)

2 Where are the Antarctic, Hamberg, Alfred and Misery?

**Bear Island** - Alfred, Antarctic, Misery and Hamberg are all names of mountains on "**Bear Island**"

3 See crossword, one is swapped.

**One Down is Air Force** words of "**Air Force One is Down**" swapped

4 Marked by tailors on land, but at sea one fewer do what?

**Toll** - Nine Tailors by Dorothy L Sayers relates to bell ringing and was the subject of a past hunt. At sea 8 bells are used to denote the time. "**When Eight Bells Toll**"

5 What takes a single day in Ireland but two decades in the Mediterranean?

**Ulysses** - the novel Ulysses by James Joyce takes place over one day in Ireland, Ulysses' journey home takes twenty years through the Mediterranean "**HMS Ulysses**"

6 Hungary or Alaska, where no man has been before, almost.

"**The Last Frontier**" - Alaska, a U.S. state whose official nickname is "**The Last Frontier**"

7 Reilly's with a variegated equid is Stuart's.

"**Ice Station Zebra**" - Australian thriller writer Matthew Reilly wrote "**Ice Station**". Add a "variegated equid" (zebra) to get Alastair **Stuart** MacLean's "**Ice Station Zebra**"

8 In what was the aim to denude the city of life, rather than the entire world as threatened?

"**The Satan Bug**"

9 Which heroic mountaineer braved the elements on 11 23 18 8 10?

**Keith Mallory** (elements spell Navarone - "Guns of Navarone" and "Force 10 from Navarone"). [George Herbert Leigh Mallory](#) was an English mountaineer who took part in the first three British expeditions to Mount Everest.

Acrostic **HBOTULISM** (BOTULISM referenced in "The Satan Bug")

### crossword

1a AUTHORIS (AUTHORISE abridged; "Author is?" - "I am")

1d AIRFORCE

5a RHEOSTAT (used in Charles Wheatstone bridge)

2d THEMATIC

6a OPAQUELY (appears on page 1 para 2)

3d OBSCURED (appears on page 1 para 2)

7a CHIMETEN (see Q4)

4d INAFLEET

1a, 2d read Author is Thematic. Ruth Rendell is the main theme and wrote "**One Across Two Down**" involving a man who likes crossword puzzles. 1d relates to Q3 above.

### pictures by crossword

- "**Satan Bug**" - Satan Assassin Bug
- "**Puppet on a Chain**" - Pinnochio Necklace
- "**Lawrence of Arabia**" - TE Lawrence aka Lawrence of Arabia
- Kilt is **Maclean** clan

### Ciphers

surrounded by 26 letters indicating a full letter alphabet used to decode Hill ciphers

Playfair key **HBOTULISM=VIGENERE FOILER OF DIABOLICAL BANK ROXBERY**

Vigener key **PIERRECAVELL=THREE X THREE HIS LAST BOOK** Pierre Cavell is the hero of "**The Satan Bug**"

3x3 Hill key **SANTORINI=FROM TRUNCATED TREE WIDDERSHINS FOR THIRTY YARDS**

Captain Calamity film - Stuart Hill had the nickname "**Captain Calamity**". Stuart is middle name of Alistair Maclean

TS **PLAYFAIR** ship

Blaise Vigenere

59.08372 -97.96944 - [Maclean Hill](#), Manitoba [Maclean Hill](#)

[bottom ciphers](#)

"**Fear is the Key**" - all have key FEAR:

Playfair **IS THAT SO?**

Vigenere **GOOD IDEA;**

2x2 Hill **BRAVO A RED HERRING!**



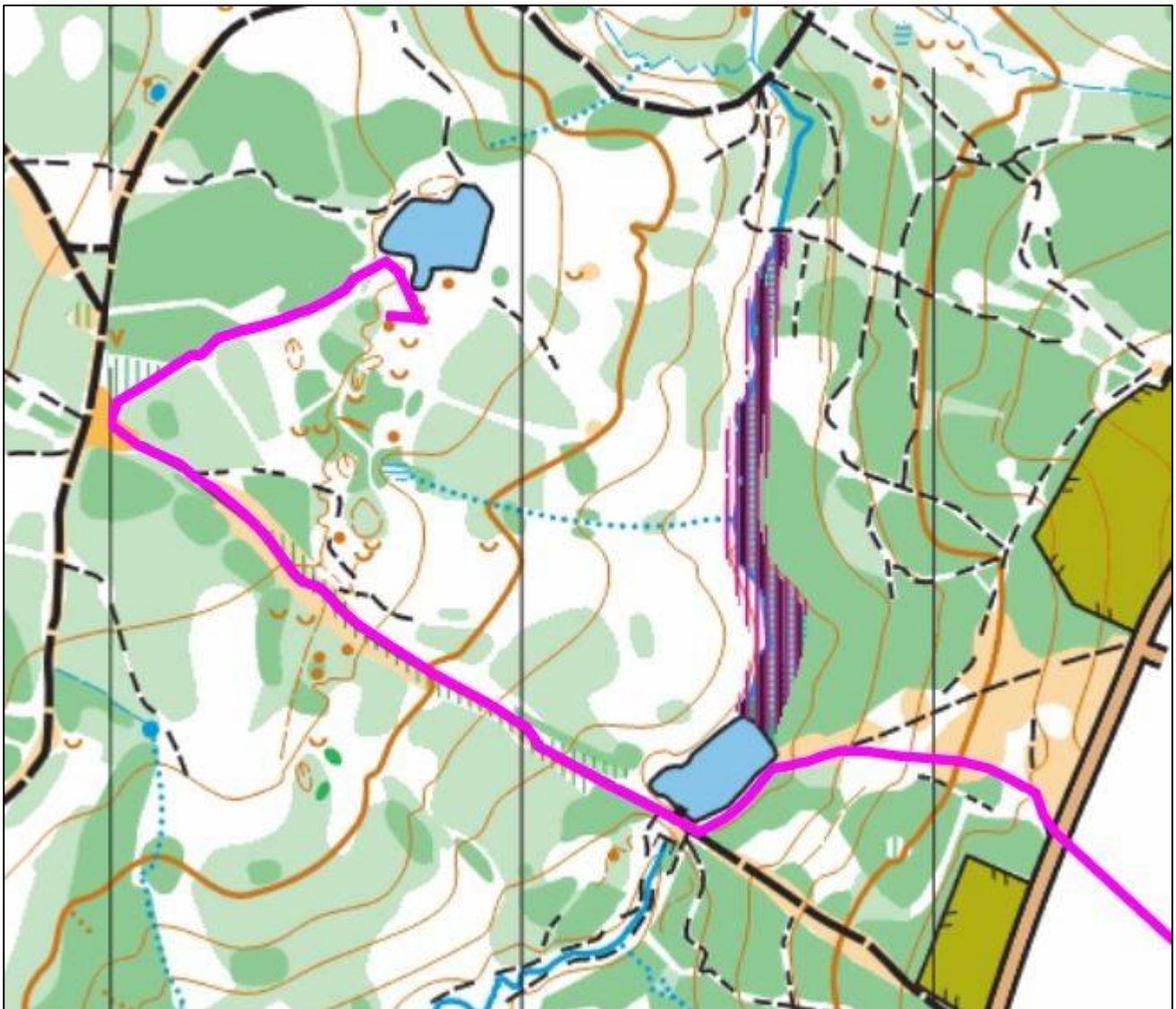
[bottom pictures](#)

[Jamaica Inn](#), once owned by Alistair Maclean

Maclean Clan tartan

photo on trail to box (COMMA)

Connection between T.E. Lawrence and Loughton/Epping Forest/Hill - [Pole Hill](#). It's on the southern end of the forest, in Chingford. But his hut was rebuilt in Loughton. "*Lawrence of Arabia once owned a considerable amount of land on the western side of the hill and built himself a small hut there in which he lived for several years. Nothing remains today of this structure on [Pole Hill](#). Lawrence's hut was demolished in 1930 and rebuilt in The Warren, Loughton.*"



## Page 9 John Steinbeck

top right photo

[Beck's Beer Stein](#) - [Stein Beck](#)

### Questions

1 Take a torch if treasure-seeking after 15:24 on Christmas Day (and be Major).

[The Moon is Down](#) - In London [The moon set at 15:24 on Christmas Day](#) 2019. Major Hunter is a character in the book ["The Moon is Down"](#)

[John Steinbeck](#) wrote a [letter about Christmas](#)

2 £25 in debt.

[Red Pony](#) - Pony is slang term for £25; in the red= in debt

3 Who was discontented in winter?

[Ethan Allen Hawley](#) - main character in ["The Winter of our Discontent"](#)

4 Which well-prepared but frequently unsuccessful plots bring nought but grief and pain?

[Of Mice and Men](#) - Robert Burns *"The best-laid schemes o' mice an' men Gang aft agley, An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain," "Of Mice and Men"*

5 Despite the 14:19 revelation, the truth marches on.

[Grapes of Wrath](#) - Revelations 14:19 *"And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God."*

The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck's Pulitzer-Prize-winning novel, was published in 1939. Steinbeck's story, which follows the struggling Joad family out of the Dust Bowl to California, took its title from Julia Ward Howe's "Battle Hymn of the Republic"—which begins, as Jeff Goldberg noted in 2012, with "the most famous 12 words ever published in the pages of The Atlantic":

*Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord:*

*He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;*

*He hath loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword:*

**His truth is marching on.**

6 Whose acts were published 8 years posthumously?

[King Arthur](#) - ["The Acts of King Arthur and His Noble Knights"](#) first edition 1976 John died 20 December 1968 (hunt start date) 8 years previously

7 Linus and Marie each had two different ones, but neither was literate.

[Nobel prizes](#) - Linus Pauling and Marie Curie both have two Nobel prizes, but not in literature. John Steinbeck was awarded one in Literature

Acrostic - [MRHOGAN](#) - ["How Mr Hogan Robbed a Bank"](#) by John Steinbeck

### Photos below questions

books by John Steinbeck

- ["The Red Pony"](#) - [My Little Pony](#)
- ["Burning Bright"](#) - [Burning Magnesium](#)
- ["Cup of Gold"](#) - (Jerusalem of) [Gold goblet](#)
- ["The Pearl"](#) - [Pearl White](#) in "A Virgin Paradise" -

[Lady Jane Grey](#)

[Peregrin Took aka Pippin](#), from Lord of the Rings, played by Billy Boyd -

4

Lady Jane Grey had a short reign (9 days); Pippin; 4 = ["The Short Reign of Pippin IV: A Fabrication"](#)

["East of Eden"](#) - 'Try as I like to find the way, I never can get back' - Poem ["The land of Nod"](#) - Robert Louis Stevenson.

The [quote in full](#) is *"And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden"*.

["A Russian Journal"](#) - журнал красных сельдей means 'Red Herring Magazine' in Russian.

## Ciphers

surrounded by 25 letters indicating a 25 letter alphabet (no Z) used to decode Hill ciphers

Playfair key MRHOGAN=**AUTHORS FIRST TWO WIVES CONCATENATED**

Playfair key CAROLGWYN=**MISTER HOGAN STORY FIVE X FIVE NO Z**

5x5 Hill No Z key HOW MISTER HOGAN ROBBED A BANK=**LOOK FOR A TREE WITH VERY MANY TRUNKS**

Mexico 1968 Silver medley relay 2/4 - won by Judy [Playfair](#)

100E77ST - [Lennox Hill Hospital](#), 100 E77th St, Manhattan, New York

## [photos at bottom](#)

- Edgar Rice Burroughs
- Edgar Dyas
- Edgar L Doctorow
- Panel 2 Artwork by Martin Beck
- C major - guitar
- B major - Piano
- E major - Ukulele

All the pictures on that row are to do with Ruth Rendell awards. She won three Edgar awards, 1 Martin Beck award and got a CBE in 1996. The Martin Beck award was for "**Make Death Love Me**", the tickets in the box

photo on trail to box (AISLE)

Draughts board at bottom reads WHITE PLAYS FIRST AND UP CHESS ACHEZSO. It can be played out to a win with the moves spelling **CZECHS** :

f1-e2 f3xd2

a2-b1 d1-e2

b1xd5xf1

The pieces have been placed on the white squares rather than the normal black squares. This may reflect the ATH News chess puzzle only being solvable if Black moves first.

Blaise Vigenere - clue to red cipher type

red cipher Vigenere key CZECHS=**NOT A CHESS GRANDMASTER**  
[Mystery Writers of America](#) bestowed Ruth Rendell with their Grand Master Award in 1997

Agatha Christie received one in 1955, Rex Stout in 1959, Ed McBain in 1986



## Page 10 Ruth Rendell

### Questions

1 What is 1/10 of 1m and may have arrived as the dinosaurs left?

**Iridium** - Along with Osmium it arrived on a comet that might have destroyed the dinosaurs. 1m = International Prototype Metre. An alloy of 90% platinum and 10% iridium was used in 1889 to construct the [International Prototype Metre](#) and kilogram mass, kept by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures near Paris.

2 If Nathalie had in fact owned a cat, what might she have called it?

**Brexit**. Despite reports to the contrary, French Europe Minister Nathalie Loiseau has [not named her cat "Brexit"](#). Reports began circulating on Sunday after the Journal du Dimanche newspaper reported that the 54-year-old had written about her pet on her private Facebook page. "I've ended up calling my cat Brexit," the paper quoted Loiseau as writing. "It wakes me up meowing like crazy every morning because it wants to go out, but as soon as I open the door, it just sits there undecided and then looks angry when I put it outside." The joke at British expense -- an allusion to Britain's inability to decide when and how it wants to leave the European Union -- was picked up by numerous London-based newspapers and American media outlets, and amplified on social media. But it was in fact just a joke as "Brexit" the cat - unlike the cat thought up as an experiment by Austrian physicist Erwin Schrodinger -- is neither alive, nor dead. It simply does not exist. "It was a joke, obviously," Loiseau told Radio J on Sunday afternoon. "I don't have a cat."

3 What could be a violin, banana or camel?

**Spiders**

4 What ambiguous abbreviation could be out by a factor of  $1.852 \times 10^{12}$ ?

**NM** -  $1.852 \times 10^{12}$  Nanometer(nm) = 1 Nautical Mile (NM).

5 What (White) Russian bishop is buried under the Vatican?

**Elephant** - Hanno, a white elephant given by King Manuel I of Portugal to Pope Leo X and buried under the Vatican after it died. On a Russian chess board the [Bishop is still called Slon](#) which means elephant. The Elephant playing piece is the predecessor to the Bishop.

6 What is the volume of a short, hot cylinder of height  $a$  and radius  $z$ ?

**Pizza** -  $\pi r^2 * h = \pi * z^2 * a = \text{pizza}$

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** - *Orestes killed his mother (Clytemnestra) for conspiring to kill his father (Agamemnon)* - ...Clytemnestra was angry with her husband, both because of her daughter's sacrifice, as well as because Agamemnon had killed her first husband and taken her by force. Upon his return from Troy, Agamemnon was welcomed by his wife. When he went to take a bath, Clytemnestra threw a net on him and stabbed him.

*for apparently killing his sister (Iphigenia)* - Agamemnon was forced to sacrifice his daughter Iphigenia, as he had caused the wrath of Artemis. The goddess Artemis substituted Iphigenia for a deer. she became the goddess' priestess *according to some, met his sister again* - the two men (one was Orestes) were brought before Iphigenia. Although initially the two siblings did not recognise each other, they finally realised the truth and managed to escape the city.

8 Who inspired a Modest opera, a bemusing Trial and an endless orgy?

**Gustave Flaubert** - His His novel Salammbô inspired [Modest Mussorgsky](#) to compose his opera of the same name. Nobel Prize-winning Peruvian novelist Mario Vargas Llosa wrote "[The Perpetual Orgy: Flaubert and Madame Bovary](#)" (Spanish: La orgía perpetua. Flaubert y Madame Bovary) which examines Flaubert's Madame Bovary as the first modern novel. Gustave Flaubert was one of the influences on Franz Kafka. He wrote "The Trial" (Der Process) which some regard as humorous / bemusing and involves a bank official.

Acrostic **IBSNEPOF**

chess board

top and bottom ranks spell MOVE FOUR TO B5 MATE. This refers to a puzzle [set by Nihal Sarhan](#) (morse decode below) and given to Vladimir Kramnik. The moves 1.d4 c6 2.Kd2 Qa5+ 3.Kd3 Qa3+ 4.Kc4 b5# successively land on **5 NG3 MATE**

This then refers to a [5-move puzzle](#): 1.e3 e6 2.qg4 ke7 3. ne2 kf6 4.qxg7 kf5 5. ng3 mate whose moves successively land on **OPEN LOPEZ**

[Ruy Lopez \(Spanish\) opening](#) 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 gives **STONE**. The most common follow-up is a6 which is a B potentially leading to BOOTS (see Emma Stone picture)

The filled letters complete hunt-related phrases - A PAWN UP, BANK, POST, (ath)EXIT, A TO M, JINGLE, 2019



pictures

[Wichita](#), character in "Zombieland", played by Emma Stone - The black arrow is pointing at Emma Stone's boots.

red vigenere cipher STONEBOOTS = **CAESAR SHIFT ACROSTIC**. Stone boots were hinted at in the poster

Caesar shifting question acrostic back one IBSNEPOF = **HARMDONE** - **Harm Done** is a Ruth Rendell Inspector Wexford novel

Silje Vige, Norway, Eurovision 1993, "[Alle mina tankar](#)"

[African locust bean](#), *Parkia biglobosa* (West African names: néré, dodongba, netetou, sumbala or iru) - **VIGE NERE**

[Inspector Morse](#), played by John Thaw

*Australian dislikes undiminishing intense criticism as civilian pilot critiques ailing Latvian*. This is a concealed Morse code message, clued by the Inspector Morse picture. Each word conceals a letter in morse, the letter i is a dot, and the letter t is a dash. It spells out **NIHAL SARIN** [Nihal Sarin](#) is a very young Indian chess grandmaster.

**Breaking News: SNL5 ON BLT3**. The blue font connects this to the [Huloo...](#) cipher below, so may relate to its key and/or ATH News.

photo at start of trail to box (SWORD)

[Cipher](#)

Annabel [Playfair](#), [View above Ascott](#) towards Brailes [Hill](#). -

[Greek urn/vase/pottery](#) - [URN 103609](#) is [Hunters Hill College Spirehouse Lane, Blackwell, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B60 1QD](#)



Playfair key HARMDONE=**MAIN PUNISHMENT FIVE X FIVE NO Z DECRYPT IS AIDDE**

5x5 Hill **encode** key KISSINGTHEGUNNERSDAUGHTER=**THEMATIC BOOK PLUS AUTHORS INITIAL**.

**Kissing the gunner's daughter** is a phrase for a maritime (main) punishment. *Verb. kiss the gunner's daughter. (archaic, idiomatic, navy) To be flogged or beaten while restrained over a cannon.* Trying to decrypt instead of encrypt gives the message "The matrix is not invertible" - **Ruth Rendell "A Fatal Inversion"**

5x5 Hill key MAKEDEATHLOVEMER=**START AT MY BLUE PLAQUE HEAD N**

[Huloo heh mor slo ef huo Foyr](#). = **Three titles are in the News**. (substitution key SbcGONdUEijMkFApqLRHTvYwxz or similar - lowercase letters' position not known)

There are three Ruth Rendell books hidden in the November **ATH NEWS**:

- **"The Reason Why"** in "Christmas Pantomime Cancelled"
- **"Going Wrong"** in "Chess Champ Floored by Czech Mate"
- **"The Thief"** in "Subverting Swiss Security"

**Huer er ath an algol**. = **This is out of order** (same key as above).

The trail picture and instruction on this page come first in the route. The others are in the correct order.

## Page 11 JK Rowling

### Questions

1 Who only nearly qualified for a certain Hunt?

**Nearly Headless Nick** - played in the films by John Cleese. Sir Nicholas de Mimsy-Porpington KG, often referred to as [Nearly Headless Nick](#), *Nick*, or *Sir Nicholas*, is the Gryffindor House ghost who in life was sentenced to death by beheading after a teeth-straightening spell went awry on Lady Grieve. Unfortunately, the executioner's axe was blunt and Nick's head was still attached to his neck by a thin strip of skin after 45 chops. Harry becomes friends with Nick when he attends his "deathday" party (the 500th anniversary of the event) in a Hogwarts dungeon. Nick's death date (31 October 1492) had the distinction of having served as the basis for the entire chronology of the Harry Potter stories, until the timeline was confirmed by James and Lily's headstone in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. His greatest wish is to become a member of the **Headless Hunt**, as mentioned in the second book. However, **he is excluded due to the fact that he is not actually headless** ("he is nearly headless") and would never be completely able to participate in the activities (such as "Head Polo").

2 Who drove the Knox Bus?

**Ernest Prang** - *Nox* is in italics and means night in Latin. In Harry Potter the Knight Bus was driven by Ernest Prang

3 Whose fluency in gobbledygook gained him a Ministry job with thematic links?

**Dirk Cresswell** [Dirk Cresswell](#) is the Goblin Liaison Officer. The goblins run Gringotts bank.

4 Who took the South Pacific by storm in 1998 and was also big in Eastenders?

**Ron** - [Storm Ron](#) There is a [Big Ron in Eastenders](#) Ron Weasley in Harry Potter

5 What service should have been flowery (and possibly snowy)?

**Owl** - Hedwig was a snowy owl in the Owl Post Service. Alan Garner began writing ["The Owl Service"](#) after a number of coincidences. The first was being given a dinner service patterned with the owl/flower motif where the flowing design was effectively owls made of flowers, or perhaps flowers made of owls.

6 Who was not allowed to present a paper to the Linnean Society because the associated chromosomes were too similar?

**Potter** - [Beatrix Potter](#) wrote up her conclusions and submitted a paper, On the Germination of the Spores of the Agaricineae, to the Linnean Society in 1897. It was introduced by Masee because, as a female, Potter could not attend proceedings or read her paper. Women have XX chromosomes.

7 What can be caused by the sus scrofa papillomavirus?

**Hogwarts** - Sus Scrofa is the wild boar and the papillomavirus attacks the skin. Hogwarts school in HP

8 Geomantic figure Albus

**Albus** - Latin for "White". The [Geomantic figure](#) resembles an upright glass or goblet. It is good in most situations, especially with good figures in company, but itself is a weak figure. Astrologically it is associated with Gemini and Mercury; even though its inner element is water, its outer element is air. It represents peace, wisdom and purity. It benefits beginnings and profit, or any situation where careful and deliberate planning is needed. Its planetary intelligence is Tiriell and its spirit is Taphthartharath; it is associated with the deities Mercurius and Apollo, and the angels Raphael and Ambriel. It is associated with the shoulders and lungs. Albus Dumbledore in Harry Potter

9 Smirk! I scored bad girls this year.

**Gringotts**. Smirk = grin; Gotts = In 2000 [Kath Gotts](#) became the credited composer for [TV series Bad Girls](#), the same year that Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (adjacent picture) was published. Kath Gotts also scored the musical Bad Girls in 2009. Gringotts is bank in HP

10 Was waren die letzten fünf deutschen Wörter des Films mit unterschiedlichen Titeln in den USA und in Großbritannien?

**Und der Stein der Weisen** - Translates to "What were the last five German words in the film with different titles in the United States and the United Kingdom?" The first film was called ["Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone"](#) in the UK and "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" in the US. The German film title was ["Harry Potter und der Stein der Weisen"](#)

11 If Parvati was a Gemini, what was Bane?

**Sagittarius** - In Harry Potter books Parvati Patil is a twin (Gemini = twins). Bane is a Centaur archer, (Sagittarius)

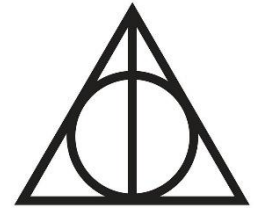
Acrostic - **NECROPHAGUS**

picture to right of Q8 is described as [Fiery Orange Glass Drinking](#) Goblet

"Statement Wine Drinking Glass From the retro Mid Century I offer this spectacular fiery orange glass drinking goblet. You are sure to make a statement while enjoying your beverage in this "goblet of fire" ! I believe this to be glassware made in New Martinsville, West Virginia by The Viking Glass company. It appears to be a pattern often called "Georgian" Saved by Wexford Treasures (Ruth Rendell Inspector Wexford) "**Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire**"

"Circle inscribed in an equilateral triangle with altitude" - **This is the sign of the [Deathly Hallows](#)**

I expect PANS1/2! - PANS1 and PANS2 are [proteins in plants](#). PANS is short for Patronus. In Harry Potter "Expecto Patronum" is a [defensive charm](#).



## Ciphers

surrounded by 25 letters indicating a 25 letter alphabet (no Z) used to decode Hill ciphers

No Z means you have to choose a custom 25 letter alphabet still with A=1 ie YABCDE.....UVWX. By reducing the number of letters by one you are changing it to modulo 25, which works on 0-24

Playfair key NECROPHAGUS=**QUIDDITCH BALL FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER**

Playfair key BLUDGERSNITCH=**NO Z HILL FIRST NAME OF VAULT OWNER**

[In Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows](#), the Trio, with the help of Griphook, execute a plan to break in to the Gringotts vault of Bellatrix Lestrange's family to steal a Horcrux belonging to Voldemort.

3x3 Hill key BELLATRIX=**ONE CHAIN BACK FROM KEYHOLE INSIDE TREE CXCIX LVII**

199 57 is tree tag number

2	5	12
12	1	20
18	9	24

scene from play "[Harry Potter and the Cursed Child](#)"

[Pensacola Interstate Fair](#)

**These two give PLAYFAIR**

black arrow pointing to -

[Stoat/weasel](#) - refers to Weasley family in Harry Potter

? (representing missing word "[Hill](#)")

[Pacheca Tawny](#) Port 30 years - **Owls feature in Harry Potter**

[Ford Anglia](#) key - **Ford Anglia was the blue car in HP.**

**These four give Stoatshead Hill Portkey. The Stoatshead Hill Portkey is a location in "Goblet of Fire"**

## Photos below

- [Guy Fawkes](#) - **Fawkes is the name of the phoenix in Harry Potter**
- [Hermione](#), French frigate - **Hermione Granger**
- Draco, constellation - **Draco Malfoy**
- [Hedwig of Denmark](#) - **Hedwig is HP's owl**
- [Henri L'Estrange](#) - **Bellatrix Lestrange**

photo of treasure box tree showing tag (TIAKE)

"[The Tay Bridge Disaster](#) poem" by William McGonagall - **Minerva McGonagall is a teacher at Hogwarts, played by Maggie Smith.**

"[Portabello](#)" by Ruth Rendell - [Portobello mushrooms](#)

[Terry Butcher](#), as Inverness Caledonian Thistle football manager (position Sweeper). In Harry Potter, the British Ministry of Magic used a [Sweeper](#) to keep their floors clean. Terry Butcher played for [Clydebank](#) at some point. "Bonnie & Clyde", were bank robbers. There's also a shop called "Bonnie & Clyde" on Loughton High Street.



## Page 12 Emile Gaboriau

top pictures:

First row all represent [Monsieur Lecoq](#), the creation of [Émile Gaboriau](#). He is a fictional detective employed by the French Sûreté. The character is one of the pioneers of the genre and a major influence on Sherlock Holmes laying the groundwork for the methodical, scientifically minded detective.

[Le Coq Sportif](#) (founder [Emile Camuset](#)). Le Coq/ Lecoq/ "The Rooster"

=

[Francisco José de Caldas](#). Other names: El Sabio ("the learned"). He was a Colombian lawyer, military engineer, self-taught naturalist, mathematician, geographer and inventor, who was executed by orders of **Pablo** Morillo. (a.k.a. El Pacificador [The Pacifier](#)). [Caldas](#) is one of Lecoq's false identities. "After her release from prison, Nina Gypsy becomes the mistress of Caldas, a traveling agent. As Caldas, Lecoq provides a house for her. Nina adopts the surname of Caldas."

=

Vet Murder **anagram of M. Verduret** - another of Lecoq's aliases.

(bousilleur misérable) = (Miserable Bungler) - in A Study in Scarlet, Sherlock Holmes calls Gaboriau "a miserable bungler").

Fern aloft = A squirrel = [Pierre Joseph Dubois](#)

Fern Aloft is anagram of **Fanferlot**, a character nicknamed **the Squirrel** "You will be presented to him under the name of *Joseph Dubois*." "Fanferlot says he was so ill that he was taken to the hospital—the Dubois Hospital."

Glad Rose = **Valent** USA logo inside [Wilson logo](#) = [James Spencer](#), a British model

Glad Rose is anagram of (Raoul) **de Lagors**; In "File 113" Raoul impersonates Raoul Valentin Wilson and jockey James Spencer both of whom have died.



Sauvez au moins le droit de chasse pour l'honneur : This is from [Chansons Nouvelles: La Chasse](#) (**The Hunt**) Montaignac chasseurs (Montaignac hunters) occur in "[The Honor of the Name](#)"

[cipher](#)

surrounded by 26 letters indicating a full alphabet used to decode Hill cipher

3x3 Matrix grid (in brackets): These all represent numbers featured in [Le Dossier No. 113](#) (1867)

**File#:** File No. 113 by Emile Gaboriau "That is all. I rather think M. Patrigent will rub his hands with delight when I carry him my report. He did not expect to see me anymore, and has no idea of the facts I have collected to swell the size of his FILE **113**."

**Bank on RpP** : The banking-house of Andre Fauvel, No. **87** Rue de Provence

**APB's** - Auguste Prosper Bertomy's house "Where do you live?" "At No. **39**, Rue Chaptal, for the last four years. Before that time I lived at No. 7, Boulevard des Batignolles."

**Year of old tricks:** "The old tricks of '**93**,' said the marquis."

**Picture of a Clown - an old lady** : "Picture No. **2!**" he cried, after a flourish of music. "This old lady, seated before a mirror tearing out her hair—especially the gray ones—you have seen before; do you recognize her?"

**Criminal Code:24 hours** : "In summoning Prosper, M. Patrigent obeyed Article **93** of the Criminal Code, which says, "Every suspected person under arrest must be examined within twenty-four hours."

**Fashionable Dressmaker** : Sign over door of **81** Rue Lafayette

**Marriage** : "On the **15**th of last month, was celebrated, at the church of Notre Dame de Lorette, the marriage of M. Prosper Bertomy and Mlle. Madeleine Fauvel."

**The Catastrophe** : Chapter XXII (**22**)

Matrix

113	87	39
93	2	93
81	15	22

Modulo 26

9	9	13
15	2	15
3	15	22

3x3 Hill Cipher key = **ON WAY BACK PASS BENCH TO BIKE IF THIRSTY**

The numbers 405931 396189 as a [grid ref](#) are on [Cock Hill](#), Glossup, North of Peak District.

[Rooster Hill wine](#) - **Le coq = rooster in French**

A value 1 wooden scrabble piece. **This is to tell us to use the alphabet A=1 for the [Hill Cipher decoder](#).**

[Photos below cipher:](#)

- "[Basilique d'Orcival](#)" ([The Mystery of Orcival](#)) - [Virgin and Child](#), Orcival, France
- "[Slaves Of Paris](#)" - [Thomas Alexandre Dumas Slavery Memorial](#), Paris
- "[A Disappearance](#)" - Magic trick, [make toothpick vanish](#)

photo of black bicycle at pub on way back from box (AW9AY)

"[The Downward Path](#)" / [La Degringolade](#) - staircase (dégringolade = To tumble down the stairs). "[Thirteen Steps Down](#)" by [Ruth Rendell](#)

[Le Blanc](#), France - (The White)

["Le Rouge et le Noir"](#) by Stendahl ([The Red and The Black](#))

["Le Blanc et Le Noir"](#) by [Voltaire](#)

Le Blanc + Le Rouge et le Noir - Le Blanc et Le Noir = **Le Rouge** "[L'Affaire Lerouge](#)" L'affaire Lerouge was LeCoq's debut, though a minor role.

At the bottom right is a small red square. presumably another Rouge clue



Gaboriau influenced later detective fiction writers. Conan Doyle wrote, 'Gaboriau had rather attracted me by the neat dovetailing of his plots.' Gaboriau was also an influence on John Russell Coryell, who read his works. His detective, Nick Carter, follows in Lecoq and Tabaret's footsteps.

In the person of armchair detective Tabaret, nicknamed Père Tiraclair, (lit. Father Bringer of Light, or "Old man Brings-to-light"), a title Lecoq himself will eventually inherit, Gaboriau also created an older mentor for Lecoq who, like Mycroft Holmes and Nero Wolfe, helps the hero solve particularly challenging puzzles while remaining largely inactive physically. In Tabaret's case, aid is dispensed from the comfort of his bed.

Monsieur Lecoq Series of detective novels:

1. L'Affaire Lerouge (1866) - The Lerouge Case
2. Le Crime d'Orcival (1867) - The Mystery of Orcival, Crime at Orcival  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Mystery\\_of\\_Orcival](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Mystery_of_Orcival)
3. Le Dossier No. 113 (1867) - File No. 113, Dossier No. 113, The Blackmailers
4. Les Esclaves des Paris (1868) - The Slaves of Paris
5. Monsieur Lecoq (1869) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monsieur\\_Lecoq\\_\(novel\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monsieur_Lecoq_(novel)) The novel is split into two parts: I - L'Enquête (The Inquiry), II - L'Honneur du nom (The Honour of the Name).
6. "Une Disparition" in Le Petite Vieux des Batingoles (1876) - "A Disappearance" in The Little Old Man of Batignolles

## Route Photos

On each page is a photo taken on the route from Ruth Rendell's plaque to the treasure box. Each photo has a small hotspot. Clicking on it opens a webpage of the form <https://pablosath.com/xxxxx.htm> which then contains the original photo named as <https://pablosath.com/xxxxpic.jpg>.

The pictures on pages 2 and 3 have a blue box alongside with the texts **Hind is readable** and **Now we comply**. On the linked web pages these are expanded to **Hex, I find is readable** and **Now we complexify**. The additional letters EXIF indicate that the **Exchangeable Image File** info stored in the photos is significant. There are many different readers, each giving a slight variation in the fields (and names) displayed, but most indicated that the associated data is hunt-related.

FileName	XPSUBJECT	XPTITLE	Make	Model	XPComment	Copyright	DateTimeOrig...	Artist	Software	LensManufact...	LensModel	Aper...	FocalLength
moralpic.jpg		Adnate in Taw...	DLM	Ch1	54 68 65 64 61 ...	41 27 4 52 5	16/12/2002 23:59:59	Albania		First	1	f/4.0	55.00 mm
reusepic.jpg	Again peaks fo...		DLM	Ch1	8,3,1 3,4,1 7,3...	12.1 3.3 6.1 10...	14/12/2007 20:30:00	Shanghai Rapi...		Sig	1	f/4.0	55.00 mm
mineric.jpg					49 66 49 77 65 ...		15/12/2008 12:00:00	G&S				f/5.7	55.00 mm
treatpic.jpg	A good player ...		DLM	Ch1	sB80xYtaTWA...	Q5 9 32 17 52 ...	17/12/2009 00:30:00	Morocco	Sol p20 (shor...	Sig	1	f/5.7	55.00 mm
yeastpic.jpg					49 73 68 6F 75 ...		15/12/2010 23:59:34	G&S				f/5.7	55.00 mm
foxespic.jpg		Go in disguise ...	DLM	Ch1	DEB DE N 2012...	X.4.1.2.1.5 XII.6 ...	15/12/2011	Bulgaria	Sol p50	First	1	f/5.7	55.00 mm
commapic.jpg					49 73 68 6F 75 ...		14/12/2012 18:00:00	G&S				f/5.0	55.00 mm
aislepic.jpg					41 6E 64 79 6F ...		21/12/2013 00:08:00	G&S				f/4.6	74.00 mm
swordpic.jpg		My local deeds...	DLM	Ch1	63 41 43 74 68 ...	Do3 Ta4 Mo3 ...	19/12/2014 18:30:00	Pitcairn	Sol p21	First	1	f/4.0	55.00 mm
t1akepic.jpg			Canon		4F 6E 74 68 65 ...		18/12/2015 00:01:00	G&S				f/4.6	84.00 mm
aw9aypic.jpg	Maya P has to...				E641 E645 E415...	Ord3,4 Obj5 Or...	14/12/2016 19:30:00	South Georgia		Sig	1	f/9.1	187.00 mm

## Photo Name

Each name can have the numbered character removed to produce another word plus a Christmas message

- p2 - **MORAL** / ORAL (1)
  - p3 - **REUSE** / RUSE (2)
  - p4 - **MINER** / MINE (5)
  - p5 - **TREAT** / TEAT (2)
  - p6 - **YEAST** / EAST (1)
  - p7 - **FOXES** / FOES (3)
  - p8 - **COMMA** / COMMA (3 or 4)
  - p9 -  **AISLE** / ISLE (1)
  - p10 - **SWORD** / WORD (1)
  - p11 - **T1AKE** / TAKE (2)
  - p12 - **AW9AY** / AWAY (3)
- MERRY XMAS 19**

## Date/Time Original - Creation Date/Time

Most of the Date/Time Original match the release date and time of the Pablo ATH hunt that year

- p2 - 2002:12:16 23:59:59 - 2002:12:16 00:00:00
- p3 - 2007:12:14 20:30:00 - 2007:12:14 13:02:10 (started prior to 6:51pm on the 14<sup>th</sup> not 20:30:00)
- p4 - 2008:12:15 12:00:00 - 2008:10:13 13:03:39
- p5 - 2009:12:17 00:30:00 - 2009:12:17 14:16:23
- p6 - 2010:12:15 23:59:34 - 2010:12:15 23:59:34
- p7 - 2011:12:15 00:00:00 - 2011:12:15 14:08:35
- p8 - 2012:12:14 18:00:00 - 2012:12:14 14:04:39 (started at midday on the 14<sup>th</sup>, not 18:00:00)
- p9 - 2013:12:21 00:08:00 - 2013:12:21 14:01:28
- p10 - 2014:12:19 18:30:00 - 2014:12:19 00:10:00 (started at midday on the 19<sup>th</sup>, not 18:30:00)
- p11 - 2015:12:18 00:01:00 - 2015:12:18 13:59:29
- p12 - 2016:12:14 19:30:00 - 2016:12:14 19:30:00

## Software

These entries identify the page number of the hunt solution's method required to decode the related Comment cipher.

- p5 - Sol p20 (short) = page number of 2009 hunt
- p7 - Sol p50 = page number of 2011 hunt
- p10 - Sol p21 = page number of 2014 hunt

## Comment

pp4,6,8,9,11 - contain hexadecimal code which reads:

**If I were not a little mad and generally silly,  
I should give you my advice upon the subject, willy nilly;  
I should show you in a moment how to grapple with the question,  
And you'd really be astonished at the force of my suggestion.  
On the subject I shall write you a most valuable letter,**

These are said by Margaret in Gilbert and Sullivan's [Ruddigore](#) as a verse of "My Eyes Are Fully Open", and continue:

*Full of excellent suggestions when I feel a little better,  
But at present I'm afraid I am as mad as any hatter,  
So I'll keep 'em to myself, for my opinion doesn't matter!*

It is also sung by Ruth in the [Pirates of Penzance](#) with the last line changed to: 'so I'll sing this song from Ruddigore, and it really doesn't matter!' Ruddigore is set in the village of **Rederring** (Red Herring)

p2 - 54 68 65 64 61 74 65 68 65 6C 70 73 73 6F 6C 76 65 74 68 65 63 6F 64 65  
hexadecimal decode - **THE DATE HELPS SOLVE THE CODE**

p3 - 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 book cipher (2007 hunt) - cities in [Wikipedia](#) table read from bottom to top:

8,3,1	Thekla	4,3,2	Eutropia	6,5,5	Esmeralda	5,5,3	Octavia	8,1,1	Olinda	5,5,6	Octavia
3,4,1	Hypatia	3,4,5	Hypatia	8,3,2	Thekla	7,2,6	Beersheba	7,3,5	Eusapia	8,4,3	Argia
7,3,1	Eusapia	4,4,4	Sophronia	2,5,2	Maurilia	7,1,2	Leonia	3,4,2	Hypatia	6,3,5	Pyrrha
5,5,7	Octavia	4,5,1	Olivia	4,4,1	Sophronia	7,4,1	Clarice	7,2,4	Beersheba	4,3,3	Eutropia

### THE AUTHOR HAS THE COPYRIGHT

This indicates a link between previous hunt Authors and the Copyright ciphers

p5 - sBs0JxYtaTWA/iGBmXkDkInGu3X2C6Qkp4e9eUhX2VT5Xbs8aOwoRDgZC3E3A  
Base64 decoder using short password chaharsalfremerger (2009 hunt page 20):

**Look at the answers through the lens to form a word**

p7 - **DEB DE N** 2012 = 99 = **ATH** RJA = **PABLO** ODEGY UJBKC NOCVZ FMMFP XGDMD XUFZQ YDPXJ  
HQAVJ XLFJN KHFKE DLVTO QESEG PNVQI PMEZW GOHZF EAVHP XMDCD LMBHD BMNQT CIUX  
Enigma code settings (2011 hunt page 50):

**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**

This camera make is DLM (Death Loves Me). It should have the word "Make" in front.

p10 - 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  
Oxford Book of Carols code (2014 hunt page 21):

- 63 **E**s steht ein' Lind' im Himmelreich • There stood in heaven a linden tree
- 41 **A**s I out rode this enderes night (The Coventry Shepherds' Carrot)
- 43 **C**ome, love we God!
- 74 **H**ark! hear you not a chearful noise
- 68 **W**achet auf! • Wake, O wake!
- 47 **O** remember Adam's fall • Remember, O thou man
- 55 **R**esonet in laudibus • Let the voice of praise resound • Joseph, Lieber Joseph
- 108 **D**ing! dong! merrily on high
- 111 **I**n the bleak mid-winter
- 79 **S**hepherds, rejoice!
- 78 **A**s shepherds in Jewry
- 86 **S**tine Nacht! heilige Nacht! • Silent night! holy night!
- 120 **T**here is no rose of such virtue
- 50 **E** la don; don Verges Maria
- 54 **P**uer natus in Bethlehem • A Boy is bom in Bethlehem • Ein Kind gebom zu Bethl
- 47 **O** remember Adam's fall • Remember, O thou man
- 36 **N**owell: Dieu wous garde, byewsser
- 62 **A**ls ich bei meinen Schafen wacht' • While by my sheep I watched at night
- 73 **L**ift up your heads in joyful hope
- 93 **O**nce, in royal David's city
- 127 **N**ow the holly bears a berry (7he St Day Caryl)
- 83 **G**lory to God on high
- 21 **P**uer nobis nascitur • Unto us is born a Son
- 30 **A**lleluya: A nywe werk is come on honde
- 28 **T**her is no rose of swych vertu
- 92 **H**ark! the herald angels sing
- 6 **F**esta dies agitur
- 88 **R**ejoice, ye tenants of the earth
- 67 **O** Jesulein sass! o Jesulein mild! 0 Little One sweet! 0 Little One mild!
- 31 **M**ake we joyc nowe in this fest
- 27 **H**ayl, Mary. ful of grace
- 50 **E** la don; don Verges Maria
- 48 **R**iu, riu, chiu
- 65 **E**in Kindlein in der Wiesen • He smiles within his cradle

**EACH WORD IS A STEP ON ALONG PATH FROM HERE**

p12 - 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 code (2016 hunt page 26) - S=South Africa, E=England, W=West Indies, s=Sri Lanka, N=New Zealand:

E641	Graeme Swann	S316	Kyle Abbott	W151	Viv Richards	s147	Mahela Udawatte
E645	Jonathan Trott	S310	Imran Tahir	N222	Jacob Oram	W306	Carlos Brathwaite
E415	John Edrich	S315	Dean Elgar	N277	Lockie Ferguson	s49	Sanath Jayasuriya
E626	Kevin Pietersen	S329	Duanne Olivier	N234	Ross Taylor	N236	Grant Elliott
E577	Ronnie Irani	S323	Kagiso Rabada	N266	Matt Henry	W159	Colin Croft
E535	Phil Newport	W258	Narsingh Deonarine	s149	Lasith Embuldeniya	s103	Upul Tharanga
S302	JP Duminy	W253	Fidel Edwards	s84	Kumar Sangakkara	W247	Devon Smith

## STEP IN DATE ORDER OF THE SUBJECTS

### Author/Artist

pp4,6,8,9,11 contain G&S = Gilbert and Sullivan and link to the Ruddigore quotes in the Comments of the same pictures  
The remaining Authors are countries whose ISO codes are the initials of the Hunt Setters although Pitcairn is wrong.

- p2 - Albania (ISO code AL - 2014 Hunt setters Alcoholus Lubricatum)
- p3 - Shanghai Rapid Transit (ISO code SH RT - 2016 Hunt setters Steve Hames & Roger Thetford)
- p5 - Morocco (ISO code MA - 2002 Hunt setter Mark Abbott)
- p7 - Bulgaria (ISO code BG - 2009 Hunt setters Barden Gnomes)
- p10 - Pitcairn (ISO code PN [[FIPS code](#) was PC] - 2007 Hunt setter Pablo Coombs)
- p12 - South Georgia (ISO code GS - 2011 Hunt setter Garry Smith)

The answers to the hunts set on these dates are used to decode the Copyright Owner ciphers. However the dates are at odds with those used to decode the Comment ciphers:

- p2 - Comment 2002 - Copyright Owner 2014
- p3 - Comment 2007 - Copyright Owner 2016
- p5 - Comment 2009 - Copyright Owner 2002
- p7 - Comment 2011 - Copyright Owner 2009
- p10 - Comment 2014 - Copyright Owner 2007
- p12 - Comment 2016 - Copyright Owner setter 2011

### Camera Make / Model

pp2,3,5,7,10 - DLM/ Ch1 = **Death Loves Me / Chapter 1**

p11 - Canon EOS 550D (This one has loads of data as it was taken with a proper camera rather than a phone.)

### Copyright Owner

These ciphers are all decoded from previous hunt's solutions. Apart from page 12, the resulting words all occur in Chapter 1 of Make Death Love Me by Ruth Rendell

p2 - 41 27 4 52 5 - decoded from the [2014 Hunt answers](#)

41 - **Henry Irving**  
27 - **Elephants Dream**  
4 - **A... P...** (in Greek)  
52 - **Ross Nichols**  
5 - **David Yost**  
**HEARD**

p3 - 12.1 3.3 6.1 10.5 2.4 8.2 7.1 - decoded from the [2016 Hunt answers](#)

12.1 - **D**  
3.3 - **e5**  
6.1 - **Portugal**  
10.5 - **Oak Trees**  
2.4 - **Santa Anna**  
8.2 - **Interrobang**  
7.1 - **Tweezer's Alley**  
**DEPOSIT**

p5 - Q5 9 32 17 52 13 31 - decoded from the [2002 Hunt surname answers](#)

5 - **Marlowe**  
9 - **Ackroyd**  
32 - **Nicholas**



17 - **A**llgaier  
52 - **G**reene  
13 - **E**lliot  
31 - **R**owson  
**MANAGER**

p7 - X.4 I.2 I.5 XII.6 1.XIV X.14 - decoded from the [2009 Hunt solution](#)

X.4 **L**eglin  
I.2 **I**ronic  
I.5 **T**chau  
XII.6 **T**ie  
1.XIV **L**apine  
X.14 **E**carte  
**LITTLE**

p10 - Do3 Ta4 Mo3 HH3 - decoded from the [2007 Hunt answers](#)

Do3 = Dodgems 3 = **W**allpaper  
Ta4 = Tavern 4 = **A**rsole  
Mo3 = Moon 3 = **D**avis  
HH3 = Haunted House 3 = **S**pout  
**WADS**

p12 - Ord3,4 Obj5 Ord5 Abe5,1 Sem1,6 Ord1,2 Unb6 - decoded from the [2011 hunt answers \(letter in box\)](#)

Ord 3 = splers = **I**  
Ord 4 = deaN = **N**  
Obj 5 = scheCter = **C**  
Ord 5 = willIami = **I**  
Abe 5 = browNkiwi = **N**  
Abe 1 = Enigmavariations = **E**  
Sem 1 = Rain = **R**  
Sem 6 = joshuA = **A**  
Ord 1 = Tolstoy = **T**  
Ord 2 = bOngiovi = **O**  
Unb 6 = lamarR = **R**  
**INCINERATOR** - (Related [Loughton incinerator theft story](#))

## Title / Subject

p2 - Adnate in Tawahi police station mess  
p3 - Again peaks for the other side  
p5 - A good player should - beaten one  
p7 - Go in disguise - the ladies eat picnic  
p10 - My local deeds me the best humorous  
p12 - Maya P has top teller doing his job – **P**ablo Picasso's daughter is Maya

## Lens Manufacturer / Lens Type

p2 - First / 1	p4 - Sig / 1	p10 - First / 1
p3 - Sig / 1	p7 - First / 1	p12 - Sig / 1

## Thoughts

re 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. Clearly the copyright codes have been designed to pick out specific words in DLM Ch1, so these might be the words to look for. The next words following those are **safe, office, cashier, balance, money** - all bank related, but that's the focus of this chapter.

If "make" is the word to look for, then the next 4-letter words are **gulf, open, than, when, Alan, with**. However, that's actually 6 instances of "make" and excludes "make-up" and "makes". Alternatively, maybe the copyright words are the word lengths to look for after each of the first 5 instances of "make" - **gulf, coffee, himself, friends, lower**.

The numeric position of the MERRY XMAS 19 characters removed from the photo name (bracketed above) could be used as an incremental letter count of the title/subject decodes, but no meaningful message has been extracted by our attempts

## Thematic Links

### Banks/Robberies

- ATH News **Subverting Swiss Security** - Swiss bank accounts
- ATH News **Goalkeeper to be Honoured** - "Gordon Banks"
- page 1 Tornado GR.4 fighter jet banking in the setting sun, Banks Peninsula, safe deposit box
- page 2 "Red-headed League" contrive to rob the Coburg branch of the City and Suburban Bank
- page 3 Rex Stout's invention of a school banking system in about 1916 gave him enough money to travel in Europe, Banque Cramer & Cie. In his first short story, "Secrets" (1914), the crime is embezzlement from a bank.
- page 4 "The Million Dollar Bond Robbery"
- page 5 Mr Wednesday and Moon rob the First Illinois Bank on Market and Second
- page 6 "I know a bank", Bank of Ireland, "Robbery With Violins". "Jigsaw" involves a \$750,000 bank robbery.
- page 7 In the "The Thought Gang" Eddie Coffin and Hubert embark on a bank-robbing spree through France.
- page 8 In "The Satan Bug" the villain's plan is really to cause the City of London to be evacuated, allowing a criminal gang time to break into and rob major banks and then escape by helicopter.
- page 9 "How Mr Hogan Robbed a Bank"
- page 10 In "Make Death Love Me" two young misfits rob a bank at lunchtime and get away with 4000 pounds. BANK appears on chessboard.
- Page 11 Harry, Ron and Hermione break into Bellatrix's vault at Gringotts Bank and [steal one of the horcruxes](#) in "The Deathly Hallows"
- Page 12 In [Dossier no.113](#) Monsieur Lecoq of the French Sûreté is called to investigate a Bank Robbery
- Iain Banks was a theme of the 2016 Pablo Hunt
- page 5 in Dr Who episode "Nightmare in Silver" written by Neil Gaiman, the Doctor and Mr Clever agree to play chess for the complete control of the body. In "Norse Mythology" Gaiman ends the book with chess pieces, and the last line of the book is: "And the game begins anew." William Hartston wrote "How to cheat at chess."
- page 6 in "Fat Ollie's Book" Peter Handel was playing chess in the park outside Ramsey U downtown when Ollie found him. Chess is also referenced in "Widows", "Privileged Conversation" and "A Horses Head"
- page 7 Bobby Fischer v Tibor Weinberger
- page 9 "white plays first and up chess", "not a chess grandmaster". John Steinbeck had a character in his book Sweet Thursday, say "[Chess is possibly the only game in the world in which it is impossible to cheat.](#) Boy, he was wrong". In 1985 Nick Down entered the British Ladies Correspondence Championship as Miss Leigh STRANGE and Won the LADY Herbert trophy. A **PABLO** Zarnicki used a computer to cheat.
- page 10 Russian bishop=slon=elephant, chessboard, Nihal Sarin, Ruy Lopez
- page 11 Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (wizard's chess)

### Ruth Rendell

- ATH News "**The Reason Why**", "**Going Wrong**", "**The Thief**"
- page 2 "The Crocodile Bird"
- page 3 "The Rottweiler"
- page 4 "The Fallen Curtain"
- page 5 Wexford
- page 6 Haydn's epitaph = RR motto "Vixi Scripsi"
- page 7 Old Mammoth Grape Vine (Barbara Vine)
- page 8 Crossword answers "One Across, Two Down" give "Author is thematic"
- page 9 Ruth Rendell awards
- page 10 "Harm Done", "Kissing the Gunners Daughter", "Make Death Love Me", "Start at my blue plaque"
- page 11 Wexford Treasures, "Portobello"
- page 12 "Thirteen Steps Down"

### Pablo

- Hunt home page: Pablo Eduardo Sisniega Fink, Charles Pablo Wheatstone, PABLO RIP
- ATH News: Pablo Neruda
- page 1: PablosATH (key), Pablo, a character in John Steinbeck's novel Tortilla Flat
- page 7: Part of the Enigma cipher identification string
- Page 12: Pablo Morillo, Pablo Picasso's daughter Maya
- not forgetting Pablo Coombs himself (RIP)

### Chess

- ATH News "Chess Champ floored by Czech Mate".
- Charles Wheatstone co-invented the electrical telegraph. The telegraph companies advertised chess matches to show the practical applications of the telegraph in its speed and accuracy and long distance. To call attention to its interactive potential, early demonstrations of the telegraph included [long-distance chess games](#).
- page 3 King's Gambit, Queen's Gambit, In "Gambit" Chess master Paul Jerin is fatally poisoned during a blindfold match at the *Gambit* Chess Club, In "Invisible Cities" (Exif cipher) Calvino posits the discourse between Kublai Khan and Marco Polo as a chess match.
- page 4 "The Big Four" references the Ruy Lopez chess opening used on page 10

## Hills

- Hunt page "my husband loved hill-walking", "Leicester Square" (Lester S Hill). Hill cipher matrices are square
- ATH News West Hills tennis club, "**Reading on the Increase**" - linear algebra, "The Matrix"
- Page 2 Hill Barton, Solsbury Hill
- page 3 West Hills Golf Club, Rex Hill, Churchill tank
- page 4 Bexhill On Sea
- page 5 Hill House
- page 6 Hillman Hunter, McBain threatened a lawsuit against the producers of [Hill Street Blues](#) and in the novel Lightning the characters talk about the similarities.
- page 7 Fischer Hill
- page 8 Stuart Hill, Maclean Hill
- page 9 Lennox Hill Hospital
- page 10 Hunters Hill College
- page 11 Stoatshead Hill portkey
- page 12 Cock Hill

## Hunter

- page 2 Violet Hunter
- page 3 "The Mother Hunt", "The Father Hunt", Rex Todhunter Stout"
- page 4 Samuel Hunter Christie, Hunters Lodge
- page 5 Hunter (Neverwhere)
- page 6 Evan Hunter, Hillman Hunter, Bjork Hunter
- page 7 Tim Hunter
- page 10 Hunters Hill College
- page 12 "at least save the right to hunt for honor" / Montaignac hunters

## Alliteration

- ATH News "Subverting Swiss Security", **Holiday Weather Forecast**: "Woodland walks will work well"
- page 1 "paltry production", "scarcely substituting", "feast of fun", "previously planned", "the triumphant treasure-seekers",
- Ruth Rendell
- Submission instructions: "cracking codes, perusing problems, traversing trails and locating loot."

## Switzerland

- Hunt page key to cipher ("big plus")
- ATH News "**Subverting Swiss Security**" - Swiss bank accounts
- page 3 Swiss bank Banque Cramer & Cie
- page 4 Swiss flag on Hunters Lodge

## Jonathan Mestel

- Author of hunt PDFs, Co-wrote the 1995 Logica hunt and was one of the setters in the [2009 hunt](#)
- His Logica 1995 hunt included a chess code.
- [Jonathan Mestel](#) was awarded two [Chess Grandmaster](#) titles, one in 1997
- also represented England in contract bridge. Which could link to Wheatstone and his bridge.
- His wife's surname is O'Donovan close to Domova
- On [his website](#) is a link to "[THE VERY MODEL OF A GRADUATE MATHEMATICAL](#)" (to the tune of the "Modern Major General" song by Gilbert & Sullivan)

## Black and White

- ATH News Football Gordon Banks and Pele
- Wizard of Oz film begins on black and white
- page 1 Oreo cookie
- page 8 Crossword puzzle
- page 9 Chessboard/ draughts board
- page 12 "Le Blanc et Le Noir"
- Hunt page Zebra with menorah stripes
- "[Black and White](#)" superhero novel by Jackie Kessler and Caitlin Kittredge. One of the characters has code name **Iridium** (p10 Q1), another **Jet** (p1 picture), and another's real name is Bruce **Hunter**. Jet's ability is **Shadow** power, Iridium commits a **bank robbery**; At a young age, Jet's father was driven insane by his shadow powers, killing Jet's mother with his power and going after the child for breaking the rules and sneaking **cookies** before dinner. Jackie Kessler is the American author of the Hell on Earth urban fantasy paranormal romance series published by Kensington/**Zebra**.

## Muddy Christmas in Epping Forest

10 Start at my blue plaque. Head N



2 take signed footpath West



3 follow path to right by fence. Cross road



4 Head down to L. Note runged tree and bench to R



5 After a boggy furlong (220 yards) notice no nuts or spoons



6 Take main path up WNW a hundred rods (550 yards) to clearing with a post



7 Sharp right into wood. Continue to bank



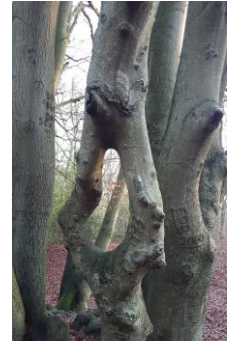
8 From truncated tree widershins (to left) for thirty yards



9 Look for a tree with very many trunks



11 One chain (22 yards) back from keyhole inside tree CXCIXLVII (tag no. 19957)



Our team is always keen to get the outdoor part of Pablo's ATH done as soon as possible after publication, so that we can relax a bit over the festive days and then focus on solving the missing bits. But this year the teaser poster gave us a lot of possible themes and we researched many topics which then did not come up in the main hunt at all. So we didn't have any idea of where we might end up although we'd actually mentioned Ruth Rendell on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November!

While studying the trees and other waypoint markers in the photos, we proposed very early on that we might have to visit either Hampstead Heath or Epping Forest. The area looked well maintained with wide paths and old trees. Unfortunately we chose to look around Hampstead Heath first, but couldn't spot anything interesting on Streetview and other photos available online. It wasn't until we spotted the "DEB DE N" in one of the Exif codes that our focus changed to Epping Forest.

We knew Debden was near the edge of the forest and one of the instructions seemed to indicate that the bicycle was on a pub or cafe. So we looked for pubs along the edge of Epping Forest on the Debden side and the first one we checked on Streetview turned out to be the correct one! And with the help of the decoded instructions and a map it didn't take long to find the lion and also photos of the fishing platform at Baldwin's Pond and the clearing with the pole.



Unfortunately by that time it was already mid-afternoon on 22<sup>nd</sup> December and none of us were close enough to get there before dark. We had to wait until the next morning, but in the meantime we researched the location of the pub and the lion and finally made the connection to Ruth Rendell and also the Lester sisters.



Two team members, their spouses and a thematic canine met at the lion at sunrise the following morning and set off to follow the waypoints. At first it was easy going, until we reached the runged tree where it all got very boggy and every step had to be judged carefully.

After a bit of a delay we arrived at the fishing platform and learnt what the “no nuts and spoons” was all about. Do people really use spoons for fishing? I guess they are similar to blinkers. Anyway, we continued our walk along the aptly named “Clay Ride” and soon

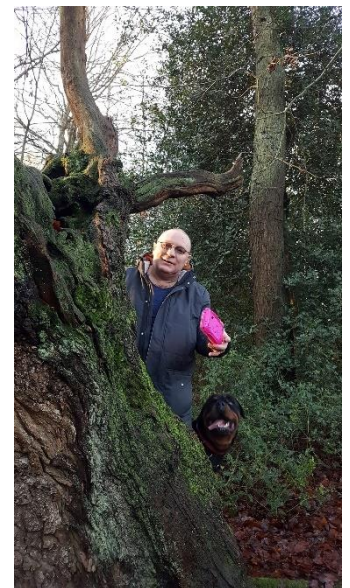


arrived at the clearing with the post and spotted the next tree and the sharp right turn towards the Lost Pond which we had on top of our list as the most likely location for the box (especially as the message on page 1 told us that we’d be near water).



A few more boggy puddles to avoid and then we saw the truncated tree and the bank straight ahead. When we had almost reached the pond we suddenly spotted some people coming from the direction that we were meant to be going next. And among them two familiar faces. They were members of team Alcoholus Lubricatum and they told us that they had just retrieved ticket #1. Oh no! We were so close! Maybe we should have gone in the dark after all, but we all thought that the task of finding the correct tree would have been very difficult then.

After a little chat with the other team, we followed the instructions to the impressive tree with the “very many trunks” and found the “keyhole”. As we weren’t quite sure how to interpret the next instruction, we spread out in all directions and checked various tree tags for the correct number. Eventually we got the correct one and found the “red” (pink really....) box hidden under leaves. We quickly took ticket #2 and put the box back in its hiding place. Then we took some photos and walked over to a nearby old Geocache. While we were there we realised that we hadn’t really read the instructions in the Pablo box properly. What if we had missed some important clue or instruction? So we went back and grabbed the box again, and this time took photos of everything inside and sent them to our members who were following us from their desks. There didn’t seem to be anything unusual. “Send an email to the setters”, ok, no problem. A pack of Silver Oreos, which the other team had taken away, and at the time of writing this we still don’t know how Oreos fit into this hunt.



12. On way back pass bench to bike if thirsty



On our way back to the car we made a little detour to the Foresters Arms pub, which was still closed that early in the morning. Luckily the mud was so wet that it literally dripped off our boots and we didn’t end up with a few extra kilos of clay on our feet. We were wondering about the use of some old measurements in the instructions, i.e. chains, rods, furlong, especially as the distances given did not quite correspond with the actual distances walked on the ground. But at the time we were happy enough to have found the box and to not have slipped and landed in the mud.

Two of our team members returned to the site on 5<sup>th</sup> January to look for ATHEXIT. We'd noticed that the actual distances walked didn't quite match those in the decoded instructions so decided to pace out 100 rods (about 502m) from the Fishing notice (which mentions 2 rods) to see where they ended up. The post in the clearing is after about 420m, then the path carries on in a straight line. Bizarrely, at exactly 502m, they found a group of trees garlanded in the remains of some red string. They had a good look in these trees but found nothing. They decided this is just pure coincidence, but it did get the heart rate going for a short while. They rechecked the treasure box (next ticket was 13), then it was off to the Foresters Arms for a drink.



measured distances:

- runged tree - two trees : 50 metres ~55yds
- two trees - fishing sign: 170 metres ~ 186yds (1 furlong = 220yds)
- fishing sign - clearing with post: 420 metres ~ 459yds (100 rods = 550yds)
- clearing - truncated tree: 220 metres ~ 240yds
- truncated tree - keyhole: 35 metres ~ 38yds
- keyhole - final: 10 metres ~ 11yds (1 chain = 22yds)

