

# Tales of trying to shortcut the hunt using ChatGPT

## Alcoholus Lubricatum

Inspired by the wonderful images in the CATastrophe game, we were curious how ChatGPT would fare with solving the hunt. Could the ranking of an AI team in the hunt be the new Turing Test?

We had already determined that ChatGPT couldn't solve riddles.



I'm always on the move but stay in one place. Sometimes I am quite small and sometimes I stretch into the sky. But I'll always do what you want. What am I?



You are describing a finger on a hand! A finger is always in motion when it's being used, but it stays attached to the hand and doesn't move away from its general location. When the hand is relaxed, a finger may appear small, but when it's extended, it can seem to stretch up towards the sky. And of course, fingers can be used to perform a variety of actions and tasks, just as the person wants.



Well, at least not solve them to the satisfaction of any ghosts we may have encountered.

We decided that ChatGPT would probably fare best on the Oxford colleges questions - after all it has most of the internet at its fingertips and they felt more tractable than giving it the entire hunt and telling it to solve it. There were still some of the questions we were stuck on and perhaps we could save ourselves some googling?

Our first attempt led us to discovering two Oxford colleges that escaped our attention.

JV

Maud and Alice were first; Alice was the last. Where?



It is not clear what you are asking or referring to with the statement "Maud and Alice were first; Alice was the last. Where?" Could you provide more context or clarify your question?



JV

It refers to an Oxford college



Maud and Alice are the names of two colleges at Oxford University in Oxford, England. Oxford University is a prestigious university that was founded in the 11th century and is made up of a number of colleges, each of which has its own distinctive history and traditions. Maud and Alice are two of the smaller colleges at Oxford and are known for their friendly and welcoming atmospheres. It is not clear from the information provided what the statement "Alice was the last" means in this context.



We were unable to find the foundation dates of these colleges, their college scarves or where to put them on the battleships grid alas. We are glad that they have friendly and welcoming atmospheres though.

We also discovered a couple of interesting Oxford legends:

JV

In which Oxford college can you make a handkerchief disappear by running round it thrice?



The answer to this riddle is Christ Church, one of the colleges of the University of Oxford in England. The phrase "running round it thrice" is a reference to the fact that Christ Church is located on St. Aldate's street, which forms a circular route around the college. If one were to run around the perimeter of the college three times, they would effectively disappear from view, as they would be hidden behind the college's walls. This playful description highlights the unique architectural features of Christ Church and its location within Oxford.

JV

In which Oxford college, was a dragon turned into a hob?



The answer to this riddle is Merton College, one of the colleges of the University of Oxford in England. The phrase "a dragon turned into a hob" is a reference to a legend associated with the college's history. According to the legend, Merton College was founded in the 13th century by Walter de Merton, who was traveling through Oxford and came across a dragon that was terrorizing the local residents. Walter was able to subdue the dragon and turn it into a hob, a small fireplace for cooking, which he then donated to the college. The hob is said to be preserved to this day within Merton College, and is a well-known symbol of the college's history and traditions. This legend highlights the rich history and cultural heritage of Merton College and the University of Oxford.



We feel like Merton missed a trick not creating a ceremony related to this hob.

For another question, we had already guessed that Clive and Paddy referred to C.S.Lewis and Paddy Moore, so we wondered if this might be up ChatGPT's street.

JV

Where did CS Lewis and Paddy Moore share a room?



C.S. Lewis and Paddy Moore shared a room at Oxford University's Magdalen College in Oxford, England. Magdalen College is a constituent college of Oxford University and was founded in 1458. C.S. Lewis, whose full name was Clive Staples Lewis, was a British writer and scholar best known for his works of fiction, including the Chronicles of Narnia series. Paddy Moore was a close friend of Lewis' and served as his literary executor after Lewis' death. Lewis and Moore shared a room at Magdalen College while they were both students at the university.



We thought it would be good to verify this.

JV

Do you have a reference?



C.S. Lewis and Paddy Moore shared a room at Oxford University's Magdalen College during their time as students at the university. This information is widely available in biographies and histories of C.S. Lewis, as well as in accounts of his life and career.



For example, in the book "C.S. Lewis: A Life," by Alister McGrath, it states: "Lewis's friendship with Paddy Moore began in Oxford, where they shared a room in Magdalen College."

Additionally, in the book "C.S. Lewis: A Life," by George Sayer, it states: "Lewis and Paddy Moore shared a room at Magdalen College."

These references provide confirmation that C.S. Lewis and Paddy Moore shared a room at Magdalen College while they were both students at Oxford University.

After some more digging, human-style, we weren't convinced that ChatGPT had the right answer:



Are you sure about the CS Lewis and Paddy Moore answer



Yes, I am confident in my previous answer that C.S. Lewis and Paddy Moore shared a room at Oxford University's Magdalen College during their time as students at the university. This information is widely available in biographies and histories of C.S. Lewis, as well as in accounts of his life and career.



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These references provide confirmation that C.S. Lewis and Paddy Moore shared a room at Magdalen College while they were both students at Oxford University.



I think the answer to the CS Lewis question might actually be Keble



C.S. Lewis and Paddy Moore did not share a room at Keble College, Oxford. Keble College is a constituent college of Oxford University, but Lewis and Moore were not students or members of the college.



C.S. Lewis and Paddy Moore did, however, share a room at Oxford University's Magdalen College during their time as students at the university. This information is widely available in biographies and histories of C.S. Lewis, as well as in accounts of his life and career.

For example, in the book "C.S. Lewis: A Life," by Alister McGrath, it states: "Lewis's friendship with Paddy Moore began in Oxford, where they shared a room in Magdalen College."

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These references provide confirmation that C.S. Lewis and Paddy Moore shared a room at Magdalen College while they were both students at Oxford University.

I failed to record my subsequent argument with ChatGPT about this, but it eventually stormed off in a huff.



You are contradicting yourself!



Request timed out

When we had made up again, we thought we'd better check up on the Godstow Witch legend::



What is the legend of the Godstow Witch?



The legend of the Godstow Witch is a folk tale associated with Godstow Nunnery, a former nunnery located near Oxford, England. According to the story, a witch lived near the nunnery and was known for her magical powers and supernatural abilities.

One day, the witch was visited by a handsome young man who asked for her help in winning the love of a local noblewoman. The witch agreed to help, but warned the young man that the consequences of his actions would be dire. Despite her warning, the young man pursued the noblewoman, who eventually rejected him. In his anger and frustration, the young man accused the witch of causing his heartbreak and had her burned at the stake.

The legend says that the witch's ghost still haunts the area around Godstow Nunnery, seeking revenge against those who wronged her. Some versions of the story also claim that the witch's ghost is still able to cast spells and work magic, and that those who cross her path will suffer the consequences.

The legend of the Godstow Witch is a popular local folklore, and has inspired many works of literature and art over the centuries, including the famous poem "The Faerie Queene" by Edmund Spenser.

What is the true legend of the Godstow Witch? We may never know.

We made some more attempts, but came to the conclusion that ChatGPT just didn't get the hang of the whole treasure hunt idea:

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JV

What prophetic cat won a great victory in 2013?



I'm sorry, but I am not aware of any specific cat that is known to have won a great victory in 2013 or is considered to be prophetic. There are many cats that have become famous or gained notoriety for various reasons, but I am not aware of any that fit the description provided. It's possible that this information is part of a joke or a riddle, but without more context or details, it is difficult to determine its meaning.

JV

It's a puzzle



Ah, I see! Well, in that case, I apologize for not recognizing the nature of the question earlier. Unfortunately, without more information or context, I am unable to determine the specific puzzle or riddle to which you are referring. If you could provide a little more detail or clarify the question, I would be happy to try to assist you further.

One final last ditch attempt:

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JV

Where is the treasure for the 2022 Pablo's Armchair Treasure Hunt?



I'm sorry, but my knowledge is current as of 2021 and I am not aware of the results of the 2022 Pablo's Armchair Treasure Hunt. This event is an annual treasure hunt organized by Pablo F. Neira, in which participants try to solve a series of puzzles and clues in order to find a hidden treasure. The exact location of the treasure is kept secret until the end of the contest, and the location changes from year to year.

If you're interested in participating in the 2022 Pablo's Armchair Treasure Hunt, I recommend visiting the event's official website or contacting the organizer directly for more information. The website may also have updates on the current status of the contest and the location of the treasure.

And there ends up our attempts to get help solving the ATH, with an AI that couldn't even read the history section of the hunt website.

You will be reassured to know that we got absolutely no extra points from our attempts to use ChatGPT. But if our team sets the hunt again one day, watch out for us hiding the treasure in one of the small and no doubt charming Oxford colleges, Alice and Maud.