

IM Skinticus

Helicule Helicula matches the naming convention of the hunt, but appears to be a real person as they continue to tweet, have done so since before the hunt period, and swears like a docker.

So just who is our potty mouthed hunter?

Principia Ignorantia

The discovery of this code resulted in a funny story. It was a few days after we discovered the code before we deciphered its meaning. In the meantime I googled a7ot8ea5ro9a looking for some inspiration and came across the twitter user Helicule Helicula who had tweeted the code. Excitedly thinking that this was another alliteratively named character in the hunt I trawled through their tweets looking for more inspiration before unhappily deciding that it must just be a fellow hunter looking for clues. I stubbornly reported back to my team complaining about the drivel I had just read through for no good reason. Another member of our team then immediately reported back that the user Helicule Helicula was in fact his son, trying to help out his dad by asking his friends if they could decipher the code. Whoops!

Amanda Hartwell's Team

In recipe blog we have references to beef and lamb. Are these the ex-England cricketers Ian Botham (Beefy) and Alan Lamb?

Winner of the 'start on a tangent and keep going' prize. If only this prize paid, as I am sure that we would have received it on several occasions.

The goats could refer to the goat picture, called 'The Trusty Servant', outside the kitchen of Winchester College. Or, refer to availability of amusements for kids at the top of St. Catherine's Hill - swing, logs and the Mizmaze.

Chiltern Fellowship

Kevin and Alison ruined their reputations at the University Library, Cambridge by ordering up I,Leo by Lew Welch, Lassie Come Home and all the Desperate Dan books they had. To make matters worse, it was outside Full Term and the only people there were senior academics – to say they got some funny looks would be an understatement. But, as another of our team pointed out, we need to remember where an awful lot of the UK's top comics were educated!

Lady Strange and the Earl of Yarborough

Winner of this year's best justified wrong answer goes to...

We think this is Edward O Thorpe, the eminent mathematics professor, author, hedge fund manager and first person to wear a computer and make lots of money by predicting where ball lands at roulette (having contacted him, he thinks it is him too).

Mr Tony Blair has purchased property in Wales for sons. Probably the Welsh think of Mr Blair as a witch.

Corn flake cakes

The rooster on the cornflakes box is there because roosters crow in the morning, and cornflakes are eaten for breakfast.

We present to you a revolting idea of a recipe using both chicken and cornflakes:

CORNFLAKE BAKED CHICKEN

24 chicken thighs or wing drumettes with skin

2 c. crumbed corn flakes

3/4 c. reg. or diet mayonnaise

1/2 c. milk

1 tsp. salt

1/2 tsp. pepper

Non-stick spray shortening

Dip chicken pieces in mixture of mayonnaise, milk, salt and pepper. Roll in cornflake crumbs. Spray cookie sheet with shortening. Bake 1 hour in 400 degree oven.

Stragglers

'The recipes are more like descriptions of Craig Carter trying to make something unremarkable and not doing a very good job of it.' *<chef's comments redacted>*

Another drab-looking one & another one that looks pretty gross. *<again, chef's comments redacted>*

LAMB AND VEGETABLE STEW - This one looks better. *<this is not enough to placate chef>*

Team Norway

(D'oh) 'We couldn't find any clues on the coin blog. Maybe "vanished without trace" could be a reference to the 30 dollar 3-sided Bermudan coin - i.e. the Bermuda Triangle – but we couldn't see any clues there, though.'

The first comment on Pot Noodle is "First post". The first words of the other comments are "Land of my fathers" - the national anthem of Wales :-)

(D'Oh once more) The last word of the last three comments on the stew are word, line and letter, which suggests a book code somewhere – but we never found it. We still suspect the original help me! note.

Psychologicals

And so a Welsh theme emerges... Bendigedig!

And a thank you to Sarah for appending 'RIP Ben' to her efforts to get to wicileaks, a very compassionate attempt.

Kailas's Pathfinders

Our first kickoff meeting on December 16th was held at the Mitre pub very close to Paddington. Little did we know how prophetic that was: the venue was chosen so Matt could visit on his way home to Devon; diverted because of the snow, he passed the Prince Of Wales pub in Didcot later that evening.

Phil's realisation, as he hacked around on the career-girl website that the 404 error on the default page was a fake because the site was running Apache not IIS

At 16:22 the next day, Ivor Ifans' email appeared in our Inbox, triggering one of the most exciting periods in this, or any other year's, treasure hunts. It confirmed Ben's death, while hinting that the service would reply if we were careful with our choice of Subject. After a few speculative emails, Richard spotted the quote about Geometry being Ben's favourite subject and we were away.

At around 10.45 am, Dave got to the burial site where he completely missed the Logica L which was to show up, embarrassingly, in the picture that he took of the pile of logs.

However, a special mention is due for their interpretation of the dream genie Flying high post. Having identified Brian Trubshaw, they missed where he described it as wizard, but spotted that MAGIC is Paul Daniel's number plate. There followed a number of wild attempts to spot a Magicians theme, but alas, no.

Slow Learners

The Quiz has an anagram theme to it and from various words and phrases on Ben's blog page ie. Rubbish 'PICTURE' Fussed 'A FIELD OF CHICKENS' we have the sentence

'I HAVE LEFT A LOGICA-IT SIGN ON PIECE OF BARK FIVE YARDS FROM PICNIC VENUE'

I would love to have seen some of the guesses made from picking other words and phrases from the blog, if only because it seems to coincide with our own personal straw clutching from many a hunt gone by.

NMP

This may as well have been in our solutions document. I am only surprised that they failed to provide the coordinates for my dining room and mention which end of my table was used as clearly, they were there when the photos were taken.

We deduced that Ben had an assistant who dealt the cards in order from a deck while Ben rearranged the chip piles to give the Braille code. When the assistant had got down to only a five cards left (i.e. after hand 9, when 9C, QC, 4D, QD, KD remained undealt) he or she shuffled the pack and then dealt again from the top until hand 19. This idea is supported by 4D, 9C and QC being the 3rd, 4th and 6th cards dealt after the shuffle: the shuffle was quick and these cards have remained close together. There aren't any further sets of ten without repeats, so thenceforth the assistant must have shuffled before reaching the end of the pack.

Further praise is due for commitment to the cause which saw NMP retrieve a ticket at 1:42 am. I hope that their barely lit cyclist got a beer for his efforts.

APOPHENIACS ANONYMOUS

-----Original Message-----

From: Baker, David (GSD - UK)

Sent: 13 January 2011 11:44

To: Manley, David; Baker, Chris N

Subject: If-Selected

Have you seen their forum this morning? I haven't had a look for a day or two, but someone appears to have spiked their website with a powerful hallucinogen.

Re: Konami - The only place we got it to work was in Mario Super Smash Brawl where the character Snake has special move called the Cypher.

But, a special mention to Apopheniacs Anonymous who found, in Neal Stephenson's Cryptonomicon, a book which shared so many things with our hunt that even we were surprised it was nothing to do with it.

Marchant and friends

After going through all the details, we felt fairly sure the treasure was buried near the royal mint in the town of Llantrisant, South Wales. The number of clues that pointed to this area, plus the links to the royal mint (i.e Newton, the nearby roads) were fairly convincing.

There was also a route, following the record hangliding flight, that went from near by all the way up to Norwich, and a large number of the answers also followed this route. So it is possible that the formula could be buried in this area instead, but the sheer number of hints to the mint suggested otherwise.

Principia Ignorantia

On the celestial brewpot question:

Benjamin Thomas, aka Count Rumford, invented a coffee pot with a drip mechanism, a fore-runner to the modern coffee percolator. Although Rumford was not a Logician, he was a Count and Logicians do lots of counting.

Mailing Ben

The full list of email subjects attempted is as follows. We can offer no justification and will name no names.

30

97

2020

2413578

55530552

1190710095

[Gravatar] Verify email addition

[Principia Numismatica] New Email Address

1acf5aee834b5798

30 dollars

30dollars

a7ot8ea5ro9a

ABRLRLDDUU

Ac6s

Ace clubs six spades

ACED

AcornArchimedesBenBarrettCraigCarterDamonDanielsEddieElsonFayeFarrellGretaGreeneHankHendersonIvorIfansJerryJackson

Addicted to Love

Always secretly loved Geometry as a subject

Anthony Anderson

AOTEAROA

Armchair Treasure Hunt

ATH

ATH2010 16.12.2010

bathdy

Ben

Ben Barrett link to personal blog please

ben barrett's blog

ben barrett's personal blog

ben's blog

ben's personal blog

ben@wicileeks.com

benatwiaileekseotaom

bermuda

bermuda triangle

bermudatriangle

blair witch project

blog

Blog address

BREAD
brechou
brecqhou
breqchou
Britney Spears
BZJXLLWCP
cadair freichiau trysor helfa
caravel
cistercian numerals
coins
Coins^2
coinswales
Coloured Coinage
could I have the link to your personal blog, please?
Could I have your Blog link
Craig Carter
Crockard
Cuba
Damon Daniels
David Manley
dddd
didcot
Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night
dough
Dream
Dream Genie
Dream Genius Genies
Eddie Elson
Editpir
Evol ot detcidda
farrellfaye
flickr
for one key, 2 scores are important
Geometry
GEOMETRYGEOMETRY
gold
Gravatar
Greta Greene
Guernsey
guernsey 10 shilling
guernsey coin
Hank Henderson
heartless
helfa
Hello

Help Me
Hi?
HINT
Hunt
Hunt mint
Hunter
huntmint
huntwales
I WANT THE LINK TO YOUR PERSONAL BLOG
I'd like to see your personal blog
i'd like to see your personal blog please
ifans
ifor
intrepid
Isle of Man
it's not in wales
ITS NOT IN WALES
ivor
ivor ifans
Jerry Jackson
Kendal Mint Cake
kipper
KM #97
KM# 97
KM97
Konami
konami code
KONAMI GIVES CYPHER TEXT
leeks
link
Link to blog
LINK TO MY PERSONAL BLOG
Link to personal blog
link to your personal blog
Llantrisant
Llareggub
Logica 2010
Lord Evans
lushbourne
Mark Twain
mary celeste
maryceleste
master of the mint
Mayday
MBJJJM

me

meben@wicileaks.com

memory stick

Merry Christmas

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ME

Mint

mint coins formula safe

Mint Hunt

mint wales

mintcake

mintcoins

minthunt

mintronson

mintshunts

mintwales

mintwelsh

Monica

Monica Mint

Monk

MUNT

murray

my personal blog

mysormo

mysrrmo

nclt

New Zealand

norman conquest

NUMISMATICS

numismatism

omkggqrnhpcdqfhW

pennog coch

pennogcoch

peppermint

personal blog

Personal blog link

Personal blog request

Peter Crouch

Pirate

places2explore

Please may I have the link to your personal blog

Please may I have the link to your personal blog?

Please send link

please send link to personal blog

please send me the link to your personal blog

Please send me your personal blog link

Pobjoy
poker
poker hands
pollard
Polo
power supply unit
Principia Numismatica
Prinum
prinum blog
private blog
Project Gutenberg
PSU
Pub quiz
puzzle
query
Re: blog
Re: blog again
Re: I WANT THE LINK TO YOUR PERSONAL BLOG
Re: mint coins formula safe
Re: Personal Blog
Re: Principia Numismatica
Re: sillontesora guernsey square geometry link key
Re: Solved your puzzle
Re: test
Re: Testing the out of office response
Request for blog url
reuleaux
Riptide
ronsonmint
Royal Mint
secret formula
Shopping List
sillon tesoro
sillontesora guernsey square geometry link key
sillontesoro
Sir Isaac Newton
SKY HIGH ON A MOUNTAIN TOP GOATS INVESTIGATE COSY PLACES WHERE THEY EXPECT SHELTER
sky high on a mountain top got to investigate cosy places where they expect shelter
sky high on a mountaintop got to investigate cosy places where they expect shelter
skyhighonamountaintopgottoinvestigatecosyplaceswheretheyexpectshelter
Solved your puzzle
SOLVITE
Something Fishy
spearmint
STARTABRLRLDDUU

test
Test ATH
Testing the out of office response
The formula
the link to my personal blog
the link to your personal blog
thebenbarrett
Thrupenny Bits
travel
treasure hunt
treasure madness
triangle
Triangular
Trysor
UDDLRLRBA
Under milk wood
Up up down down left right left right a b
uuddlrab
uuddlrba
uuddlrbastart
vale via a theods cod logo theo um male nod mex kew yore
vanished
vanished without
vanished without trace
wales
wales coin
wales mint
walescoins
walesmint
walesmoney
Welshcoins
Welshmint
Wheel of Fortune
wicileeks
william 1st
William the Conqueror
Your blog
Your personal blog
YRTEMOEG