



ATH NEWS

Tuesday 18th November



Christmas Pantomime Cancelled

In a surprise announcement, the ATH entertainment team has cancelled its Christmas pantomime "Athexit." They cited allegations of bias amid the election climate as the reason why. "I honestly can't see what all the ding-dong is about," complained director Jo Bercoz. "This was all just a bit of fun, relating the story of Theresa, who is whisked away by a whirlwind to a fantasy world along with her entire House. She is joined on her epic journey to the Émeraude city by Boris the brainless Scarecrow, Jeremy the cowardly Lion and Jacob the heartless Tin Man. Some claim the designation of Nicola as the good witch of the North and Arlene as the wicked witch of the West indicates a political agenda, but we are constrained by geographical realities and the original story. Someone had to be the dog, and we are sorry that the character "Toto Farago" gave offence to a certain individual and his solicitors. We apologise for any unintended slight."

The team is desperately seeking alternative holiday entertainment, but time is passing and this could well prove a forlorn hunt despite one's best efforts.



Chess Champ Floored by Czech Mate

Celebrations at the ATH chess club got slightly out of hand last week, resulting in hospitalisation of their top player, Ivan Knight, Czech-born Ivan, who was awarded a grandmaster title in 1997, admitted to our reporter "It's all a bit of a blur. I'd had one or two drinks and was playing a friendly game against my homely wife Domova. I was white and as a joke I had advanced my king to e5 on the 5th move when things started going wrong. She replied Qa5 mate and I was so surprised I fell over and fractured two ribs. I still can't work out how it happened."



Reading on the Increase

Despite concerns over a decline in national literacy, a recent survey has indicated an upturn in the number of books being read each year. The greater availability of films may have contributed to this. For example, the sale of Jane Austen novels surged when "Pride and Prejudice" was released on the screen, although reports of a similar boom in textbooks on linear algebra following "The Matrix" are apocryphal, while baptisms may actually have decreased as a result of "The Godfather". The numbers peak just before Xmas, with a similar peak in the New Year. It seems that dedicated outdoor types, such as the new Postmaster General, preface their travels by perusing a wide variety of novels.

Subverting Swiss Security

Troubled by a string of thefts from numbered Swiss bank accounts, the gnomes of Zurich (no umlauts) have increased the size of their account numbers to lie between 40 and 80 digits to combat the thief. "This is mad," complained account holder, Baroness Bindie Diebin. "It will actually weaken security as everyone will forget their number and have to write it down. But I can reproduce my number whenever I need it. If you multiply mine by nine you get the same result as taking its last digit and moving it to the front. This isn't too bad, but I dare say one day they'll switch to letters and I'll have to remember KEIPRHDZLRLJGUSHLUOOGTPNIZTILAMVCVHUUUTGLBOD."



Tragic Death of Tennis Chairman

The West Hills tennis club was shocked when its chairman suffered a heart attack while delivering an after-dinner speech. His widow told our reporter who attended the event:

Commented [MJ1]: Pablo Neruda and Small Animals Teaching Hospital, a rebus for Pablo's ATH.

Commented [MJ2]: Wrong day indicating another year referred to.

Commented [MJ3]: Each paragraph has a relevant outline. In order, these are Kansas (Wizard of Oz), Czechia, Berkshire, Switzerland (later Playfair keyword) Prague (Charles bridge, Wheatstone), Sheffield (Banks' town) and Greater London (treasure location).

Commented [MJ15]: Reading a pun on Reading, marked on the map with a red symbol. This was a blurred "project Gutenberg" logo, repeated in the Hunt, to hint that some online texts would be useful.

Commented [MJ4]: Athexit is a side quest of the Hunt.

Commented [MJ5]: "The reason why" is one of 3 Ruth Rendell novels in the Newsletter.

Commented [MJ6]: The coloured letters, one per paragraph. Spell out Tally ho when arranged in rainbow order. One could link this to "Over the rainbow" - another Wizard of Oz reference.

Commented [MJ16]: A reference to the Hill cipher to come. In the event I did not require much Linear Algebra.

Commented [MJ17]: Reference to "Twin peaks" keyword

Commented [MJ18]: Lyon Playfair was appointed postmaster general on Tuesday 18th November 1873

Commented [MJ19]: Forewarning of many books in the Hunt.

Commented [MJ20]: The bank robbery theme.

Commented [MJ21]: A reference to the missing umlaut in Rod Sill below. Zurich does not require an umlaut in English.

Commented [MJ7]: Sundry Wizard of Oz references: ding-dong, Bercoz, Theresa, House, Emeraude, Boris, Jeremy, Nicola, Arlene, Farago.

Commented [MJ22]: "The thief" is a Ruth Rendell novel.

Commented [MJ23]: Ruth Rendell was a Baroness.

Commented [MJ8]: I hope it wasn't.

Commented [MJ24]: Ich bin die Diebin means "I am the thief" in German. I liked the wordplay

Commented [MJ25]: The only such number less than 80 digits is 10112359550561797752808988764044943820224719

Commented [MJ9]: A not very funny name "I've a knight", but intended to point to Domova...

Commented [MJ26]: Subtracting letters according to the 44 digit solution 101... gives "We hope you greatly enjoy the armchair treasure hunt."

Commented [MJ10]: A reference to Ruth Rendell's award by the crime Writers of America. This is clarified in the main Hunt.

Commented [MJ11]: Domova means "of the home" in Czech.

Commented [MJ12]: "Domova Knight" or "Do move a knight" was a clue to the solution of the chess problem.

Commented [MJ27]: Clue to the murder in Fer-de-Lance on the Rex Stout page at the West Hills golf club. And a "Hill" reference.

Commented [MJ13]: "Going wrong" is a Ruth Rendell novel.

Commented [MJ28]: Ruth Rendell's last act as a reporter described such a speech she had pretended to attend, neglecting to mention that the chairman had died during it

Commented [MJ14]: The only game ending 5 Ke5 Qa5 mate is e4 Nc6 2 Ke2 Nd4+ 3 Ke3 c6 4 Kf4 Ne2+ 5 Ke5 Qa5. Note how the Black knight must block of the White bishop. This was a precursor to the chess puzzle in the main Hunt, and this solution is given (coded) there.

"Sir Charles was going to talk about his personal code of which he was proud. He was always afraid of boring his audience, and I think he would have been delighted to think that this was one speech no one will ever forget. He will I'm sure be long remembered for his bridge skills."



Goalkeeper to be Honoured

From the many to have passed away during the past year, the Armchair Sports Club have chosen England

goalkeeper Gordon Banks for its annual "Muddy Boots" award. Those of us old enough to recall the 1966 World Cup and the 1970 save of Rod Sill's header are delighted by this choice. A formal announcement may be expected on his birthday.



Holiday Weather Forecast

The outlook for Xmas and the New Year is moderate but mildly muddy. Woodland walks will work well, though unusually heavy footwear may prove useful.

Lady Emma's postscript:

Lady Emma has requested we add: "Thank you to all the Newsletter readers for their kind messages of condolence. Sir Charles wished his ashes to be scattered abroad, in a country well-suited to his creations. With this aim, a coach will be departing very early this morning from Leicester Square. All who wish to come are welcome, but please be punctual and mention the booking reference ONCRKAZM to the driver, who is our eldest. My husband loved hill-walking, especially in places with nearby hostelleries for when he began to flag: that's a big plus!"

Hunt Release



The UK hunt release clock is ticking...

... towards what would have been dinner-time tomorrow, were it 1582 in Lyon.

The clocks clued 8:05 pm on Friday December 20th: 2019. This was not obvious until the 2nd clue. France changed to the Gregorian calendar in 1582, so that December 9th was followed by December 20th. This was subsequently confirmed explicitly. The town Lyon was chosen as a pointer to Sir Lyon Playfair.

The apology about "neb miu" and "neb mlu" was called a "copy error", which was an attempt at wit, as it allegedly means "Copy that" in a Star Wars language.



decodes to pablosath.com/Chanukah.htm using the same mapping as in the text with three extra Jewish symbols.

Muddy Boots Award

The Newsletter promised something on Gordon Banks' birthday.

Picture of Pablo Sisniega (goalkeeper) and "Sport at the Heart" logo again linked to PABLO'S ATH.

"Nobody notices the mud when they're close to the goal" was another warning that the approach to the box could be muddy.

The paragraph about ATHEXIT mentioned that there was another goal in the Hunt, to find "ATHEXIT", which may have been hidden en route to the box. In fact ATHEXIT is a URL, whose path was concealed in the EXIF data on all the photos leading to the treasure site (see below).

"Have all possible paths yielded nothing else when you examine and recalculate?" I thought this sounded sufficiently clunky yet just plausible enough that its hidden meaning would be found but not be spotted at once. It just says "Happy New Year".

Border was taken from the 2007 Hunt, another homage to Pablo.

We now annotate the Hunt proper:

Commented [MJ29]: Sir Charles WHEATSTONE, inventor of the Playfair cipher and the Wheatstone bridge. The former featured prominently in the quiz.

Commented [MJ30]: The playfair cipher

Commented [MJ32]: Link to Bank robbery theme.

Commented [MJ33]: Rod Sill (with an umlaut on the "o") is Swedish for red herring. If you argue that this is not technically an umlaut, I ask you to be less draconical.

Commented [MJ34]: Dec 30th. There was: see below.

Commented [MJ31]: The Wheatstone bridge.

Commented [MJ35]: A warning that there would be some alliteration play in the main Hunt. In the event, this was not developed much.

Commented [MJ36]: An extra reference to "Stone Boots" needed later on.

Commented [MJ37]: Sir Charles wife was Emma. In fact she predeceased him, and was probably never a "Lady", but we took some artistic license.

Commented [MJ38]: This is a reference to SWITZERLAND, a country with no repeating letters, a convention for Playfair codes to which we adhered.

Commented [MJ39]: The Swiss centre in Leicester square. And there are nearby remnants. "Lester S" Hill invented the Hill cipher, but this was not noticed at the time.

Commented [MJ40]: Swiss stereotype.

Commented [MJ41]: Playfair decodes (keyword SWITZERLAND) to "Pablo RIP", a tribute.

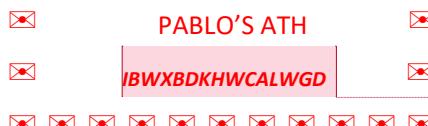
Commented [MJ42]: Charles and Emma's eldest child was "Charles Pablo Wheatstone". A further tribute.

Commented [MJ43]: One of many "hill" references...

Commented [MJ44]: Vague reference to the Forester's Arms on the treasure route.

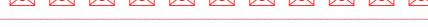
Commented [MJ45]: An unoriginal clue to the Swiss flag; there is also one on the Hunter's Lodge in the main hunt.

The 2019 Armchair

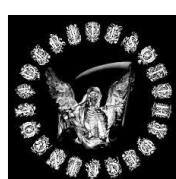


PABLO'S ATH

IBWXBDKHWCALWGD



Treasure Hunt



*"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!"*



This **opaquely** cryptic and deliberately **obscured** note was all that remained when thieves broke into ATHMMXIX's safe deposit box and stole the only copy of this year's Armchair Treasure Hunt. Instead, here is a relatively **paltry production, scarcely substituting for the feast of fun previously planned for you, with rich desserts for the triumphant treasure-seekers.**



A **red box** has been concealed somewhere in the South-East of England. We beg you to use your **detective** and cryptographic skills to help us retrieve it. If you do find it, **don't be decked by the boughs of holly.** Obey the instructions inside and please tell us – you may well be in line for a modest reward.



Updates will appear intermittently on pablosath.com. Please report any problems to ATHMMXIX@gmail.com.



See



Commented [MJ48]: HILLS on the BANKS peninsula, New Zealand

Commented [MJ46]: Tornado (link to Wizard of Oz in Newsletter) BANKing in Welsh HILLS

Commented [MJ47]: Using the Hill cipher with keyword PABLOSATH this decrypts to EACH PRIME LETTER, for use in the next paragraph.

Commented [MJ60]: A tiger cub in Hungary, cf "The Hungarian Tiger" by Tibor Fischer

Commented [MJ49]: Rite of the Degringolade (music group) La Degringolade by Emile Gaboriau.

Commented [MJ54]: Taking every letter in a prime position (2nd, 3rd, 5th, 7th...) gives A BOAT RIDE IS NOT NEEDED BUT WATER IS NEAR. This refers to the treasure site.

Commented [MJ61]: Tortilla Flat, by John Steinbeck

Commented [MJ55]: Opaquely and obscured both appear in the crossword -these were for confirmation.

Commented [MJ50]: The Red Box by Rex Stout. Also the treasure box.

Commented [MJ62]: The Mirror Crack'd from Side to Side by Agatha Christie

Commented [MJ51]: The Silkworm by Robert Galbraith (aka J K Rowling)

Commented [MJ56]: I had been planning to do something more with alliteration in the Hunt, as clued in the Newsletter, but in the event only this transpired. Taking the alliterated letters one gets PSFPT. Caesar shifting this one letter gives OREOS, as indicated below and as appear in the Treasure Box, as "Rich desserts." This is a bit peripheral, but not I thought unguessable.

Commented [MJ57]: It was red, and links to the Rex Stout novel

Commented [MJ63]: The Adventure of the Six Napoleons by Arthur Conan Doyle

Commented [MJ58]: But which one?

Commented [MJ52]: The Golden Gate by Alistair MacLean

Commented [MJ59]: The treasure tree is next to some holly. Also links to the Christmas message below.

Commented [MJ64]: Ziggy STARDUST (Bowie). "Stardust" by Neil Gaiman

Alternatively ALADDIN SANE (Bowie) "Inventing Aladdin" (Gaiman)

Commented [MJ53]: Lightning by Ed McBain

Commented [MJ65]: Letter substitution code to pablosath.com/Christmas.htm

Carol the ancient Yuletide troll is of course a take-off of the line "Troll the ancient Yuletide carol" from "Deck the Halls .."

I had the idea for this joke 15 years ago, but only this year managed to get an artist, Maki Naro, to draw it. MAKI is a serious cartoonist,

tweets as @sciencecomic

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

1. What barbarous forename is not part of the surname?
2. When Winter's revenge was virulently acidic, what was the client?
3. Near which establishment do cows apparently walk, canter and gallop?
4. Who took a cruise following a creek?
5. Into which adventure does Sir Harry trespass, masquerading as a drunk rather than a murderer?
6. What is right at the top of the Olympic construct?



4828m



VQGKKSRIQMTRHSQNOEQNBMCXMINQIAWILXPFEU

0.38c → 66

YWMZLNJIDMCLNURBNTZBNV

29/11/1803 - 17/3/1853

1/6, 1/5, 1/4, 1/3, 2/5, 1/2, 3/5, 2/3, 4/5, 5/6. Ti metaglottizetai os "Diermineas"?



Commented [MJ66]: Dr HILL Barton, from the adventure of the Illustrious Client

Commented [MJ67]: CONAN (the barbarian). Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's surname was just Doyle.

Commented [MJ68]: The ILLUSTRIOS Client again. Kitty Winter threw vitriol over her execrable ex.

Commented [MJ69]: Priory School (The Adventure of)

Commented [MJ70]: Katie Holmes, starred in "Dawson's Creek" & married Tom Cruise

Commented [MJ71]: In "Flashman and the Tiger" by McDonald Fraser, Sir Harry blunders into "The Adventure of the EMPTY HOUSE"

Commented [MJ72]: (The adventure of the) RED CIRCLE (and Olympic symbol)
Acrostic Reads HILL CIPHER

Commented [MJ73]: The people are in order, Dylan Thomas, Katherine Hepburn, Elizabeth I DH Lawrence, Isabella I, Maureen O'Hara, Willie Nelson Tilda Swinton, Alex McLeish, Adele, Holly Near, Esau, Spelling out THE LION'S MANE (Sherlock Holmes Adventure). All of them had Red Hair (at some stage, anyway).

Commented [MJ74]: About 3 miles, or a LEAGUE. The whole picture clues "THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE", the thematic Sherlock Holmes story about a bank robbery.

Commented [MJ75]: Scrabble Tile suggesting A=1 in Hill cipher. Leicester (city) and (Sulbury) Hill picture: Lester S Hill invented Hill Cipher. 2x2 array from "the Matrix" suggesting 2x2 encryption matrix.
Gordon Banks was with Leicester in 1966, incidentally.

Commented [MJ76]: Adventure of the Yellow Face

Commented [MJ77]: Still from "The Pawnbroker". Jabez Wilson is the Pawnbroker from the Red-Headed League (note the initials by the picture.) JABEZWILSONY encodes to PSZEBIG... using an encryption matrix ((S H), (J W)) Intended as Sherlock Holmes John Watson, but must allow Jabez Wilson too.

Commented [MJ78]: Using the same matrix and alphabet gives NOW USE REKORBNWAP AS A PLAYFAIR KEY I AND J NO Q

Commented [MJ79]: The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle. But it's red, as they usually are. Yes, but if it were travelling towards you at 0.38 times the speed of light it would appear blue, according to the Doppler Shift... (linked with dates below)

Commented [MJ80]: Using NOSLIWZEBAJ (Pawnbroker backwards) in a playfair with no Q yields TAKE SIGNED FOOTPATH WEST

Commented [MJ81]: Birth and Death of Doppler, best known for "The Doppler Effect"

Commented [MJ82]: Fractions, ostentatiously lacking %: "The Missing three-quarter" a Sherlock Holmes story.

Commented [MJ83]: Greek for: What is transliterated as "Diermineas"? Διερμηνέας is "interpreter" in Greek, so The Greek Interpreter, another Holmes story.

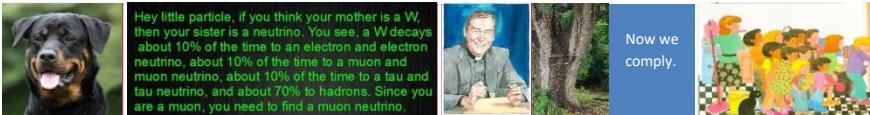
Commented [MJ84]: The Devil's Foot, the Second Stain and The Copper Beeches, all SH stories. The Violet next to the latter links to the heroine Violet HUNTER

Commented [MJ85]: Three pipes. In the thematic Red-Headed League, Holmes calls it a 3-pipe problem.

Commented [MJ86]: On Treasure route. Adjacent phrase is a Printer's Devilry clue for EXIF – see EXIF section.

Commented [MJ87]: The crocodile bird is a RUTH RENDELL story

Commented [MJ88]: Scandal, in Czech, links to the story "scandal in Bohemia"



1. A
2. Outraged by his **neighbor's** plot to kill Caesar, possibly a Zygton.
3. Lily, English and Bean, once of Canterbury.
4. Inspector of a Swiss bank, of possible help with matrix inversion.
5. Where did the first murder take place, while the victim was **driving** (ignoring direction)?
6. Where the Nemesis is defeated, akin to Peter (the first beater) and George (o quinto).
7. Dude or Doxy, start the same and end the same.
8. Both the hero and his creator are indubitably this. 1. 228, 229; 2. 244
Or 1. 212, 213; 2. 196

Das nyeb mlu Solo. Tsun oophoroma knetto eihcra niwdoog, bnef nle! Ymnydddu.



DOT

UIYQMSZXRCSDSBUBHNBZIICKIAHPASUBNFERDMKD
OPFEHLVNRUDKWGHPDCHCPBFPLWOORVKBW
KQNGLKQQLNYEJSNLRBPWOPCLHKIDPAVX



Commented [MJ89]: The Rottweiler, a Ruth Rendell novel

Commented [MJ90]: Extract from "The Mother Hunt", A game produced at CERN
<https://webfest.web.cern.ch/content/game-interface-mother-hunt>
The Mother Hunt is a Rex Stout Novel

Commented [MJ91]: Father Hunt. "The Father Hunt is a Rex Stout novel.

Commented [MJ92]: The barred tree from the Treasure route, with associated EXIF Printer's devilry (See ATHEXIT)

Commented [MJ93]: The Doorbell Rang by Pat Hutchins, also, a Rex Stout novel.

Commented [MJ94]: US spelling deliberate

Commented [MJ95]: OSGOOD from "Some Buried Caesar" by Rex Stout and Clara Osgood in Dr Who, who was cloned as a Zygton, and either she or her doubleganger is killed. Does it matter which one?

Commented [MJ96]: ROWAN Lily Rowan, recurring STOUT character, Rowan Atkinson (Johnny English and Mr Bean) and Rowan-Williams the Archbishop.

Commented [MJ97]: CRAMER Nero Wolfe Inspector Cramer, Cramer Bank, and Cramer's Rule.

Commented [MJ98]: (WEST) HILLS Golf Club, in Fer-de-Lance, first Nero Wolfe novel. The victim is killed while driving (at Golf). Ignore direction (West) gives HILLS (Note hint from Newsletter)

Commented [MJ99]: IN THE BEST FAMILIES Wolfe's Nemesis, Arnold Zeck, is bested (sic) in this novel. PETE BEST was the Beatles' first drummer, while GEORGE BEST was described as the 5th Beatle by the Portuguese press.

Commented [MJ100]: DEATH of a Dude/Doxy are Nero Wolfe novels.

Commented [MJ101]: STOUT Nero Wolfe was notoriously overweight.
Acrostic spells (A)ORCHIDS Nero Wolfe was an Orchids grower.

Commented [MJ102]: GAMBIT (Rex Stout Novel) Picture from film and in Hex it reads 1. E4, E5; 2. F4 or 1. D4, D5; 2. C4, respectively the King's or Queen's Gambit in Chess.

Commented [MJ103]: 3 phrases intertwined. Nyeb mlu Solo. Tsun knetto...nle! Is a Star Wars phrase with ARCHIE GOODWIN backwards.
Y MYNYDD DU is the Black Mountain in Welsh. Das Ophoroma is a medical article written by Fritz Brenner. Archie Goodwin is Nero Wolfe's sidekick, Fritz Brenner is his cook. The Black Mountain is a Nero Wolfe novel.

Commented [MJ104]: Silhouettes of Dominican republican (domain name .do) and the UK (.uk) The arrows indicate some sort of mapping. "Somewhat stretched" suggests the Nero Wolfe novel "The Rubber Band" mapping D-> K and U-> O according to the arrows gives ROBBER BANK, which fit the global theme. You don't like it? Well I warned you it was somewhat stretched!! There just isn't a Nero Wolfe Bank robbery novel.

Commented [MJ105]: Using AORCHIDS as a Playfair Key gives NEXT KEYWORD IS DETECTIVE'S FAVOURITE FISH EGGS "Shad Roe" gets mentioned many times in the texts.

Commented [MJ106]: Playfair With SHADROE key gives ENCODING MATRIX IS THE DETECTIVE'S NAME X

Commented [MJ107]: Using the Hill Cipher Keyword (N,E,R),(O,W,O),(L,F,E)
This decrpts to FOLLOW PATH TO RIGHT BY FENCE. CROSS ROAD

Commented [MJ108]: A form of LUDO (Latin I play), Parsley, Sage, Rosemary & Thyme (SCARBOROUGH FAIR) SCARBOROUGH STOUT (beer) and REX HILL (wine) is a Rebus for PLAYFAIR- HILL REX STOUT The 3x3 array of a scene from the Matrix indicates a 3x3 matrix should be used. There are 26 letters round the box.

Commented [MJ110]: THE GOLDEN SPIDERS Nero Wolfe novel.

Commented [MJ109]: A PANZER tank on its way to SAUL down the B4071. SAUL PANZER is a Nero Wolfe character. A CHIEFTAIN tank on its way over the Clifton suspension bridge (note the Master of suspense.) Chieftains use the HORSTMANN suspension system. HORSTMANN was Nero Wolfe's Orchid gardener.

1. Rembrandt implied it went top to bottom, though right to left would be more normal.
2. Lizzy Borden, predestined in Sheppey.
3. Who mislaid \$1000000, ending up at Ivinghoe?
4. Emulator of Greek labourer heard a leek chez lui.
5. For whom did Merton's Catholicism prove fatal?
6. Local feature of tidal locking, recognised in part by Blake.



4

GFYSGDZXSMETHZQBQDUGCTWMGKQIBF

IGYFABQTUNWNIUHNIQBKOACV

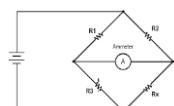
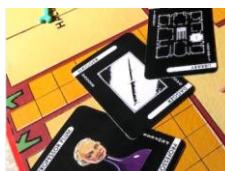
ULSSEQSORAMVRUBKFCBLUGESPZKAKJIRFKH



Churston
?
Andover



20	8	5
13	1	20
18	9	24



inventor



Retime ☺



RDG1722

Commented [MJ111]: The MOVING FINGER, Christie novel. Rembrandt's painting of Balthazar's feast had the Hebrew being written vertically. May also accept MENE MENE TEKEL UPHARSHIN

Commented [MJ112]: APPOINTMENT WITH DEATH, Christie novel. Lizzy Borden album of that name, Maugham's play Sheppey includes the "Appointment in Samarra" story.

Commented [MJ113]: RIDGEWAY. In the thematic story, a million dollars worth of bonds vanished on the ship Olympia while in Ridgeway's charge. The Ridgeway ends in Ivinghoe.

Commented [MJ114]: Hercule POIROT, emulated the labours of Hercules, sounds like "poirau" (a leek) in French.

Commented [MJ115]: LORD EDGWARS in Lord Edgware dies, Christie novel. SPOILER ALERT. Oh, too late.

Commented [MJ116]: ENDLESS NIGHT, Christie novel. William Blake "Some are born to sweet delight..." Tidal locking leads to one side of a planet being forever dark (as Mercury was once thought.)

Acrostic spells MARPLE, an easy one to guess.

Commented [MJ117]: Christie novels: The Big Four, The Mystery of the Blue Train, The Crooked House, The Man in the Brown Suit and Curtains.

Commented [MJ118]: The Fallen Curtain is a Ruth Rendell novel.

Commented [MJ119]: MARPLE keyword for Playfair gives NEXT KEYWORD ON WHAT BONDS VANISHED

Commented [MJ120]: Playfair with KEYWORD OLYMPIA (ship name) Gives BELGIAN'S NEURONES AND GLIA X

Commented [MJ121]: 3x3 Hill Cipher with key GREYCELLS gives HEAD DOWN TO L NOTE RUNGED TREE AND BENCH TO R

Commented [MJ122]: Tome is Huttonian Theory of the Earth by John Playfair. Andover, Bexhill, Churston are the first 3 towns of the ABC murders – Bex (Eastenders) gives HILL. THE MATRIX written as a MATRIX, to demonstrate how key words should be input in the Hill matrices, and also that A=1.

Commented [MJ123]: Christie novels: The Body in the Library, Five Little Pigs, Cards on the Table [Note the Fool, homage to Pablo's Fool on the Hill hunt]. Last Picture is Peter Westmacott. Christie also wrote under the pseudonym Westmacott.

Commented [MJ124]: Wheatstone bridge was actually invented by SAMUEL HUNTER CHRISTIE. Subtract the prophet SAMUEL and we're left with HUNTER CHRISTIE.

Retime or RE-ti-me or DBE. Christie was awarded a DBE

Commented [MJ125]: Treasure route, Hunter's Lodge in Kingskerswell. (The mystery of the Hunter's Lodge is a Christie novel. For me the mystery is why it has a Swiss flag, but it fortuitously links to the Newsletter.

RDG 17:22 Is when the 4:50 from Paddington (Christie novel) arrives at READING (link to Newsletter)

1. T
2. Who committed the first murder, somewhat mysteriously before the universe was created?
3. Who had to stay below at the British Museum underground station?
4. Sin, Kin and Gaol, for example.
5. Who was accidentally imprisoned for 72 endless years in place of his sister?
6. When the predictions were nice, what were good?
7. Who robbed a bank with Moon, and when did they meet?



UTPUQUQLCNEFBHTBMPLGKBKWVBZAF CZ
RCMPFPGMOTNPAPWZPWOZPONU
NSEPIROCHKIZSSOSMYUKVWOWUKOFGXSXIKJUGC

"I can never fear that
things will go far wrong."
— Thomas Jefferson

.....-....-..
.....-....-....



Commented [MJ126]: SARAQUEL in Murder mysteries by Neil Gaiman

Commented [MJ127]: HUNTER in Neverwhere by Gaiman

Commented [MJ128]: AMERICAN GODS by Gaiman. American here in its wide geographical sense. The Gods were chosen to look like English words.

Commented [MJ129]: DREAM in the Sandman series, was captured in place of his sister Death. His captor was afraid to release him as he correctly diagnosed that Dream would be somewhat annoyed.

Commented [MJ130]: OMENS from Good Omens by Gaiman & Pratchett, refers to Nice and accurate prophecies

Commented [MJ131]: Mr WEDNESDAY (Odin) and they met on Odin's day (Wednesday). A thematic bank robbery. Acrostic Reads (TSHADOW)

Commented [MJ132]: Sloth, from Seven Deadly Sins by Gaiman. Bill Hartston showed me this book while I was writing this page, so it had to be included. Upside down, naturally.

Next is an eclipse or the shadow of the moon on the earth, (Shadow Moon, hero of American Gods, the thematic novel) and finally the Ocean at the End of the Lane (Gaiman)

Commented [MJ133]: Playfair with keyword TSHADOW says MUMXMY MAKER WITH XHONORIFIC IS NEXT KEY

Commented [MJ134]: Above clue is to Mr Jacquel, an embalming character in American Gods. USING MIRACQUEL as a Playfair key gives MAIN GOD IN STORY TWO X TWO NO Q

Commented [MJ135]: Using ODIN as key with a 25 Letter alphabet without Q (and A=1) we obtain AFTER A BOGGY FURLONG NOTICE NO NUTS OR SPOONS This is unlikely to make sense unless you follow the treasure route. (See notice picture below).

Commented [MJ136]: Thomas Jefferson quotation is missing "...where common sense has fair play", linking to Playfair. Morse code without spaces says HILL HOUSE (a publisher of Gaiman) but then minus HOUSE just gives Hill.

Commented [MJ137]: NOTE MISSING LETTER TO THE LEFT

Commented [MJ138]: Snow, Glass Apples followed by Cinnamon, both by Gaiman. Spaceship visiting the comet WILD 2 was called "Stardust" (novel by Gaiman).

Commented [MJ139]: Sand man (Sandman series), Treasure route, Aerial view of Wexford (Ireland) and a signpost indicating that Dublin (Ath Cliath) is to the North. I liked the two ath's and was in Ireland in early December. Inspector Wexford is a Ruth Rendell character.

- Which larger than life house-doctor kept America in Republican control (and kept it)?
- Who wouldn't compromise with Koch?
- Associates of Almighty Hillman.
- Where, in a lull, might you know to find:



Haydn's autoepitaph

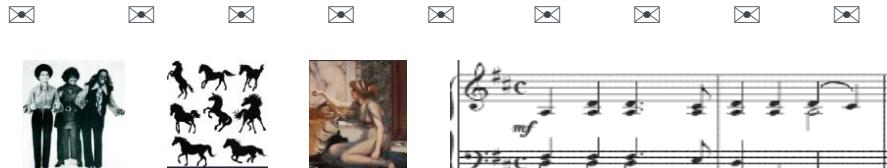
- Which island was elected to a rocky parliament in duemilatredici?
- How was the Bank of Ireland alternatively known to Knight and Kemp? X
- For whom was dimly heard 27th of the 57 of the 87th? X
- Added C₆H₈O₃, and removed C₁₁H₁₅NO₂. Quoi?



2

✉ HEIKRBCMCQHENDKXSOCPOZL
✉ MDIGFLEAONPTTIPTSWOTQSENUSNW

✉ RSZIOTTRGXAMBNIWJGQNLOSSGNZSNEZVVTEHNCJPCENCNZOH
✉  
 $\psi = 3\sin^2 \theta (r^4 - r^2)$ if $r < 1$
 $\psi = 2\sin^2 \theta (r^2 - r^{-1})$ if $r > 1$
(three dimensional vortex)



A₁

Commented [MJ140]: TAUB Dr Taub featured heavily in the HOUSE MD episode "Larger than life" while Russell Taub, organiser of "Keep America in Republican control" was indicted for keeping the donations himself. Taub is German for deaf; Taubman was one of the Deaf Man's aliases.

Commented [MJ141]: HECKLER & Koch, gun manufacturers have a motto "No compromise". "Heckler" is one of the Ed McBain Deaf Man novels.

Commented [MJ142]: EVAN Almighty (film) and Hillman HUNTER (car) is the real name of Ed McBain

Commented [MJ143]: Veni, Scripsi, Vixi links to Ruth Rendell's coat of arms Vixi Scripsi

Commented [MJ144]: These flowers are mentioned by Oberon in A Midsummer Night's Dream I know a BANK where the wild thyme flows....BANK links with ROBBERY below

Commented [MJ145]: People found this harder than I expected. In 2013 Alfred ISOLA was elected to parliament in Gibraltar (hence rock). ISOLA is Italian for island, and is where the 87th precinct novels are set.

Commented [MJ146]: Rick Kemp and Peter Knight recorded a duet "Robbery with Violins" [violence] on Parcel of Rogues by Steeleye Span, a tune also known as Bank of Ireland. The crossed out fiddle indicates the answer is ROBBERY (to link with 4.)

Commented [MJ147]: 27th of the 57 87th precinct novels is "Let's hear it for the DEAF man". The deaf man went in for many bank robberies and had many aliases....

Commented [MJ148]: Added citric acid (Soured) and removed ecstasy (E) gives SOURD, French for deaf. The deaf man didn't actually use SOURD as an alias, but he did El Sordo. Acrostic is THE BIRDS. Evan Hunter wrote the screenplay for Hitchcock's The Birds.

Commented [MJ149]: The birds are Merlin Egret Yellowhammer Eagle Robin or MEYER. Squared is Meyer Meyer a character in the 87th precinct novels.

Commented [MJ150]: Playfair with THEBIRDS key gives THEMATIC AUTHOR'S PSEUDONYM or ED MCBAIN

Commented [MJ151]: Playfair with EDMCBAIN gives DEAF NOVEL FOUR FOUR X FOUR MATRIX The 4th novel involving the Deaf Man was "eight black horses"

Commented [MJ152]: HILL CIPHER with 4x4 matrix EIGH TBLA CKHO RSES gives TAKE MAIN PATH UP WNW A HUNDRED RODS TO CLEARING WITH A POST "Rodz" a pointer to the fishing platform.

Commented [MJ153]: The PLAY which went wrong by MISCHIEF theatre company The NEWYORK state FAIR. PLAYFAIR with a New York link, and Mischief is a Deaf Man story.

Hill's spherical vortex streamfunction

Commented [MJ154]: Fuzz, Eight Black Horses, Mischief [from Mischief and Repose] and Hark are all deaf man novels. Music is accompaniment to "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" (arrow points to "Hark!").

Commented [MJ155]: Dove/Swede (Den Dove (Swedish for deaf) was a Deaf Man alias. Bjork HUNTER video, treasure route, arrow pointing at HARK in the music. Steve Carell from Evan Almighty (link to the birds, and Den dove). Also Steve Carell+A = hero of 87th precinct stories.



1. Who thematically lost in 1957 to a future chess champion in Milwaukee?
2. Under what circumstances shouldn't you read this book?
3. At what does the black dog repeatedly run?
4. Flower chamber hot lobster stew black pepper and melting?



5. 6.
7. What subbatrachian location couldn't be worse in Hungarian?
8. Who IS it iSpy, fortis et fidus?

9. perhaps?

EVPCQLINPCBZCLACNPFPNPWNEM
OPWCPNKIEWPBEUPGHQLHNCENAITPSFSRQA
ISLYXKHVTAPPJWKJVWKMOXNYJRWSMBTF

9781138833876



Commented [MJ156]: David, (Michaelangelo) – Poetry and Music (Michel) – David, Angelo (Poetry and Music) also known as THE THOUGHT GANG (from Twin Peaks) = 3 thinkers (Rodin)

Commented [MJ157]: Tibor WEINBERGER lost to Fischer. Thematic author Tibor Fischer

Commented [MJ158]: "Don't read this book IF YOU'RE STUPID" by T. Fischer

Commented [MJ159]: "The Black Dog Runs at Night" – by The Thought Gang. Repetitive lyrics.

Commented [MJ160]: POT – all words associated with pot. Links with Sumerian below.

Commented [MJ161]: Eddie Murphy + Alex Murphy's coffin – 2 murphies [potatoes] – Alex = Eddie Coffin, hero of thematic book The Thought Gang by Tibor Fischer

Commented [MJ162]: A BEKA FENEKE ALATT "under the Frog's Arse" book by T. Fischer meaning, a really bad situation.

Commented [MJ163]: KYLE MACLAGHLAN plays Agent Cooper in Twin Peaks. iSpy written by rapper Kyle, plus the motto of the MacLaghlan clan

Commented [MJ164]: Cuneiform for ABRAM (Arguably). Biblically, Abraham was originally Abram from Ur, a Sumerian town. Cuneiform is also Sumerian. SUMERIAN goes with POT above in the T. Fischer novel "The collector collector." Acrostic TWINPEAKS

Commented [MJ165]: Playfair with key TWINPEAKS gives AUTHOR WITH PRECEDING INITIAL

Commented [MJ166]: Playfair with TFISCHER gives NO Z FOUR X FOUR BOOK AND AUTHORS INITIALS

Commented [MJ167]: Hill with 25 letters no Z key THET Houg HTGA NGTF gives SHARP RIGHT INTO WOOD CONTINUE TO BANK

Commented [MJ168]: ISBN of "The Philosophy of Play, Fair by Tibor Boromisza Fischer Hill wine Links Playfair, Hill, Tibor Fischer, Philosopher (hero of book)

Commented [MJ169]: Tim Hunter director Twin Peaks.

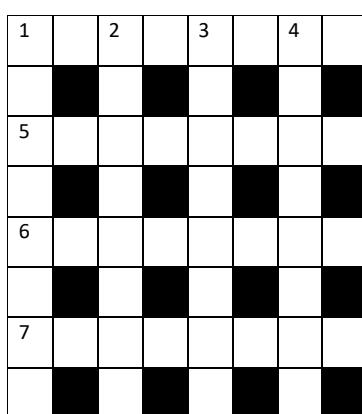
Commented [MJ170]: One armed bandit Lyttleton (New Zealand) + Hubert Humphrey – Humphrey Littleton = One armed bandit Hubert, a character in the thematic book, The Thought Gang by Tibor Fischer.

Commented [MJ171]: Monty Python sketch involving "the Twin Peaks of Kilimanjaro"

Commented [MJ172]: Santa Barbara Grape Vine link to Barbara Vine, pseudonym of Ruth Rendell

Commented [MJ173]: Treasure Route, Back into Wood

1. H
2. Where are the Antarctic, Hamberg, Alfred and Misery?
3. See crossword, one is swapped.
4. Marked by tailors on land, but at sea one fewer do what?
5. What takes a single day in Ireland but two decades in the Mediterranean?
6. Hungary or Alaska, where no man has been before, almost.
7. Reilly's with a variegated equid is Stuart's.
8. In what was the aim to denude the city of life, rather than the entire world as threatened?
9. Which heroic mountaineer braved the elements on 11 23 18 8 10?



Across

- 1 I am ready to allow abridgement. (6,2)
 5 Controls flow of hot tears maybe, as Charles' bridge
 6 Badly clued like 3 down.
 7 One in excess of the tailors above. (5,3)

Down

- 1 Atmospheric pressure could provide cover. (3,5)
 2 Part of the main idea could be chat time.
 3 Clued badly like 6 across.
 4 Ian ordered speedy nautical formation. (2,1,5)



WLCFPDPGETSIGPTENDIUIHSLDLIUIPNPUOWODQZ
 IPVVVBVHMIPSXAPRJXDOJO
 DJYYZMMHVETVJBVFQJWZQOJZSALELFXTADSTILNHY

GUYNRSUM?

LSOUNHER;

XNLGQGCDLRPQWXOJ!



59.08372
 -97.96944



Commented [MJ174]: BEAR ISLAND, a MacLean novel

Commented [MJ175]: Air Force is ONE DOWN. (Air Force One Is Down is MacLean novel)

Commented [MJ176]: TOLL, MacLean novel "when eight bells toll" signifying death, compared with "Nine Tailors", referencing our earlier ATH

Commented [MJ177]: ULYSSES, James Joyce novel describes one day in Dublin whereas Odysseus took a long time to get home. HMS Ulysses was a MacLean novel.

Commented [MJ178]: THE LAST FRONTIER, The MacLean book is set in Hungary, though the phrase is used to describe Alaska, and almost Star Trek.

Commented [MJ179]: ICE STATION (ZEBRA) are novels by Matthew Reilly and Ian Stuart, a pseudonym of MacLean,

Commented [MJ180]: THE SATAN BUG a MacLean novel, the villain threatens to destroy life on Earth, but in fact he is planning a massive (and thematic) BANK ROBBERY

Commented [MJ181]: MALLORY, is the mountaineering hero of The Guns of Navarone (as spelled out by the chemical element symbols Na V Ar O Ne). Acrostic gives (H)BOTULISM

Commented [MJ182]: Crossword clues Across 1: AUTHOR IS (authorise curtailed)

5 RHEOSTAT (Anagram, compare Wheatstone bridge)

6 OPAQUELY (See cover page)

7 CHIME TEN (10 bells ringing)

Down 1. AIR FORCE

2. THEMATIC (anagram)

3 OBSCURED (See cover page)

4 IN A FLEET

This gives the answer to question 3 above. Also, Ruth Rendell wrote the novel "1 Across, 2 Down" which here says "Author is thematic." Indeed she is, this is the Rendell link on this page.

Commented [MJ183]: Assassin bug sometimes called the Satan bug, Puppet on a chain, Lawrence of Arabia, all MacLean novels.

Commented [MJ184]: Playfair with key HBOTULISM gives VIGENERE FOILER of DIABOLICAL BANK ROBBERY refers to the Hero of the Satan Bug, the thematic novel. This is PIERRE CAVALL

Commented [MJ185]: Vigenere code with key PIERRECAVALL gives THREE X THREE HIS LAST BOOK Maclean's last book was SANTORINI

Commented [MJ186]: Hill with code SAN TORINI gives FROM TRUNCATED TREE WIDDERSHINS FOR THIRTY YARDS

Commented [MJ187]: The sailor STUART HILL was known as Captain Calamity
 HMS Playfair
 Portrait of Vigenere
 Coordinates of MACLEAN HILL
 Links to codes Playfair, Vigenere, Hill. Also Maclean and pseudonym Stuart

Commented [MJ188]: Jamaica Inn (once owned by Maclean)
 The Maclean HUNTING kilt.
 "Truncated tree" on treasure route.

Commented [MJ189]: Maclean novel "FEAR is the key" Using FEAR as a key for the Playfair, Vigenere and Hill ciphertexts gives respectively:
 "IS THAT SO?" "GOOD IDEA;" "BRAVO, A RED HERRING!"

- Take a torch if treasure-seeking after 15:24 on Christmas Day (and be Major).
- £25 in debt.
- Who was discontented in winter?
- Which well-prepared but frequently unsuccessful plots bring nought but grief and pain?
- Despite the 14:19 revelation, the truth marches on.
- Whose acts were published 8 years posthumously?
- Linus and Marie each had two different ones, but neither was literate.



Try as I like to find the way, I never can get back

журнал красных сельдей

Commented [MJ190]: The MOON IS DOWN, Steinbeck novel. The moon set at 3:24 at the treasure site on Christmas Day. The novel has a character MAJOR HUNTER.

Commented [MJ191]: A stein of Becks beer -> Steinbeck

Commented [MJ192]: The RED PONY Steinbeck novel, a pony in the red.

Commented [MJ193]: Ethan HAWLEY in Steinbeck's story "The winter of our discontent"

Commented [MJ194]: OF MICE AND MEN Steinbeck novel, and Burns quotation, The best laid plots...

Commented [MJ195]: The GRAPES OF WRATH, Steinbeck novel, referred to in the book of Revelation (14:19) and in Battle Hymn of the Republic.

Commented [MJ196]: Acts of king ARTHUR was published 8 years after Steinbeck's death.

Commented [MJ197]: Pauling and Curie each got two NOBEL prizes, but unlike Steinbeck, neither was in literature. Acrostic reads MRHOGAN, hero of the thematic book Mr Hogan Robs a Bank.

Commented [MJ198]: Red Pony, Burning Bright, Cup of Gold, Pearl (white) all Steinbeck works. Lady Jane Grey (of a famously short reign), Pippin from Lord of the Rings, 4, refer to THE SHORT REIGN of PIPPIN 1"

Commented [MJ199]: Quotation from the Land of Nod by Stevenson, which seemed appropriate for treasure hunting in woods. In Genesis, the Land of Nod was East of Eden, a Steinbeck novel

Commented [MJ200]: Russian: Journal of Red Herrings. Refers to "The Russian Journal" by Steinbeck. Not every red herring is a red herring.

Commented [MJ201]: Playfair with key MRHOGAN gives AUTHOR'S FIRST TWO WIVES CONCATENATED

Commented [MJ202]: Playfair with key CAROLGWYN gives MISTER HOGAN STORY FIVE X FIVE NO Z Story is How Mr Hogan robbed a bank, and replace Mr with MISTER

Commented [MJ203]: Hill cipher with 25 Letter alphabet key HOWMISTERHOGANROBBEDABANK gives LOOK FOR A TREE WITH VERY MANY TRUNKS

Commented [MJ204]: Australian women's relay team won silver medal with Judy Playfair AND JANET STEINBECK

Commented [MJ205]: Lenox Hill hospital, 100 East 77 Street. Steinbeck attended it for a period. Just a Hill reference.

Commented [MJ206]: Entire line describes awards of Ruth Rendell Three Edgars: Burroughs (Tarzan) Degas (Dancer in Green) and Doctorow (Ragtime) Installation by Martin Beck. Rendell won the Martin Beck award for the thematic book Make Death Love Me. Chords on guitar (C major), Piano (B Major) and Ukulele (E major) relating to her CBE.

Commented [MJ207]: "Keyhole" on tree with many trunks on treasure route. Draughts problem – See document. Solutions spells out CZECHS Portrait of Vigener. Using CZECHS as a Vigener key gives NOT A CHESS GRANDMASTER. This refers to the Newsletter paragraph on the chess players, which mentions the award of a Grandmaster title in 1997. In fact Ruth Rendell was awarded a grandmaster title from the Mystery Writers of America in 1997.



DPSOGHQIFHTUQYRYEXIPKCBDCPFACPLA



SEKZFAQNWCBQXCYFHDUFVHFZHWLX



MXLSBJDFJEPGSFIRPFNIUVAXTGBUL



Mexico 1968 Silver medley relay 2/4

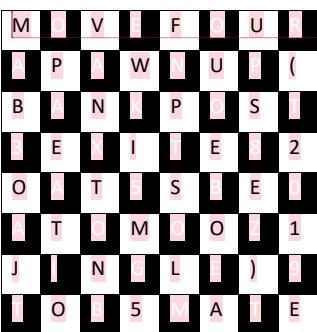
100E77ST



PNXCJZGRW
IYSPCQCZLGQ



- What is 1/10 of 1m and may have arrived as the dinosaurs left?
- If Nathalie had in fact owned a cat, what might she have called it?
- What could be a violin, banana or camel?
- What ambiguous abbreviation could be out by a factor of 1.852×10^{12} ?
- What (White) Russian bishop is buried under the Vatican?
- What is the volume of a short, hot cylinder of height a and radius z ?
- Who killed his mother for conspiring to kill his father for apparently killing his sister but then, according to some, met his sister again?
- Who inspired a Modest opera, a bemusing Trial and an endless orgy?



UTSFESGVBXLQESTHWV



Australian dislikes undiminishing intense criticism as civilian pilot critiques ailing Latvian.

Breaking News: SNL5 ON BLT3.



DRGEQPEGPRRBQGXOVIFXBECVRCEDVTSKQRLRRC



DJXIABXIURMRQPLYALMOBVOLWCTUAQ



103609

RLCIUOHVNQPNRGIKLMNBETIJ



Huloo hehmor slo ef huo Foyr. Huer er ath an algol.

Commented [MJ208]: IRIDIUM. The standard 1m bar is 90% platinum and 10% Iridium. Iridium is found in much greater abundance in meteorites than in the Earth's crust, so may have been responsible in part for the extinction of the dinosaurs.

Commented [MJ209]: BREXIT. Nathalie Loiseau made a wry observation that the UK's behaviour was like a cat miaowing to be let out and then dithering eternally when the door was opened.

Commented [MJ210]: SPIDERS

Commented [MJ211]: NM Nanometre or nautical mile.

Commented [MJ212]: Leo X was given a white ELEPHANT, which was buried in the Vatican. The Russian for a (chess) bishop is "slon" which means elephant. Half of them are white.

Commented [MJ213]: PIZZA or $\pi z^2 a$. I find this funny, but everyone else seems more mature.

Commented [MJ214]: ORESTES, brother of Iphigenia, sacrificed by Agamemnon at the start of the Trojan wars. She may have been rescued by Artemis and later met Orestes again. Hmm. Maybe I could have brought OREOS into this somehow.

Commented [MJ215]: FLAUBERT inspired Modest Moussorgsky's Salammbô, Kafka's Trial and Mario Vargas Llosa's Perpetual Orgy. Acrostic spells IBSNEPOF a Caesar shift of HARM DONE (Ruth Rendell novel).

Commented [MJ217]: Emma Stone as Wichita in Zombieland. There's an arrow pointing at her boots. If one tries a Vigenere with STONE as the key, enough makes sense to maybe work out the boots.

Commented [MJ218]: Norwegian singer Vige and some Nere fruit, suggesting a Vigenere cipher (also red text indicates Vigenere)

Commented [MJ216]: 3-in-one chess puzzle. "A pawn up to b5 mate" has the solution $1d4\ c6\ 2\ Kd2\ Qa5;\ 3\ Kd3\ Qa3+4\ Kc4\ b5$ mate. The used squares spell out "5Ng3 MATE" The only game ending 5 Ng3 mate is $1e3\ e6\ 2\ Qg4\ Ke7\ 3\ Ne2\ Kf6\ 4\ Qxg7+\ Kf5\ 5\ Ng3$ mate. This time the used squares spell out OPEN LOPEZ. Googling that, you'll find the moves of the opening 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 O-O Nxe4 Which spell out STONEBOOTS (interpreting O-O as a king move)

Commented [MJ219]: Vigenere with STONEBOOTS key gives CAESAR SHIFT ACROSTIC.

Commented [MJ220]: Picture of Inspector MORSE indicates a Morse code. The "Australian..." sentence if you look at the dots on the l's and j's and the dashes on the t's and f's it spells out -./.../-./.-./ / .../-./.-./.-./ giving Nihal Sarin, a young Indian chess player associated with the 4.b5 mate problem on the Web, though he was not actually the composer. Breaking News... is a reference to the Newsletter. The chess problem there (e4 c6 etc) decodes to SNL5 ON BLT3. This was a hint to how to use the chessboard. The blue code at the bottom of the page also refers to the Newsletter. Lion is near the plaque at the start of the route.

Commented [MJ221]: Playfair with HARMDONE as key gives MAIN PUNISHMENT FIVE X FIVE NO Z DECRYPT I SAID DE See introduction. The decryption matrix (not encryption) is KISSING THE GUNNER'S DAUGHTER (Rendell novel).

Commented [MJ222]: "View Above Ascott towards Brailes Hill" by Annabel Playfair. - refers to Playfair AND Hill ciphers.

Commented [MJ223]: Hill with KISSI NGTHE GUNNE RSAUD GHTER as decrypt matrix gives THEMATIC BOOK PLUS AUTHORS INITIAL. This refers to the Ruth Rendell novel about a bank robbery (which also needs to have a suitable number of letters).

Commented [MJ224]: URN 103609 is an OFSTED reference number to "Hunter's Hill College" link to Hill and Hunter.

Commented [MJ225]: Hill with MADEDEATHLOVEMER as key gives START AT MY BLUE PLAQUE HEAD N. Start in Loughton!

Commented [MJ226]: This is a letter for letter substitution code, with honest word breaks and punctuation. It decodes to THREE TITLES ARE IN THE NEWS. THIS IS OUT OF ORDER. The blue bit refers to the Newsletter, and the three Ruth Rendell titles therein. This is out of order means this page is misplaced - it is in fact the start page.

Amusingly, if you type "huer er ath an algol" into google translate it spuriously claims it's Luxembourgish.

- Who only nearly qualified for a certain Hunt?
- Who drove the *Knox Bus*?
- Whose fluency in gobbledegook gained him a Ministry job with thematic links?
- Who took the South Pacific by storm in 1998 and was also big in *Eastenders*?
- What service should have been flowery (and possibly snowy)?
- Who was not allowed to present a paper to the Linnean Society because the associated chromosomes were too similar?
- What can be caused by the *sus scrofa papillomavirus*?
- Smirk! I scored bad girls this year.
- Was waren die letzten fünf deutschen Wörter des Films mit unterschiedlichen Titeln in den USA und in Großbritannien?
- If Parvati was a Gemini, what was Bane?

Circle inscribed in an equilateral triangle with altitude *I expect PANS1/2!*



TGSFFSMOBLHMQBETTEEHFDXGENLUCO

SPXFRRGCESEHAPKRQHYTDUHKYRRS

JSPHNYLLKXJIGOEPQCTHGGDBFQNWCVUUNLTQGPVCR



For the stronger we our houses do build,
The less chance we have of being killed.



Commented [MJ227]: NEARLY HEADLESS NICK (Sir Nicholas de Mimsy Porpington) was not permitted to join The Headless Hunt.

Commented [MJ228]: ERNIE Prang, driver of the Knight bus. "nox" is the spell to bring darkness, so Knox becomes Knight.

Commented [MJ229]: Dirk CRESSWELL. Of the Goblin Liaison office. The Thematic Robbery was from the Gringotts bank, which is run by Goblins.

Commented [MJ230]: RON (as in Weasley) There was a cyclone in 1998 in the South Pacific called Ron, and Big Ron is an *Eastenders* character.

Commented [MJ231]: The OWL Service, by Alan Garner, should have been flowery. Owls ran the postal service in the Harry Potter. Owls could be snowy, like Hedwig.

Commented [MJ232]: Beatrix POTTER was debarred from presenting her paper to the Linnean society because she had two X-chromosomes, and so could hardly be a Scientist.

Commented [MJ233]: HOG WARTS. This is a porcine STD.

Commented [MJ234]: The ALBUS geomantic symbol. The figure represents a goblet, hence the goblet on the right, which depicts the Goblet of Fire, Book 4 in the Harry Potter series.

Commented [MJ235]: GRINGOTTS. Kath Gotts wrote the musical of "Bad Girls". Smirk = Grin. Gringotts Bank was robbed by Harry, Hermione and Ron in the 7th Harry Potter novel.

Commented [MJ236]: UND der STEIN der WEISEN. 1st Harry Potter book/film had a different title in the UK/US (and in German). I could have phrased this more clearly. I blame my German.

Commented [MJ237]: SAGITTARIUS. Parvati & Padma Patil were twins, while Bane was a centaur. Hence if they are Gemini, Bane should be a Sagittarius (and inter alia a Hunter) Acrostic reads NECROPHAGUS, which arguably means Death-Eater, a baddie in Harry Potter. Necrophagus was also the original title of the film *The Butcher of Binbrook*.

Commented [MJ238]: The symbol of the Deathly Hallows. PANS1 and PANS2 are short form of the Patronus proteins. This clues the Harry Potter spell "Expecto Patronum"

Commented [MJ239]: Playfair with key NECROPHAGUS gives QUIDDITCH BALL FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER

Commented [MJ240]: Playfair with key BLUDGER SNITCH gives NO Z HILL FIRST NAME OF VAULT OWNER

Commented [MJ241]: Hill with key BEL LAT RIX (25 letters) gives ONE CHAIN BACK FROM KEY HOLE INSIDE TREE CXCIX LVII

Commented [MJ242]: Scene from PLAY Harry Potter and the Cursed Child
BINBROOK FAIR according to some sources; Pensacola Fair according to others. Either is accepted, but only Binbrook works with BUTCHER below.

Commented [MJ243]: In ...Goblet of Fire, they use a PORTKEY from STOATSHEAD HILL. Rebus shows a Stoat's Head? Port Key, clueing HILL Thus indicating Playfair & Hill again

Also, the Key is to a Ford Anglia, which stars as a flying car in Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets.

Commented [MJ244]: Associated Harry Potter characters Guy FAWKES (the phoenix), Frigate HERMIONE, DRACO constellation. HEDWIG, Henri LESTRANGE. Treasure tree, with number 19957 obscured.

Commented [MJ245]: Quotation from William McGonagall's "Tay Bridge Disaster." Professor McGonagall would I'm sure approve of this motto for Gryffindor. Mushrooms: PORTOBELLO by Ruth Rendell. Terry BUTCHER links with BINBROOK above to the Butcher of Binbrook and the key NECROPHAGUS.



Vet murder

(bousilleur
misérable)

Fern aloft



Glad Rose



Sauvez au moins le droit de chasse pour l'honneur



File#	Bank on RdP	APB's
Year of old tricks	Picture of a Clown – an old lady	Criminal Code: 24 hours
Fashionable Dressmaker	Marriage	The Catastrophe



NZGZQFWDDJGMTZOWXCCVQKXPEEKWRIZXW

405931



396189



Commented [MJ246]: All representations of LeCoq. Lecoq sportif = Caldas (an alias used by Lecoq). A veteran is murdered in the novel Monsieur Lecoq.

Translation of “miserable bungler” as Lecoq is described by Sherlock Holmes in a Study in Scarlet.

Commented [MJ247]: Anagram of Fanferlot, a character in File 113 (Thematic Lecoq novel)
Alias the SQUIRREL, and Dubois (picture of General Dubois)

Commented [MJ248]: Anagram of (Raoul) de Lagors
A logo for Valent, inside a logo for Wilson. Clues “Valentin(-Raoul) Wilson”
James Spencer (name of character in File 113)

Commented [MJ249]: Extract from a song by Beranger, which seemed appropriate for the ATH. In Monsieur Lecoq, prisoners communicate using the Songs of Beranger.

Commented [MJ250]: All numbers from the book File 113: (113, 87, 39) (93, 2, 93) (81, 15, 22) File# = 113

The banking-house of Andre Fauvel, 87 Rue de Provence, Chez Auguste Prosper Bertomy.. 39, Rue Chaptal Year of old tricks = 93 “Picture No. 2!” he cried...“This old lady,..” Article 93 of the Criminal Code, habeas corpus Fashionable Dressmaker = a door bearing the number 81 Marriage “On the 15th of last month, was celebrated...” Chapter 22: The Catastrophe

Commented [MJ251]: Using the above Matrix and a 3x3, 26 letter Hill cipher gives ON WAY BACK PASS BENCH TO BIKE IF THIRSTY. Retracing treasure route but bearing left leads to the Foresters Arms with the bicycle in the picture below on its roof.

Commented [MJ252]: 405931 396189 are the North and East coordinates of Cock Hill. The Wine is Rooster Hill, each referencing LeCoq and the Hill code. Again, the scrabble tile indicates A=1.

Commented [MJ253]: Madonna & Child from Notre Dame d'Orcival. Dumas slavery memorial in Paris. Illustration of a disappearing trick, link to Gaboriau works The Mystery of Orcival, Slaves of Paris and A Disappearance. Treasure Route bike and “Thirteen Steps Down”, Rendell novel.

Commented [MJ254]: Leblanc + “Le Rouge et le Noir” – “Le Blanc et le Noir” = Le Rouge. L'affaire LeRouge is a Gaboriau novel.

Commented [MJ255]: The red spot is the same symbol as was used for Reading in the Poster. It is the Project Gutenberg logo, indicating that File 113 is available online.