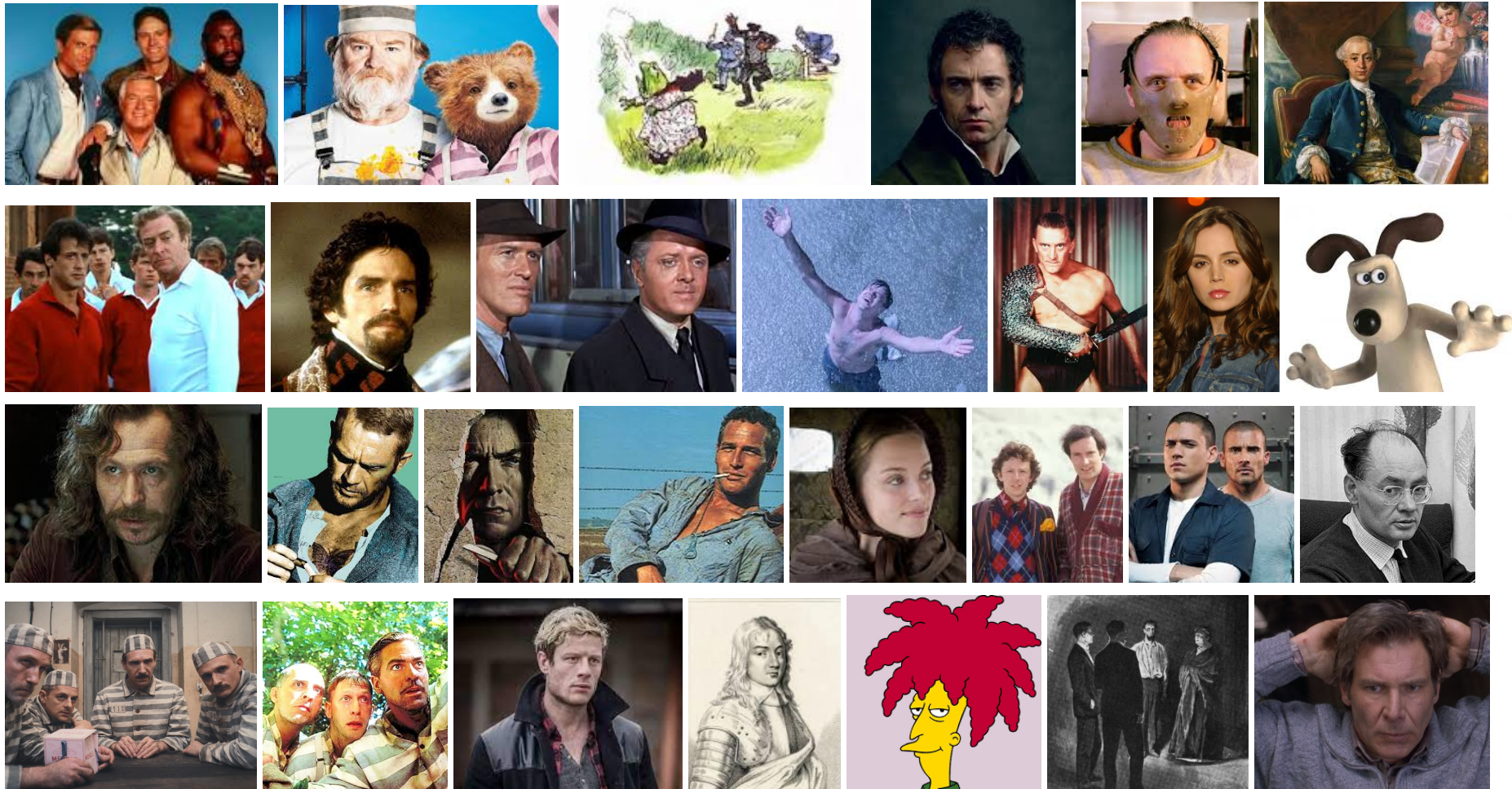


Pablo's Armchair Treasure Hunt 2023

"And I Would Have Got Away With It Too, If It Wasn't For You Meddling ATHERs!"

On the Lam... How many escaped prisoners did you track down? **SPOILER ALERT **** for various books / films / TV**



Great Dane - How many references to Kierkegaard did you spot?



Born 5 May 1813

Brother was Peter, mother was Anne Sorensdatter Lund

Was engaged to Regine Olsen, born 23 January 1822.

“Kierkegaard” means churchyard.

Aliases used by Kierkegaard: Victor Eremita, Johannes the Seducer, Hilarius Bookbinder, Johannes de Silentio, the Young Man, Nicolaus Notabene. His childhood nickname was “Fork”.

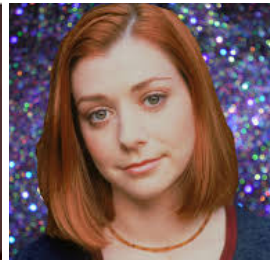
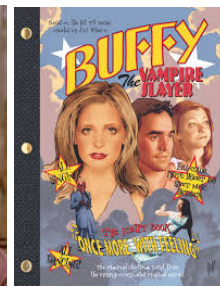
Works by Kierkegaard: Letters and Documents, The Point of View, Judge for Yourselves! The Lilies of the Field and the Birds of the Air, Stages on Life’s Way, Works of Love, For Self Examination

Key concepts in Kierkegaard’s work: faith, angst, existentialism, teleological suspension of the ethical*

Quotes from Kierkegaard: *Anxiety is the dizziness of freedom / Boredom is the root of all evil / [Riches] secure a man against anxieties about as well as the wolf that is put to tending the sheep / He who has the world’s treasure has it, however he got it / It is not the path which is the difficulty, rather, it is the difficulty which is the path*

*just kidding, I didn’t manage to hide that

A Veritable Cornucopia of Fiends and Devils and Ghouls - How many references to Buffy the Vampire Slayer did you spot?



(well, his boss)

Answers

Pre Poster Teaser

This was just for fun and no points available. With acknowledgments to @TheUdderQuiz, whose format I have shamelessly stolen.

The pictures in their correct categories were:

Vincent Price, **Leonardo** di Caprio, Samuel L **Jackson**, El **Salvador**. These were the first names of famous artists. So Pablo would fit in this group.

The band **Elbow**, **Little Finger** from Game of Thrones, a hard **shoulder**, The **Handmaid's** Tale. These all contained parts of an arm so armchair could fit in this group.

Neil **Diamond**, Johnny **Cash**, **Goldie**, the Lone Ranger and **Silver**. These could all be considered treasure.

James **Blunt**, Cupid **Stunt**, Rebecca **Front**, a **punt**. These all rhyme with hunt.

Four posters for films containing the word Friday - Friday the Thirteenth, His Girl Friday, The Long Good Friday, Freaky Friday. This is your hint that the poster would be released on Friday.

Marking Scheme

In line with previous years, the hunt has been scored with points weighted according to how many teams got a particular answer. There were 37 entries so if all 37 teams got an answer correct (e.g. P3 identifying the Mystery Inc gang) then everyone scored 1 point. If 36 teams got it, 2 points were awarded and so on up to some answers that only one team got (e.g. F6 spotting the synonyms for “faith”) then that scored 37 points.

If a team gave a close but not perfect answer, I awarded the mark in accordance with the above scheme, but then applied a deduction at my discretion to reflect the fact that it wasn't quite spot on.

Some puzzles were scored differently - e.g. the wordsearch was a straightforward 1 point per word found - these are mentioned in the marking scheme below.

There were bonus points available for writing a haiku (with extra points for my favourites), submitting a pet photo, entering the colouring competition, suggesting a new prison motto, finding a Sean Bean link, and for providing enough information to catch the villain before he fled the country.

Poster

The poster contains a slightly mangled quote based on “*It is not the path which is the difficulty, rather it is the difficulty which is the path*” which is from Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard (“K”) (P1). K, and by extension Danish things in general, is a theme of the hunt (T1 for noting theme at any stage).

The poster directs you to a website beetsath.wixsite.com/home, with the instruction to “tell them Pablo sent you”. By following that instruction, you get the story of your character being given a message by a mysterious stranger to visit someone in Faengsel prison, Faengsel is the Danish word for prison (P2). You have to choose a gift to take the prisoner and the gift you choose determines which character you are. Your interactions with the taxi driver tell you something about each of the five characters, which should lead you to deduce that you are one of the Mystery Inc team from Scooby Doo (“SD”) (P3). You might note now, or spot later on, that SD is a Great Dane and therefore a link to K or to the Danish theme of the ATH generally (P4).

By giving a correct name (Daphne Blake, Fred Jones, Velma Dinkley, Norville Rogers or Scoobert Doo) to the prison guard, you can get in to see Old Man Wily (“OMW”), who you and the gang caught ten years ago. You also get to know some relevant numbers. You are visitor no 791.457, the guard is guard no. 198, and OMW is in room no. 365. These are numbers under the Dewey classification system. 791.457 is the category for television programmes, therefore links to your SD character (or perhaps another theme of the hunt). 198 is for Scandinavian philosophy. 365 is for penal systems, appropriate for the setting of the hunt (P5 for identifying all).

OMW wants to enlist your help to find some treasure. He was part of a criminal gang that planned to steal the treasure, but SD and the gang thwarted their plans. Now the rest of the criminal gang has cut him out and stolen the treasure without him. He thinks that one of the criminal gang must be in prison with him, because he found a notebook about stealing the treasure in the prison library. But he never knew who the other members of the gang were. They all used aliases and he only ever spoke to one of them, “Victor”, on the phone. The other aliases used were “Quiet John”, “Ladies Man John”, “Funny Man”, “Babyface”, “Nicky N”. These are all based on the pseudonyms used by K being Victor Eremita, Johannes de Silentio, Johannes the Seducer, Hilarius Bookbinder, the Young Man, and Nicolaus Notabene (P6). The fact that these are all aliases used by one person, and that OMW only ever spoke to one of them, should lead you to deduce that there was no criminal gang but a single criminal mastermind - K.

OMW tells you that he hates being called “Old Man” and considers that he is “*in his prime and don’t you forget it!*”. He was 43 when he was sent down ten years ago, so he must now be 53, both of which are prime numbers (P7).

In true SD style, OMW was trying to scare locals away from the treasure by dressing up as a monster. The fact that he was a vampire in a high school points towards another main theme of the ATH, Buffy the Vampire Slayer (“BVS”) (P8 for noting this link and T2 for noting theme at any

stage). There are a couple of other pointers: Buffy and her friends are known as “the Scooby Gang” (P9) and OMW particularly admires Daphne and thinks she is “the real hero”. In the SD films, Daphne is played by Sarah Michelle Gellar, who also played Buffy (P10).

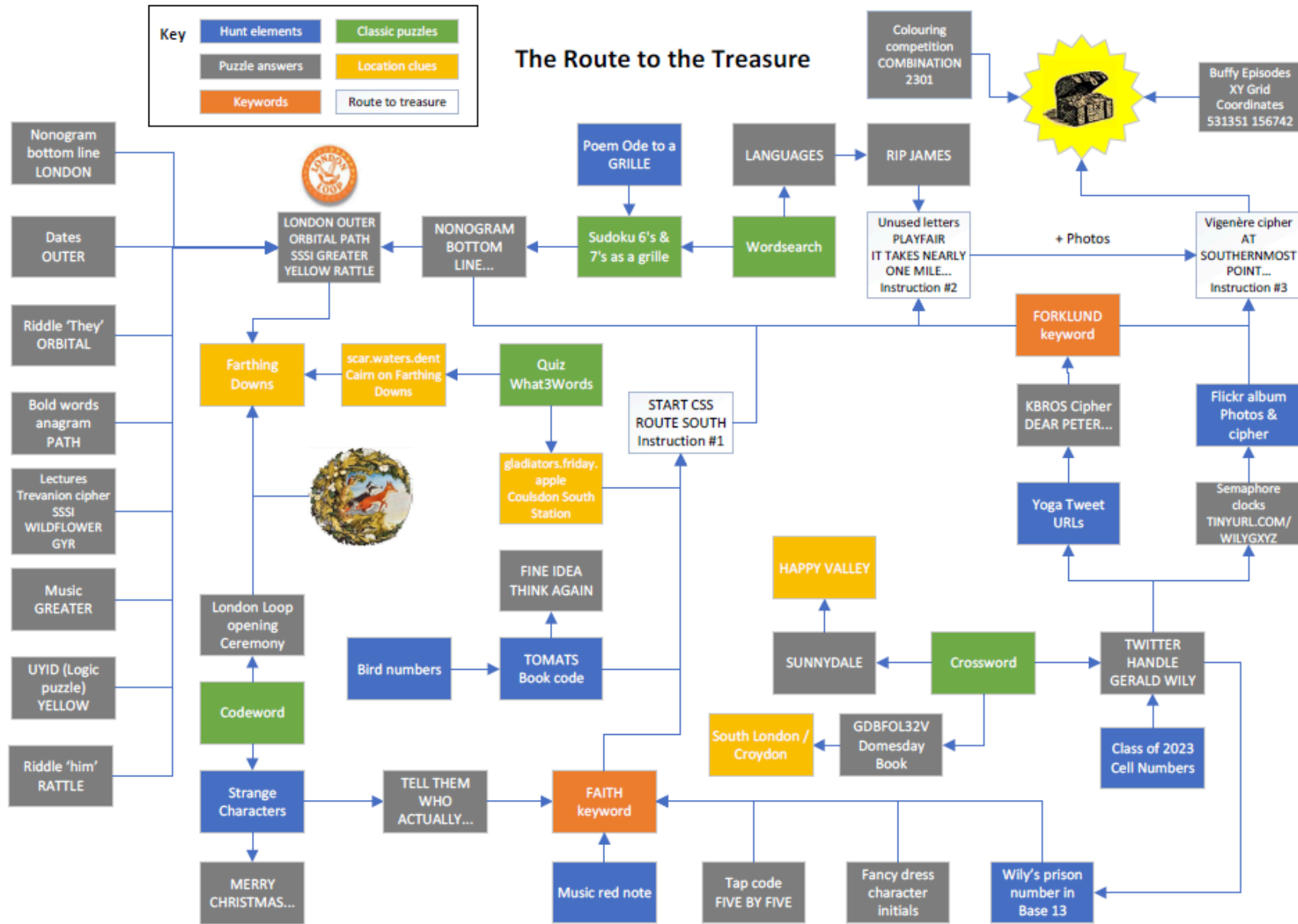
Mini-Poster

The teaser shows Gromit the dog from the film A Close Shave. In this scene, Gromit is about to escape from prison (G1), which introduces the theme of prison escapes (T3 for noting theme at any stage). Gromit is shown completing a jigsaw. When complete, the jigsaw shows the following message:



This is the clue for when the main ATH would be released (G2).

Main Hunt



Covering letter

Cousin Terri's kids are referred to as the "Inklings" suggesting that her surname is Ink. The letter intended for SD and co, i.e. Mystery Inc, has been addressed to "Miss (or Ms) Terri Ink" as a cover (CL1).

Three words in the letter are in bold: A, AM and GRAN which is obviously an anagram of 'anagram'. This is your hint for what to do with the bold words you will find within the newsletter (CL2).

The letter asks you if you remember OMW telling you how much he hates being called "Old Man". This should remind you of the exchange when he told you he considered himself "*in his prime and don't you forget it*" and therefore that there is some kind of code with prime numbers. The code starts immediately after the word "start" and the fact that the text gets a bit weird there might also tip you off that there is something afoot. Taking the prime numbers from this point spells out LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS MONITORED INFO CONCEALED IN THE ENCLOSED GW END (CL3). Letters and Documents is a work by K (CL4).

BA is a character from the A Team - the [opening monologue](#) of the programme reminded you every week that they had all escaped from a maximum security prison (CL5).

"*Boredom is the root of evil*" is a quote by K (CL6).

You learn that OMW's first initial is G but not his full first name. He also gives you the titbit of information that there are three gangs in his prison wing and that everyone except him is a member of one of them.

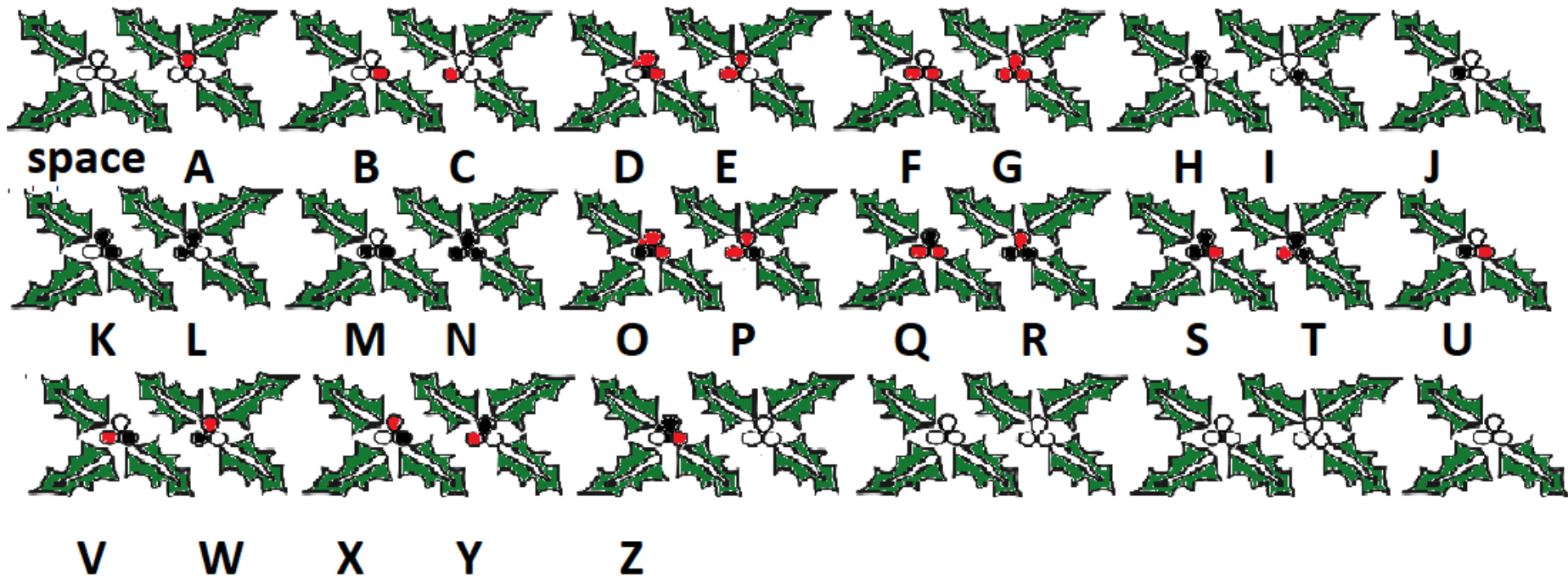
OMW expresses his hope that you find time for "*the traditional long walk in the countryside*" but suggests that you might just drive to the pub instead. This is a hint that the treasure can be found either after a fairly long walk in the countryside, or perhaps a shorter walk from a pub car park (no points for this, but I didn't want anyone who couldn't walk too far being put off by the relatively long route that was suggested by the instructions).

Newsletter

There are some puzzles found scattered throughout the newsletter. These are:

Holly cipher

The decorative holly border includes clusters of three berries in three different colours. That gives 27 different possible combinations, which would set your ATH senses tingling for an alphabetical cipher (26 + blank space).



This message decodes to: IN NOTEBOOK ARE PICS AND CODES I ALREADY DECODED SOME ANSWERS HIDDEN HEREIN SOME I CANT CRACK A BIRD NOS B CODE IN PHOTO C SPARE WORDSEARCH LETTERS D URLS (N1). This tells you where to look for the ciphertext of the codes that OMW has not cracked.

Strange Characters

There are letters in a different font, being the 26 letters of the alphabet. The font used is Vampiro, appropriate for the BVS theme (N2). In the Editor's column, OMW says *"At the start of my sentence I thought to myself - there are some bloody strange characters in here. Now as I approach the end of my sentence - I'm one of them!"* This is your hint that the letters and the beginning and end of the sentences containing the "strange characters" are relevant. If you arrange the strange characters in alphabetical order, the letters at the beginning of the sentences spell out MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR (N3). If you arrange the strange characters in the order suggested by the codeword puzzle, the letters at the end of the sentences spell out TELL THEM WHO ACTUALLY SENT YOU (N4).

This is your instruction to go back to the website from the poster and answer something other than "Pablo" when asked who sent you. In fact, many teams found at least some of these alternatives at the poster stage without decoding the hint to do this. Depending on how you interpret the *"who actually sent you"*, you might say "Old Man Wily / Wily / Gerald Wily". In this case you are prompted to submit *"one of those poems that sounds like a sneeze"*. This is a quote from BVS describing a haiku. Anyone who submitted a haiku got 20 bonus points, with 50 for my two favourites (BP1). You might have said "Beet" sent you, in which case you are prompted to submit a photo of your pet (BP2). Anyone who submitted such a photo got 20 bonus points (no winners because they were all my favourite). If you were thinking literally, you might have said "who actually" sent you, in which case you were linked to the music video for George's Michael's Faith (N5), which was another hint to that word - see below.

Tap Code

There are a series of dots between articles. This is [tap code](#) and spells out FIVE BY FIVE (N6). Tap code is often used in prisons, so is thematically appropriate (N7). "Five by five" is a pun on how a tap code works (using a 5x5 grid) and it also is the [catchphrase of the character Faith from BVS](#) (N8).

Dates

There are several dates in the newsletter: 1 October, 2 July, 4 September, 7 December and 8 December. Looking at the month and taking the relevant letter suggested by the number, this spells OUTER (N9).

Bold Words

There are some words in bold, SEARCH, BRUTAL, HOUSE MARTIN and PAR, and a hint in the covering letter linking words in bold and anagrams. These words are an anagram of PABLO'S ARMCHAIR TREASURE HUNT (N10).

Morse Code

Three articles contain bulleted lists with both dashes and dots. This is Morse Code. Full stops at the end of items indicated where the spaces between words were to make solving easier. This decoded to THE WATER IS WARM (N11). This is from the TV series Prison Break in which [an escaped prisoner taps this message out in Morse Code as a red herring](#) (N12). It is also a red herring here and does not help you find the treasure.

BVS Episodes

There are references throughout the newsletter to various episodes of BVS:

The prison motto is a bible quote from Revelation 3.7. You got a bonus 20 points if you suggested a new motto as requested (BP3). This is a reference to the BVS episode “Revelations” (N13) which is series 3, episode 7 and which was released in 1998. This is the hint that the series number / episode number within that series is relevant. However, the fact that the motto “*does not contribute to the direction*” suggests that these numbers do not themselves form part of the location information.

The problem page letter with the man who fears being replaced by a go-getter who looks just like him is the plot of the BVS episode “[The Replacement](#)” series 5 episode 3 (N14). Big X refers to the character Xander, who found himself in this quandary. His girlfriend really is a “demon in the sack” because she is a former demon.

“*A veritable cornucopia of fiends and devils and ghouls*” attended the prison fancy dress party. This is a quote from the BVS episode “[Witch](#)” series 1 episode 3 (N15), where the winner of a cheerleading trophy used witchcraft to turn herself into someone else.

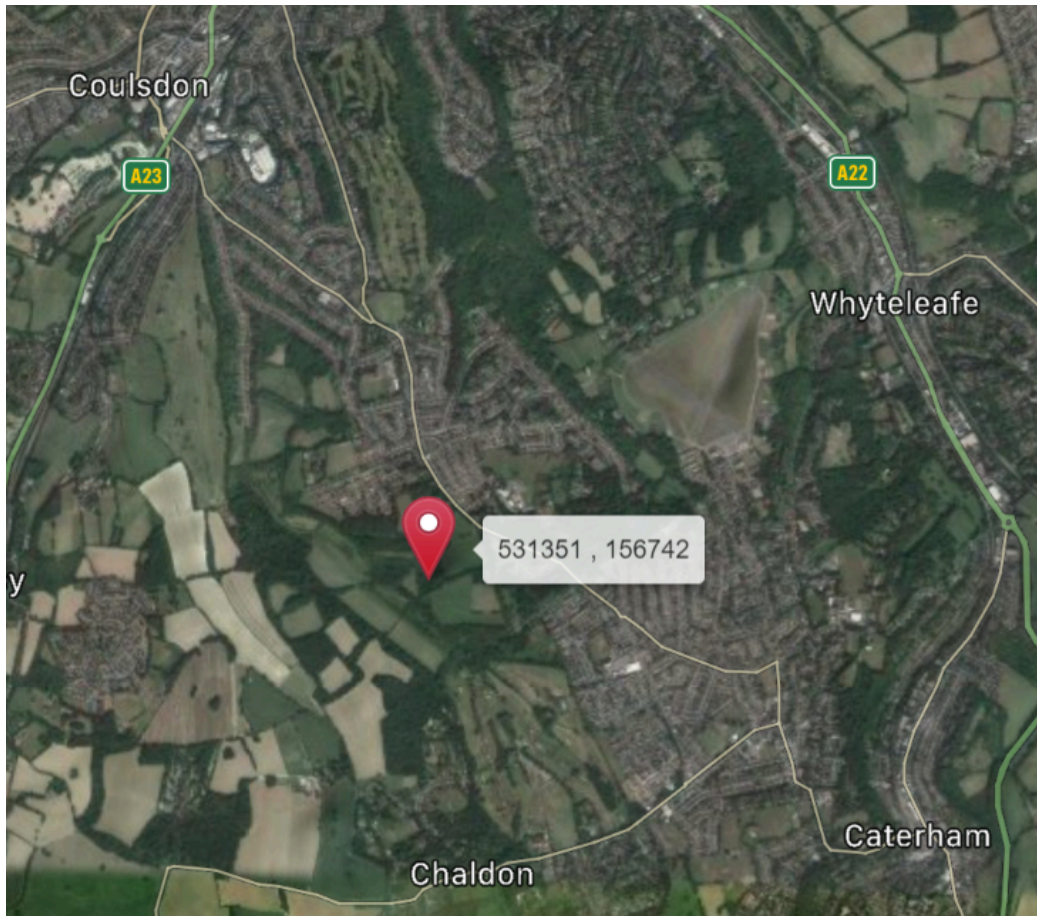
The editor’s column refers to the start of a new season and “*getting the first glimpse of Dawn*”. The character Dawn first appears in the BVS episode “[Buffy vs Dracula](#)” series 5 episode 1 (N16).

The editor’s column also refers to missing a first date and states that “*a cranky editor is a careless editor*” and this is the plot and a mangled quote from the BVS episode “[Never Kill a Boy on a First Date](#)” series 1 episode 5 (N17).

The theatre review refers to “[Going through the Motions](#)” “[Something to Sing About](#)” and “[Under Your Spell](#)”, which were all songs from the musical BVS episode “[Once More with Feeling](#)” series 6 episode 7 (N18).

Martin Oxen was one of the speakers in the lecture series. This refers to BVS writer Marti Noxon. The subject of the lecture was coping with annoying cell mates and the bad behaviour described fits with one of the BVS episodes she wrote called "[Living Conditions](#)" series 4 episode 2 (N19).

Taking the series number / episode number of these episodes in the order they appear in the newsletter gives a twelve digit code. This is an XY grid reference. The digits are 531351 156742 (N20). Allowing a margin for error for the GPS app on my phone, this would lead you directly to the treasure location (so this puzzle had to be extremely difficult!).



Other Articles

The newsletter is called “X Essentials” which is a play on “existential” being one of the themes of K’s work (N21).

New Rules for Tools

One of the prisoners has a rock hammer in his room. This is a reference to the [Shawshank Redemption](#) (N22).

Guards v Inmates Football Match

The group of prisoners playing a football match with a replacement goalie and that scoreline is a reference to the film [Escape to Victory](#) (N23). The replacement goalkeeper’s performance is “rocky” because he was played by Sylvester Stallone.

The Point of View

The Point of View is the title is a work by K (N24). The font used in the guard’s column (and, later on, in the letter from K found in the treasure box) is called Philosopher - spotting it on either occasion earns the point (N25).

The books mentioned in the article were all written under pseudonyms. This is a clue that pseudonyms / aliases are a theme of the ATH, being used a lot by K and also many of the escaped prisoners you need to track down are using pseudonyms. If you take the first letter of the real name of the pseudonymous author you can rearrange to spell PSEUDONYM (N26). The titles of the books are not specifically relevant, beyond being a bit suggestive of chasing after someone who has stolen some treasure.

[Molière - Jean-Baptiste Poquelin](#)

[Nicholas Blake - Cecil Day-Lewis](#)

[Fabian Bland - E. Nesbit](#)

[John Twelve Hawks - Unknown](#)

[John Christopher - Sam Youd](#)

[C.S. Forester - Cecil Smith](#)

[Rosamond Smith - Joyce Carol Oates](#)

[Saki - H.H. Munro](#)

[George Eliot - Mary Ann Evans](#)

In Memoriam

The Point of View article tells you that the guard knows that there is one book in the library that OMW has not read “on principle”. The book is [The Old Man and the Sea](#) (“TOMATS”) by Ernest Hemingway (N27). OMW does not like it because of the reference to his hated nickname. The In Memoriam article gives several hints to TOMATS. The picture is of the character Amy Santiago from Brooklyn 99. Santiago is the name of the eponymous Old Man (N28). Pilar was the name of Hemingway’s boat (N29). Gregorio Fuentes was the name of its skipper, said to be the basis for the character of Santiago (in TOMATS, not in Brooklyn 99) (N30). Fingers Fuentes died on 2 July, the same day as Hemingway (N31). A cat burglar with six fingers is suggestive of [polydactyl cats aka Hemingway Cats](#) because he had several (N32).



Doing Bird

The Doing Bird article is thematic because “doing bird” is slang for being in prison. The “Birdmen” gang is named after the famous prisoner “the Birdman of Alcatraz) (N33). The “twins” refers to the fact that Taron Egerton appears twice as a prisoner on X-Wing as Robin and Eagle, so both incarnations would be members of the Birdmen (N34). The bird pictured is a Masked Shrike aka Butcher Bird. This bird features in the film the Great Escape (N35), when POWs are pretending to learn about birds as a cover for their forgery operation.



The numbers from the Doing Bird article are obviously some kind of code. The font used for the bird numbers is different from the rest of the newsletter and is Book Antiqua - a hint that this is a book code (N36). If there is going to be any sort of book code, K would naturally use the book he knew OMW would never read.

The birds themselves don't matter for the code, but were chosen because they feature in an [RSPB article](#) about bird species found in Happy Valley / Farthing Downs, (N37).

The numbers signify letter positions within the text. However, the article tells you “*it can be difficult to know where to start, but trust me you'll get lots of pointers*”. This indicates that this is the clue to give you the starting point of your route to the treasure. It also indicates that you do not start counting at the beginning, but there will be multiple clues telling you where you do start. If you do start counting from the beginning you get a message to give you encouragement you are on the right lines: FINE IDEA THINK AGAIN (N38).

If you start at the word FAITH in the text of TOMATS and count the letters indicated by the numbers in the bird list, it spells out the message START CSS ROUTE SOUTH (N39).

How do you know to start at the word “faith”? As promised there were lots of pointers:

- Faith is a character in BVS who escapes from prison (N40).
- Her catchphrase is “five by five” as spelt out by the tap code (point given above).
- Her prison number is 430019. The number worn by OMW in his twitter photos is 120965, but he’s also wearing a t-shirt saying “base 13”. 120965 in base 13 converts to 430019 in decimal (point given below)
- The BVS characters featured in the fancy dress article spell out the word FAITH (point given below).
- Faith is a key concept of K’s work, including the phrase “leap of faith” being attributed to him (N41).
- The musical note corresponding to the word “faith-” in O Come All Ye Faithful is highlighted (point given below).
- Going back to the initial website and telling them that “whoactually” sent you leads to a music video of Faith by George Michael (point given above).
- The Doing Bird article contains several synonyms for faith in the preamble before the bird numbers: *belief, no doubt, conviction, trust* (N42).

Uncle Angst

Angst is a key concept of K’s work (N43). Stages on Life’s Way (N44) and Works of Love (N45) are works by K.

This article is illustrated by a picture of Kelsey Grammer, who provides the voice for Sideshow Bob in the Simpsons [who has escaped prison multiple times](#) (N46).

Big X was a pseudonym used by Roger Bushell (N47), the mastermind behind the escape from Stalag Luft III aka the Great Escape. [Casanova escaped from prison](#) in 1757 (N48).

Fancy Dress

The fancy dress part was a prison-wide affair so there were several pictures of prisoners from X-Wing, but also pictures of others. The others were all characters from BVS. The pictures were of:

Sam Neil (N49) from Event Horizon

Forrest (N50) from BVS

Ed O’Neill (N51) from Modern Family

Angel / Angelus (N52) from BVS

Tim Roth (N53) as Frankenstein

Izzerial (N54) from BVS spin off Angel
Sandi Toksvig (N55) from Bake Off
Toth (N56) from BVS
Miranda Richardson (N57) from Merlin
Halfrek (N58) from BVS
Gary Oldman (N59) from Bram Stoker's Dracula

The BVS characters spell out the word FAITH (N60).

A Word from the Editor

The picture is a rubber Ronnie Barker ("RB") mask, in homage to the prison inmate Fletcher played by RB in Porridge (N61).

For Self Examination is a work by K (N62). "*The very idea of freedom makes me anxious and a little dizzy*" is a reference to K's quote "*anxiety is the dizziness of freedom*" (N63).

The word Face (capitalised as a hint) refers to Face of the A Team (N64). Hannibal refers to Hannibal of the A Team (N65) and also Hannibal Lecter (N66) who escaped from prison in the Silence of the Lambs.

Theatre Review

Judge for Yourself! is a work by K (N67).

"*Get busy singing or get busy dancing*" is a play on the quote "*Get busy living or get busy dying*" from the Shawshank Redemption (N68). A song called Going Through the Motions would be appropriate as a finale to a musical version of the Shawshank Redemption, as [Andy Dusfresne escapes from prison via a sewage pipe](#) (N69).

The word Howling (capitalised) refers to Howling Mad Murdoch from the A Team (N70). Thomas L Rolls suggests Tommy Lee Royce (N71), who [escapes from prison in Happy Valley](#), which is a "*particularly fitting programme*" because it is also the place where the treasure is hidden (N72).

The four plays in next year's programme were written by Jack Rosenthal, Dennis Potter, Alan Bennett, and Michael Frayn. They were all alumni of the Joint Services School for Linguists (JSSL) (N73). The Fox pub near the treasure site was a location for the JSSL in the 1950s (N74).

Lecture Series

The Lecture Series Article refers to a lecture on Colchester Castle by surgeon Trevor Onion. This is a hint that it contains a Trevanion Cipher, which was supposedly used to effect the [escape of Sir John Trevanion](#) (N75) who was being held prisoner there. A [Trevanion cipher](#) works by taking a letter from the text a certain number after each punctuation mark. The article mentions "four" a few times, indicating that in this case you should take every fourth letter after a punctuation mark. This spells out SSSI WILDFLOWER GYR (N76). The significance of this message is explained later.

The Lilies of the Field and Birds of the Air is a work by K (N77). Paddy Foot is close to Padfoot, a pseudonym used by Sirius Black who escapes from prison in Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (N78). In the film, Black is played by Gary Oldman, who is currently doing hard time on X-Wing. Abbie Bussony is close to Abbé Bussoni, [a pseudonym used by the Count of Monte Cristo](#) after his escape from prison (N79). Abby and the Count were both imprisoned for 14 years.

Carol concert

There is a reference to the churchyard - which is the literal translation of "kierkegaard" (N80). St Leonard is the [patron saint of prisoners](#) (N81). Steven Randall leads to [Randall Stevens](#), a pseudonym used by Andy Dufresne in the Shawshank Redemption (N82) (NB this is in the film, in the original short story it is different). An accordion was used in the [escape from Alcatraz](#) (N83).

Poetry Corner

The poem refers twice to "*search for the words*" indicating the wordsearch puzzle. It also refers to "*a number stuck in a cell*" and "*sixes and sevens*", indicating the sudoku puzzle and in particular the cells with 6 and 7. The second stanza goes on about the bars on the cell windows and all the lines rhyme with -ill. This is a reference to the word "grille" which can mean bars on windows, but also has a [meaning in cryptography](#) whereby certain letters in a ciphertext are highlighted by placing a stencil on top. So the title of the poem is Ode to a Grille (N84). Putting everything together, this poem is telling you to use the sudoku grid as a grille on top of the wordsearch and reading the letters corresponding to the cells containing 6s and 7s (point awarded below).

Puzzles Pages

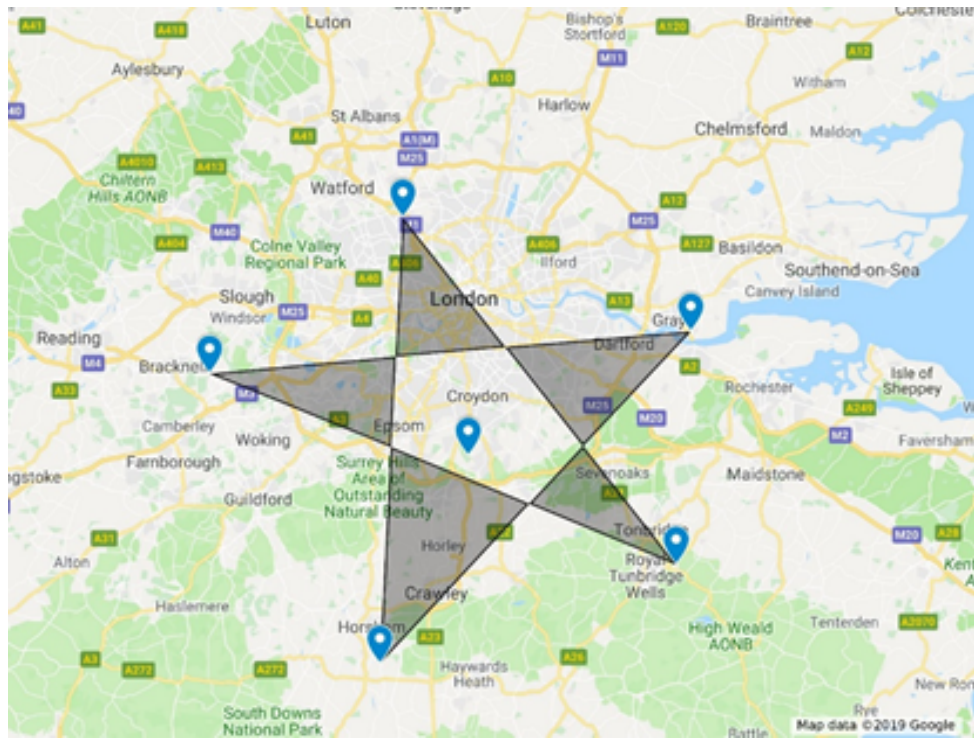
Unleash Your Inner Detective

The solution to the logic puzzle is (PP1):

No Gang Members	Gang Name	Heist Location	Colour Car
1	Pembury Pirates	Casino	Not specified
2	Edgware Evildoers	Post Office	Black
3	Nuthurst Nutters	Bank	Red
4	Tilbury Troublemakers	Jewellers	Silver
5	Ascot Abominations	Not specified	Yellow

The answer to the question posed is YELLOW. The clues give lots of references to the gang with one member: arguably a single person can't really be a gang, but this is how K presented himself to OMW by using all his pseudonyms, so this was a reference to that.

The five home towns of the criminal gangs are all places on the outskirts of London. Ordering the gangs from smallest to largest, they spell out PENTA. If you mark the hometowns on a map and draw a pentagram between them you get a fairly small area in South London. (PP2 - point awarded for either drawing a pentagon or a pentagram)



Sudoku

The completed sudoku looks like this (PP3):

7	4	6	9	5	2	8	1	3
8	9	5	1	7	3	4	6	2
3	1	2	6	4	8	9	5	7
4	8	1	3	2	5	6	7	9
5	7	3	4	9	6	1	2	8
2	6	9	7	8	1	5	3	4
1	5	8	2	3	4	7	9	6
9	3	4	5	6	7	2	8	1
6	2	7	8	1	9	3	4	5

Quiz

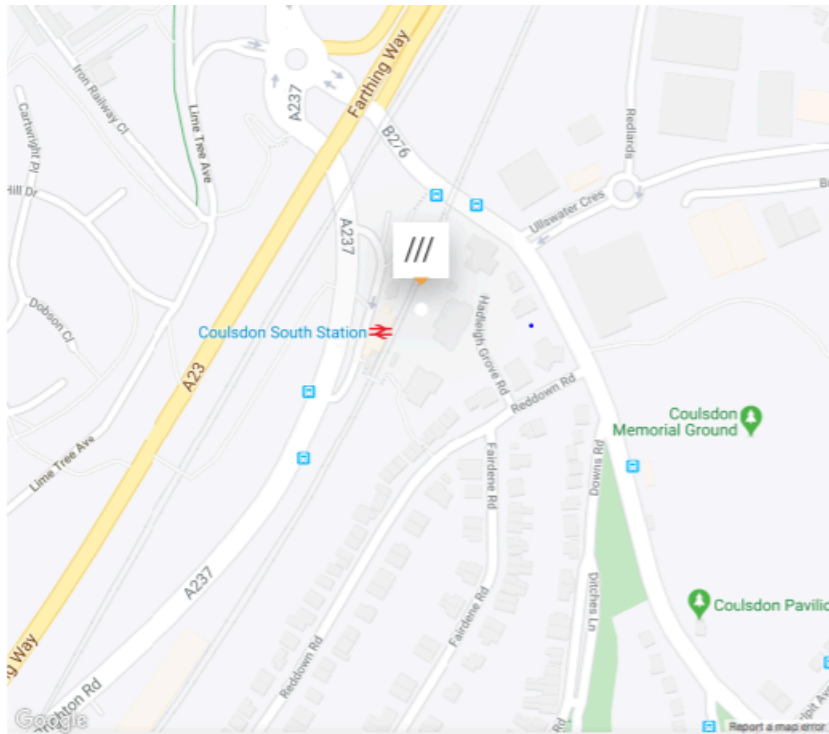
The answers are:

1. The BORG Six of One Hundred and Nine: what is found before hunted? **What** - the BORG in this case stands for the [Ballad of Reading Gaol](#) in keeping with the prison theme. The poem has 109 stanzas and the sixth one begins "I only knew what hunted thought...". Therefore the answer is in the question, as "what" comes before hunted. (PP4 - correct explanation needed)

2. He escaped from students once, and prison how many times? **Three** - this refers to [Alfred Hinds](#), who became famous for escaping prison three times. He then escaped from a group of students who tried to imprison him for a prank. (PP5 - correct explanation needed)
3. There are 8 in 8, 9 in 9, and 10 in 10. **Words** in the questions. (PP6 - correct explanation needed)
4. Warrior and Rebel perhaps escaped using kitchen implements. **Gladiators** - reference to the escape led by [Spartacus](#) in 73 BC. Warrior and Rebel are TV Gladiators. (PP7)
5. The Great Escape started on this day, but it would have been good if they had waited two weeks. **Friday** - the real life [Great Escape](#) began on 24 March 1944 which was a Friday, and two weeks before Good Friday. (PP8)
6. What is occasionally well-balanced in Copenhagen? **Apple** - golden apples are balanced on the [Caritas Well](#) in Copenhagen on special occasions. (PP9)
7. Scooby Doo character, or the escaped prisoner in the Hound of the Baskervilles? **Red Herring** - A character in SD is literally named "[Red Herring](#)" and the escaped convict in [The Hound of the Baskervilles](#) is a literary red herring as he has nothing to do with the mysterious events. (PP10)
8. Proudful character based on someone who hired inmates. **Scar** - the inmates are Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, hired by Claudius in Hamlet. The "proudful" character based on him is [Scar from the Lion King](#), large parts of the story being based on Hamlet. (PP11)
9. She wrote about SD's time in a women's prison. **Waters** - [Affinity](#) is a book by Sarah Waters, which features imprisoned medium Selina Dawes (not Scooby Doo). (PP12)
10. Lexicographer's namesake who was held prisoner by some terrible poets. **Dent** - [Arthur Dent](#) escapes from torture by terrible poetry at the hands of the Vogons in The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy. [Susie Dent](#) is the lexicographer in Dictionary Corner on Countdown. (PP13)

The first step is to discard the Red Herring, which is just there to round up the number of questions to a less suspicious looking ten. The first three answers lead to what3words.com, which solvers may be familiar with from the 2020 Hunt.

The next three answers <https://what3words.com/gladiators.friday.apple> lead you to Coulsdon South Station, which is the "CSS" mentioned in the book code as the start of the route. (PP14)



///gladiators.friday.apple

The next three answers <https://what3words.com/scar.waters.dent> lead to the cairn on Farthing Downs, the start of the trail of breadcrumbs photographs. (PP15)



Google

Report a map error

///scar.waters.dent



The cairn tells you that it is 147m above sea level. in the wordsearch.

This will make sense when find the Playfair cipher

There was a third what3words suggested by the opening paragraph. A prisoner nicknamed Dagger (naturally Daniel Agger (PP16)) has offered Old Man Wily his Christmas dinner in exchange for the quiz. The actual treasure location is at <https://what3words.com/quiz.costs.lunch> (PP17).



///quiz.costs.lunch

Riddle

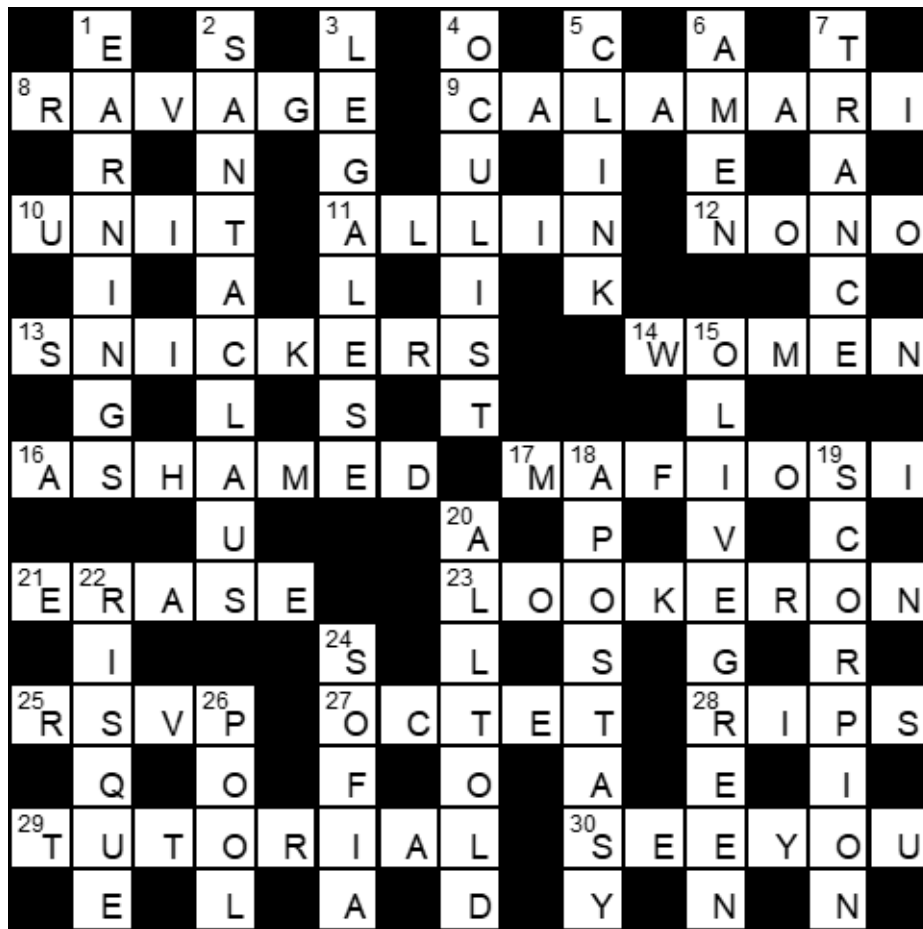
'She' is our thematic heroine Buffy. Despite being a fictional character she has a specific date of birth: 19 January 1981. 'He' apparently has his birthday on the same day but is 26 years older, so you are looking for someone born on 19 January 1955. This is Sir Simon RATTLE.

(PP18)

The numbers do not add up for "them", so something different is going on here. On 19 January 1991 ORBITAL (PP19) were number 35 in the UK singles charts with their track Satan. On 19 January 1997 they were number 23 with a live version of the same track. There are musical notes in the instructions for the riddle as a hint that both answers are music related.

Crossword

The solution to the crossword is:



Points awarded per clue (special scoring **SP1** - 1 point per correct clue)

There is a message hidden round the edge spelling out TREASURE'S LOCATION IN SUNNYDALE (**PP20**). Sunnydale is the setting for BVS alerting you to that theme if you had not already spotted it. Sunnydale is also a clue to Happy Valley (**PP21**) where the treasure is hidden.

There are nine clues where a character is missing (**PP22** for spotting them all):

9a. Seafood found in 2/3 of Calais marina

10a. MoLe perhaps hidden in international organisation's computer department

11a. Nothing left oVer after last bit of stamina exhausted

27a. For a group like S Club Juniors, once twenty, regulars must be Ditched

29a. That'll teach you to freak out in middle of cOurt hearing

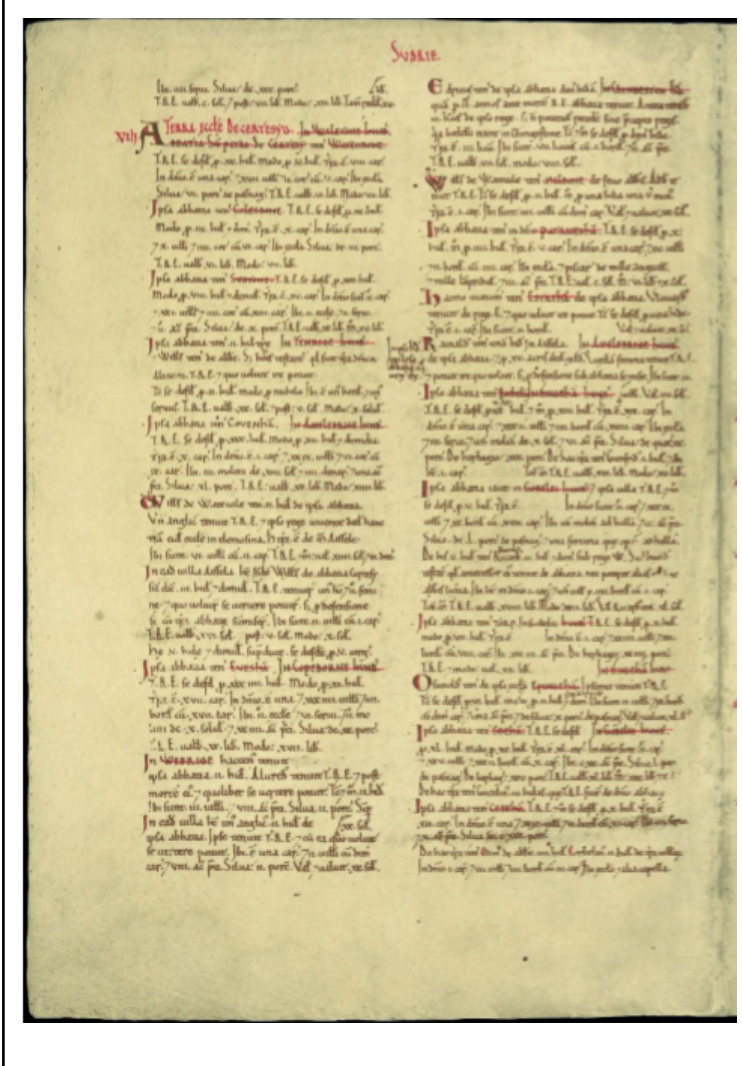
1d. Grannies cooked Bread

4d. Doctor Who can make you Good looking

19d. Stingy fellow offers 16 + 3.14... + 0.66...

26d. Kitty droppings on top oF litter (4)

The enumeration for these clues is incorrect and if arranged in the order of the false enumeration (1) to (9), the missing characters spell GDBFOL32V. This is the conventional reference for the Great Domesday Book Folio 32 Verso (PP23). The relevant page of the GDB refers to several places in Surrey / South London, narrowing down the possible list of treasure locations.



Translation of Great Domesday Book Folio 32v

SURREY

There are 4 slaves, [and] woodland for 30 pigs. TRE it was worth 100s; and afterwards 71, now 121, yet it renders 15l.

VIII. THE LAND OF THE CHURCH OF CHERTSEY
IN WALLINGTON HUNDRED

THE ABBEY OF ST PETER OF CHERTSEY holds 'WADDINGTON' [in Coulsdon]. TRE it was assessed at 20 hides, now at 8 hides. There is land for 8 ploughs, [and] 17 villans and 2 cottars with 5 ploughs. There is a church, [and] woodland for 6 pigs as pannage. TRE it was worth 6l; now 7l.

The abbey itself holds COULSDON. TRE it was assessed at 20 hides; now at 3 1/2 hides. There is land for 10 ploughs. In demesne is 1 plough; and 10 villans and 4 cottars with 6 ploughs. There is a church, [and] woodland for 3 pigs. TRE it was worth 6l; now 7l.

The abbey itself holds BUTTON [near Cheam]. TRE it was assessed at 30 hides; now at 8 1/2 hides. There is land for 15 ploughs. In demesne are 2 ploughs, and 21 villans and 4 cottars with 13 ploughs. There are 2 churches, and 2 slaves, and 2 acres of meadow, [and] woodland for 10 pigs. TRE it was worth 20l; now 15l.

IN TANDRIDGE HUNDRED

The abbey itself holds 2 hides of land, and William holds of the abbot. But the men testify that it was the demesne land of Alwine TRE, and he could go where he would. [...] It was then assessed at 2 hides, now at nothing. There is 1 bordar and 1 slave. TRE it was worth 20s; and afterwards 5s; now 10s.

IN 'ELMBRIDGE' HUNDRED

The abbey itself holds COBHAM. TRE it was assessed at 30 hides; now at 12 1/4 hides. There is land for 10 ploughs.

• In demesne is 1 plough; and 29 villans and 6 cottars with 9 ploughs. There are 3 mills rendering 13s4d, and 1 acre of meadow, [and] woodland for 40 pigs. TRE it was worth 20l; now 14l.

William de Watteville holds 2 hides of the abbey itself. An Englishman held them TRE, and in the lifetime of this king he gave this land to the same church in alms. This land belongs to the manor of Esher. There

IN 'ELMBRIDGE' HUNDRED

In this hundred the abbey itself holds 3 virgates of land Reginald holds 1 hide in Esher of the abbey itself, and has paid geld for 15 acres. A certain woman held it TRE, and could go where she would, but for security she put herself under the abbey. There are 3 villans. It is worth 7s.

IN EFFINGHAM HUNDRED

The abbey itself holds GREAT BOOKHAM. TRE it was assessed at 26 hides; and now at 13 hides. There is land for 19 ploughs. In demesne is 1 plough; and 32 villans and 4 bordars with 18 ploughs. There is a church, and 3 slaves, and a mill rendering 10s, and 6 acres of meadow. [There is] woodland for 80 pigs. From the herbage, 30 pigs. Of this land, Gunfrid holds 1 hide, and he has there 1 plough. The whole manor TRE was worth 16l; now 15l.

The abbey itself lies in 'GODLEY' HUNDRED, and the vill itself [Chertsey] TRE, as now, was assessed at 5 hides. There is land [...] In demesne are 2 ploughs; and 39 villans and 20 bordars with 17 ploughs. There is a mill at the hall, and 200 acres of meadow. [There is] woodland for 50 pigs as pannage, and a forge which serves the hall. Of these 5 hides, Richard Sturmy holds 2 1/2 hides under King William. But the hundred testifies that his predecessor held of the abbey, nor could he go elsewhere without leave of the abbot. He has in demesne there 1 plough; and 1 villan and 4 bordars with 1 plough. The whole manor TRE was worth 18l; now 22l; what Richard holds [is worth] 40s.

In 'Godley' HUNDRED

The abbey itself holds THORPE. TRE it was assessed at 10 hides; now at 7 hides. There is land [...] In demesne is 1 plough; and 24 villans and 12 bordars with 8 ploughs. There are 33 acres of meadow. From the herbage, 24 pigs. TRE, as now, worth 12l.

are 6 villans with 2 ploughs. TRE, as now, worth 14s8d.

In the same vill of Esher the same William has of the Abbey of Chertsey, as he says, 3 1/2 hides. TRE 1 man and 2 women held them, and they could turn where they would; but for security they placed themselves with the land under the abbey. There are 2 villans with 1 plough. TRE it was worth 16s; and afterwards 5s; now 10s. These aforesaid 5 1/2 hides are assessed at 5 virgates.

IN 'COPTHORNE' HUNDRED

The abbey itself holds EPSOM. TRE it was assessed at 34 hides; now at 11 hides. There is land for 17 ploughs. In demesne is 1 plough; and 34 villans and 4 bordars with 17 ploughs. There are 2 churches, and 6 slaves, and 2 mills rendering 10s, and 24 acres of meadow, [and] woodland for 20 pigs. TRE it was worth 20l; now 17l.

In WEYBRIDGE the abbey itself hitherto has held [...] 2 hides. Alfred held them TRE and after his [the king's] death, and could turn where he would. Then, as now, [there were] 2 hides. There are 3 villans, and 8 acres of meadow, [and] woodland for 2 pigs. [It has] always [been worth] 20s.

In the same vill an Englishman has 2 hides of the abbey itself. He himself held them TRE, and could turn with them where he would. There is 1 plough, and 2 villans with half a plough, and 8 acres of meadow, [and] woodland for 2 pigs. It is and was worth 20s.

IN KINGSTON HUNDRED

Eadric holds of the abbey itself half a hide which the abbey held for 2 years before the death of King Edward. 3 men held it of the king himself previously, but they could not withdraw without the king's precept, because they were bealdles in Kingston upon Thames. Then, as now, it was assessed at half a hide. There is land for 3 oxen. There are 7 oxen, with 1 bordar, and 2 acres of meadow. TRE it was worth 7s; now 8s.

William de Watteville holds OLD MALDEN of the fee of the abbot. The abbot held it TRE. It was then assessed at 2 hides; now at 1 hide less 1 virgate. There is land for 1 plough. There are 4 villans with half a plough. It is and was worth 20s.

The abbey itself holds in demesne PETERSHAM.

TRE it was assessed at 10 hides; now at 4 hides. There is land for 5 ploughs. In demesne is 1 plough; and 15 villans and 2 bordars with 4 ploughs. There is a church, and a fishery rendering 1,000 eels and 1,000 lampreys, and 3 acres of meadow. TRE it was worth 100s; now 610s.

Hamo the sheriff holds (?) STREATHAM of the abbey itself. Wulfweard held it of King Edward, and could go where he would. It was then assessed at 1 hide. There is land for 1 plough. There are 2 bordars. It is and was worth 20s.

IN EFFINGHAM HUNDRED

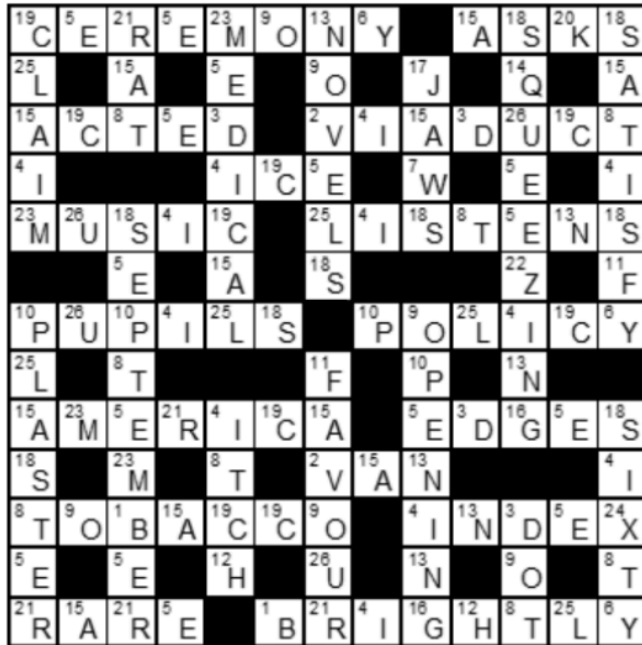
Cweseld holds of the church itself EFFINGHAM. He himself held it TRE. It was then assessed at 6 hides; now at 2 1/4 hides. There is land for 2 ploughs. There are 2 villans and 9 bordars with half a plough, and 1 acre of meadow, and from the woodland, 10 pigs as pannage. It is and was worth 40s.

IN 'GODLEY' HUNDRED

The abbey itself holds EQHAM. TRE it was assessed at 40 hides; now at 15 hides. There is land for 40 ploughs. In demesne are 2 ploughs; and 26 villans and 32 bordars with 10 ploughs. There are 3 slaves, and 10 acres of meadow, [and] woodland for 130 pigs. Of this land, Celin holds of the abbot 4 hides, [and] Corbelin 2 hides of the land of the villans. In demesne [is] 1 plough; and 7 villans and 4 bordars with 3 ploughs. There is a church and another chapel. [continued on 134]

Codeword

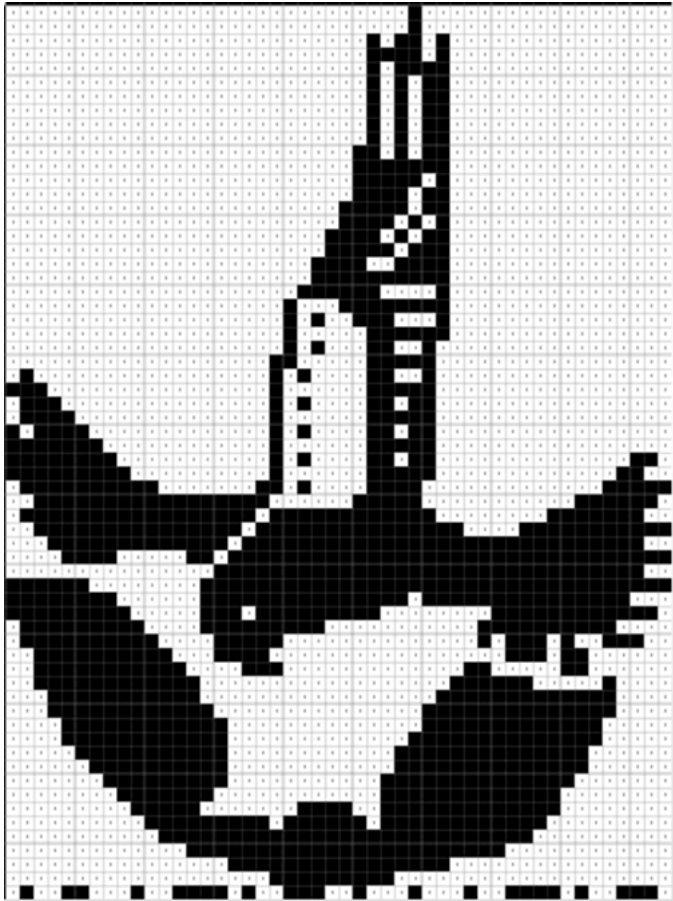
The solution to the codeword is:



The codeword itself is DECOY (PP24), indicating that the word itself is not relevant. The numbers in the codeword are relevant: 3 5 19 9 6. The numbers are a date: 3 May 1996, and the event that took place on that date was an opening ceremony - both words that appear in the main codeword puzzle. The opening ceremony of the London Loop [took place on 3 May 1996 on Farthing Downs](#) (PP25).

Nonogram

The solution to the nonogram is (PP26):



This is the logo for the London Loop (PP27)



The bottom line of the nonogram is a series of 48 black and white squares that does not fit with the rest of the picture. This is a code in ASCII binary. Taking filled squares as 1s and blank squares as 0s this spells out the word LONDON (PP28).

Wordsearch

N	T	O	L	I	G	H	T	Z	N	S	O	T	N	E	V	D	A
R	B	O	H	G	P	A	R	J	H	N	A	T	A	L	N	M	K
F	O	W	B	K	E	P	T	O	C	Y	O	T	I	K	P	L	T
O	G	Z	U	H	E	O	M	L	T	K	E	P	U	C	L	I	A
D	N	A	H	O	E	G	A	I	B	D	R	A	A	O	R	L	
Q	T	K	E	D	Y	C	V	W	P	S	I	R	E	P	C	Q	L
H	P	T	E	H	E	I	F	D	N	S	M	S	I	P	D	W	L
E	K	K	P	E	T	S	L	Q	U	L	B	H	H	E	K	B	D
M	E	A	A	A	T	M	T	M	B	H	B	P	I	S	K	N	E
R	R	E	N	S	N	S	A	V	V	I	A	L	A	O	R	K	D
K	S	R	N	N	D	S	A	N	O	N	I	M	G	R	E	R	P
P	F	B	A	D	U	A	B	M	S	M	T	L	S	H	F	O	E
A	E	G	I	F	T	C	T	R	P	S	L	F	O	G	U	R	T
R	E	C	O	I	S	M	E	A	I	M	B	E	P	U	T	B	W
W	S	K	I	D	F	G	H	R	N	C	E	U	G	I	S	I	H
N	P	F	N	S	N	Y	H	I	I	G	O	U	P	N	D	K	R
U	P	M	Q	I	D	C	N	A	V	I	D	A	D	L	A	L	E
E	B	H	G	O	N	G	G	E	I	P	M	S	L	E	I	G	H

The wordsearch contains nine Christmas themed words highlighted green (special scoring **SP2** - 1 point for each). Taken in order from top to bottom, left to right, their initial letters spell LANGUAGES (**PP29**) and of course include "ANGEL" and "SLEIGH" which are appropriate for the

BVS theme (PP30 for mentioning either). There are also several translations of “Christmas”. I tried to position a couple of familiar ones like “natal” and “navidad” so that they would be easier to spot, so that solvers would get the idea. The languages reading from left to right and top to bottom were Russian, Icelandic, Portuguese, Japanese, Afrikaans, Maltese, English, Spanish (special scoring SP33 - 1 point for each). Taking the first letters of the languages spelled the message: RIP JAMES (PP31), a tribute to my friend and setter of the 2021 ATH [James Medhurst](#) (who is the much-missed friend referred to in the preamble, and whose puzzle included a fabulous more-than-meets-the-eye [wordsearch](#)).

The poem featured in the main magazine used the phrase “*I search for the words*” twice, which is a hint that included some instructions that involved the wordsearch. It also included the phrase “*a number placed in a cell*”, which was suggestive of the sudoku puzzle, and “*at sixes and sevens*” suggested that these numbers would be significant. The rhyme scheme and subject matter of the second verse of the poem is supposed to hint at the word “grille”. This not only means a set of bars on a prison window, but in cryptography it is a means of picking out certain key letters from longer jumble. [Grille \(cryptography\) - Wikipedia](#)

Whether or not you worked out the clue for “grille”, the clue was to use the 6s and 7s in the sudoku and the wordsearch together in some way. The wordsearch is 18 x18, allowing the sudoku to fit over it four times. By picking out the letters that corresponded to positions of the 6s and the 7s led to a 72 character message.

NONOGRAM BOTTOM LINE DATES RIDDLE THEM ABBREV ANAGRAM LECTURES MUSIC UYID RIDDLE HIM (PP32).

This is a hint about where to find key components and how to combine them.

Nonogram bottom line ASCII code: LONDON

Dates puzzle: OUTER

Riddle “them”: ORBITAL

Abbreviate Anagram: Pablo’s Armchair Treasure Hunt = PATH

[The London Outer Orbital Path aka the London Loop is a walking trail that encircles London.](#) and the nonogram also gives you its logo. The treasure is hidden very close to the path.

Trevanion Cipher in article on lecture series: SSSI WILDFLOWER GYR

Music Cipher: GREATER

“Unleash your inner detective” Logic Puzzle: YELLOW

Riddle “him”: RATTLE

Farthing Downs and Happy Valley is a designated [Site of Special Scientific Interest \(SSSI\) because of its Greater Yellow-Rattle plants](#).

Once you have found all the wordsearch words and applied the grille, you are told from the holly cipher that the unused letters form a code that OMW has been unable to crack. There is a reference to “*doing something inventive with a concertina*” which is your hint that this is a Playfair cipher, as both the Playfair cipher and the English Concertina were invented by [Charles Wheatstone \(PP33\)](#). The Alcatraz boys really did do something inventive with a concertina in their [escape attempt](#) (as well as an accordion - mentioned above - it was a very musical instrument-heavy operation).

A keyword is needed to crack this, you can either try to brute force this, or if you have got the Vigenère cipher you use the same keyword there, or if you have cracked the url cipher this tells you the keyword is FORKLUND. The message decodes to: IT TAKES NEARLY ONE MILE TO REACH ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY SEVEN METRES. PICK UP THE PHOTO TRAIL AND STAY ON PATH FOR AROUND ONE AND A HALF MORE MILES UNTIL YOU REACH THE SOUTHERNMOST POINT ([PP34](#)).

Colouring Competition

The colouring competition gave the chance for teams to get all members of the family involved in the ATH. Not only were there 20 points available for submitting a colouring (50 points for the winning entry) ([BP4](#)), but the characters I chose were deliberately skewed to more recent cartoons, so that youngsters could contribute to the solve by identifying them.

The characters were ([CC1 - 11](#) only character name required):

Character	TV Show / Film	Species
Coco	Bing	Rabbit
Olaf	Frozen	Snowman
Molly Mole	Peppa Pig	Mole
Benjamin Bunny	Peter Rabbit	Rabbit
Iggle Piggle	In the Night Garden	?

Character	TV Show / Film	Species
Norrie	Hey Duggee	Mouse
Angelina Ballerina	Angelina Ballerina	Mouse
Timmy	Shaun the Sheep	Sheep
Itchy	The Simpsons	Mouse
Oscar the Grouch	Sesame Street	?
Nibbler	Futurama	Alien

The initial letters of the character's names spelled out the word COMBINATION (**CC12**). The url code tells you that a combination is needed to get the treasure. After various versions hiding the combination code in more difficult puzzles, I chickened out and decided I didn't want to face the wrath of too many teams who had schlepped all the way to the treasure location only to be stymied by a combination lock and have to return another day. So I decided to hide the combination in a relatively easy puzzle in the end.

The follow up questions led to the combination itself.

How many rabbits are there? **2**

How many mice are there? **3**

How many cats are there? **0**

How many sheep are there? **1 (CC13)**

It is appropriate for K to have chosen this combination code because it is his ex-girlfriend Regine Olsen's birthday (**CC14**). Despite breaking their engagement, the real K was apparently still in love with her.

Class of 2023 Pictures

The X-Wing prisoners were:

- Jim Broadbent (CP1) as Hans Christian Andersen (CP2) from the play A Very Very Very Dark Matter
- Taron Egerton (CP3) as Eddie the Eagle (CP4)
- Camilla Dallerup (CP5) from Strictly Come Dancing
- Britney Spears (CP6) from her album Glory (CP7)
- Sandi Toksvig (CP8) from Bake Off
- Antony Edwards as Goose (CP9) from Top Gun (CP10)
- Gary Oldman (CP11) as Rosencrantz (CP12) in Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead (any connection between Oldman and Old Man Wily purely coincidental / red herring)
- Sam Neil (CP13) as Merlin (CP14)
- Peter Schmeichel (CP15) former Manchester United goalkeeper
- Caron Keating (CP16) holding Willow (CP17) the cat (there was a foreshadowing of this in the pre-poster quiz where the animal pictured - The Lone Ranger's Silver - was the relevant rather than the human)
- Lili Elbe (CP18) artist and subject of the biopic The Danish Girl
- Tim Roth (CP19) as Guildenstern (CP20) in Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead
- Rob Ford (CP21) the former Mayor (CP22) of Toronto
- Ed O'Neill (CP23) as Jay Pritchett (CP24) in Modern Family
- Eric Roberts (CP25) as the Master (CP26) in the Doctor Who film
- Fyfe Dangerfield (CP27) from the band the Guillemots (CP28)
- King Eric III of Denmark (CP29)
- Henry Travers (CP30) as Clarence the Angel (CP31) from It's a Wonderful Life
- Brigitte Nielsen (CP32) actress
- Adam Yauch (CP33) from the Beastie Boys
- Taron Egerton (CP34) as Robin Hood (CP35)
- Daniel Agger (CP36) former Liverpool footballer
- Miranda Richardson (CP37) as Elizabeth the First in Blackadder (CP38)

The initial letter of the surnames of the actual person shown in the picture spells the message BEDSTE ØNSKER FOR DET NYE ÅR (CP39) which means “best wishes for the new year” in Danish. There were marks on the relevant photos corresponding to the diacritics.

OMW's covering letter told you that the prisoners were all in three gangs so you need to identify the gangs and sort the prisoners accordingly.

The first gang is antagonists from BVS (CP40). They need to be ordered according to the series in which they were the “Big Bad” (CP41 need the explanation for the point), that is: The Master, Angel, The Mayor, Adam, Glory, Willow, The First.

The second gang is the Birdmen referred to in the Doing Bird article (CP42). They need to be ordered from smallest to largest bird (because we are on X-Wing I did it on wingspan but I think any size metric would work) (CP43 need the explanation for the point) you get robin, jay, merlin, guillemot, goose, eagle.

The third gang consists of Danish people (including actors portraying Danes) (CP44). By taking the initial letter of the “Danish” name, the prisoners can be put in order so they spell out the name of the gang which is GREAT DANES (CP45 need the explanation for the point).

Each prisoner has a “X-Wing cell number” and the “X-W” at the start and the fact that the numbers go up to close to 225 is meant to suggest to you that you need to look at the “cell” or square in the crossword, imagining that they were numbered from 1 to 225 and use the letter within that cell. The crossword letters from the respective cell numbers spell out TWITTER (using literally double U to stand for the W) HANDLE GERALDWILY (CP46).

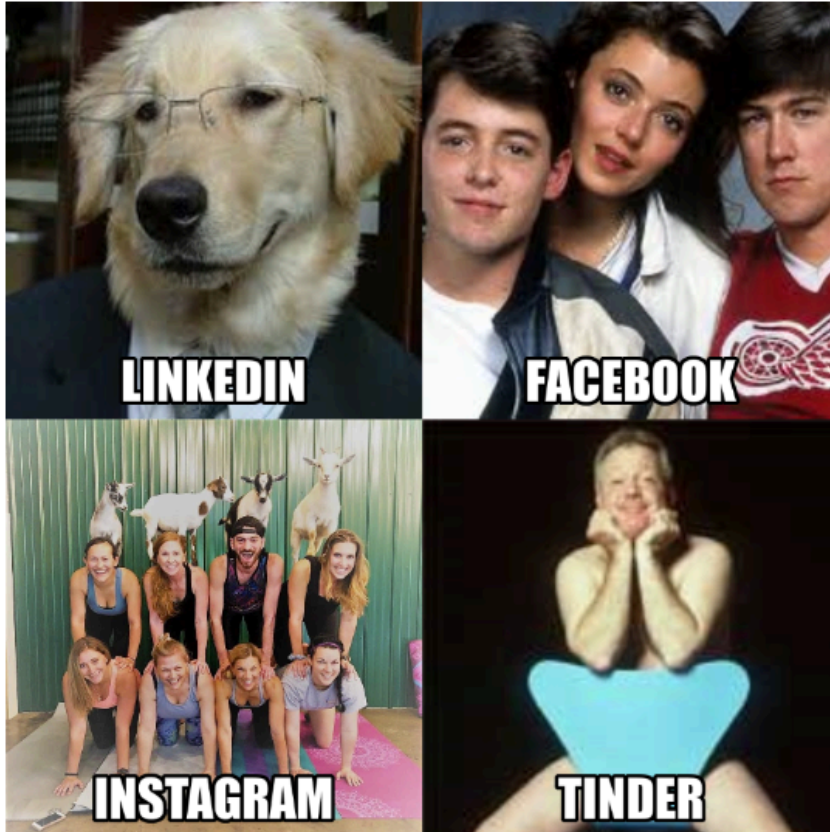
Musical Cipher

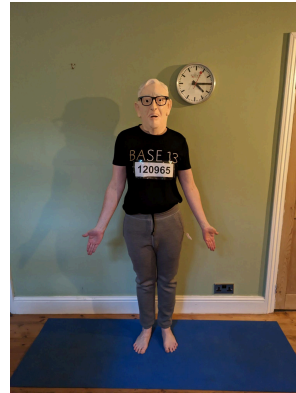
The sheet music provided in advance of the carol concert is for The Twelve Days of Christmas and O Come All Ye Faithful. Both carols appear in the [Great Escape](#) sung by the POW choir to drown out the noise made in escape preparations (M1). One note is highlighted red, which corresponds to the word “faith-” (M2). Seven notes are wrong in terms of pitch and (sometimes) duration. The wrong notes correlate to the following words in the lyrics: EIGHT, RINGS, THREE, PEAR, LET, COME, LORD. The duration of the note indicates the letter of the word; i.e. dotted minim = 3 beats = 3rd letter. The selected letters spell out GREATER (M3).

@geraldwily Twitter

OMW's first name is Gerald. Gerald Wiley is a pseudonym used by Ronnie Barker (GW1). OMW's birthday is the same as RB's (GW2). He follows people on Twitter who represent his fellow inmates in Porridge (GW3 for all): Kate Beckinsale stands in for her father Richard who

played Godber, Christopher Biggins played Lukewarm, MacLaren Formula 1 represents Jim McLaren, Derek Trotter was played by David Jason who played Blanco (DJ also appeared with RB in Open All Hours, but that doesn't fit the theme so no point for that), Master Aemon was a character in Game of Thrones played by Peter Vaughan, who played Harry Grout, Horrible Histories represents Horrible Ives, Naomie Harris represents Harris, Alex Warren represents Bunny Warren. OMW's Dolly Parton Challenge includes references to various pseudonyms used by RB (**GW4** for all): the dog is a barker, Ferris Bueller's Day Off represents Bob Ferris, the goats doing yoga represent Jack Goetz, Keith Chegwin represents Larry Keith.





Most of OMW's tweets show him demonstrating a yoga pose, e.g.

When Gerald takes up yoga, the other inmates start calling him Janet. This is a reference to the character Yoga Janet in the prison memoir *Orange is the New Black* (GW5). He also includes a link to a Youtube video from 'Yoga with Adriene' demonstrating the same pose. The poses themselves are not significant, nor are any differences between the yoga pose as demonstrated by OMW and the one demonstrated by Adriene (both OMW and my model are yoga beginners after all). If you cracked the holly cipher, you will know to look closely at the urls with the video links. Put together, these form a ciphertext, which is one of those that OMW has not been able to decode.

The cipher works by using a keyword that shifts the alphabet along. The keyword is KBROS (GW6) and when decoded the message tells you that this was the childhood cipher devised by Kierkegaard and his brother. All numbers in the cipher represent spaces between words, to assist solving.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
K	B	R	O	S	A	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	L	M	N	P	Q	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

The message decodes to: DEAR PETER, I KNEW YOU WOULD REMEMBER OUR BOYHOOD CIPHER. I AM SENDING YOU ENCODED INSTRUCTIONS IN CASE ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ME. WHERE YOU NEED A KEYWORD USE MY CHILDHOOD NICKNAME PLUS MUM'S MAIDEN NAME. YOU ALSO NEED THE COMBINATION. YOURS, SK (GW7)

The urls do not link to the start of the videos but rather to points in the videos where [Adriene is saying either "time" or "hand\(s\)"](#). This was a hint that you should look at the clock on the wall behind OMW (GW8); but the clock was fairly conspicuous so I expected most solvers to notice it without the hint. The position of the hands of the clock correspond to semaphore and spell out the message

TINYURLDOTCOMSLASHWILYGXYZ ([GW9](#)). tinyurl.com/gwilyxyz leads to a photo album on Flickr with photos that show the route to the treasure.

OMW is wearing number 120965, but also a Base 13 (my actual local gym) t-shirt. 120965 in base 13 converts to 430019 in decimal, which is the prison number of Faith in BVS ([GW10](#)).

The pile of hard boiled eggs represents the film Cool Hand Luke, where the title character [eats 50 of them](#), and subsequently escapes from prison ([GW11](#)). The marmalade sandwich represents Paddington Bear who escapes from prison in Paddington 2 ([GW12](#)). In the film, Paddington [takes over prison cheffing duties from a character called Knuckles](#), with whom he later escapes, hence the reference to his marmalade sandwich being *#betterthanaknucklessandwich*. The little cake next to the cup of tea is a madeleine, and M. Madeleine was a pseudonym used by Jean Valjean after he escapes from prison in Les Misérables ([GW13](#)). The toad in the hole represents Mr Toad, [who escapes from prison in the Wind in the Willows](#) ([GW14](#)). #nosoggybottom is a reference to the Soggy Bottom Boys, who escape from prison in [O Brother Where Art Thou](#) ([GW15](#)).

There is another clue to the treasure location which is the bottle of beer donated by the departing prison officer (whom you may already



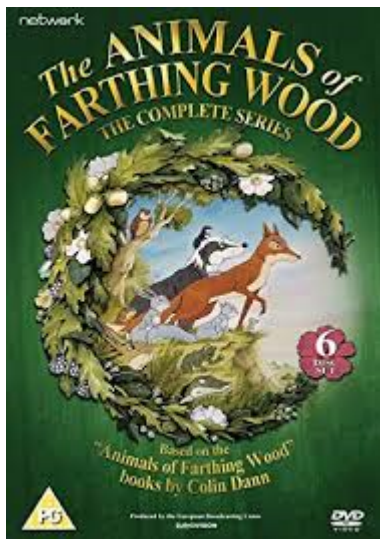
suspect), which has a fox on its label.

This might lead you to conclude that the officer's local

pub is called “the Fox” or something like it (GW16), and there is indeed a pub called The Fox near the treasure.



But the really big clue is if you recognise the specific fox, who is from the cartoon the *Animals of Farthing Wood* (GW17) - a link to Farthing Downs.



Flickr Album

As well as photos along the treasure route, there was also a photo of a code - this was the “*code in photo*” that OMW had been unable to crack. This is a Vigenère cipher and will yield to brute force decryption, but if you have cracked the url cipher you know to use K’s childhood nickname (“Fork”) plus his mother’s maiden name (“Lund”). Using keyword FORKLUND, the code deciphers to AT SOUTHERNMOST POINT LEFT INTO FIELD THEN RIGHT SIXTY PACES NARROW GAP BETWEEN YOUNG TREES SIXTY PACES MORE (**GW18**).

Finding the Treasure

So you know the treasure is on Farthing Downs, and you should pick up the trail of breadcrumbs photos pretty easily if you make a site visit, but it will be even easier if you have also solved any / all of (i) the book code, (ii) the Playfair cipher in the wordsearch and (iii) the Vigenère cipher, giving you more precise instructions. The pictures follow the route of the Loop until very close to the treasure. The Vigenère cipher tells you to turn left into a field and then right into the woods at the southernmost point of the Loop (which is just before you get to The Fox pub, and it is a much shorter journey if, as suggested by the covering letter, you “*drive to the pub instead*”).

However, your work was not yet complete. Depending on the other clues you had solved, you may or may not have been expecting that you would need a combination code. The treasure box had a combination lock, and you needed to use the code from the colouring competition to open it (2301). I hope that not too many teams were thwarted by this, having travelled all the way to Farthing Downs. Just in case, in [Taskmaster style](#), the combination was also written on the bottom of the box waiting to be spotted by any team channelling their inner Bob Mortimer.



If you did open the safe, there was more disappointment in store. It only contained a letter from “Kierkegaard” saying that he’d already taken the treasure and would be leaving the country shortly.

To the Old Man’s lackeys

I kicked myself when I realised I had lost my notebook somewhere in the prison. When I spotted your name on the visitor list a few days later, I knew that the Old Man had found it and was enlisting help to find the treasure.

Well you’re too late! Obviously I moved the treasure immediately. And in a few days’ time I will be leaving the country. The Old Man might feel hard done by, but he who has the world’s treasure, has it, however he got it.

I’m not completely heartless, and it is Christmas, so I have left you some edible and drinkable gifts* for your trouble.

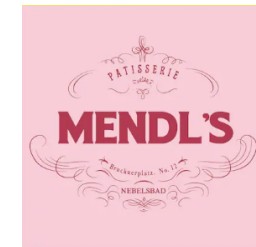
Be sure to take a card to prove to the Old Man that you were in the right place. I want him to know how close he came! You can email him at Prisoner120965@gmail.com to report your find. Wish him a merry Christmas from me.

Yours

SK

*For the first team, and the first team with a dog.

“*He who has the world’s treasure...*” is a quote from K (TR1). You were also prompted to report your findings to OMW, who told anyone who got this far that he would break his rule about snitching, and tell the police about Kierkegaard if only we could find out when and where he would be leaving the country. There were no extra clues in the safe to help you with this - the information you needed was already in the newsletter.



The first team that found the treasure had some edible gifts including a christmas cake in a box with this design.

This is from the film *The Grand Budapest Hotel* (since only the first team got the chance to solve this I am only awarding a single bonus point **BP5**) where [tools are smuggled inside a Mendl's patisserie](#) to help effect a prison escape. All that was hidden in this cake was a note from K taunting OMW.

Tracking down “Kierkegaard”

The Point of View: The guard tells you he is leaving the prison soon to go travelling, because he’s going to take his ill-gotten gains and flee the country. He also tells you to keep in touch with him on social media.

You are told to find @geraldwily on Twitter so that is also the sensible place to start looking for K and you will find him there as @kirkguard (KT1).

K’s birthday is 5 May, the same as the real K (KT2). K is following a number of twitter accounts inspired by philosophers and writers who inspired the real K’s work (KT3). K’s profile is “The wolf that is put to tending the sheep”. This is appropriate for a criminal who has got a job as a prison guard, and is also based on a quote by K (KT4). K’s Dolly Parton Challenge features pictures representing his pseudonyms: Babyface, Victor (Krum from Harry Potter), John Krasinski from the film A Quiet Place - Quiet John, John Legend as People Magazine Sexiest Man Alive - Ladies Man John (KT5 for all).



K's French teacher is M. Legros. This is a pseudonym used by an escaped prisoner in the book *The Nine Tailors* by Dorothy L Sayers (KT6). Fairly obscure, but the book did play a large role in a previous ATH so I couldn't resist using it. K's Spanish teacher is Snr Ruiz who was a doctor and is now working as a caretaker. Desmondo José Ruiz is the identity used by escaped prisoner Dr Richard Kimble in the film of *The Fugitive* (KT7).

K's Twitter account contains a number of clues to help you figure out where and when he is going to leave the country.

K tweets a picture of a letter from his travel agent which states that he is going to six different locations, but it does not say which ones. The letter is addressed to Rodney Sild. "Rod Sild" translates to "Red Herring" in Danish (KT8) - K is using point yet another pseudonym. The travel agent that writes to K is Dean Dawson from D&D travel agency. Dawson & Dean was a real travel agency and was used as a codename for the forgery operation in the *Great Escape* (KT9). K has written a series of numbers on a post-it: + 33, + 594, + 1 868, + 57, + 594, +593 and + 58. These are international dialling codes for France, French Guiana, Trinidad and Tobago, Colombia, French Guiana again, Guyana and Venezuela. K says that he is learning French and Spanish, which makes sense as he is visiting French and Spanish speaking countries on his itinerary. K's banner picture is of a Venezuelan beach, as is the picture on the travel agent's letter, indicating that this is his final destination, where he intends to settle with his ill-gotten gains. The itinerary suggested by the international dialling codes matches the adventures of Papillon (KT10), the serial prison escapee. There's a little butterfly doodle as an extra clue.

K tweets that he wants tips to get over his fear of flying. He says he is travelling soon and, apart from the first leg of the journey, he will have to fly. He also says that he gets seasick. From this we can deduce that he will be travelling to France by train.

In some of the pictures on K tweets we can see his calendar in the background. Monday 15 January is circled and marked "departure 6.01am". A check of the Eurostar timetables will tell you that there is a 6.01am departure to Paris from London St Pancras on that date. If you identified the correct date, time and place where the police could intercept K leaving the country, you would have successfully stopped him and earned yourself 50 bonus points (BP6). As hints to help solve other puzzles, 19 January was marked "BS" and a heart with a stake through it - signifying Buffy Summer's birthday and 23 January was marked "RO" and a heart - signifying Regine Olsen's birthday.

Sean Bean

It is tradition to include a Sean Bean reference in the ATH (I don't know why, origins lost in the mists of time), so I was keen to shoehorn one in somewhere. I included the pseudonym used by Sean Bean's character in *Goldeneye* - Janus. Congratulations if you spotted this, I think you'd only get it if you were combing through specifically for an SB reference. Also I did not expect anyone to get this, but when watching the TV drama *Time*, which starred SB as a prisoner, I was delighted to note that he was referred to several times as "[Old Man](#)" so the moral of the

story is that even if you are struggling for a Sean Bean link, the universe will provide one. (20 points **BP7** for either link, or any other convincing SB link).