2023 Pablo's Armchair Treasure Hunt entry from Beef Learnington

Fourth to treasure, 21 December 2023

For Beef Learnington Pablo's Armchair Treasure Hunt Was a winter treat!

Our pet:



The poster

The font on the poster is 'Philosopher', a hint to one of the themes.

The quote on the poster is from Søren Kierkegaard, where ATH has been substituted for 'path', a further theme hint.

The tree on the poster is where the treasure is buried.

Go to <u>https://beetsath.wixsite.com/home</u> to start and <u>https://beetsath.wixsite.com/pablo</u> next.

This now gives five options, each corresponding to a member of Scooby-Doo gang*:

- a Velma Dinkley
- b Shaggy, aka Norville Rogers
- c Daphne Blake
- d Scooby-Doo aka Scoobert Doo
- e Fred Jones

In each case, put the full name in the URL. The resulting pages for (a), (b) and (e) are identical, (c) has an extra line towards the end: "I'm glad it was you that came Daphne, I always knew you were the real hero on that team."; (d) is adapted for the visitor to be a dog.

The gang in **Buffy** is also known as "The Scooby Gang", named after the Mystery Inc, gang from Scooby Doo

Other notes:

Using the Dewey decimal system, the numbers in the story hint at the themes:

- Guard No. 198 Scandinavian and Finnish philosophy (i.e. Denmark and Kierkegaard)
- Visitor No. 791.457 TV programmes (i.e. Buffy the Vampire Slayer)
- Room 365 Penal institutions (i.e. prisons)

Reception image is South Toronto Detention Centre Wily says he was in his prime at 43 - a prime number - he is again at 53

oldmanwily/wily/geraldwily work as names (in the URL) and suggest submitting a haiku with the solution, page (1/3)

beet works as a name and suggests submitting a pet photo with the solution, page (2/3)

Faengsel is Danish for prison, so Faengsel Prison is a tautology.

The gang names are references to Kierkegaard pseudonyms:

- Vic(tor): Victor Eremita
- Quiet John: Johannes de Silentio
- Ladies Man John: Johannes the Seducer
- Funny Man: Hilarius Bookbinder
- Nicky N: Nicolaus Notabene

Mini poster

Numbered #3

Still is from this sequence from 'A Close Shave' where Gromit receives the message "Friday Night. 8 PM. Be Ready. A Friend", meaning the main hunt is coming out at 8pm on Friday. Gromit is doing a puzzle (jigsaw) in **prison** - thematic.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bwf3gPJHbRg

MAIN HUNT

Themes

- Prisons
- Denmark
- Søren Kierkegaard
- Pseudonyms
- Buffy the Vampire Slayer
- TV/Films about prisons/prison breaks
- Birds

Multi-page puzzles

- Morse code (pages 3, 4 and 8) translates to THE WATER IS WARM, referring to the episode of TV show **Prison Break** called 'the Message', which was a red herring in that show
- Holly code (pages 2-8) translates, using three white berries = space; red, white, white = A; etc., 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 - this gives an ordering to how to solve the main puzzle (see later)
- Dots (pages 2-8) translates to FIVE BY FIVE (using tap code), hinting at a Playfair cipher. 'Five by Five' is also the name of an Angel episode (S1E18) **Buffy/angel** ref
- Letters in different ('Vampiro One' **Buffy** reference) font are (in order) ukfqrwdibvlasgepcxtjomzyhn (a full alphabet). Taking the first letter of the sentence where these are found and arranging in alphabetical order according to the highlighted letter gives the message: MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR
- Dates (pages 2, 4, 7 and 8) indexing nth day into month (1 October, 2 July, 4 September, 7 December, 8 December) in order they appear in document spells OUTER
- Superimposing 4 x sudoku on wordsearch (pages 9 and 12) and reading off letters under sixes and sevens: NONOGRAM BOTTOM LINE; DATES; RIDDLE THEM; ABBREV ANAGRAM; LECTURES; MUSIC; UYID; RIDDLE HIM see end for explanation.

- Font is 'Caveat' (italic)
- Kierkegaard said boredom is the root of all evil
- GW Gerald Wily (Gerald Wiley was a pseudonym used by Ronnie Barker who also starred in Porridge, TV sitcom set in a **prison**)
- "I hope you manage to get it all done and find time for the traditional long

walk in the countryside – or are you just going to drive to the pub instead?" is a reference to two alternative routes to the treasure - walk from Coulsdon South station or drive to the Fox pub at Coulsdon Common.

- Bold italic letters are 'amagran' an anagram of anagram anagram of remaining bold words throughout is 'Pablo's armchair treasure hunt'
- The three gangs appear to be the Buffy villains (Big Bads), the Birdmen and the Great Danes

Page 2

- Rules for tools story is derived from The Shawshank Redemption, a prison film
- Guards v inmates football is derived from Escape to Victory, a prison film
- The old motto is based on Revelation 3:7, about the key of David
- Suggested new motto: 'Something weird is going on' (a **Buffy** quote)
- Font of 'all the latest news from X-Wing' is Quantico, which is a prison. Wing is a **bird** reference
- Kierkegaard is considered the father of existentialism, which sounds similar to X-Essentials
- The suggestion to contact the editor leads one to the Twitter account @GeraldWily see also pages 14 and 15, and the end of this document
- Bold words: search brutal (see anagram p1)

Page 3

- As with the poster, the font is 'Philosopher'
- Book titles are thematic, relating to **prisons, being on the run** and **treasure.**
- All authors are pseudonyms; taking them in the order Moliere = Jean-Baptiste Poquelin, C S Forester = Cecil Lewis Troughton Smith, George Eliot = Mary Ann Evans, John Twelve Hawks = unknown, Nicholas Blake = Cecil Day-Lewis, Rosamond Smith = Joyce Carol Oates, Fabian Bland = E Nesbit, John Christopher = Sam Youd, Sake = HH Monro and taking their surname initials spells 'PSEUDONYM'
- The Point of View as an Author is an account of Kierkegaard's pseudonyms
- The picture is of Captain Kirk (in cartoon form) since he is a guard, he is KirkGuard, i.e. **Kierkegaard**
- The mention of social media leads one to the twitter account @KirkGuard see end

- Pilar "Fingers" Fuentes. Fuentes is Spanish for 'sources'
- The picture is of Melissa Fumero as Amy Santiago from Brooklyn Nine-Nine (suggesting sudoku) going undercover (as pregnant Isabel Cortez) in a Women's maximum security **prison**
- "Doing bird" **prison/bird** reference

- The picture is of a masked shrike (**bird**) (representing someone undercover, and also hinting at the 6/7 sudoku mask for the wordsearch)
- House Martin is in bold (see anagram p1)
- 'Eagle-eyed' = **bird** ref
- The birds are listed in Palatino font in the same order as on this Croydon RSPB page describing the area where the treasure is located: <u>Farthing Downs, New Hill, Happy Valley and Coulsdon Common Croydon Local Group (rspb.org.uk)</u>
- The bird numbers are possibly using a Palatino style cipher but we can't get it to work; taking n characters on from each bird mention in the above web page gives stanerosaoorergpam, which doesn't make sense
- 'The **Bird**men' is a TV movie a fictionalized account based on a proposed scheme for prisoners of war to escape from Colditz Castle. **Prison ref**
- 'Birdman of Alcatraz' is also a film a largely fictionalized version of the life of Robert Stroud, known as the "Birdman of Alcatraz". **Prison/bird ref**

Page 5

- Scenario is similar to **Buffy** episode S05E03 The Replacement, where demon girlfriend is Anya Jenkins and writer is Xander Harris (big X)
- Big X is also the nickname of Roger Bartlett, leader of the Great Escape from a **prison** camp
- Stages on Life's Way was written by **Kierkegaard**
- The word Angst derives from **Danish**. It is attested since the 19th century in English translations of the works of Søren **Kierkegaard** and Sigmund Freud.
- Image is of Frasier Crane (a crane is a **bird**)

- Answers are:
 - Sam Neill as William Weir in Event Horizon,
 - Leonard Roberts as Forrest Gates in **Buffy**,
 - Ed O'Neill as Jay (**bird**) Pritchett in Modern Family,
 - David Boreanaz as Vampire Angelus in **Buffy**,
 - Tim Roth as Frankenstein's Monster on the South Bank Show,
 - Mark Colson as Izzerial in **Angel**,
 - Sandi Toksvig (Danish) as a viking on the Great British Bake-Off,
 - Michael Bailey Smith as Toth in **Buffy**,
 - Miranda Richardson as Queen Mab in Merlin,
 - Kali Rocha as Halfrek in **Buffy**,
 - Gary Oldman as Dracula in Bram Stoker's Dracula
- The Initials of the Buffy/Angel characters spell FAITH, a Buffy character, see p16 too
- The actors of the other characters all appear on pages 14-15, in keeping with being X-Wing residents in disguise

• A veritable cornucopia of fiends and devils and ghouls is a quote from **Buffy** S01E03, 'Witch'

Page 7

- Editor's picture is a Ronnie Barker mask; he starred in Porridge about a **prison** and had numerous pseudonyms including Gerald Wiley.
- 'Par' is in bold (see anagram p1)
- For Self-Examination was written by **Kierkegaard**
- Anxiety is the dizziness of freedom is a **Kierkegaard** quote
- Janus is the two-faced god (pseudonym/mask ref). Gerald Wily was a Janitor (which derives from the same latin root as Janus. Janus features in S02E06 Halloween of **Buffy**.
- Dawn is the name of **Buffy**'s sister
- 'Count my chickens' is a **bird** reference
- A cranky editor is a careless editor is an adapted quote from **Buffy** S01E05 Never Kill a Boy on the First Date

Page 8

- Get busy singing or get busy dancing is an adapted quote from the Shawshank Redemption, a **prison** film
- Going Through the Motions is a song from **Buffy** S06E07 Once More, With Feeling
- The playwrights of the four plays mentioned, all of which became films (Jack Rosenthal, Alan Bennett, Denis Potter and Michael Frayn all went to the Joint Services School for Linguists in Coulsdon, at what is now the Fox pub on the way to the treasure site
- Copenhagen = **Denmark** ref
- Colchester Castle was used as a **prison**
- The Lily of the Field and the **Bird** of the Air was a book by Søren **Kierkegaard**. The 'birdmen' gang are disappointed that this is not ornithological.
- The most irritating behaviors reference **Buffy** episode S04E02 "Living Conditions"
- Lectures puzzle lecture (so homophone) of 'surgeon Trevor Onion' suggests Sir John Trevanion. Reference to four lectures suggests using the fourth letter after punctuation rather his cipher using the third, which spells 'SSSI WILD FLOWER GYR' (GYR = Greater Yellow-Rattle, Farthing Downs is a Site of Special Scientific Interest)
- Carol concert reference to accordion, suggesting Playfair since Wheatstone invented both
- St Leonard is the patron saint of **prisoners**
- Randall Stephens is an alias of Andy Dufresne in the Shawshank Redemption, a **prison** film
- Ode to a ... is an allusion to overlay the sixes and sevens from the sudoku onto the wordsearch to get the message listed above under multipage puzzles

Sudoku solution:

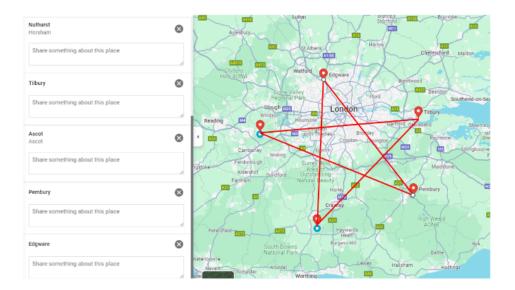
7	4	6	9	5	2	8	1	3
8	9	5	1	7	3	4	6	2
3	1	2	6	4	8	9	5	7
4	8	1	3	2	5	6	7	9
5	7	3	4	9	6	1	2	8
2	6	9	7	8	1	5	3	4
1	5	8	2	3	4	7	9	6
9	3	4	5	6	7	2	8	1
6	2	7	8	1	9	3	4	5

Unleash your inner detective solution: Yellow

Full solution: Pembury Pirates; Casino; 1; unknown colour Edgware Evildoers;heist on Post Office; 2 members; Getaway car is black Nuthurst Nutters; Bank; 3; Red Tilbury Troublemakers; Jewellers; 4; Silver Ascot Abominations; unknown location; 5; Yellow

(Initial letters spell PENTA)

If you plot the 5 locations on a map and join them in a star shape (clued by PENTA - pentagram), the star centres over Coulsdon:



Quiz solutions:

- 1. What (the Ballad of Reading Gaol, 109 stanzas of six lines, this is line 1 of stanza 6 **prison** ref)
- 2. Three (refers to Alfred George Hinds **prison** ref)
- 3. Words (Q8 has 8 words, Q9 has 9 words and Q10 has 10 words)
- 4. Gladiators (Rebel and Warrior are from the gameshow, reference is to Capuan Revolt **prison** ref)
- 5. Friday (Great Escape was on 24 March 1944, Good Friday was two weeks later **prison** ref)
- 6. Apple (refers to the symbolic apples placed in the Caritas Well in Copenhagen on the queen's birthday **Denmark** ref)
- 7. Red Herring (name of **Scooby Doo** character, escaped prisoner was a red herring **prison** ref)
- 8. Scar (from the Lion King, based on King Claudius, who hired Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, inmates of play/the prison that is Denmark **Denmark** and **prison** ref)
- 9. Waters (Sarah Waters wrote Affinity about Selina Dawes **prison** ref)
- 10. Dent (Arthur from Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, Vogon poetry, Susie Dent **prison** ref)

Solutions read: what three words gladiators friday apple (red herring) scar waters dent

- gladiators.friday.apple is a what3words location at Coulsdon South station
- scar.waters.dent is a what3words location for the Millennium Stone, Farthing Downs
- One could travel to Coulsdon South, then walk to the Millennium Stone to pick up the treasure trail

Riddle solution:

'Our heroine' is **Buffy**, born on 19 January 1981; 'He' is Simon Rattle, born on 19 January 1955, 26 years earlier; 'they' are Orbital, a group with the single Satan at No. 35 in the charts on Buffy's 10th birthday and No. 23 in the charts on Buffy's 16th birthday

Page 10

Crossword solution:





Reading around the edge is 'TREASURE LOCATION IN SUNNYDALE' which refers to the treasure being in 'Happy Valley', Coulsdon, a synonym of Sunny Dale. Sunnydale is also the fictional setting of **Buffy** the Vampire Slayer

Nine clues have missing characters - ordering them by the substituted word lengths given at the end spells GDBFOL32V. This is a clue for the Great Domesday Book Folio 32V, which is for Chertsey, Surrey and contains Coulsdon, the location of the treasure.

Several clues are thematic, relating to prisons/prisoners (e.g. 13A, 16A, 21A, 5D, 22D, etc)

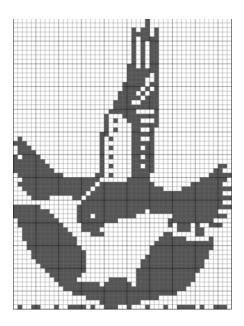
С RE M Υ S K S Εļ 0 N А Е A 0 J Q А L D CTE V А D UC T А I. L С E W Е E N s С S U S L I Т М Е А S Ζ F (j PU IР S POL L Т F Ρ Ν L MERI С Α E D G E А S S Μ Т V A N L С С lo B N D E X Т 0 А I Е Н U Т Е Ν Ο В R А R E R 1 G H Т L Y

Codeword solution:

The 'codeword' at the end is DECOY suggesting this is a red herring Decoys occur in various **Buffy** storylines Number 1-26 are letters: BVDIEYWTOPFHNQAGJSCKRZMXLU

Page 11

Nonogram solution:



This is the logo of the London LOOP, with an extra code in the last line, which is ASCII for LONDON (black=1, white=0) The logo is a flying kestrel (**bird**)

Page 12

Wordsearch solution with hidden words highlighted:

Ν	Т	0	L	I	G	Н	Т	Ζ	Ν	S	0	Т	Ν	Е	V	D	А
R	В	0	Н	G	Ρ	А	R	J	Н	Ν	А	Т	А	L	Ν	Μ	к
F	0	W	В	Κ	Ε	Ρ	Т	0	С	Y	0	Т	Ι	Κ	Ρ	L	Т
0	G	Ζ	U	Н	Е	0	Μ	L	Т	K	Е	Ρ	U	С	L	Ι	А
D	Ν	А	Η	0	Е	G	А	Ι	В	D	D	R	А	Α	0	R	L
Q	Т	Κ	Е	D	Y	С	V	W	Ρ	S	Ι	R	Е	Ρ	С	Q	L
Н	Ρ	Т	Е	Н	Е	Ι	F	D	Ν	S	Μ	S	Ι	Ρ	D	W	L
Е	Κ	Κ	Ρ	Е	Т	S	L	Q	U	L	В	Н	Η	Е	Κ	В	D

М	Е	Α	А	А	Т	Μ	Т	Μ	В	Н	В	Ρ	I	S	Κ	Ν	Е
R	R	Е	Ν	S	Ν	S	А	۷	۷	Ι	А	L	Α	0	R	Κ	D
Κ	S	R	Ν	Ν	D	S	А	Ν	0	Ν	-	Μ	G	R	Е	R	Ρ
Ρ	F	В	А	D	U	А	В	Μ	S	Μ	Т	L	S	Н	F	0	Е
А	Е	G	Ι	F	Т	С	Т	R	Ρ	S	L	F	0	G	U	R	Т
R	Е	С	0	Ι	S	Μ	Е	А	Ι	Μ	В	Е	Ρ	U	Т	В	W
W	S	Κ	-	D	F	G	Н	R	Ν	С	Е	U	G	Ι	S	Ι	Н
Ν	Ρ	F	Ν	S	Ν	Y	Η	Ι	Ι	G	0	U	Ρ	Ν	D	Κ	R
U	Ρ	Μ	Q	I	D	С	Ν	Α	V	I	D	Α	D	L	А	L	Е
Е	В	Н	G	0	Ν	G	G	Е	I	Ρ	Μ	S	L	Е	I	G	Н

First, Christmas-related words, in grid order, are light, advent, nativity, gift, unwrap, angel, ginger snap, eggnog, sleigh, the initials of which spell LANGUAGES. Then, words for Christmas in different languages, in grid order are Rozhdestvo = Russian, Jol = Icelandic, Natal = Portuguese, Kurisumasu = Japanese, Kersfees = Afrikaans, Milied = Maltese, Christmas = English, Navidad = Spanish. The initials of the languages spell RIP JAMES, referring to James Medhurst, the setter of the 2021 hunt who sadly passed away in 2021.

Third, overlaying four sudoku grids on this puzzle and reading off the letters under the sixes and sevens, as hinted by the 'Ode to a ...' gives the message referred to in the multipage puzzle section above; finally the remaining letters can be decoded, see the last section.

The text at the end suggests Playfair, as Charles Wheatstone invented it and the concertina. The 'Alcatraz boys' refers to Clarence Anglin, John Anglin, and Frank Morris who escaped from Alcatraz (**prison**), inflating their raft with a concertina.

Page 13

The characters, reading anticlockwise around the tree, are

- Coco (Bing),
- Oscar the Grouch (Muppets),
- Molly Mole (Peppa Pig),
- Benjamin Bunny (Peter Rabbit),
- Iggle Piggle (In the Night Garden),
- Norrie (Hey Duggee),
- Angelina (Angelina Ballerina),
- Timmy (Shaun the Sheep),
- Itchy (The Simpsons),
- Olav (Frozen) and
- Nibbler (Futurama).

The characters' initials spell COMBINATION

There are two rabbits - Coco and Benjamin Bunny - three mice - Norrie, Angelina and Itchy - no cats, and one sheep - Timmy. This means the combination for unlocking the treasure box is 2301.

Pages 14-15

The people are

- Jim Broadbent, as Hans Christian Andersen (Danish Andersen),
- Taron Egerton, as Eddie the Eagle (bird),
- Camilla Dallerup, Strictly Come Dancing dancer (Danish Dallerup),
- Britney Spears, on album Glory, (likes to use pseudonyms when travelling) (**Buffy** villain Glory, season 5),
- Sandi Toksvig (Danish Toksvig), with bunting (bird reference),
- Anthony Edwards, as Goose in Top Gun (bird),
- Gary Oldman (with a diagonal line to indicate the O is Ø), in Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead (**Danish** Rosencrantz),
- Sam Neill, as Merlin (**bird**),
- Peter Schmeichel (Danish Schmeichel),
- Caron Keating with Willow the cat, Blue Peter (Buffy villain Dark Willow, season 6),
- Lili Elbe (Danish Elbe),
- Tim Roth in Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead (Danish Guildenstern),
- Rob Ford, former mayor of Toronto (**Buffy** villain The Mayor, season 3),
- Ed O'Neill, as Jay Pritchett (**bird**),
- Eric Roberts, as The Master (Buffy villain the Master, season 1),
- Fyfe Dangerfield, from the Guillemots (bird),
- King Erik III Lam (Danish Erik),
- Henry Travers, as Clarence Odbody, an angel (Buffy villain Angelus, season 2),
- Brigitte Nielsen (Danish Nielsen),
- Adam Yauch (Buffy villain Adam, season 4),
- Taron Egerton, as Robin Hood (**bird**),
- Daniel Agger (with a circle to indicate A is Å) (Danish Agger),
- Miranda Richardson, as Queenie, Queen Elizabeth the First (**Buffy** villain the First Evil, season 7),
- (Ronnie Barker mask). Represents the newsletter editor Gerald Wily.

The initials of their surnames, adding the loop on top of Daniel Agger and the slash through Gary Oldman, spells 'BEDSTE ØNSKER FOR DET NYE ÅR', which is **Danish** for best wishes for the New Year.

The XW numbers are indexes into the page 9 crossword cells (XW = crossword), spelling AEDTLLENYERGIATDLWITHWR

If those that relate to Buffy villains (also known as the 'Big Bads') are sorted by season this spells 'TWITTER'

If those that relate to birds are sorted by increasing size this spells 'HANDLE' If those that relate to Danes are sorted so that the Danish character names spell 'GREAT DANES', this spells 'GERALD WILY'. The people are not only great Danes themselves, but Scooby Doo from the poster is also a great dane.

This indicates that one should check out the Twitter (X) account with the handle 'GeraldWily'.

The three groups correspond to the three gangs mentioned on p1 (Gerald Wily is the only person on the wing not in a gang)

Page 16

The two carols are the Twelve Days of Christmas and Oh Come All Ye Faithful, with the red note corresponding to the word FAITH In the latter, a **Buffy** character who escapes from prison in S04E13. Twelve Days of Christmas features numerous **birds** (swans, geese, French hens, turtle doves, partridge).

Additionally, the term "Leap of Faith" is often attributed to Kierkegaard, and he said "Faith is the highest passion in a human being. Many in every generation may not come that far, but none comes further"

Some notes have the wrong pitches and lengths, however. Indexing their lengths (where a crotchet = 1) into the words sung on those notes spells GREATER.

Twitter accounts (Twitter is a bird ref)

In addition to the below, the GeraldWily twitter account has a 'Dolly Parton challenge' meme, featuring a golden retriever wearing glasses, cast members from Ferris Bueller's Day Off, Goat yoga and Keith Chegwin as Christine Keeler. These refer to **names/pseudonyms of Ronnie Barker** in addition to Gerald Wiley: Ronnie Barker, Bob Ferris, Jack Goetz and Larry Keith.

The account is following: Alex Warren ('Bunny' Warren was a Porridge character, follows Lauren Hillier), Naomie Harris (Harris was a Porridge character), HH World (Horrible Histories - 'Horrible' Ives was a Porridge character), Aemon (played by Peter Vaughan in Game of Thrones, who was Harry Grout in Porridge), Derek Trotter (character played by David Jason who was Blanco Ives in Porridge), McLaren (Jim McLaren was a Porridge character), Christopher Biggins (starred as Lukewarm in Porridge) and Kate Beckinsale (daughter of Richard, Godber in Porridge). Porridge is a TV series set in a **prison** starring Ronnie Barker.

The post about Gerald's dinner includes reference to beer provided by Kirkgard (also mentioned on p3) from his local. The image showing a Fox label suggests this is The Fox at Coulsdon. The post about lunch includes an image of a mug with a robin design (**bird** ref)

For tweets with yoga poses see below.

The KirkGuard twitter also has a 'Dolly Parton challenge' meme, featuring the 'baby client' twitter image, Hermione Grainger and Viktor Krum at the Yule Ball, John Krasinksi as Lee Abbott in A Quiet Place and John Legend; these hint at **pseudonyms of Kierkegaard**: the Young Man, Victor Eremita, Johannes de Slientio and Johannes the Seducer.

The main image is of Morrocoy National Park in Venezuela (Kirkguard's ultimate location - see below). The account follows Friedrich Schlegel, Plato, Socrates, Kim Kierkegaardashian and Kierkegaard. The tweets are a mixture of French and Spanish, apparently due to KirkGuard learning both at the same time and getting mixed up (he is planning to escape to a mixture of French and Spanish speaking countries).

29/12/23 tweet contains a letter to 'Mr R. Sild', a sild is a herring, so this name is a red herring (**pseudonym** used by Kirkguard).

The post-it note includes a list of numbers which correspond to telephone country codes (France, French Guiana, Trinidad and Tobago, Colombia, French Guiana, Guyana, Venezuela). These are the countries (all French, Spanish or English speaking) that Kirkguard plans to visit. The final destination, Morrocoy National Park, is in Falcón state, a **bird**.

2/1/24 and 3/1/24 tweets suggest he is not leaving by boat or, initially, by plane, so a train is most likely.

6/1/24 tweet contains a calendar with 6.01am on 15 January indicated. There is a EuroStar departure to Paris from St Pancras at that time, suggesting that is the train being taken.

Two dates with hearts are 19 January - BS - **Buffy** Summers' birthday, and 23 January - RO - Regine Olsen's birthday (at one time Søren **Kierkegaard**'s fiance).

Putting it together

As a reminder, the holly code translates 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

- A) Bird nos (unsolved)
- B) Refers to Vigenere code in Flickr photos

- C) Refers to spare wordsearch letters decoded as Playfair
- D) Refers to yoga pose URLs decoded as substitution cipher see below

The what3words locations from the quiz lead to Coulsdon South station and the Millennium Stone on Farthing Downs, suggesting one starts by arriving at the former by train and walking to the latter.

The message from overlaying the sudoku and wordsearch can be parsed as follows:

- Nonogram bottom line translates to LONDON see p13 above
- Dates translate to OUTER see multipage puzzles above
- Riddle 'them' translates to ORBITAL see p9 above
- Abbrev and anagram translates to PATH (the bold words in the hunt are 'am a gran search brutal house martin par', anagramming to 'anagram Pablo's Armchair Treasure Hunt', with initials PATH)
- Lectures translates to SSSI WILD FLOWER GYR (greater yellow-rattle)
- Music translates to GREATER see p16 above
- UYID is Unleash your inner detective so translates to YELLOW see p9 above
- Riddle 'him' translates to RATTLE see p9 above

The treasure is located close to the London Outer Orbital Path in an area known for the rare plant greater yellow-rattle (Rhinanthus **angus**tifolius).

Finally, treating the remaining 150 wordsearch letters (i.e. those neither in the above overlay or found words) as a Playfair ciphertext (hinted with references to accordions, also invented by Charles Wheatstone and 'five by five') with key FORKLUND (derived from yoga pose URL cipher) translates 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

Fork is the childhood nickname Kierkegaard's father gave him and Lund is his mother's maiden name.

This refers to the distance from Coulsdon South station to the Millennium Stone on Farthing Downs, which has a height shown on Ordnance Survey maps as 147 metres.

The twitter account @GeraldWily has photos of 'Gerald Wily' in various yoga poses in front of a clock.

If the tinyurl addresses for the yoga poses are concatenated, the digits are in order. Substituting them for spaces and solving the resulting ciphertext as a substitution cipher with the key 'K bros' (**Kierkegaard** brothers) yields:

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 MUMS MAIDEN NAME YOU ALSO NEED THE COMBINATION YOURS SK

Søren Kierkegaard's nickname was 'Fork' and his mother's maiden name was 'Lund'. This message appears to be directed to his brother (Peter Kierkegaard, who became Bishop of Aalborg).

Each URL points to a specific point in a yoga video, this is where the teacher mentions 'time' or 'hands' (a hint to look at the clocks in the images).

If the clock hands behind the yoga poses are treated as semaphores these translate to TINYURL DOT COM SLASH WILYGXYZ. Visiting tinyurl.com/WILYGXYZ leads to the Flickr account page <u>https://www.flickr.com/photos/199587978@N08/albums</u>

This contains various images of the trail to the treasure from the Millennium Stone in Farthing Downs to the treasure, given in the order of the picture labels (notebook[n]) rather than the order they appear in the album. On one remaining picture is a cipher, FHJYFNUHWBDYDNCRNBKVPZGLSHFPTYYGYVVXCCTKYWEDZQBRIGZHESCDHSJXLLE RBURZMYGZJSEIZOAJYFVODMVAYMGKNYFPTFV. This is a Vigenere cipher also with key FORKLUND, giving AT SOUTHERNMOST POINT LEFT INTO FIELD THEN RIGHT INTO WOOD SIXTY PACES NARROW GAP BETWEEN YOUNG TREES SIXTY PACES MORE.

The Playfair message takes one from the Millennium Stone to the southern point of the LOOP (going anti-clockwise) and goes past Notebook1 to Notebook7. The Vigenere message then picks this up from the southern point to the treasure via Notebook8 to Notebook12, which shows the tree behind which the treasure is hidden (being the same tree shown on the poster).

The treasure is a box with a combination lock that must be opened by setting it to 2301, the code from page 13.

The note in the treasure box contains a **Kierkegaard** quote: 'whoever has the world's treasures has them no matter how he got them'.

Upon emailing <u>Prisoner120965@gmail.com</u> with the prize claim, it replies (a few days later) to ask who the double-crossing inmate is and what the treasure consisted of. Then when informed it is the guard who left recently and the treasure has been taken again, it asks how to intercept him (see above re St Pancras).

When told to intercept the 0601 to Paris on 15 January, Gerald Wily is grateful and asks for this to be recorded in the solution.