



ATH 2023 SUBMISSION

The PATHfinders



Themes and treasure location

Key themes & topics of this year's hunt include Soren Kierkegaard and existentialism, pseudonyms (particularly two men notable for their pseudonyms: Kierkegaard and Ronnie Barker), prisons/escapes, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, birds. Perhaps more importantly, they have been woven together into a story of buried treasure which, though not fully understood, goes something like this.

Arch criminal Soren Kierkegaard (not his real name) runs a gang whose members' nicknames are aliases of other Kierkegaard pseudonyms (e.g. Quiet John). They recruit Gerald Wily (whose name and rubber mask bear a strong resemblance to Gerald Wiley, Ronnie Barker's pen name) who is working as a caretaker at a school where treasure is buried. Wily dresses as a vampire to scare meddling kids away from interfering with the job, but is unmasked by Daphne Blake and Scooby Doo's gang (Mystery Inc). Or alternatively - since he is dressed as a vampire - by Sarah Michelle Gellar's other alter ego Buffy the Vampire Slayer and her team, also known as the Scooby Doo gang.

Wily is sent to Faengsel prison, and the treasure lays undisturbed for 10 years until he finds a notebook in the prison library containing photos and codes relating to the school treasure. He learns the school was broken into, and realises that someone in Soren Kierkegaard's gang has moved the treasure to a new site clued in the notebook.

Wily believes that the notebook was left by another inmate, who must therefore have a contact on the outside. In fact, his double-crosser is none other than Soren Kierkegaard himself, who has infiltrated the prison system as a guard, and so has both inside and outside access. Inspired by Papillon, he is planning to flee to warmer, South American climes on the day after the hunt, and so is learning the French and Spanish spoken in his destination countries (which he practises in his tweets, and also in his notebook, accidentally left in the prison library that he curates.) To allay suspicion, he treats the inmates, including Wily, to a Christmas gift of bottled beer from his local pub (The Fox, near where he temporarily buried the treasure) before leaving his prison employment for good.

Wily - determined to thwart those that double-crossed him and had him put away - enlists help from Daphne/Sarah Michelle/Buffy (who visits him in prison) and indeed from lackeys in the wider ATH community. Their job is to locate the treasure before Soren can retrieve it. To help, he sends out a copy of his prison newsletter to Cousin Terri (an unidentified helper, possibly Daphne/Buffy). The holly tells us it contains details of the codes that he's solved, and clues to the ones that he hasn't. The newsletter falls into the hands of Beet who passes it on to the ATH community.

To locate the box it is then only necessary to:

- Identify Happy Valley through clues such as the W3W quiz answers, the greater yellow rattle clues (in music, UYIB and Riddle), the nonogram, the crossword (Sunny Dale and Domesday book), the birds from the Happy Valley RSPB page, the Pentagram, and the Wordsearch leftover letters (which concatenates other answers).
- Find geraldwily's Twitter (by solving the XW photos) – and from there his Flickr page (using the clocks as semaphore). The Flickr photos are from @kirkguard's notebook, showing the route from the Millennium Cairn (or via it, if starting from Coulsdon South), along the London Loop, to the box. Since the last section of the route lies off the route, directions are given in a Vigenere code, using a key hidden in the yoga tinyurls. This same key is used for the Wordsearch Playfair, which is another description of the first part of the route.
- Use the combination to open the box (as also mentioned in the tinyurl code), found from the colouring page

Some gangs may have found the Twitter page from Gerald Wily's name alone, and maybe even set a new record by finding the box before the hunt document was released? Not the PATHfinders, who as usual missed such shortcuts and took their time working through the main hunt document, only finding the Flickr page in early January, and reaching the box at 3pm on Saturday 6th. Alas, Soren beat us to it, but we were at least able to claim ticket 14.

A splendid and well-constructed hunt with varied, original and interesting puzzles & codes to solve along the way. We only wish we had solved a few more of them, and in particular made more sense of the narrative. We look forward to seeing the solutions for all the things we missed and spent so many hours poring over!

Many thanks for all the time you put into entertaining us for the past month, from **The PATHfinders**

Story of the hunt

Luckily for us, after weeks of incessant rain and flooding, Saturday 6th January 2024 turned out to be a beautiful sunny day: perfect treasure hunting weather! A flurry of activity the previous day had seen us crack the XW crossword code to find Wily's Twitter feed, the clock semaphore to find his Flickr photos, and the Vigenere giving the detailed directions (the latter done on a phone in the departure lounge of Abu Dhabi airport!)

As usual, we had some doubts about whether the instructions were complete and fully understood, but took confidence from the first few directions, as they appeared to exactly match the route along the London Loop, starting at the Millennium Cairn. We (reasonably, but as it turned out, erroneously) interpreted "it can be difficult to know where to start, but trust me, you'll get lots of pointers" and "AT SOUTHERNMOST POINT..." as: go to the place identified by the southernmost pointer on the cairn i.e. The Old Cottage. Then left into the field, and right into the wood by the fence and telegraph pole, clearly pictured in Gerald's notebook and in the Geograph photo below.



We weren't quite sure how the rest of the photos could fit into 120 paces, but felt it would become clear once on the ground. So armed with this rough and ready map, Mike and his wife Angela made the trip up from Petersfield to Farthing Downs and set off on the route.

Early afternoon came the first update: "Frustrating morning: starting at the car park was unrewarding. Blundered for 60 + 60 paces around the entrance to the wood for an hour and only found a few old badger sets. It didn't get us anywhere near a narrow gap." Time to do what every self-respecting ATHer would do in this situation, and adjourn to The Fox for some lunch!

Then began a flurry of activity. Matt (by then himself enjoying the sunshine on Dartmoor, with its surprisingly limited 4G coverage) fired off desperate suggestions along the lines of "maybe try walking all of the London Loop". Mitch, now in Oman, sent advice and encouragement, born of him having endured many such experiences in the past. Richard (at home in South Woodford) spotted the distinctive double bench on Google Maps, way off to the east of our expected site, and we realised that our starting position was just plain wrong: either a colossal coincidence or a ruddy huge red herring.



So, suitably refreshed after visiting The Fox, Mike started again, from the car park by the Old Cottage, this time intent on following the London LOOP. After half a kilometre they were about to give up when they came across the old fallen tree trunk and things started to fall into place.



The entrance to the wood near the car park



The old fallen tree trunk. Onwards into the next field



With numerous benches including Graham Hall's



The double bench was visible across Happy Valley



More ****ing benches! LDG Southernmost point of LOOP So it's left into this field and Reed ran the Olympic 1500m (the true start of directions)



Narrow gap between trees right into the wood



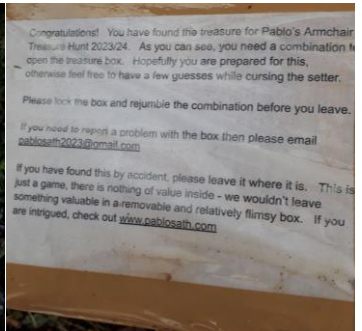
And after another 60 squelchy paces...



... the tree from the poster with the box at its base

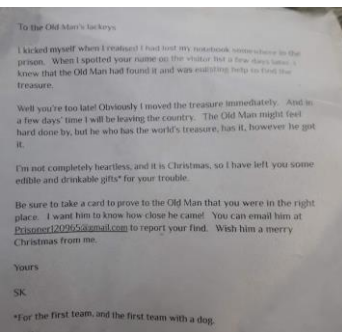


A fine looking box and a use for the 2301 combination



The instructions on the outside of the box

Inside was the note from Soren Kierkegaard saying that we were too late (the "world's treasure" quote is from *Fear and Trembling*, written under his Johannes de Silentio pseudonym), a bag of uneaten Scooby Snacks (do ATH teams not have dogs?) and the all-important ticket (number 14 – but hey, who has a ticket, has it). We reported our find to Gerald Wily (prisoner120965, his number in the yoga photos) who replied "So you say he is calling himself 'Soren Kierkegaard' - do you know which of my fellow inmates it is? I guess he must have an accomplice on the outside. Maybe if we can find out who he is we can track him down." As above, we think he was the guard, not an inmate.



Congratulations being sent from afar: Matt on Chinkwell Tor (with Dartmoor PRISON in the distance) and Mitch in the Middle East!

Page 1 – Cover Letter

A letter from the editor GW (who we know is **Gerald Wily** - see later.)

The font is **Caveat** – we assume cautioning us that there is encoded information hidden in the letter.

The bolded letters are an anagram of **anagram**. This could be a clue to anagram the bolded words (see later) or that there are anagrams on this page (which there appear to be, owing to the cryptic crossword style wording).

Observations on the letter itself:

Item	Significance
Dear Cousin Terri	<i>Cousin Teresa</i> is a book by Saki, clued on page 2. Her identity in this context is unclear, but we'll plump for Daphne Blake/Buffy/Sarah Michelle Gellar based on the Old Man reference below.
News from you and all the little Inklings	The Inklings were the literary group based in Oxford, including CS Lewis & JRR Tolkien. Could be a nod to previous hunts that referenced Inklings, including last year's.
Good to see something addressed to my proper name, as everyone calls me Old Man in here. Do you remember me telling you why I hate that?	On the poster website, Old Man Wily explains to each visitor that he hated being called Old Man because he was only 43. So this may indicate that Cousin Terri is one of those visitors, most likely Daphne Blake/Buffy/Sarah Michelle Gellar who he identified as the true hero. See Poster for other Old Man / Barker references.
Doing my best to keep my nose clean	One of the three things that Fletcher tells Mackay he has learned:
Someone in here told me "boredom is the root of all evil"	A quote from the first part of Kierkegaard's <i>Either/Or</i> , written under an anonymous pseudonym "A" and edited as pseudonym "Victor Eremita". This indicates that someone known by the name of Kierkegaard, "A" and/or Victor Eremita is or was in the prison.
Studying for my BA	See A Team section
Producing a newsletter.. enclose a copy	Tells us that GW is the editor of the newsletter (the remainder of the hunt)
Everyone on the wing is in a gang... there are three gangs...	See Class of 2023 section
Cornered me to lean on me...	Not understood
Stay out of trouble and make a fresh start. I left at once – I resist advances. My dedication's accustomed to peak when it is a busy time of year – nothing beats Xmas! I'm on target, God willing, for a new life.	Surely cryptic clues or anagrams, but not deciphered. We note Simon Target hidden in there, an Aussie director, but not able to connect him.
Nick... jolly day.. good little lad	Not understood. Possibly Nicolaus Notabene, another SK pseudonym
I am in the cells for hours	Another cryptic clue/anagram or possibly Excel reference?
Big day looming... long walk.. drive to pub	Refers to his lackeys unearthing the treasure? Long walk would be the London Loop from Coulsdon/Cairn... or could drive to The Fox which is actually a bit closer to the box, but misses out the splendour of the downs and Happy Valley

Page 2 – X-Essentials – All the latest News from X-Wing

Dots – see ‘Dots’ page below

X – Essentials – presumed to be a pun on **existential** and so a clue to Soren Kierkegaard. Also clues X, the new name of Twitter (perhaps originally Twitter was clued by the birds, and Elon made it necessary to clue X too.)

All the Latest News from X-Wing – Again, X clues X / Twitter.

Font is **Quantico** (the HQ of the FBI academy, so a clue to the investigative nature of the hunt. Also a TV series with similarities in structure to Buffy the vampire slayer).

We think the four sections all contain clues to different Escape movies (or books) but haven’t found them all.

Section	Movie	Item	Significance
Inspection passed	?	Council inspection was on 1st October	Not understood
		Six-foot phallus on shower block wall	Presumably this relates to a prison break film, but makes for some eye-watering search results
New rules for tools	The Shawshank Redemption	Pick and spade must be handed back	Shovel and pick is Cockney rhyming slang for prison
		Hand trowels are not currently affected	Could indicate that ATH can proceed (since the use of a trowel was often jokingly mentioned by Pablo)
		One inmate was hiding a rock hammer	Rock hammer used by Andy Dufresne in Shawshank
Guards v Inmates Football Match	Escape to Victory (AKA Victory)	Inmates 4-1 down at half time	As they were in Escape to Victory
		Regular goalkeeper broke one of his arms	It was broken for him so that Hatch (Stallone) could play
		Replacement's performance has been rocky	Stallone played both Hatch and Rocky
		Perfectly good goal disallowed... drew 4-4	Again as in Escape to Victory
Sign our Petition		He hath the key, and he that shutteth no man openeth	Based on Revelation 3:7 "... to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write ... He that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth, and shutteth, and no man openeth". Certain words have been selected, and the sense is changed, perhaps to fit the prison theme. Is the 'key' the relevant bit?
		brutal	See bolded words section
		It does not even have the weight of tradition behind it, as it was only adopted in 1998 by the previous Governor, whose tenure is generally considered to be an unfortunate episode in Faengsel's history.	Not understood. Episode is possibly a TV episode.
		It was intended to set an example, but our view is that it does not contribute to the direction that both inmates and staff want to take. There must be further options that are more meaningful.	Not understood.

Page 3 – The Point of View

The font is Philosopher – clueing **Kierkegaard**

Title refers to **The Point of View of My Work as an Author** which is Kierkegaard's account of his use of pseudonyms. So a clue to both **Kierkegaard** and **pseudonym** hunt themes.

The picture of Captain **Kirk** (from Star Trek the animated series – the Counter Clock incident) plus this page being written by a guard clues Kierkegaard, but more specifically the **@kirkguard** Twitter / X handle used by the guard.

Fingers Fuentes – this section refers to her gift – see In Memoriam section

Apart from one that he refuses to read on principle! This is Hemingway's **The Old Man and the Sea** (clued by Fingers Fuentes – see in Memoriam section) as Wily does not like the term 'Old Man'.

... my usual Christmas Present... my local has promised that its Christmas brew will be available soon. Kierkegaard's local is The Fox in Happy Valley (hence the choice of treasure location) and so he's referring to a beer brewed there (shown with fox label on Wily's pre-Xmas post). Though the real Fox does not appear to brew its own beer.

.. bid you farewell... always wanted to travel: he is leaving to follow in Papillon's footsteps as per his X feed

... new literature... carefully curated collection: while the guard tells us he can't share his social media details, he does it anyway, through his curated book list. All the books are written under a pseudonym; the list can be reordered so that the significant letters of the authors' real names spell **PSEUDONYM**. The morse on the left can then be read off as: **-.-.....-** or replacing the first set of 3 dots with a – (see 'dots' code for rationale) **-.-.-.-** which can be parsed as **TWEET**. So this is a hidden clue to search for tweets by Soren Kierkegaard's Twitter / X pseudonym **@kirkguard**. (It is possible we should look for another Kierkegaard pseudonym's handle, but haven't found that.)

... keep in touch on social media... guards not allowed to share contact details with inmates... I'm sure you'll be able to find me if you want: tells us to search for **@kirkguard** on social media.

That list of books in full:

Morse	Work	Author (pseudonym)	Author (real name)
-	L'Imposteur	Molière	Jean Baptiste de P oquelin
.	The Pursued	C S Forester	C L T S mith
-	The Lifted Veil	George Eliot	Mary Ann E vans
.	The Traveler	John Twelve Hawks	U nknown
.	A Tangled Web	Nicholas Blake	C D ay Lewis
.	You Can't Catch Me	Rosamund Smith	Joyce Carol O ates
.	A Pot of Money	Fabian Bland	E N esbit (writing with her husband)
.	The Long Voyage	John Christopher	Sam Y oud
-	The Quest	Saki	H H M unro

Page 4 – In Memoriam / Doing Bird

In Memoriam

This section clues the Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway. It links to the library page as mentioned above, though it feels there must be a bigger link that we have not yet uncovered.

- The person that passed away on **2 July** (1961) was actually Hemingway. This is also used in the Dates code (see that section).
- **Pilar** was Hemingway's fishing boat
- Hemingway left Pilar to one of its captains, Gregorio **Fuentes**
- Some say Fuentes was the inspiration for **Santiago** in The Old Man and the Sea
- The picture is of actress Melissa Fumero as cop Amy **Santiago** undercover as Isabel Cortez (in Brooklyn 99) so this clues Santiago (and Cortez as alias of Santiago as alias of Fumero ties in with the pseudonym theme)
- Hemingway kept and gave his name to cats with six toes. Links to both **cat burglar** and **six fingers**.
- Amy Santiago's nickname is "The **Finger Queen**" – another link to Fingers Fuentes

Doing Bird

Doing Bird is slang for being in prison, so this refers to the 'birds' prison gang.



The bird is a Masked Shrike. In The Great Escape, Donald Pleasance's character Colin Blythe masks his forging activities with an ornithology lecture in which he draws the masked shrike. This could be just another prison/bird link, or perhaps the scientific name in his drawing is a clue that we should use scientific names in the bird code?

Eagle-eyed: bird pun

Birdmen: Refers to the birdman of Alcatraz (Robert Stroud) - another prison and birds link

Notebook: refers to the notebook found by GW in the library (where the club meets)

Every second Tuesday: not understood

Please speak to one of the twins: not understood

It can be difficult to know where to start, but trust me, you'll get lots of pointers: we thought this referred to starting from the pointers on the Millennium Cairn (though that proved to be not the case.) So instead, we think it just means that there are lots of pointers / clues indicating where to start the hunt directions (W3W clues, London Loop, Greater Yellow Rattle etc.)

The list of birds is taken from <https://group.rspb.org.uk/croydon/local-wild-places/farthing-downs-new-hill-happy-valley-and-couldsdon-common>. The list and order exactly matches that web page. One approach might be to extract letters from the bird names (or their scientific/family names) using the numbers, and reorder to make sense of the morse characters, but have not made that work. We don't think we could use the web page as the source as it could have changed over time. So the birds may just be a clue to Farthing Downs & Happy Valley.

Page 5 – Uncle Angst

The use of **the term angst was first attributed to Kierkegaard**. In "Bebrebet Angst" ("The Concept of Anxiety") (written as Vigilius Haufniensis) he used the word Angst (in common Danish, angst, meaning "dread" or "anxiety").

There is also a Porridge / Wiley link (Fletcher acting as an agony aunt in S1E6 "Men Without Women") though it does not appear to link to this page further.

Picture of Kelsey Grammer as Frasier Crane: A **psychotherapist**, to set the tone. Kierkegaard is mentioned on the show at least a couple of times.

Offering advice for all stages on life's way: **Stages on Life's Way** is a book by Kierkegaard (or rather a number of his pseudonyms). Akin to a psychotherapist offering advice.

Big X: the code name of the leader of the Great Escape from Stalag Luft III (Roger Bushell) though doesn't appear to link to the text.

Letter and response: we have not been able to find the text on which this is based.

REDACTED: 42 of them (42 is the ultimate answer to life, the universe and everything in THHGTTG, which links to the philosophical / existentialist theme.)

Page 6 – Fancy Dress Champions

A veritable cornucopia of fiends and devils and ghouls: this is how Buffy's protégé Rupert Giles describes the thrill of living on the Hellmouth (the portal to the supernatural, beneath Sunnydale high school) "There's a veritable cornucopia of-of fiends and devils and-and-and ghouls to engage." (In the episode called "Witch")

An X-wing resident won the prize for best costume... really transformed themselves into someone else: assume it's someone also mentioned on the Class of 2023 pages, but not identified.

The pictures are listed below, and are interpreted as follows:

- The odd numbered pictures are all X-Wing gang members shown on the Class of 2023 pages. Using the XW numbers to extract crossword letters yields the engineer Agner ERLANG who is another Great Dane.
- The even numbered pictures are all Buffy characters; the key letters from their names spells **FAITH**. She is a main character, also clued in the carols, but her significance is not understood. May link to the theme of Faith in Kierkegaard's philosophy.

No	Character	Film	Actor	Gang ID	Xword letter
1	Dr William Weir	Event Horizon	Sam Neill	XW150	N
2	F orrest Gates	Buffy The Vampire Slayer	Leonard Roberts		
3	Jay Pritchett as a gargoyle	Modern Family (s2e6 Halloween)	Ed O'Neill	XW202	A
4	A ngel	Buffy The Vampire Slayer	David Boreanaz		
5	Frankenstein's Monster	The South Bank Show	Tim Roth	XW162	G
6	I zzerial	Buffy The Vampire Slayer	Mark Colson		
7	Comic Viking	Great British Bake Off (Danish Week)	Sandi Toksvig	XW158	L
8	T oth	Buffy The Vampire Slayer	Michael Bailey Smith		
9	Queen Mab, Lady of the Lake	Merlin	Miranda Richardson	XW200	R
10	H alfrek	Buffy The Vampire Slayer	Kali Rocha		
11	Dracula	Bram Stoker's Dracula	Gary Oldman	XW192	E

Page 7 – A Word from the Editor

The Editor being Gerald Wily (represented here, the Class of 2023, and the yoga as a latex mask of Ronnie Barker)

Item	Significance
It's that festive time of year again. Everyone else may be celebrating, but for those of us who are locked up away from our families it is a time for self-examination and not a little melancholy.	Kierkegaard suffered from, and wrote of, melancholy (depression)
At the end of the year, one reflects on another year spent incarcerated,	reflects may be double meaning?
and whether one has achieved anything more than being 365 days closer to the end of one's sentence.	Sentence as in text?
I will admit to feeling a bit below par myself.	Below par scores are represented by birds – birdie, eagle, albatross. So this links to the bird gang who are pressuring the editor and making him feel below par. Par is also in bold – see bolded text section.
But January is of course named after the Roman God Janus,	Janus appears in BTVS
reminding us that we should Face forward as well as back.	Kierkegaard: " life can be understood backwards, but must be lived forwards". (For Face, see A Team section)
It's the start of a new season and when we get our first glimpse of Dawn,	Refers to Season 5 of Buffy, in which her sister Dawn first appears. Dawn is a key in human form, but haven't made use of that
we can look forward to the future instead of dwelling on the difficult circumstances of our present.	Sort of reverse of Kierkegaard, who focuses on the present moment
I'm looking forward to my own fresh start next year, after several postponements I will go before	Porridge reference? (The series ends when Godber gets parole. Fletcher is later released, and then appears in Going Straight.)
the parole board on 4 September.	Used in the Dates code – see that section
The very idea of freedom makes me a little dizzy and anxious.	Kierkegaard "Anxiety is the dizziness of freedom" (as Vigilius Haufniensis)
Looking back over my time in X-Wing I am amazed how much I have changed as a person.	anagram?
At the start of my sentence I thought to myself – there are some strange characters in here.	A sentence on this page? And the 'vampire' font characters?
Now at the end of my sentence – I'm one of them!	At the end of this sentence is an exclamation mark/shriek.
So I don't want to count my chickens, but I should make plans just in case the parole board goes well.	Chickens – more bird references.

<p>Hopefully one of you will be interested in taking over the newsletter, please let me know. Don't worry if you have no experience of this sort of thing, I can train you up.</p>	<p>Pun on train?</p>
<p>To misquote Hannibal: "if I cannot find a successor, I will make one".</p>	<p>Hannibal said: "I shall either find a way or make one" - "Aut viam inveniam, aut faciam". This was the motto of Francis Bacon, so presumably a clue to use his code. The different typefaces may also clue that. May just all be a way to shoehorn in Hannibal – see A-Team section.</p> <p>This is also reminiscent of Kierkegaard ""You just can't let life happen to you; you have to make life happen.""</p>
<p>Let me know as soon as possible if you are interested; it would be good to have plenty of time to explain things.</p>	<p>Plenty of time – significance?</p>
<p>There is a lot more to the newsletter than meets the eye.</p>	<p>Certainly is! Or does this imply more hidden text?</p>
<p>As I say, I'm missing my freedom and fun.</p>	<p>Significance?</p>
<p>I had to miss the first date for my parole hearing.</p>	<p>Presumably some earlier date before the September 4th one mentioned.</p>
<p>I'm feeling grumpy, and a cranky editor is a careless editor.</p>	<p>Unusual choice of cranky. Cryptic clue or some other reference?</p>

Page 8 – Arts

Theatre Review

Item	Significance
FELONS	A felon is a skin condition – only mentioned as there seem to be several of those hinted at below. Otherwise just a pleasing acronym/backronym
Howling	See A Team section
Get Busy Singing or Get Busy Dancing	Adapted from the line “Get Busy Living or Get Busy Dying” in <i>The Shawshank Redemption</i>
there wasn't a dry eye in the house during the rousing final number Going Through the Motions.	This could be another Shawshank link (Andy 'going through the motions' in the famous sewage pipe scene – he didn't have a dry eye). May also refer to the song of this title in in Buffy The Vampire Slayer (in a musical episode called Once More, With Feeling)
7 th December	See “Dates” section
Thomas L Rolls	May refer to Rollo Tomassi, which is the nickname used by the central character in L A Confidential for the man who killed his father (and thus for any criminal escaping justice)
Barmitzvah Boy	Play for Today by Jack Rosenthal. Relevance not understood.
The Singing Detective	Dennis Potter TV series in which Michael Gambon (Philip Marlowe) has a skin disease (psoriatic arthropathy). Not clear whether this has anything to do with the hunt!
The Madness of King George III	Alan Bennett play/film in which King George has (probably) porphyria, which causes blistering of the skin
Copenhagen	Michael Frayn play about Niels Bohr (who was Danish, so has to be in the Hunt somewhere, surely) and Werner Heisenberg.

Lecture Series

Item	Significance
Fourth year... four wonderful... favourite of the four	Clue to offset by 4 (instead of 3) in the Sir John Trevanian code below
A History of Colchester Castle by surgeon Trevor Onion	Refers to Sir John Trevanian's escape from Colchester Castle, in which a concealment cipher was used to identify a hidden panel - see Null cipher Taking the fourth character after each punctuation mark in this section gives: SSSI WILDFLOWER GYR which is a clue to the box location, in that the Farthing Downs and Happy Valley SSSI is one of the few places you can find the Greater Yellow Rattle.
Lilies of the Field and Birds of the Air	From the Bible (the Sermon on the Mount). Significance is the Kierkegaard work based on it: <i>The Lily of the Field and the Bird of the Air</i>
Paddy Foot	Padfoot was Sirius Black's doggy name in Harry Potter. He escaped Azkaban as Padfoot. So combines the pseudonym and prison escape hunt themes. (Paddy Foot is

	also an oriental skin condition of the foot, so a tie in with the other skin conditions on this page.)
Abbie Bussony	Refers to Abbé Busoni, one of one of the aliases of the Count of Monte Cristo – the granddaddy of escape novels. So again ties together with escape & pseudonyms.
after 14 years inside	The count was imprisoned from 1815 to 1829
Did not pull punches... people she blamed... cathartic experience	The book is all about the Count exacting revenge on his persecutors
Opposites Attack!	Not understood

Carol Concert

Item	Significance
8 December	See 'Dates' section. Also the date that the poster was published. A week before the Hunt.
Saint Leonard's... Rendezvous at 6 pm	6pm on a clock dial equates to South on a compass. So we think this is a clue to go due South from St Leonard's church in Streatham (longitude -0.13150) ... which takes you through Devilsden Wood on the London Loop and route directions.
Father Stephen Randall	Randall Stephens is Andy Dufresne's alias in The Shawshank Redemption
...anyone with a musical instrument, such as an accordion, is welcome to bring it to the church ...	Possibly because of the accordion's focus on chords, see below
vocal chords	Misspelling of cords may suggest that we somehow decode the carol using chords based on the incorrect notes and/or their correct counterparts e.g. by taking the middle note of a triad. So instead perhaps it is just a pointer to look for hidden information in the music (i.e. the 'greater' from the note lengths.)

Poetry Corner

Ode to a ... suggests we need to use an ellipsis in some way e.g. to miss out parts of the poem, or to use the dot patterns (which contain ellipses) as a mask against the poem words/letters. But haven't made it work.

"Nothing but the colde" is a quote from Lestat de Lioncourt. He's a vampire in Anne Rice's "The Vampire Chronicles". So possibly a Buffy connection.

Page 9 – Puzzle Pages

Unleash Your Inner Detective

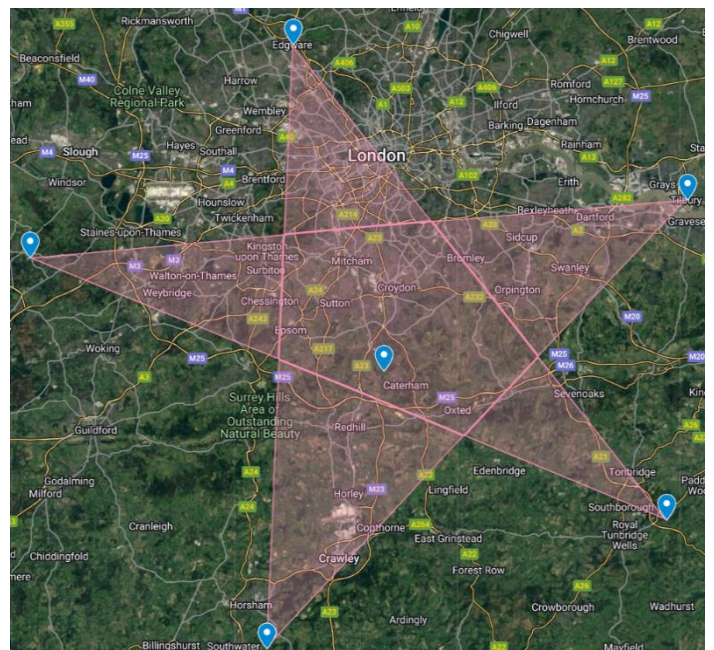
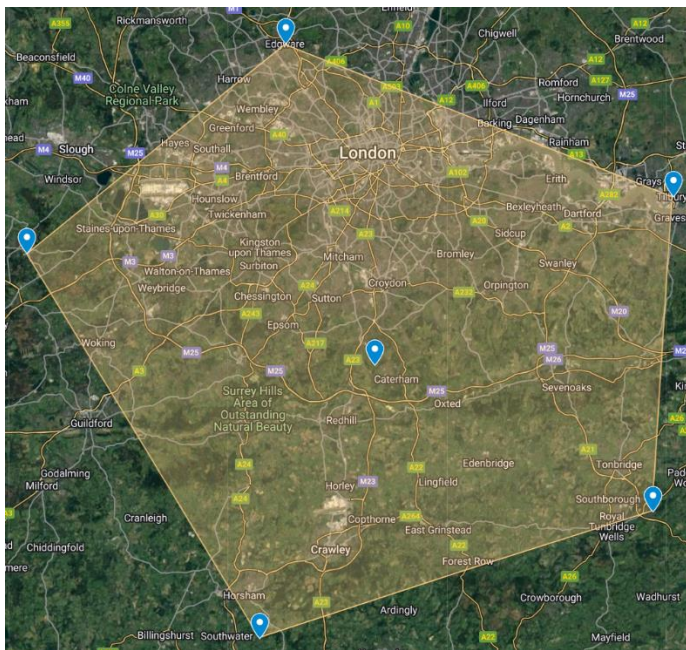
The Ascot Abominations drive the **yellow** car. This combines with Rattle (see Riddle) to clue Yellow Rattle (possibly even Greater Yellow Rattle if there's an unsolved clue to Greater.) This clues the treasure location, Farthing Downs & Happy Valley SSSI being one of few places where this wildflower grows.

Name	Target	Members	Car
Pembury Pirates		1	
Nuthurst Nutters	Bank	2	Red
Tilbury Troublemakers	Jewellers	3	Silver
Ascot Abominations	Casino	4	Yellow
Edgware Evildoers	Post Office	5	Black

Note that Clue 8 is something of a red herring. Either half of the definition would do.

In alphabetical order of car colour (beginning with the null colour) the gang locations/names spell **PENTA**.

This is a clue to either draw a pentagon between the 5 places, or follow the PENTA order resulting in a pentagram. The former gives the box location very close to its centre, the latter within its central pentagon (perhaps an homage to the method used to locate World's End, near the final treasure box of Pablo's last hunt.)



Sudoku

Solution below. We could use it to unscramble a grid of 81 letters, but haven't found suitable text.

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

Riddle

Our heroine is Buffy (as clued by GW's hero comment to Daphne); her birthday 19th Jan 1981.

So 'He' is Sir Simon **Rattle**, born on 19th Jan 1955. Combines with Yellow as per Detective puzzle above. Yellow Rattle is termed a 'vampire plant', another (maybe unintended) Buffy link.

And 'They' are **Orbital** who were #35 in the charts on 19th Jan 1991 and #23 on 19th Jan 1997, with "Satan" and "Satan Live" respectively. (Satan Live was included in a box set anagrammed as Evil Santa giving an Xmas connection.)

But the intended connection is that the London Outer Orbital Path (LOOP) runs through Farthing Downs and Happy Valley, and forms the route to the box. (Farthing Downs even hosted the opening ceremony for the first section of the LOOP.)

Quiz

Dagger is presumably connected with the Dagger / Daniel Agger on p15 but the reference is not understood.

Fittingly, the quiz questions all have a prison, and often prison escape, theme.

Q	Answer	Keyword
1	BORG is the Ballad of Reading Gaol. It has 109 stanzas. Stanza 6 includes the text ".. I only knew what hunted thought ...", so "what" comes before "hunted". (Just for fun: Bjorn Borg was no 1 for 109 weeks over 6 stretches, which is an excellent red herring)	What
2	Alfred Hinds escaped from prison three times. He was later captured by students in a rag stunt, and escaped again. https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfred_George_Hinds	Three
3	Words. Refers to the number of words in questions 8, 9 and 10.	Words
4	Rebel and Warrior were on the TV show Gladiators. The Gladiators in Spartacus' revolt escaped using kitchen utensils.	Gladiators
5	The Great Escape from Stalag Luft III started on Friday 24th March 1944. Two weeks later would have been Good Friday. (April 7th, also Matt's birthday!)	Friday
6	Three golden balls representing are balanced on the fountains of Caritas well in Copenhagen, to mark various birthdays and occasional state visits passing the well. See here . The ball represents an apple.	Apple
7	John Selden is the escaper who serves as a red herring in The Hound. Red Herring is a character in Scooby Doo. It's also an ATH tradition to have Red Herrings.	Red Herring
8	Refers to Scar in the Lion King (as in pride of lions), who was loosely based on King Claudius in Hamlet. Claudius employs Rosenkrantz and Guildenstern who are among the X-wing inmates in the Great Danes gang.	Scar
9	Sarah Waters' book <i>Affinity</i> is about an inmate called Selina Dawes	Waters
10	Vogons are bad poets & imprisoned Arthur in THHGTTG. Susie Dent is a TV lexicographer.	Dent

The keywords are interpreted as follows:

- 1-3: tell us we are looking for **W3W addresses**
- 4-6: **///GLADIATORS.FRIDAY.APPLE** – this is **Coulsdon South Station**. If hunting by train (from central London say) you would get off here and follow the London Loop to the box.
- 7: Red Herring. Likely just because this question doesn't help and can be skipped.
- 8-10: **///SCAR.WATERS.DENT** – this is the **Millennium Cairn on top of Farthing Downs**. A key point on the London Loop and the route to the box.



This crossword has 4 (maybe more!) purposes:

- 1) Certain letters are extracted using the XW prisoner numbers. See the Class of 2023 section.
- 2) The letters around the edge read: **TREASURE LOCATION IN SUNNY DALE**. Sunnydale is Buffy's town. More pertinently Sunny Dale is a synonym for **Happy Valley** (perhaps the reason for the other Buffy references). (These letters looping around the edge of the crossword may also be a clue to the London LOOP.)
- 3) Several clues are missing characters and/or the word length given in the clue is incorrect.

Clue	Given length	Actual length	Character
4d	1	7	G
27ac	2	5	D
1d	3	8	B
26d	4	4	F
29ac	5	8	O
10ac	6	4	L
19d	7	8	3
9ac	8	8	2
11ac	9	5	V

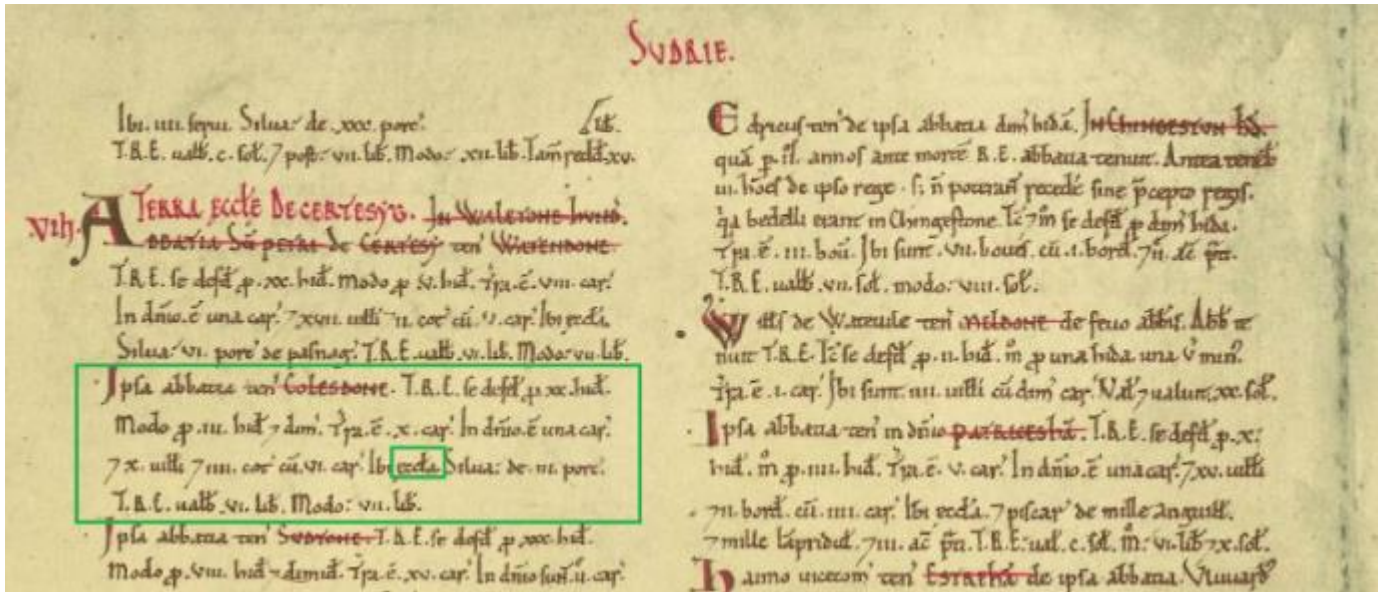
Putting the missing characters in order of given length gives: **GDB FOL 32V**

This refers to folio 32v (verso = back) of the Great Domesday Book.

This covers the land of St Peter's Abbey in Chertsey, which included Coulsdon (see extract on next page). So another location clue.

- 4) We also note that the crossword contains other likely words including:
 - NONOCTET UNIT (clues the 8-bit code at the bottom of the nonogram that decodes as London)
 - POOL (LOOP backwards, as in London Loop)
 - Phrases like LOOK ON LINK POST OLIVE GREEN though haven't made these work yet

Below is the start of folio 32v from the National Archives - with Coulsdon ('Colesdone') and church ('Eccla' = Ecclesia) highlighted, plus the translation



THE ABBEY OF ST PETER of **CHERTSEY** holds **'WADDINGTON'** [in Coulsdon]. TRE it was assessed at 20 hides; now at 5 hides. There is land for 8 ploughs. In demesne is 1 plough; 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 .

Page 10 – Codeword

The codeword is **DECOY** – may just mean that this codeword is a decoy, a red herring and not related to the main hunt. There are however lots of references to the hunt in the puzzle itself e.g. Opening and Ceremony refer to the opening of the London Loop at Coulsdon. Medical Itch hints at the skin diseases. Squeezing is mentioned re the concertina/Wheatstone. Dot relates to Morse. Sixty to the sixty paces. There is a Viaduct at Kenley - is that visible from the Hunt walk? Music refers to the staves. Pupils and America to Buffy. The GYR is Rare. Two gangs each have a Van. Several Novels feature.

C	E	R	E	M	O	N	Y	■	A	S	K	S
L	■	A	■	E	■	O	■	J	■	Q	■	A
A	C	T	E	D	■	V	I	A	D	U	C	T
I	■	■	■	I	C	E	■	W	■	E	■	I
M	U	S	I	C	■	L	I	S	T	E	N	S
■	■	E	■	A	■	S	■	■	■	Z	■	F
P	U	P	I	L	S	■	P	O	L	I	C	Y
L	■	T	■	■	■	F	■	P	■	N	■	■
A	M	E	R	I	C	A	■	E	D	G	E	S
S	■	M	■	T	■	V	A	N	■	■	■	I
T	O	B	A	C	C	O	■	I	N	D	E	X
E	■	E	■	H	■	U	■	N	■	O	■	T
R	A	R	E	■	B	R	I	G	H	T	L	Y
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
B	V	D	I	E	Y	W	T	O	P	F	H	N
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Q	A	G	J	S	C	K	R	Z	M	X	L	U
					3	5	19	9	6			
					D	E	C	O	Y			

Page 11 – Nonogram

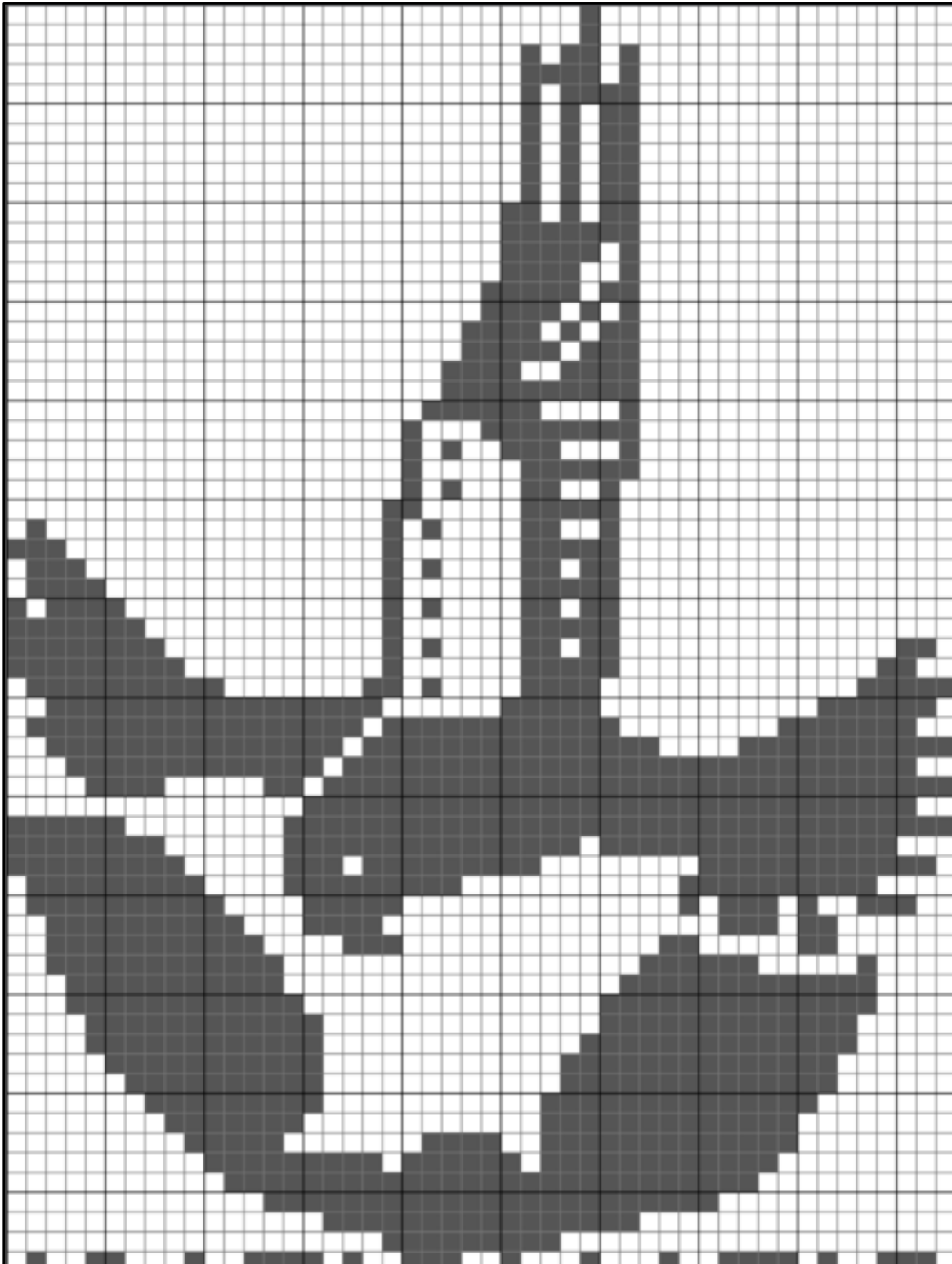
The nonogram resolves to a picture of a kestrel flying over some trees.

The bottom row encodes 6 8-bit ASCII characters reading LONDON (76, 79, 78, 68, 79, 78)

This is a clue that the picture is the logo of the London LOOP (London Outer Orbital Path)

So a clue to the treasure location, as the treasure route follows the LOOP and the box lies just off it.

The picture is also rotated to point straight down (South), compared with the original, which may be a clue that we need to start from the southernmost point of the LOOP.



Page 12 – Wordsearch

Wordsearch

The much-loved and much-missed friend is James Medhurst, whose posthumous 2021 hunt centred around a Wordsearch. Beet and James' other team members stepped in to run it.

The words found all relate to the festive season, often in obscure languages. They are shaded in orange below, and listed in the table on the next page (along with some additional words that are likely unintentional as they don't fit with the playfair/leftover letters. Perhaps these are a pun on Playfair, as they don't 'play fair' like the other words?)

Playfair

The use of the spare letters (as referred to by GW in the Holly code) is clued by the footer text. "If you have time on your hands" clues the time/hands clues in the Adriene video's on GW's Twitter page, and the associated tinyurls giving the **FORKLUND keyword** (see @geraldwily section below) . And the concertina reference is not just about the Alcatraz escapees using a concertina to inflate their rafts; it is a clue to look for a **Playfair cipher** (Wheatstone invented the concertina and the Playfair cipher).

Then it is a matter of using the FORKLUND keyword and Playfair cryptanalysis to identify which of the spare letters will form meaningful plaintext. This is helped by knowing that there will (usually) be four leftover letters on each row. (Though working row by row causes some issues as often the Playfair pair spans rows so ultimately the letters should be treated as one long string).

These Playfair letters are shaded blue below. Consolidated, they are:

**TZSBOHPAHNKFWEPTCOIPLOGUHEKEPCADAOGABDAORLQKYCWPEPCQLHPTEHFNMSIPWEKPLQLBHKBDATMHK
NESNSIORKDKRNDNREPBDBASHFOPFOGTCOIMABPTBWKDFHNEISIHFNISIGOUPKPMQLEBP**

Which with the FORKLUND keyword from the Soren's note to Peter gives (punctuation added).

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.

These are part of the directions to the box. From Coulsdon Station (clued in W3W quiz) following the London Loop (clued by leftover letters and Nonogram) it takes nearly one mile to reach an altitude of 147m (at the Millennium cairn on Farthing downs. 147m is inscribed on the circular brass plaque). Then pickup the photo trail (on Wily's Flickr photos) and stay on the path for around one and a half more miles until you reach the southernmost point of the LOOP. (The start of the Vigenere instructions.)

Leftover letters

These are the letters leftover from those used for festive words and the Playfair. (We use leftover to distinguish them one from the spare letters mentioned by Wily, which we took to mean those leftover after the festive words. Though of course he could have solved the Playfair in which case his spare letters are our leftover letters!)

There are usually 4 on each line which helps identify them (and solve the Playfair.) But in some cases there are fewer than 4, so we need to add some letters from the festive words, to make up the four (shown in orange below)

NONO GRAM BOTT OMLI NEDA TESR IDDL ETHE MABB REVA NAGR AMLE CTUR ESMU SICU YIDR IDDL EHIM

- NONOGRAM BOTTOM LINE = **London** (8 bit code at bottom of nonogram)
- DATES = **Outer** (extracted from the 5 dates - see Dates section)
- RIDDLE THEM = **Orbital** ('who are they' in the riddle)
- ABBREV ANAGRAM = **Path** (anagram is Pablo's Armchair Treasure Hunt)
- LECTURES = **SSSI Wildflower GYR** (using Trevanian code)
- MUSIC = **Greater** (from durations of incorrect notes)
- UYID = **Yellow** (answer to Unleash Your Inner Detective, here abbreviated as UYID)
- RIDDLE HIM = **Rattle** ('who is he' in the riddle)

So this strings together answers to other puzzles/codes to give clues to the treasure location and the route to the box i.e. find somewhere on the London Outer Orbital Path that is a Site of Special Scientific Interest featuring a wildflower called GYR, the Greater Yellow Rattle.

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	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	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

X	Festive Wordsearch word
X	Playfair letter
X	Alternative Playfair letter (either one works)
X	Leftover letters

Category	Word	Direction	Start	End	Length	Language
General Christmas	LIGHT	East	4,1	8,1	5	
Advent	ADVENT	West	18,1	13,1	6	
Christmas	NATAL	East	11,2	15,1	5	Portuguese
General Christmas	GIFT	East	3,13	6,13	4	
Christmas	NAVIDAD	East	8,17	14,17	7	Spanish
Seasonal food and drink	EGGNOG	West	9,18	4,18	6	
General Christmas	SLEIGH	East	13,18	18,18	6	
General Christmas	UNWRAP	North	1,17	1,12	6	
Christmas	KERSFEES	South	2,8	2,15	8	Afrikaans
Christmas	JOL	South	9,2	9,4	3	Icelandic
Christmas	ROZHDESTAVO	South-east	1,2	10,11	11	Russian
General Christmas	NATIVITY	North-east	4,10	11,3	8	
Christmas	KURISUMASU	South-west	15,3	6,12	10	Japanese
Seasonal food and drink	GINGERSNAP	North-east	4,18	13,9	10	
Christmas	MILIED	North-east	11,12	16,7	6	Maltese
Christmas	CHRISTMAS	North-east	7,17	15,9	9	
General Christmas	ANGEL	North-west	16,17	12,13	5	

Other words not shown in grid (as they don't work with the Playfair)

General Christmas	BREAK	North	3,12	3,8	5	
Advent	DATANG	South-east	6,11	11,16	6	Kapampangan (from the Philippines)
Seasonal food and drink	PIE	West	11,18	9,18	3	
Seasonal food and drink	LATKA	North	18,5	18,1	5	

Page 13 – Colouring

The colouring page features characters (mostly minor ones) from children’s cartoons/films, some of whom look similar to their main character counterparts when not coloured in.

So the line drawings are partly to make the characters harder to identify, and partly to draw younger participants into the hunt (in this case Matt’s son’s 25-year-old Dutch girlfriend, who had to redo the whole sheet once we realised all the major characters we’d found, such as Peppa Pig, were wrong and so were the wrong colour!)

There are 2 rabbits, 3 mice, 0 cats and 1 sheep, yielding the number **2301**

The first letters of each character are an anagram of **COMBINATION** indicating that this number is the combination code for the box.



Characters (left to right)	Letter	Species	Appears in
Molly mole	M	Mole	Peppa Pig
Benjamin bunny	B	Rabbit	Tale of Benjamin Bunny (and Peter rabbit films)
Oscar the grouch	O	Grouch	Sesame Street
Coco	C	Rabbit	Bing
Igglypiggle	I	Igglypiggle	In the Night Garden
Norrie	N	Mouse	Hey Duggee
Angelina Mouseling	A	Mouse	Angelina Ballerina
Itchy	I	Mouse	Simpson
Timmy	T	Sheep	Shaun the Sheep
Olaf	O	Snowman	Frozen
[Lord] Nibbler	N	Nibblonian	Futurama

Pages 14-15 – X-Wing class of 2023

The process for solving these pages is:

- Identify the people/characters, and form them into the 3 gangs mentioned by the Editor (Wily) and clued elsewhere in the hunt - which emerge as Great Danes, Buffy Baddies and Bird(er)s. Great Danes also links Kierkegaard to Scooby Doo, and (via both Sarah Michelle Gellar and the Scooby Gang) to Buffy.
- The Editor, Gerald Wily, is not included as he has said he is not part of a gang
- Within the three gangs, order by key letter (to spell GREATDANES), Buffy season, and wingspan respectively
- Then use the XW numbers to read off the corresponding letter from the crossword e.g. XW162 is the 162nd letter = row 11 column 12 = G. (197/210 = U/U = W)
- The result spells **GERALDWILY TWITTER HANDLE** which is a clue to the Twitter/X **@geraldwily** handle of the Editor Gerald Wily (aka Gerald Wiley aka Ronnie Barker aka Norman Stanley Fletcher). See the **@geraldwily** section for more on that.
- Gary Oldman is struck through because the Editor objects to the Old Man moniker as mentioned previously
- Daniel Agger 'O' could relate to the Hamlet line "I'll speak daggers to her, but use none"? Or possibly a leading zero for the only 2 digit number?

ID	Person	Role/Profession	Film/Programme/ Other Details	Gang	Key letter	Gang order	Xword letter	Gang connection details	Additions
XW162	Tim Roth	Guldenstern	Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead	Great Danes	Guildenstern	1	G	Derived from Hamlet	
XW192	Gary Oldman	Rosencrantz	Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead	Great Danes	Rosencrantz	2	E	Derived from Hamlet	Diagonal strike out
XW148	Lili Elbe	(Played by Eddie Redmayne)	The Danish Girl	Great Danes	Elbe	3	R	Danish transgender pioneer	
XW190	Jim Broadbent	Hans Christian Andersen	A Very Very Very Dark Matter	Great Danes	Andersen	4	A	Danish author	
XW158	Sandi Toksvig	Presenter (famously short hence pic)	Great British Bake Off	Great Danes	Toksvig	5	L	Danish comedian	
XW112	Camilla Dallerup	Dancer	Strictly Come Dancing	Great Danes	Dallerup	6	D	Danish dancer/author	
XW86	Daniel Agger	Himself	Liverpool footballer	Great Danes	Agger	7	W	Danish international	O
XW194	Brigitte Nielsen	herself	Danish actress	Great Danes	Nielsen	8	I	Danish actress	
XW214	Erik III Lam	King	King of Denmark	Great Danes	Erik	9	L	Danish king	
XW208	Peter Schmeichel	Goalkeeper	Danish international	Great Danes	Schmeichel	10	Y	Danish footballer	

XW196	Eric Roberts	The Master	Doctor Who	Buffy Baddies	N/A	1	T	The Master (Season 1)	
XW197 /210	Henry Travers	Clarence Oddbody (or Oddbody)	It's A Wonderful Life	Buffy Baddies	N/A	2	W (U/U)	Angel/Angelus (Season 2)	
XW178	Rob Ford	Politician	Disastrous mayor of Toronto	Buffy Baddies	N/A	3	I	Mayor [Richard Wilkins] (Season 3)	
XW198	Adam Yauch	Singer	Beastie Boys - Fight for your right video	Buffy Baddies	N/A	4	T	Adam (Season 4)	
XW175	Britney Spears	Singer	"Glory" album	Buffy Baddies	N/A	5	T	Glory (Season 5)	
XW206	Caron Keating and Willow the cat	Presenter	Blue Peter	Buffy Baddies	N/A	6	E	[Dark] Willow (Season 6)	
XW200	Miranda Richardson	Elizabeth the First	Blackadder	Buffy Baddies	N/A	7	R	The First [Evil] (Season 7)	
XW108	Taron Egerton	Robin Hood	Robin Hood	Birds	N/A	1	H	Robin	
XW202	Ed O'Neill	Jay Pritchett	Modern Family	Birds	N/A	2	A	Jay	
XW150	Sam Neill	Merlin	Merlin (TV Miniseries)	Birds	N/A	3	N	Merlin	
XW218	Fyfe Dangerfield	Singer	Guillemots (band)	Birds	N/A	4	D	Guillemot	
XW203	Anthony Edwards	Nick "Goose" Bradshaw	Top Gun	Birds	N/A	5	L	Goose	
XW147	Taron Egerton	Eddie "the Eagle" Edwards	Eddie the Eagle	Birds	N/A	6	E	Eagle	
editor	Ronnie Barker	Comedian/Writer/Actor	Various	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	

Page 16 – Carols

This is the sheet music mentioned in the Carol Service section.

Staves 1-8 are “The 12 days of Christmas” (in key of F)

Staves 9-13 are “O come all ye faithful” (in key of G)

In each carol, there are some notes with the incorrect pitch (and most also have incorrect duration)

The duration of these notes (expressed in number of quarter notes) can be used to extract a letter from the lyric for that note. The result spells GREATER. This is combined with Yellow and Rattle from the puzzles page (as clued by the Wordsearch leftover letters) to give a clue to the box location being in a site where this rare wildflower grows.


Since the leftover letters clue only needs the word ‘greater’ from the music, then it may be that there is no further meaning enciphered by the incorrect pitches, though that didn’t stop us trying to find one!


"Faith" in (staff 9 bar 3 note 1) is correct but coloured red for some reason. Faith may refer to the Buffy character also clued on the Fancy dress page and/or Kierkegaard’s references to faith.

Staff	Bar	Note	Lyric	Pitch	note length	as number	Extracted letter	Correct pitch	Correct length
4	1	1	eight	F4	dotted minim (3/4)	3	g	C5	crotchet (1/4)
5	3	1	rings	G4	crotchet (1/4)	1	r	C5	semibreve (4/4)
6	2	1	three	F4	semibreve (4/4)	4	e	Bb4	crotchet (1/4)
7	2	6	pear	C5	dotted minim (3/4)	3	a	G4	crotchet (1/4)
12	1	2	let	C5	dotted minim (3/4)	3	t	F#4	crotchet (1/4)
12	3	1	come	F#4	semibreve (4/4)	4	e	B4	crotchet (1/4)
13	4	1	lord	E5	dotted minim (3/4)	3	r	G4	[same] dotted minim (3/4)

X / Twitter : @kirkguard

This X / Twitter handle (clued on his Point of View page) is that of the prison guard (and criminal mastermind of the gang that Gerald Wily was part of) who goes by the name of Soren Kierkegaard. His tweets show him preparing to set off in the footsteps of Papillon, practising a mixture of French and Spanish that he will need to use in those countries. There are other clues and references noted below.

	
Cover photo of beach	Beach in Morrocoy National Park in Venezuela. A clue that Soren is following in the footsteps of Papillon who ended up in Venezuela, see below.
Photo and handle	Refer to Kirk the guard in the main hunt
The wolf that is put to tending the sheep.	Refers to the irony of his role as a prison guard tending to his fellow criminals
Location: In the wind...	Warden Norton describes Andy Dufresne as disappearing like 'a fart in the wind'
Born May 5	Kierkegaard born May 5th 1813
Joined February 2020	Shows how long this hunt has been in plan, possibly because as per this sad notification , it may have needed bringing forward if James Medhurst's epic hunt could not be staged.
Follows 4 philosophers and one other	Friedrich Schlegel/@SchlegelFritz , Plato/@plato , Σωκράτης/@Socrates , Kierkegaard/@kierkegaard
Related to three other accounts set up for this ATH ?	Kevin Costner/@thereisnopont follows @kirkguard. 3 tweets, all on 16/12/2023
And also followed by a long-standing account	Kit Marlowe/@KitMarlowe_1564
Kevin Costner follows johannes climacus and victor eremita	They follow some Uruguayan and Argentinian real accounts respectively. Possibly just more South American country links.
Jan 6	Shortly after closing date for hunt was announced as 8pm GMT on Sun 14th Jan
Mes valises estan empacadas!	My bags are packed
15 Jan Dep: 6.01am	Leaving just after the ATH ends. If their timezone is 10 hours ahead of GMT, then 1 minute after? This suggests: Queensland (which has 2 Happy Valleys) Vladivostok Khabarovsk

	Papua New Guinea North Marianas Islands
19 Jan: BS in love heart with wooden stake through it	BS is Buffy Summers, born on 19 th Jan 1981 as per the riddle. Wooden stake through heart is traditional way to kill a vampire and so another link to Buffy the vampire slayer.
23 Jan: RO in love heart	RO = Regina Olson = Kierkegaard's one time fiancé. 23 Jan was her birthday (1822)
Cardboard stuffed next to fridge	Significant? Or just Beet awaiting post Xmas recycling collection.
Jan 2	
Como se puede surmonter le peur de voler? Lo evito si es posible, mais je ferai un grand voyage y, sauf le premier etage, tengo que volar	"How can you overcome the fear of flying? I avoid it if possible, but I will make a long trip and, except the first stage, I have to fly". Refers to the long journey he has to make.
Dec 29	Friday, a fortnight after the hunt's release
Como se dire "Later losers" en francais?	How do you say "Later losers" in French? If you could translate each word literally it would be "Plus tard, les perdeurs (or perdants)" but no-one would actually say that - maybe we have to find something else.
	See below
D&D Travel Agency / DD - Dean Dawson	Dean & Dawson was a real travel agent, whose name was used as a code name by the forgers of documents for The Great Escape from Stalag Luft III. So links to the escape theme.
Picture of beach	Playa Puerto Cruz on Margarita Island, Venezuela. The setting of the book <i>In The Shadow of Papillon</i> , about an English couple being arrested for drug trafficking
Mr R Sild / Dear Rodney	Rod Sild is Swedish for Red Herring
I am pleased to include the itinerary for the tour as discussed. It sounds like a fantastic trip.	It's all about <i>Papillon</i> - another escaper https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papillon_(book) . <i>Papillon</i> was written by Henri Charrière. Charrière in French means way, route, path.
Since you are visiting 6 different locations, I would recommend the "Globetrotter" travel insurance policy...	His itinerary covers the 6 locations where <i>Papillon</i> was interred or lived, see below.

We discussed that you do not need us to organise a return flight from your final destination back to the UK. Do let me know if that changes...	Papillon ended his trip around the northern part of South America in Venezuela
Book accommodation	Refers to <i>Papillon</i> . The book purports to be Henri Charrière's autobiographical account of incorrect conviction followed by repeated imprisonment and escape. In truth he may well have done the crime, and the remainder is a set of stories from the experience of many prisoners, originally written as a novel, but then changed into an autobiographical form as the editor thought it would sell better. Book accommodation is a pun (hidden meaning is that it's about accommodation in the book)
Child's drawing of holiday hammock	Clues the exotic locations in South America
33	These are all international dialling country codes, ordered by their appearance in Papillon. The first is France - Charrière was imprisoned in Caen.
594	French Guiana - escaped, then was supposedly imprisoned on Devils Island
1868	Trinidad and Tobago. His escape route and further places of imprisonment and escape follow
57	Colombia
594	French Guiana
592	Guyana
58	Venezuela. Finally free, he lived here for decades before being allowed back to France.
Dec 14	Thursday before the main hunt
Mi prof d'espagnol es Senor Ruiz.	My Spanish teacher is Señor Ruiz
Es un hombrebre tres interessante.	He is a very interesting man
Il etait medico pero maintenahora travaija como concierge	He was a doctor but is now working as a caretaker. Possibly refers to the book <i>The Shadow of the Wind</i> .
#www.spanishwithdjruiz.com	URL doesn't exist.
Dec 13	The Wednesday before the main hunt
Pour los que volent apprender une nouvelle langue - mi prof de frances s'appellama M. LeGros #lifelonglearning	For those who want to learn a new language - my French teacher is called M LeGros #lifelonglearning. This may refer to Big X in the hunt.
Dec 11	This is the Monday after the poster was released, and before the main hunt
#ledefidedollyparton	The Dolly Parton Challenge: "The fun of the challenge is finding four different images to show four sides of yourself: professional, wholesome, stylish and sultry" (as represented by LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram and Tinder profile pics)



So Kierkegaard uses four of his pseudonyms whose nicknames match these criteria – see below. (See poster section for mapping of nickname to pseudonym.)

LinkedIn - **BabyFace**

Twitter Profile image of **@BabyClient..**

Facebook - **Vic**

Emma Watson as Hermione Grainger and Stanislav Yanevski as **Victor** Krum dancing at the Yule Ball in Hogwarts' Great Hall in *Harry Potter & The Goblet of Fire*

Instagram - **Quiet John**

John Krasinski from the *A Quiet Place* series. His part is Lee Abbott. (He also wrote and directed some of the films.)

Tinder - **Ladies' Man John**

People Magazine cover of **John** Legend as **Sexiest Man Alive**

Dec 5

This is a couple of days before the poster

Donde esta mi cahier?

Where is my notebook (in Spanish and French)

#forgetmyheadifitwasntSCREWedon

SCREW = prison guard

Dec 5

This is a couple of days before the poster

Hace mucho froid aujourd'hoy.

It's very cold today

Quiero vivir dans un pays mas chauliente

I want to live in a warmer country

#outtahere

Dec 4

First post on the Tues before the poster, a few days after the teaser

Je suis appreniendo l'espagnol et le francais al mismo tiempo et c'est muy difcil y je mezclo les deux lenguas en mi teteza.

I am learning Spanish and French at the same time and it's very difficult and I mix the two languages in my head. (This is for the French and Spanish speaking countries he will visit.)

Entonces il y a beaucoup de errores – lo siento

So there are lots of mistakes - I'm sorry

#gottopractise

X / Twitter @geraldwily

This is the Twitter handle of Gerald Wily as clued by the XW crossword code.



Photo of Barker mask again (symbolising the alias) and a prison representing Faengsel

Namastaying at His Majesty's Pleasure refers to the yoga positions that he posts (see below)

Do not follow me – not so much to stop prison warders (screws) but rather other ATHERs finding this page

25th September is Ronnie Barker's birthday; 1970 is when he admitted to being Gerald Wiley.

8 Following

The 8 people that he is following clue Norman Stanley Fletcher's fellow prisoners in Porridge ("Fletch" is connected to Wily through Barker and his alias Wiley)

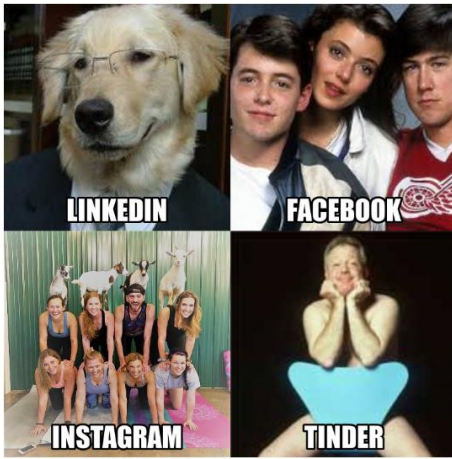
- Alex Warren = "Bunny" Warren
- Naomie Harris = Harris
- Horrible Histories = "Horrible" Ives
- Aemon = "Genial" Harry Grout (played by Peter Vaughan, who plays Aemon in GoT)
- Derek Trotter = Blanco Webb (played by David "Del Boy" Jason)
- McLaren = Jim "Jock" McLaren
- Christopher Biggins = Lukewarm (played by Biggins)
- Kate Beckinsale = Lennie Godber (played by Kate's dad Richard)

Food posts (Dec 20th-23rd)

These all link to prisons as follows:

- Boiled Eggs – eaten by Cool Hand Luke
- Marmalade Sandwiches – in Paddington 2, Knuckles is won over after Paddington forces his emergency sandwich in his mouth. Hence also the Knuckles Sandwich in the hashtag.
- Mug with Robins clues Tim Robbins in Shawshank. The madeleines may be a link to the Kierkegaard existentialism theme through Proust (who was described as a Christian existentialist, rather like Kierkegaard.)
- Toad in the Hole – possibly refers to seminal prison escape film The Hole (Le Trou). The beer links to @kirkguard's Xmas gift of beer which (in the hunt at least) is brewed at The Fox near the treasure site.

The Dolly Parton challenge (Dec 11th)



As with @kirkguard's challenge, the four required profile pics are based on four different names by which Ronnie Barker (the basis for Gerald Wily and therefore Gerald Wily) were known:

- LinkedIn: Dog = Ronnie **Barker**
- Facebook: Ferris Bueller = **Bob Ferris** - Barker's pseudonym when writing his final sitcom "Clarence"
- Instagram: back goats = **Jack Goetz** – Barker's pseudonym when writing One Man's Meat from 7 in 1
- Tinder: Keith Chegwin = Larry **Keith** (along with Dave Huggett, Barker's double pseudonms for silent movies *The Picnic* and *By the Sea*).

So these are just more clues to Barker, his aliases, and the use of pseudonyms in the hunt.

Yoga pictures (Dec 1st-15th)

He introduces these by saying he's googled ways to stay young (because of his dislike of being called Old Man).

- The **clock hands** are **semaphore**. They read **TINYURLDOTCOMSLASHWILYGXYZ** i.e. <http://tinyurl.com/wilygxyz> which resolves to Gerald Wily's Flickr account at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/199587978@N08/albums>. This yields the notebook with route photos and description.
- The **tinyurl links** above each photo are custom links (too long for the standard autogenerated ones). They can be decoded using a mono-alphabetic substitution cipher, in the order they were posted. The embedded digits represent spaces/word boundaries in the text, and give a further confirmation of the order (as they run sequentially from 0-9 four times, followed by a final 0). The result is (punctuation added):

Dear Peter, I knew you would remember our boyhood cipher! I am sending you encoded instructions in case any thing happens to me. Where you need a keyword use my childhood nickname plus mum's maiden name. You also need the combination. Yours SK.

- Peter is Peter Christian Kierkegaard, Soren's elder brother. They may well have used a simple code like this in childhood.
- Encoded instructions refers to the photos and particularly the Vigenere code in the notebook
- Keyword = FORKLUND (Kierkegaard's nickname was Gaflen in Danish, meaning fork, and his mother's maiden name was LUND). This is needed to solve the Vigenere.
- The combination is 2301 from the colouring page.
- The URLs all link to Yoga with Adriene at a point where she is either saying 'time' or 'hands' (see table below). This could just be a clue to use the time & hands on the clock as semaphore. They could also be interpreted as morse though we haven't found anything particularly pertinent to the hunt.
- The poses all have names on the Adriene videos too. Unclear if there is any meaning in these.

- Wily is doing the same poses as Adriene. He's wearing a Base 13 shirt (a real company) – presumably a clue to convert his prisoner number 120965 into Base 13 i.e. 430A0 – but the use of that is not understood.

Date	Tiny URL	Tiny URL Alias	Adriene is saying ...	Pose	Clock hands
Dec 1st	http://tinyurl.com/OSKP0MSTS	OSKP 0 MSTS	Hands	The Easy Pose	T
Dec 2nd	http://tinyurl.com/P1E2GJSW3Y	P 1 E 2 GJSW 3 Y	Time	Tree	I
Dec 2nd	http://tinyurl.com/LU4WLUHO5	LU 4 WLUHO 5	Hands	Plank	N
Dec 3rd	http://tinyurl.com/PSISIBSP6	PSISIBSP 6	Time	Side Plank	Y
Dec 4th	http://tinyurl.com/LUP7BLYDL	LUP 7 BLYDL	Time	Garland	U
Dec 5th	http://tinyurl.com/LO8REMDSP9	LO 8 REMDSP 9	Hands	Warrior One	R
Dec 5th	http://tinyurl.com/E0KI1QSJO	E 0 KI 1 QSJO	Time	Reclined Twist	L
Dec 6th	http://tinyurl.com/EJC2YLU3S	EJC 2 YLU 3 S	Time	Cat-Cow	D
Dec 7th	http://tinyurl.com/JRLOSO4EJ	JRLOSO 4 EJ	Hands	Goddess	O
Dec 9th	http://tinyurl.com/QTPURTELJ	QTPURTELJ	Time	Corpse	T
Dec 10th	http://tinyurl.com/Q5EJ6RKQS	Q 5 EJ 6 RKQS	Time	Camel Pose	C
Dec 10th	http://tinyurl.com/7KJYTDEJC	7 KJYTDEJC	Hands	Forward Fold	O
Dec 10th	http://tinyurl.com/8DKMMSJQ9T	8 DKMMSJQ 9 T	Hands	Warrior Two	M
Dec 11th	http://tinyurl.com/L0IS1WDSPS	L 0 IS 1 WDSPS	Hands	Half Moon	S
Dec 12th	http://tinyurl.com/2YLU3JSSO4	2 YLU 3 JSSO 4	Hands	Cobra	L
Dec 12th	http://tinyurl.com/K5GSYWLPO6	K 5 GSYWLPO 6	Time	Extended Child's Pose	A
Dec 12th	http://tinyurl.com/UQS7IY8RDE	UQS 7 IY 8 RDE	Time	Lizard	S
Dec 13th	http://tinyurl.com/HODLLO9JE	HODLLO 9 JE	Time	Candle (Shoulder Stand)	H
Dec 13th	http://tinyurl.com/RGJKIS0MH	RGJKIS 0 MH	Time	Lower Back Love	W
Dec 14th	http://tinyurl.com/UQ1IUIQ2IK	UQ 1 IUIQ 2 IK	Time	Pigeon	I
Dec 14th	http://tinyurl.com/EOSJ3JKIS	EOSJ 3 JKIS	Hands	Triangle	L
Dec 14th	http://tinyurl.com/4YLU5KHQL6	4 YLU 5 KHQL 6	Hands	Downward Dog	Y
Dec 15th	http://tinyurl.com/JSSO7TD	JSSO 7 TD	Time	Gate	G
Dec 15th	http://tinyurl.com/S8RLIBEJ	S 8 RLIBEJ	Hands	Legs Up The Wall	X
Dec 15th	http://tinyurl.com/KTELJ9YL	KTELJ 9 YL	Time	Runners Lunge	Y
Dec 15th	http://tinyurl.com/UPQ0QG	UPQ 0 QG	Time	Mountain	Z

Gerald Wily Flickr photos

The photos show extracts from the Notebook that Gerald Wily found, including photos of the route to the box, and a Vigenere code with the final detailed instructions. They can be pieced together into notebook pages using the numbers in the photo names. The rest of the notebook is covered with French and Spanish notes, confirming that it was made by @kirkguard as we know he is learning those languages ready for his trip.

Notebook Page 1

From the Millennium Cairn on Farthing Down, past the benches at [///plans.slot.tunes...](http://plans.slot.tunes...)



Notebook Page 2

... into Devilsden wood near the Old Cottage at [///swept.jukebox.rats](#) and emerging just past the log at [///cities.wicked.fingernails...](#)



Somas
Sois
Son
Son

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stas
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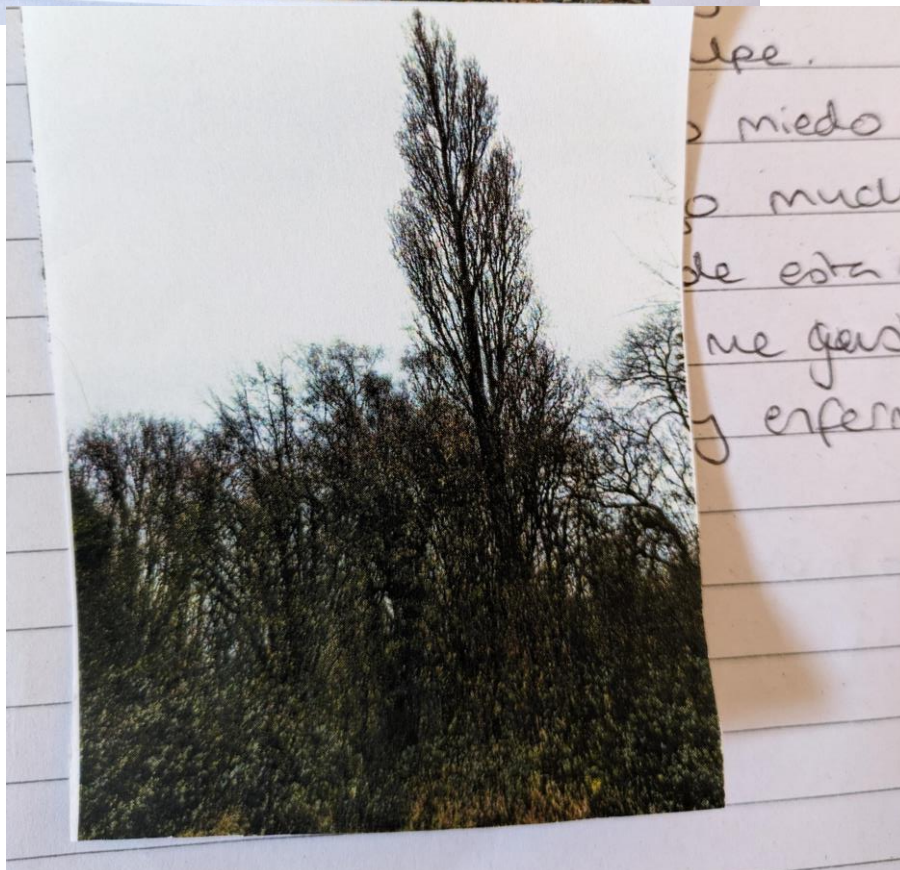
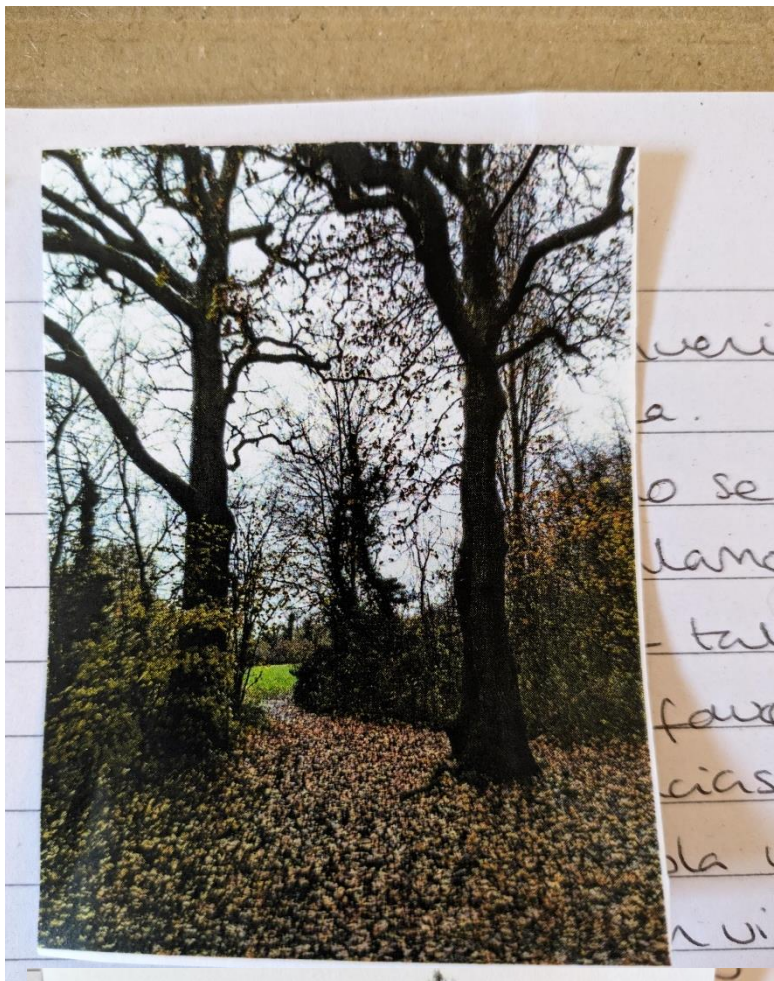
Notebook Page 3

... then across Happy valley past a series of benches (Graham Hall's at [///chase.wiped.bank](http://chase.wiped.bank), the double bench at [///hits.vast.teeth](http://hits.vast.teeth) and Laurie Reed's at [///unable.fast.drive](http://unable.fast.drive))...



Notebook Page 4

... to the southernmost point of the LOOP at ///mops.asks.hero then a turn left into the field shown in the top photo at ///social.social.elbow, then right after sixty paces near the tall tree at ///starts.ranges.hails...



Notebook Page 5

...sixty paces to narrow gap between young trees then sixty paces more...

n
eux
ois
uame
ing
c
A
uit
euf
ix
nze
louze
reize
prouze
pinze
seize
dix sept
dix ~~sept~~ huit
euf



once
doro



Notebook Page 6

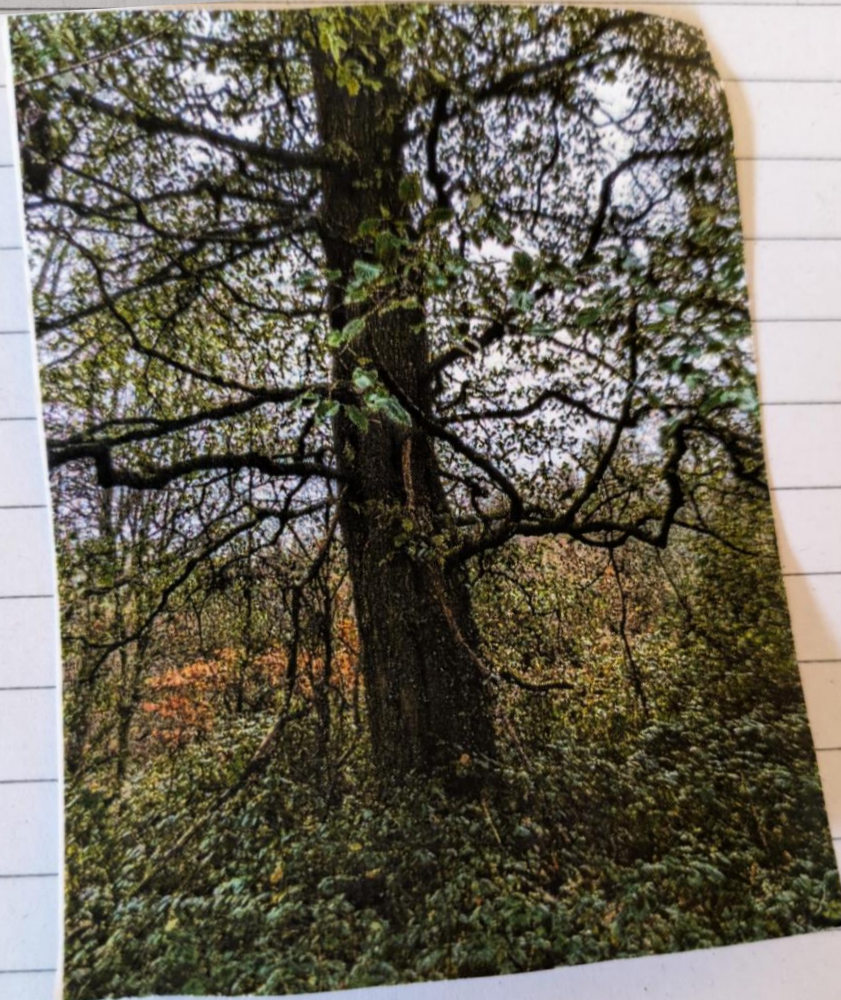
... to the tree concealing the treasure box shown below.

The cipher is Vigenere with a key of FORKLUND (as clued by FORK and LUND in the yoga tinyurl code)

AT SOUTHERNMOST POINT LEFT INTO FIELD THEN RIGHT INTO WOOD SIXTY PACES NARROW GAP BETWEEN YOUNG TREES SIXTY PACES MORE

These are the directions from the southernmost point of the London loop to the box, as depicted on notebook pages 4 and 5 above.

FHJY FNUH WBDY DNCR
NBKV PZQL SHFP TYYG
YVVX CCTK YWED ZQBR
IGZH ESCD HSJX LLER
BURZ MYGZ JSEI ZOAJ
~~B~~ YFVO DMVA YMAK NYFP
TFV



Vampiro letters

Each of pages 2 to 7 includes letters in VampiroOne font.

Presumably a link to the Buffy (Vampire slayer) theme. Each letter of the alphabet appears once. Use not understood.

Letter	Page	Word	Order in document	Position in word
a	5	heart	12	3
b	4	members	9	4
c	6	pictures	17	3
d	3	handed	7	4
e	5	more	15	4
f	2	if	3	2
g	5	might	14	2
h	8	has	25	1
i	3	wishes	8	2
j	7	just	20	1
k	2	goalkeeper	2	5
l	5	beautiful	11	9
m	8	time	22	3
n	8	advance	26	5
o	7	hopefully	21	2
p	6	party	16	1
q	3	question	4	1
r	3	library	5	6
s	5	suspect	13	3
t	7	them	19	1
u	2	grateful	1	7
v	4	conviction	10	4
w	3	new	6	3
x	7	examination	18	2
y	8	anyone	24	3
z	8	rendezvous	23	6

Dates

The following 5 dates appear in this order in the hunt doc, and are used by extracting the appropriate letter from the month name e.g. 1st of October means take the 1st letter of October:

- 1st October = O
- 1 July = U
- 4 September = T
- 7 December = E
- 8 December = R

The result spells OUTER as in London OUTER Orbital Path. So it a clue to this path which is part of the treasure route. It is doubtful whether anyone would make that connection from this clue alone, but fortunately the Wordsearch leftover letters makes use of DATES to construct the clue to the London Outer Orbital Path.

Dots

The dots on pages 2-8 look like morse code. Some of the dots are actually ellipses. On the basis that a morse dash = 3 dots, our thought is to treat them as dashes. The resulting morse spells IE INDEED EI DN IE INDEED – not understood.

Page	Pattern	With-Ellipsis pattern	Possible Morse	Translated Morse
2	I E
2 -.	I N
3	-.. .	D E
4 -..	E D
4	E I
5	-.. -.	D N
6	I E
7 -.	I N
8	-.. .	D E
8 -..	E D

Alternatively we could use these strings with ellipsis to extract meaning from the 'ode to a ...' poem but haven't been able to do that either.

Anagram of bolded words

As clued by the bolded anagram of anagram on the first page, the other bolded words **search** (p2), **brutal** (p2), **House Martin** (p4) and **par** (p7) can be anagrammed (as instructed by the bolded anagram on p1) to read **Pablo's Armchair Treasure Hunt**

The abbreviation of this anagram is PATH, used by the Wordsearch leftover letters to form the London Outer Orbital PATH.

A-Team

Certain words stand out for having an unnecessary capitalised initial letter (well except BA which we only know from the others). BA (p1), Hannibal (p7), Face (p7) and Howling (p8). These are members of the **A-Team**. The connection is unclear other than that, like Mystery Inc, they are a crime-fighting team in an iconic van.

Holly

Holly at top and bottom of pages 2 to 8 is a simple substitution cipher, as below.

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 is a message from the editor (Gerald Wily) on his progress in solving the codes to locate the treasure. The things he hasn't cracked are important in helping find the treasure, hence he hasn't found it and needs our help.

In notebook are pictures and codes. I already decoded some: answers hidden herein. Some I can't crack:

- a. bird numbers [the numbers next to the birds – not cracked either]**
- b. code in photo [the Vigenere code on his photo of the notebook, which gives directions to the box]**
- c. spare wordsearch letters [used as Playfair cipher for directions, and also the leftover letters clue location]**
- d. URLs [The yoga video tinyurl code which provides the Vigenere key]**

For reference, these are the substitutions used to decode the holly:

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

These are all of the holly patterns from the top and bottom of pages 2-8, which can be translated as per above substitution:

pg	pos	T	R	L	T	R	L	T	R	L	T	R	L	T	R	L	T	R	L	T	R	L	T	R	L	T	R	L			
2	top	W	B	W	B	B	B	W	W	W	B	B	B	R	R	B	B	B	R	R	W	R	W	R	W	R	R	B	R	R	B
2	btm	W	W	W	R	W	W	R	B	B	R	W	R	W	W	W	R	B	R	W	B	W	W	W	R	B	R	B	W	W	W
3	top	B	B	B	R	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	R	R	B	R	R	W	R	W	R	B	R	B	W	W	W	W	B	W
3	btm	R	W	W	B	W	B	R	B	B	R	W	R	R	W	W	R	R	W	B	W	R	W	W	W	R	R	W	R	W	R
4	top	R	R	B	R	R	W	R	W	R	R	R	W	W	W	W	B	R	B	R	R	B	W	B	B	R	W	R	W	W	W
4	btm	B	B	B	B	R	B	R	W	B	R	W	R	R	B	B	B	R	B	W	W	W	B	W	W	W	B	W	R	R	W
5	top	R	W	R	B	B	B	W	W	W	B	W	W	R	W	R	R	B	B	R	W	R	W	B	W	B	B	B	W	W	W
5	btm	R	R	B	W	B	B	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	B	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	R	W	W	B	B	B	B	B	R
6	top	W	W	R	R	B	B	R	W	W	W	W	R	B	B	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	B	W
6	btm	R	R	W	W	W	W	B	B	B	R	R	B	B	R	B	W	W	W	W	R	W	W	W	W	W	W	R	R	R	B
7	top	R	W	R	W	W	W	W	B	W	B	B	B	W	W	W	R	B	R	B	W	W	R	R	B	B	B	R	R	R	B
7	btm	W	W	R	W	W	W	B	R	B	R	B	R	R	W	W	R	B	B	R	W	R	W	W	W	R	W	B	R	R	B
8	top	R	R	W	B	R	B	R	W	R	R	W	W	R	B	B	W	W	R	B	W	W	W	W	W	B	W	B	R	W	R
8	btm	B	B	R	R	W	R	R	B	B	B	R	B	W	W	W	R	R	W	W	W	W	W	R	B	R	B	B	B	W	B

Poster

The background of the poster is a tree which we assumed to be the treasure site (and it was!)

It is not the ATH which is the difficulty... this is a Kierkegaard quote but with 'ATH' instead of 'path' – so an early clue to Kierkegaard.

Hidden text in tree: "3202tnuHerusaerTriahcmrAs'olbaP" – this is "Pablo's Armchair Treasure Hunt 2023" backwards without spaces.

Visit beetath... and tell them that Pablo sent you – see below (remaining sections refer to the path after the base URL)

Home page

Who sent you... obvious answer is Pablo as per poster, but beet and wily/oldmanwily also work

Wily (1/3)

Oldmanwily also works. A Japanese poem that sounds like a-choo is a haiku. We offer one that tells the story of our hunt in 17 syllables:

**Stashed Scooby Snacks
Near London Loop tracks
Found by Mike, who's
Prince of Haikus!**

Beet (2/3)

"If you submit a photo of your pet with your answer, then that could be worth something to you."

Of the 50+ pets in the Hulbert household, Beaker is most people's favourite. Here he is, as one of his many aliases, looking for treasure in all possible directions, and dreaming of a trip to the tropics.

(He's a panther chameleon. We don't have an iguana, otherwise he could have been an anagram of a country featuring in the hunt!)



??? (3/3)

Haven't found this one.

Pablo

Surprisingly well dressed messenger: who?

Faengsel prison: Faengsel is Danish for prison, so an early Kierkegaard clue

Rest of the gang: ostensibly Mystery Inc. but could also refer to Sarah Michelle Gellar's other gang the Scooby gang from Buffy.

Toying with you – maybe refers to the Ronnie Barker mask worn by Gerald Wily?

Gift choice: these are what each member of Mystery Inc might like as a gift – see below.

Pablo/a (and b,c,d,e)

Based on the chosen gift, a different member of Mystery Inc makes the journey to the prison. The taxi driver makes some reference to the person (see References below). The guard is number 198 which, in the Dewey Decimal System, is the philosophy of Scandinavia – so this either is or references the guard known as Soren Kierkegaard (@kirkguard).

Gift	Gang Member	References	Name to be entered
Book	Velma Dinkley	Glasses/contact lenses & thick jumper = Velma's trademark thick specs & orange jumper	velmadinkley
Smokes	Norville "Shaggy" Rogers	Scruffy bloke, scratching chin and needing a shave describes Shaggy.	norvillerothers (nicknames not accepted)
Mirror	Daphne Blake	Redheads, stunner, style is not to dress down, all describe Daphne	daphneblake
(Scooby) Snacks	Scoobert (Scooby) Doo	Drop the letter with pleading eyes = what a dog would do! All by yourself/fur = more doggy references	scoobertdoo
Accessory	Fred Jones	Smart looking fella with Ascot tie describes Fred	fredjones

Velmadinkley

Visitor number 791.457: Dewey Decimal for Television Programmes (so with prison clues Barker/Wiley/Porridge)

Room 365: significance? 365 days?

Man in grey prison uniform: Normal Stanley Fletcher in Porridge (clue to Wiley/Wily)

He was a school caretaker: Scooby Doo was rife with caretakers dressing up to scare people, though none of them in a school. Significance otherwise not understood (cf medic/caretaker djruiz in @kirkguard's post)

Dressed up as a vampire: ostensibly a Scooby Doo like plot, but since Daphne was played by Sarah Michelle Gellar in the Scooby Doo movies, this actually links to Sarah Michelle Gellar's other role as Buffy the Vampire slayer.

Old Man Wily: The Editor of the newsletter, Gerald Wily. Could be his real name, or could be a pseudonym. Either way, it is based on Ronnie Barker's pseudonym Gerald Wiley, so connecting in turn to Kierkegaard and his pseudonyms. The Old Man part comes from another of Barker's shows "My Old Man" from a series of pilots called [Z of 1](#) that spawned Porridge and Open All Hours.

He was 43: Why? Fletcher was born in 1932 so would have been 43 during Porridge which started in 1974, so that could be the reason. Barker was born in 1929 so that doesn't work.

He's in his prime: It's 10 years later so he's 53 which is prime. Significance of prime not understood – presumably some use of prime numbers in the hunt. His prisoner number 120965 is clearly not prime.

Awful little scrotes: anagram?

Victor's gang: are all Kierkegaard pseudonyms. Some have Twitter accounts for the ATH, noted here.

Gang member	Kierkegaard Pseudonym	Features in	ATH X/Twitter account
Vic	Victor Eremita (Victorious Hermit)	Editor of <i>Either/Or</i>	https://twitter.com/victoreremita00 - Joined November 2023; no tweets
Quiet John	Johannes de Silentio	Writer of <i>Fear & Trembling</i>	Possibly https://twitter.com/quietjohn123268 - joined May 2023 - no tweets
Ladies Man John	Johannes the Seducer	Wrote <i>Diary of a Seducer</i> in <i>Either/Or</i>	https://twitter.com/JohannesCI22769 - Joined July 2023; no tweets
Funny Face	Hilarius Bookbinder	Publisher of <i>Stages on Life's Way</i>	
Babyface	Young Man	Author of 2nd Half of <i>Repetition</i>	
Nicky N	Nicolas Notabene	Author of <i>Prefaces</i>	

Notebook: features later in the hunt, see earlier sections

You are going to need the whole team to tackle this mystery: On the face of it Mystery Inc, but could actually be Buffy's 'Scooby / Scoobies' gang.

Norvillerothers

Same as for Velma

Daphneblake

Same as for Velma, except that Wily says that she is the real hero on the team – meaning he is referring to her alternative role as Buffy the Vampire Slayer (c.f. heroine reference in the riddle)

Scoobertdoo

Same as for Velma, except adapted to Scooby e.g. he sits on the floor, has eaten his gift, scratches himself, whines, sniffs, allows to be patted, and speaks in a hilariously Scooby-like way e.g. Roh - rah - riree! = Old Man Wily!

Fredjones

Same as for Velma

Mini-poster

Has a picture of Gromit doing a jigsaw in jail in *A Close Shave*. The jigsaw has a message on it: "Friday Night. 8 PM. Be Ready. A Friend"

This came out on Wednesday 13th December, so was a clue that the hunt would be released on Friday 15th at 8pm (which it was!)

Teaser

Teaser was just for fun, but in summary the photos could be sorted into five groups of four:

- Modern artists – linked to Pablo
- Body parts – linked to Arm(chair)
- Different types of Treasure (cash, diamond etc)
- Word ending in unt – linked to Hunt
- Friday

Together these clued the ATH poster being published the following Friday (8th) and the hunt on the Friday after (15th)

Just for fun

As this hunt is partly about Great Danes, here's a closing pic of a Dulwich Hamlet Football Club beanie, starring Yorick. Our team member Mitch is Secretary of the Dulwich Hamlet Supporters' Trust.

