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THE FOOL

HOW TO WORK OUT YOUR NAME

PABLO

THE MAGICIAN

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Christmas Armchair Treasure Hunt
Hunt
THE ANSWERS

Introduction

After a fairly gentle introduction last year, this year's Armchair Treasure Hunt proved to be a difficult challenge for most entrants (and, presumably, an even greater one for the non-entrants). No all-correct entries were received, although there were some with only 3 or 4 answers incorrect. All the questions were answered correctly by at least one entrant.

The total entry was 54 which, disappointingly, was a few down on last year. Six people found the treasure box which, unlike last year, could not be located without answering a good few of the questions. These six have, quite rightly, carried off most of the prizes.

Fortunately, this year's hunt was free of embarrassing mistakes, with the exception of a few typo's (all right then, spelling errors). Watch out for more in these answers! However, publication of these solutions will doubtless provoke the sending off of photocopied encyclopaedia pages etc. After all, unless it was a complete guess, you must have had some good reason for putting down a wrong answer. However, something must be deemed 'right' and if it is your answer rather than mine then all I can do is apologise.

One person who should be singled out for an apology is David Kee. Having obtained a one-week extension following the snowfalls, he managed to solve the whole puzzle and make his way to the treasure site. Unfortunately, I had retrieved the box a couple of days earlier. However, I did credit him with the retrieval of a ticket and I hope he will-be consoled by the prize he has won as a result.

The snow did not seem to prevent anyone sending in their entry. Several were sent from people on-site, including one from France and one read out over the phone from San Fransisco.

Scoring

This year, I used a simpler version of last year's weighting system. I have just awarded a mark for each question equal to the total number of wrong or blank answers to that question. Thus questions shown to be the most difficult got the most marks. The mark available is shown in brackets after the answer below. Half-marks have been awarded for some 'near misses'.

For Section 8 I have awarded marks as follows:

       150 for naming or finding the village where the treasure was hidden
   +   153 for cracking the code
   +   160 for getting any of the raffle tickets from the treasure box
   +   160 divided by the ticket number, for the ticket obtained

The maximum possible marks were 2275, being 1652 for the questions and a maximum 623 for Section 8.

Prizewinners

First to treasure box – Ken Kirkman
Highest Score (Ken Kirkman excluded)
lst – Brian Mills
2nd – Ged Langosz
3rd – David Kee

The prize for the best question attracted about 50 entries. Most, I'm afraid, did not really fit the criteria – especially the one about having an interesting answer. Doubtless, you will all claim that my own questions did not fit these criteria either – particularly the one about the level of difficulty. Anyway, some good questions were received from Steve Lee, Mike De Jong, Ken Kirkman, Ros Skelcher, Nick Hassell and Rod Fine – look out for these next year! After much consideration, I decided that the best of the bunch was the following from Mike De Jong...

Which of the following words is the odd one Out?
        BRING, BUY, CATCH, FIGHT, HIDE, SEEK, TEACH

The answer is at the end of these answers.

Prizes should reach the winners within the next two weeks sorry about the delay but I don't get up to London much!

<u>Roll of Honour</u>

Position	Name	Sections 1-7	Section 8	Total
1	Ken Kirkman	1417	623	2040
2	Brian Mills	1440	516	1956
3	Ged Langosz	1348	495	1843
4	David Kee	1234	490	1724
5	John Kendrick	1056	543	1599
6	Andrew Healey	1540		1540
7	Mark Amey	1474		1474
8	R Streatfield	959	503	1462
9	Nick Hassell	1304	150	1454
10	Rosalind Barden	1268	150	1418
11	Ros Skelcher	1196	150	1346
12	Deborah Boss	1312		1312
13	Mike De Jong	1304		1304
14	Rod Fine	1289		1289
15	Bill Walker	1217		1217
16=	Steve Morris	1208		1208
16=	David James	1208		1208
18	Jeremy Wilde	1202		1202
19	Paul Tribick	1186		1186
20	Alison Greany	1064		1064
21	R Rose	1026		1026
22	David Isaacson	1009		1009
23	Wendy Petty	1006		1006
24	M R Gover	850	153	1003
25	Bob McKaye	981		981
26	lan James	751	153	912
27	Derek & Sue Barber	907		907
28	Roger Sinden	884		884
29	Peter Milne	826		826
30	Paul Martin	825		825
31	Jane Beynon	779		779
32	Stephen Lee	743		743
33	Debbie Morris	712		712
34	Jim Gartside	707		707
35=	Chris Jones	646		646
35=	Nick Morris	646		646
37	D Baldock	638		638
38	lan Wiseman	628		628
39=	Ken Shilson	627		627
39=	Julie Sheard	627		627
41	P D G Smith	621		621
42	Anne Dagen	614		614

To save embarrassment, I shall just say that the remaining 12 entrants did not score more than 420 each (individual scores on request). Wooden spoon for the second year running goes to Phil Gray. His entry contained four answers, three of which were wrong. However this does represent an improvement over last year - a dark horse for the 2054 quiz perhaps.

Where Were You?

SU720936 is the OS grid reference of Christmas Common (where the treasure box was buried last year). The motorway is the M40 and the University town is Oxford. The racecourse town is Cheltenham and the city with the same name as a Shakespeare character is Gloucester. John Kyrle was a 17th century philanthropist who lived in Ross-on-Wye and the 'square' road was the A49. The capital of West Mercia was Hereford and the town on the Lugg is Leominster. 'The Folly' is the name of a village and 600 balls is a cryptic clue to Overton. Between them is <u>Richards Castle</u>. (17)

1. Geldof's daughter has to face life with the names <u>Fifi Trixibelle</u>. (4)
2. 'In the Bleak Midwinter' was written by Christina Rossetti, sister of the more famous Dante Gabriel. The music is by Gustav Holst. (4)
3. Bridget Riley did those sickening sixties patterns in black and white, such as 'Fall', known as <u>Op</u> Art. (16)
4. Number 1 in Royal Wedding week was 'Papa Don't Preach' by the elegant and sophisticated <u>Madonna</u>. (17)
5. The trick here (well there had to be one didn't there) was the position of pages 1 and 1000. Looking at the spines of volumes A-Z, page 1 of volume A is on its right and page 1000 of volume Z is on its left. So the bookworm has already consumed volume A and will not need to eat all of volume Z. In all, the worm needs to devour 24 volumes and 50 covers which will take nearly <u>14</u> years. Some people seemed to think that the worm would die of boredom/constipation/flatulence long before finishing all 26 volumes of the Logica Standards - shame on you all! (26)
6. 'Sapo Carbonis Detergens' appears (briefly) on bars of <u>Wright</u>'s coal tar soap. (14)
7. A bar sinister means that the shield-bearer is <u>illegitimate</u>. (6)
8. One of those things you never knew had a name. In fact it is a zarf. (26)
9. George VI was known to his friends as Bertie. Yes, he was in fact called <u>Albert</u>. Fortunately, a decree of Queen Victoria forever denies us a King Albert so he was forced to use one of his middle names. (6)
10. The simple answer is that they'd both like to shoot Ronald <u>Reagan</u>. Hinkley had a go in 1981, while Custer is still spinning after Ronnie's portrayal of him in 'Santa Fe Trail'. (29)

Where Were You?

The town with a castle is Ludlow and the beautiful area is the Dales. Charles Darwin went to school in Shrewsbury, from which you take the A5 - there being 5 players in a basketball team. The road ends near St Albans and three-fifths of a river refers to the River Ver. St Albans itself was sacked by Boadicea and the museum is the De Haviland Aircraft Museum. The motorway is the M25 and you leave this to join the M20. There are 4 strings to a ukelele at which junction you leave towards West Malling, an anagram of smelting laws. Just past St Leonards Tower is the village of Offham. (10)

1. Didus Ineptus is the apposite Latin name for the dodo. (10)
2. Bears go around in a sloth (or sleuth). I have no information about the collective noun for sloths. There was one answer of 'stockbrokers' which seems to be getting things the wrong way round. (29)
3. As most people got this right, I won't go into the answer in detail. The following table shows the most economic way out of the sticky cake (or is it a pudding?) situation.

	Sugar	Flour	Butter	Currants	Eggs
Should be:	18	20	16	12	12
My Mixture:	20	18	12	16	12
Extra:	4	$8^2/_3$	$9^1/_3$	0	4
Final Mixture:	24	$26^2/_3$	$21^1/_3$	16	16

So <u>4</u> more ounces of sugar must be added. (11)

4. The flag-holder was the famous(?) shot Malcom <u>Cooper</u>. (42)
5. I didn't say a real pirate did I? Captain <u>Hook</u> in Peter Pan was always reminding us of his education. (36)
6. The patron saint of dentists is St <u>Appolonia</u> - usually depicted holding a large pair of pincers. (19)
7. I forgot the 'and why' on this question, which made it a bit too easy for those who worked out the message spelt by the initial letters of tee answers. Anyway, the answer is <u>R</u>, the series being the initial letters of the colour of snooker balls in descending order of value: Black, Pink, Blue, Brown, Green, Yellow then Red. (13)
8. Muffin's friend was Annette <u>Mills</u>, one of the famous acting family. (9)
9. MY list is:
        ST JOHNstonE
        QUeens PARK ranGers
        haLIFaX
        WiMBleDon
        CoVentrY
giving <u>5</u> teams in all. Other combinations are possible. (22)
10.   Sorry to remind you about 'Gilly Gilly Ossen etc' - it is one of those songs which cannot be evicted from the brain for days. The singer was the ever-appealing Max <u>Bygraves</u>. **(17)**

SECTION 3

Where Were You?

The motorways take you past Brands Hatch and through the Dartford Tunnel. The atomic number of Vanadium is 23, so you leave the M25 at junction 23, on the Al(M). They brew is an anagram of Wetherby and the Civil War battlefield is at Marston Moor. Just past this is the city of <u>York</u>. (6)

1. The star discovered in a bunker was <u>Rin Tin Tin</u>, who once had his own five-bedroom Hollywood mansion. (6)
2. According to my reference, ESSO stands <u>for Eastern Seaboard Standard Oil</u> - an answer discovered by only two people. However so many people had just Standard Oil that I felt there was a possibility of error. Hence, I accepted this as well as Exxon - the parent company. (29)
3. The bricks were lovingly assembled by the hugely talented Carl <u>Andre</u>. (20)
4. By 'real name' I meant like Clark Kent is Superman's real name. Catwoman is really Selina <u>Kyle</u>. However I also accepted Eartha Kitt who played Catwoman in a film, and has a name beginning with the right letter. (40)
5. 60, 50, 40, 8 and 7 are all 5 letters long when written as words. The next in the series is <u>3</u>. (32)
6. <u>Mauritania</u> is the country using Khoums and Ouguiyas. (23)
7. Fitti-Sing and Peep-Bo are two of the 'Three Little Maids from School' who appear to nauseating effect in Gilbert and Sullivan's 'Mikado'. The third one is <u>Yum-Yum</u>. (10)
8. These are all names for pre-decimal coins. The grains are groats (4d), the old conveyance is a penny-farthing (1-'4d), the leatherworker is a tanner (6d), the titled person is a noble (6s 8d), the piece of headgear is a crown (5s) and knots of hair are bobs (1s). So 8d + ltd + 6d + 6/8d - 5/- = 2/11k or <u>3</u> to the nearest shilling. Taking a titled person to be a sovereign gives an answer of 16, which was also accepted. (30)

9. This was the modest opera-singer Elizabeth <u>Schwartzkopf</u>, whose name translates satisfyingly into English as Betty Blackhead. (25)
10. Greendale is the home of the nursery character <u>Postman Pat</u>. (21)

SECTION 4

<u>Where Were You?</u>

The Mexico Olympics were the 19th, so you take the A19 and bypass Thirsk. Northallerton is the administrative centre of North Yorkshire and the old steam-train 'Locomotion' is on display in Darlington. The river is the Tees and between the county border and the village of Winston (the statesman) is <u>Gainford</u>. (15)

1. The answers to the clues are: Lyre
                                   Awl
                                   Mazzini
                                   Banana
   The first letters give LAMB, and the last ELIA, which was the pseudonym of Charles Lamb, author of 'Tales from Shakespeare' etc. (43)
2. The song was Lili <u>Marlene</u>. (26)
3. The assay mark is a <u>Leopard's</u> head. (18)
4. The maximum number of eclipses is <u>7</u>. in 1935 there were 5 solar and 2 lunar, while in 1982 there were 4 solar and 3 lunar. (36)
5. The references are to Schubert symphonies - the fourth, sixth and ninth. The eighth (curiously not the last) was the <u>unfinished</u>. (11)
6. The instrument you get inside to play is the <u>sousaphone</u>. (15)
7. Osborne House is on the <u>Isle of Wight</u>, and Isle of Wight disease affects bees. (31)
8. The HMV dog is called <u>Nipper</u>. (15)
9. This was Disraeli, talking about <u>Gladstone</u>, when he was asked to distinguish between a misfortune and a calamity. (27)
10. The numbers are the number of letters in the month names July, August, September, October and November. So the next number is <u>8</u>. (32)

SECTION 5

<u>Where Were You?</u>

You rejoin the Al and continue until it ends in London, near St Paul's. Tower Bridge was completed in 1894 and the road where a hotel can be rented for £250 is the Old Kent Road in 'Monopoly'. There were 20 monarchs between William I and Henry VIII so you take the A20 then the A21. The reservoir is the Bewl Bridge Reservoir near Lamberhurst and the river is the Rother. The place that reminds you of a McEnroe match is John's Cross, where you turn off for the town of <u>Battle</u>. (12)

1. Virginia Woolfe wrote a fictional autobiography of Elizabeth Barratt Browning's dog <u>Flush</u>. (20)
2. Local Coca-Cola cannot be obtained in India. (21)
3. Boycott's partner was Graham <u>Roope</u>. (19
4. An American second-year student is a <u>sophomore</u>. (10)
5. My favourite question in this year's quiz. The book is 'The <u>Theory and Practise of Oligarchical Collectivism</u>' by Emmanuel Goldstein. Never heard of it? I'd say it's a good guess that you have read (or read past) those very words. They occur in George Orwell's '1984'. Smith finally gets hold of the Underground 'Bible' and settles down to read it in bed. The book begins with the quotation given. (45)
6. This is one of those questions where a case can be made for almost any answer. 'Abstemious' is one of the few words where all the vowels occur in alphabetical order. Being computer-minded sort of folk, you would give each vowel a value as follows A=1, E=2, I=4, 0=8, U=16. Thus 'Pickled' has a value of <u>6</u>. However, counting A=1, B=2 etc. gives a value of 124 for 'abstemious', dividing by 4 gives 31. By this method, 'pickled' has a value of 15, which was accepted. (30)

7. Corinthian columns are topped <u>with acanthus</u> leaves. Apparently, this plant grew
   around a basket of flowers which the architect Callimachus placed on his daughter's
   grave. As a memorial, he incorporated the leaf-shape into his buildings. (7)
8. Brahe had a false <u>nose</u> - an ordinary wooden one for everday use and a gold one for
   special occasions. He lost the original in a duel. (9)
9. Gobbo was <u>Shylock</u>'s servant and fool in 'The Merchant of Venice'. "This making of
   Christians will raise the price of hogs" (11)
10.   C33 was Oscar <u>Wilde</u>'s pen name for "The Ballad of Reading Gaol", drawn from his
   prison experiences. (33)

SECTION 6

<u>Where Were You?</u>

The lower agricultural area is Netherfield and you then go on to join the A272. Jane
Austen is buried at Winchester and the next road is the A30, 30 years representing a
pearl anniversary. Constable painted Salisbury Cathedral and the town in the news this
(ie: last) year is Yeovil, home of Westland's. The town with the same name as a
vegetable is Chard and you then join the M5 at junction 25 (an *outer' at darts).
Kendal is famous for its mint cake and has the motto given. The town with the same name
as a lake is Windermere and the village beginning with S is Stavely. Just after this is
the village of <u>Ings</u>. (9)

1. This was the village of <u>Eyam</u>. When plague broke out in the village, its inhabitants
   sportingly sealed themselves within it. They were doomed but the plague did not
   spread any further. (9)
2. The play is "<u>Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead</u>" by Tom Stoppard. Guildenstern
   (or is it Rosencrantz?) is flipping coins which always seem to come down heads. (21)
3. This was the worst-answered question in the entire quiz - rather embarrassing when
   you know the answer. The letters are the initials of the second names of the Logica
   board, as listed in the Annual Review ie: Hughes, Taylor, Karney, Macleod, Mann,
   Martin, Moore, Rowland, Bosonnet and Bottcher. The missing name is that of David
   <u>St</u>anley. (45)
4. Margaret Mitchell wrote "Gone With The Wind" of course and... er... well ... nothing
   else really. So the answer is <u>1</u>.
5. A bubblyjock is a Scots word for a <u>turkey-cock</u>. (8)
6. The L*Espanayes were killed by a rogue <u>Oran-Utang</u> in 'The Murders in the Rue Morgue'
   by Edgar Allen Poe. Three people suggested an answer of 'oranges' - I don't know how
   you can be killed by an orange - 1 suggest a change of greengrocer. (38)
7. The fraction is: $\frac{242}{303}$ = .798679867986....

   So D stands for <u>3</u>. (23)
8. Again, a rather ambiguous question but I was quite hard this time as answers like
   'VERSES because it is the only one without an M' are a bit too weak. All the words
   are anagrams of towns and cities - CREMONA, REIMS, MEISSEN, LIMA, SEVRES, and ROME.
   LIMA is the only one not in Europe, so the answer is <u>MAIL</u>. (40)
9. The Marx Brothers film title 'A <u>Night at the Opera</u>' was borrowed by Sir Geraint Evans
   for his autobiography 'A Knight at the Opera'. (19)
10.This was <u>George II</u> at the battle of Dettingen in 1743. The occasion also marked the
   last battle appearance of the Yeomen of the Guard, the King's bodyguard. (17)

SECTION 7

<u>Where Were You?</u>

The "Auld Grey Town" is Kendal again, and the Paul Hardcastle song is "19". So at
junction 19 on the M6 you leave towards the old salt-works at Northwich. Deva is the
Roman name for Chester and the town that sounds like what the quiz does to your chances
of a relaxed Christmas is Wrexham. Robert Owen was born in Newtown and the river is the
Severn. All oils end is an anagram of Llanidloes and the final village is Y Fan in
Welsh or <u>Van</u> in English. (8)

1. The ancient right was <u>Ingfangtheft</u> and there was also Outfangtheft which allowed a tenant caught outside the estate to be brought to justice. (39)
2. David Winter was the name used by Winston <u>Churchill</u> for his paintings. (38)
3. The extract was from 'Tristram Shandy' by Laurence Sterne, which was the book to be seen reading in 1760. Eugenius was the friend of Yorick, the "lively, witty, sensible and heedless Parson", and his epitaph read <u>"Alas poor Yorick"</u>. (38)
4. The clue here was the bell. The ship was the <u>Lutine</u> which went down heavily laden with gold. The rudder was made into a stand for the 'Lutine Bell' which is still rung when there is good or bad news in the insurance world, at Lloyd's. (8)
5. There is a neat lateral thinking solution to this problem. There must be a unique solution or it would not be set, therefore the width of the hole is irrelevant. Thus if the hole has a width of 0 then its depth is simply that of the diameter of a sphere whose volume is $9\pi/2$ cubic inches. So $4\pi r^3/3 = 9\pi/2$. $r = 3/2$ so the hole is <u>3</u> inches long. I will supply the long and boring solution on request. (18)
6. This was <u>Lobby Ludd</u>. In the newspaper, various clues were given as to what Ludd looked like and where he would be. You were supposed to locate him and claim your £5. It seemed that parential memories had to be stretched for this one, hence several answers of Libby Lodd, Nobby Ludd, Luddy Lowe etc. (23)
7. This is a mongoose-like creature called the <u>ichneumon</u>. (29)
8. This was Paul <u>Newman</u> who played a Greek slave in a film described by Halliwell as "po-faced Biblical hokum". (18)
9. The ref. was none other than Wyatt <u>Earp</u> who, by all accounts, conducted affairs while still wearing his six-guns. (32)
10. This is the squonk. Fans of pretentious rock music will find a song about it on their copy of 'A Trick of the Tail' by Genesis. The following is quoted in "The Book of Imaginary Beings" by George Luis Borges. (34)

The Squonk

(Lacrimacorpus dissolvens)

The range of the squonk is verY limited. Few people outside of Pennsylvania have ever heard of the quaint beast, which is said to be fairly common in the hemlock forests of that State. The squonk is of a very retiring disposition, generally travelling about at twilight and dusk. Because of its misfitting skin, which is covered with warts and moles, it is always unhappy; in fact it is said, by people who are best able to judge, to be the most morbid of beasts. Hunters who are good at tracking are able to follow a squonk by its tear-stained trail, for the animal weeps constantly. When cornered and escape seems impossible, or when surprised and frightened, it may even dissolve itself in tears. Squonk hunters are most successful on frosty moonlight nights, when tears are shed slowly and the animal dislikes moving about; it may then be heard weeping under the boughs of dark hemlock trees. Mr J. P. Wentling, formerly of Pennsylvania, but now at St Anthony Park, Minnesota, had a disappointing experience with a squonk near Mont Alto. He made a clever capture by mimicking the squonk and inducing it to hop into a sack, in which he was carrying it home, when suddenly the burden lightened and the weeping ceased. Wentling unslung the sack and looked in. There was nothing but tears and bubbles.

WILLIAM T. Cox:
Fearsome Creatures of the Lumberwoods.
With a Few Desert and Mountain Beasts

SO WHERE WAS THE TREASURE BURIED?

Red Herrings

Firstly, most of the 'obvious' clues were designed to mislead you completely. In particular, you were meant to think of the village of Golden Pot, south east of Basingstoke. Why? Well there's the rainbow pattern in the top left hand corner of each picture. Then there's the names of the 'stopping points' in the travel part of the quiz - these are RICHARDS CASTLE, OFFHAM, YORK, GAINFORD, BATTLE, INGS, VAN, reminiscent of the mnemonic for the colours in the rainbow, 'Richard of York gained battles in vain'. So we have some rainbows and at tee end of the rainbow is obviously a Golden Pot. Gold was also suggested by the 'titles' to each section - LEAD, BEAD, BEAR, BEAT, BELT, BOLT, BOLD. Clearly, like the ancient alchemists, we are turning lead into gold. On the scroll in the last picture is Dalton's symbol for gold.

However, I did warn you to beware of herrings in all colours and, indeed, all the 'rainbow' and 'gold' clues are spurious. The pot contained only fool's gold.

Another unprofitable solution was obtained using last year's method. This involved using those questions whose answers were numbers. By taking the corresponding letter from the 'stopping point' villages, the following letters can be obtained: E, HA, RR, RD, E, IG, N. These unscramble to... A RED HERRING!

The Solution

The first letters to the answers to the questions (ignoring numeric answers which occur at word boundaries) spell out FROM WIZARDS CHARM BREAK MY SPELL USING FIRST ANSWERS TO MAGICAL LINES.

So which are the magical lines? If you look in each picture, the wizard or witch is holding some sort of staff or wand (the wizard's charm). Inscribed on the end of each are the letters M, A, G, 1, C, A and L (in picture 5 the C is on the bracelet and in picture 6 the A is on the ring). Furthermore, each staff or wand points to one of the questions in each section (in fact questions 6,5,1,8,5,6 and 3). So these are the 'magical lines' and the 'first answers' are the first letters to the answers to these questions, ie: W, H, R, N, T, O and A. Then you are invited to 'break my spell' and, sure enough, these letters form an anagram of the village of NORTHAW, which is just to the east of Potters Bar in Herts.

This is confirmed by a sign in picture 6 like this A↑W - NORTHAW again.

The Code

To find the detailed directions, it was necessary to solve the code in Section 8. This was not easy unless you thought of the theme of chemical elements. The code looks like a series of chemical symbols and Dalton's 'gold' symbol is appended. More of Dalton's symbols appear in picture 6 and, above these, is a chart showing what to do with them. Looking closely at the code reveals that there are no numbers higher than 4, while the capital letters run from A to Z (we'll ignore the lower-case letters for now). You must write down the symbols for the chemical elements in four columns (1-4) and twenty six rows (A-Z). Then, for example, where there is I4 in the code, you can substitute Fr. The lower-case letters should be written directldy as they appear.
The final decode reads:

        From the sun, travel away from the church. Take the first lane to the right
        and right again into W. Road. You stop before a school. and take a track
        beyond a white post. Ignore a track L and continue under the rhodys with ditch
        on R. After a bend take right small path. If you get at a metal gate you have
        steps to retrace. On small path note sport area to R hand. In one hundred
        yards plus fifty see several tree stumps and a large beech behind. You dig
        down under the sign of the cut L.

Well, I did say it was an elementary code!

If you reached Northaw, you would have seen that the pattern on the cloak in picture 8 was A rough sketch-map of the area. The 'white post' is shown in picture 4, together with its inscription of 24 VICT and the London crest.

Nothing else in the pictures was relevant. The 'Sources of Power' in picture 6 are well-known comic-book artists. The cats and Brian's initials were just for amusement and a knowledge of Chinese or Hieroglyphics was not needed (this time). One touch 1 particularly liked in Brian's excellent artwork was the constellation in picture 3 - Orion the (Christmas Armchair Treasure) Hunter.

The Winner's Tale

Ken Kirkman kindly agreed to contribute a few words about how he was first to the treasure box...

"Having sprinted to 45 questions answered, one could then work out the message (even allowing for the questions I got wrong first time). Then the code! Having got trapped in the false assumption that each entry in the table would be a single letter, 1 had rejected chemical elements once, and, having battered the collective brains for three days we were forced to rethink everything and the chemical elements then fell into place. Much excitement! Even the little boy next door heard about it and turned up with a garden spade because he thought we were digging for real treasure!

Found Northaw all right but failed to keep a clear mind on the instruction to take 2nd right (whats a W-ROAD anyway?). Then, like zombies, we looked for a road sign indicating a school. So, 20 minutes later, having developed a warped view of South Herts, we set off from the Sun again. This time we saw the 'school' and the very off-white Coal Tax post and the rest was an uneventful slosh through mud"
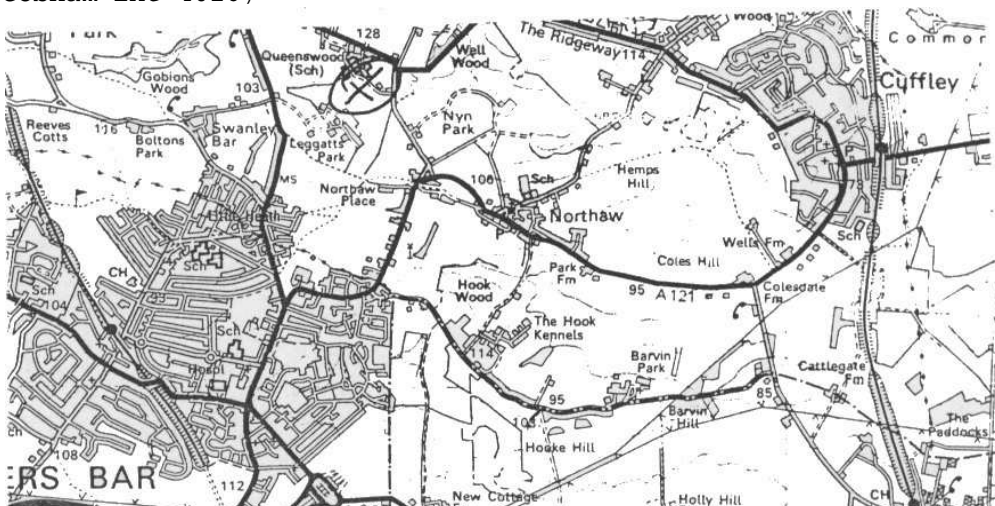
And Finally...

All complaints should be addressed to me at Cobham. More usefully, I would love to hear your suggestions as to how to make the Armchair Treasure Hunt better and, above all, more popular. An entry of 54 from the entire company is a bit pathetic, but it is hard to see how the quiz could be made more attractive. The obvious answer is to make the questions easier, but this would reduce the challenge for the 'first division' of entrants. The current format is a bit worn out anyway (I'm fed up with finding obscure clues for place-names) so suggestions about how.-this could be changed would be welcomed. Also, if you see any nasty questions, send them along (with answers!!)
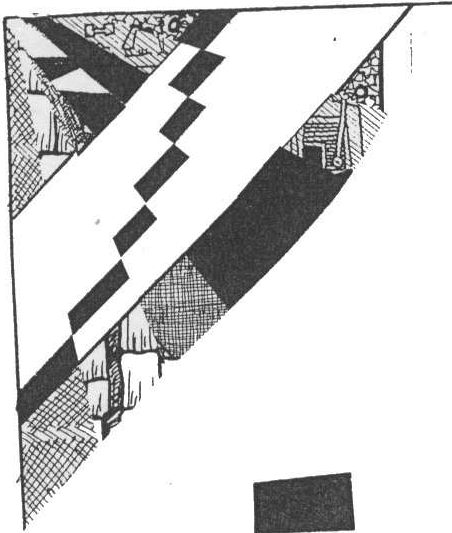
Oh yes, the answer to Mike De Jong's winning question is HIDE - it is the only one whose past participle does not rhyme with 'taut'.

Many thanks once again to Brian Jackson, whose artwork earned praise from 'high places' in the company. And rightly so.

1 look forward to baffling you again next year...
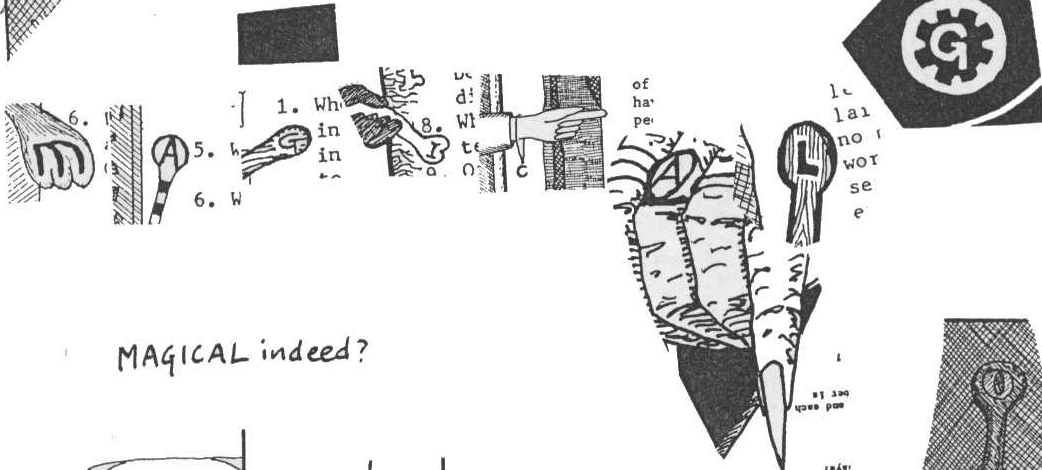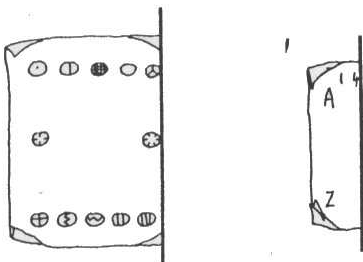
Paul Coombs (Cobham Ext 4016)

If you discovered
ALCHEMY
then could you turn
LEAD into GOLD?

LEAD
BEAD
BEAR
BEAT
BELT
BOLT
BOLD
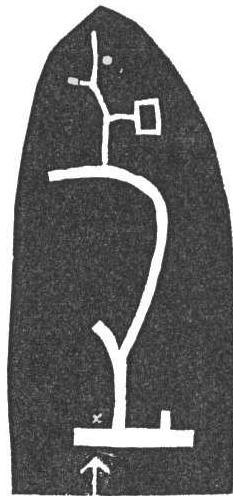
MAGICAL indeed?

Did Dalton's
Chemical symbols...

and a
grid...
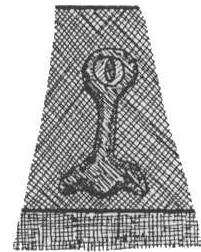
...help with the code
which gave you
a map and some
directions from...

← Found on a gatepost
at the start of the path:

Anyone remember
last year?

...Northaw!