

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

I'm afraid our team name was shamelessly stolen from the late, great Terry Pratchett. (The typo is deliberate - the Apocalypse is the end of the world, so named because it is an apocryphal apocalypse). We are a team of puzzle-solving Geocachers from Hampshire and Surrey. As horseman, we probably have more in common with the Discworld characters than their Biblical counterparts.

To me, it seems that two of the horseman, Death and War have the bigger parts, and contribute more to the story. In a pub quiz, people are far more likely to forget poor old Famine and Pestilence. And so it was in our team: two really got stuck in and made an excellent contribution to the hunt, while the other two only really contributed to the number in the team name.

So, star billing to MrC and Kermit (our Death and War) for their hard work and inspirational breakthroughs. Lesser credits to AndyR (Famine) and Ice (Pestilence), who did at least write the team biography. Ironically, 'Famine' may have contributed more had we managed to arrange a pub lunch before submitting out solution!

MrC had taken part in previous ATHs, but for the rest of this was a new experience. We've all solved hundreds of Geocaching puzzles, ranging from the ludicrously simple to the incredibly complicated, but I'll be honest we'd never come across anything quite as involved as this! MrC and Kermit seemed undaunted. AndyR and I were already struggling at the poster stage!

It was almost impossible to keep up with the volume of emails generated by the team over the course of the hunt. On a number of occasions, I'm sure my ISP was bracing itself for a Denial of Service Attack. But, gradually questions were answered, discoveries were made, puzzles were solved, cyphers were decoded, images were identified, hidden meanings were uncovered, and swear words were used liberally!

We didn't make it to the treasure, but I think we had a fair crack. Bring on ATH 2016!