

The Pinboard

by Matt Edwards & Nick Perry

Included with this issue of the Armchair Treasure Hunt Club Newsletter is 'The Pinboard', the 2007 Armchair Treasure Club Hunt. The hunt is completely self-contained and this article is nothing more than an introduction, recap of the usual club rules and contact details – it does not contain any clues.

We have designed the hunt with just one objective, which is to produce something that as many members as possible will get involved in. To that end, we've put together a few guidance notes below.

The first thing to say is that as always, the usual club rules apply. Common sense must prevail at all times and you do not need to do anything that could cause damage, annoy others or put yourself in danger. You do not need to abseil off a cliff, wander through a park in the middle of the night or dig up the lawn at Buckingham Palace.

You must be a member of the club to take part in The Pinboard and if your membership lapses, you are no longer eligible to take part in the hunt. You must solve the hunt in the manner intended (or something pretty close) and not short-cut the solution through sheer chance, brute force or cheating!

The treasure is buried and we know that some members (hi Brian) enjoy an outing to a prospective location just to check the lie of the land. However, we encourage you to contact us before setting out with skewer and trowel in hand, so we can confirm your correct solution.

If you find a solution that leads to a spot hundreds of miles from your home, or are flum-

moxed by a particular aspect of the hunt but have a good hunch about another, then we encourage you to get in touch with other members. The quickest way is via the club bulletin board (see the box below if you have not yet registered for full access to the private members-only area).

If you do not have internet access, write to us via the club. Bear in mind the club organizer and Treasurer, Sandra, is eligible to take part in this hunt (indeed we are expecting great things from her!) so you may want to enclose your thoughts in a second envelope for her to send on to us.

The large format of this hunt has presented some production challenges. We'd have loved to print it on a single, large piece of paper and sent it to you rolled up, but that proved prohibitively expensive. Don't worry if your hunt starts to peel away from the backing sheet. Just stick it back down – there is nothing hidden underneath!

As any past hunt setter will know, it takes a lot of time and effort to produce a club hunt. The reward is seeing how people tackle it, and so please let us know how you're getting on, either by posting publicly on the bulletin board, private email to thepinboard@treasureclub.net or public letter via the club. We'd love to hear from you, if only to let us know you've pondered on the hunt and not got anywhere.

Don't be put off by the blandness of any reply you get from us – we have a standard reply to ensure you get the same response if you are nearly right as you would if you are nowhere near.

Finally, and most importantly, enjoy it and keep us and your fellow club members up to speed with your progress.

Joining the members-only bulletin board

Visit <http://www.treasureclub.net/forum/> to take part in the online discussions on this and many other hunts. Any members of the public can register for the forums and are able to read (but not post messages in) the 'Public Forums'. But registered users who have also informed the club of their login name and email, are also granted access to the private 'TATHC Members Only' forums.

If you have not registered to use the bulletin board at all, begin by clicking on 'Register' towards the top of the page. After agreeing to some terms, choose a username for the site – this can be your real name or a pseudonym – it will appear each time you post a message on the board.

You must also choose a secret password – remember this too as you need it to login. If you forget it, we cannot tell you what it is. Do not reveal your password to anyone.

You also need to enter your email address. Once registered you will receive a confirmation email. Follow the instructions in that email to enable your access to the public forums.

In order to post in the public forums and to participate in the exclusive 'TATHC Members Only' area, we need to add you to a special list. AFTER you have registered, you should email Sandra, at sandra@treasureclub.net. Include in your email the username you have registered on the bulletin board, your real name and postal address as registered with the club. If you know it, please also mention your club membership number.

If all your details tally with the club membership records, Sandra will add you to the special list and next time you 'Log In' you should see four extra forums on the website. Please be patient and allow Sandra a few days to check your details.

You will find discussions on 'The Pinboard' under the 'Club Hunts' forum.