



*Presents*

*Where's the Treasure of the Fools of Fail?*

*- a Tintin Treasure Hunt*



22 mi

3-4 hr



This is a 22-mile drive around some of Ayrshire's villages. However, it does involve stopping and walking at several destinations. This may involve rough, uneven and steep paths which may be wet depending on weather so choose your footwear appropriately!

*Old Diary recently discovered in Village Archives!  
Can you help to unlock its secrets?*

Back in the day when minstrels and storytellers travelled the lands, visiting towns and villages; there also lived a pair of fools that hailed from the hamlet of Fail. Entertaining the locals with their antics for scraps and coins, they roamed the villages for many years until they mysteriously disappeared without trace. Rumours abounded about their demise, but were they as foolish as they made out? Around the same time as their disappearance, a wealthy, foreign landowner, Baron von Göttalot, reported the contents of his safe to be stolen. The recent discovery of an old diary in village archives containing a treasure map has caused questions to be asked. Could this belong to the foolish pair? If so, could they read and write? Were they fooling everyone with their acts of idiocy? Were they the Baron's thieves? Does the map show the whereabouts of the stolen loot? What was the demise of the fools?

Can you work out the names of the idiots and the type of treasure they stole? Work out the grid reference of the treasure location on the map!

*Directions*

Simply follow the clues around the countryside from start to finish at **South Beach Esplanade Car Park, 137 South Beach, Troon KA10 6ES**. All the answers to each clue will give you an INCORRECT piece of information! Simply cross it from the Answer sheet. In a process of elimination, you will be left with the correct answers! You will then be able to work out all of the answers above and then use the map to work out where the treasure is buried!

**REMEMBER! Take care of yourself and your party! You are responsible for your own safety. Please exercise caution when crossing roads. Please respect historic monuments, private homes, and individual's privacy when 'trailing'. RECYCLE your trail when you have finished with it and take all litter home or dispose of it responsibly!**

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Leave Troon on Craigend Road, B749.  
When the road makes a sharp right-hand bend, fork left on to Isle of Pin Road, following signs to Marr Rugby Club. Do not park in the rugby club car park but drive straight on and park in the car park for Fullarton Woods.

**Clue 1**

At the far end of the car park is a cairn of set stones with the letters WF.AB carved on them and a date. The last digit of the date will correspond to one of the grid reference numbers. This can now be eliminated from the list!

**Clue 2**

On the grass near the other end of the car park is an information board about the history of Fullarton House. In which year was it built by William Fullarton? Again, the last digit of this date corresponds to one of the grid reference numbers. This can now be eliminated from the list!

**Clue 3**

Leave the car park and walk back to Marr Rugby Club. In the emblem above the clubhouse door, can be seen an open book and one other object. This corresponds to one of the possible demises of the idiots. This can now be eliminated from the list!

**Clue 4**

The local Petanque Club is also held here. What is the name of its mascot? You can now eliminate one name from the list of names!



Return to the car and continue driving around the rugby pitches until you come to a T-junction. Turn right and proceed for a few hundred yards past some houses on the left-hand side.

### Clue 5

Park beside Crosbie Kirkyard and enter. Make your way around the ruined church and enter the interior. Against the eastern wall beneath a small window are 2 large gravestones. Daniel, the shipmaster was born in which year? The third digit of the date will correspond to one of the grid reference numbers. This can now be eliminated from the list!

### Clue 6

Return to your vehicles and continue on this road. Just before this narrow road re-joins the B749, you will drive past a house on the right. You may have to look behind you! You should be able to eliminate one more name from the list, having read the name of the house!



Re-join the B749 and turn left. You will come to a dual carriageway, A79. After joining the A79, you will immediately arrive at a large roundabout. You want to take the 2<sup>nd</sup> exit on to a small road called Kerrix Road. Follow this road until you arrive at the village of Symington. Park the car.

### Clue 7

Number 6, Main Street is your next destination. The name of the cottage will allow you to eliminate one more means of death from the list!

**Clue 8**

Symington Church was founded in which year? Take the first digit from the date and eliminate this number from the list of possible grid references!

**Clue 9**

The church was founded by a man called Simon Locard. What was the era in which he did his nightly job? The first letter of Simon's job will correspond to one of the grid reference letters. Cross it off the list!

**Clue 10**

The beer garden of the Wheatsheaf Inn is your next destination. You may want to stop for some refreshments? Look for a sculpture of a wild animal. What colour is it painted? ( I would say that this is more reminiscent of the Welsh kind of this treasure!) You can now eliminate your first 'treasure' from the list?



Continue driving! Go down the hill of Main Street until you come to a roundabout. Go straight on to Townhead Road and continue along this road for about a mile. Where the road bends sharply to the right, you will see a sign that points to Langholm Farm Shop and Tea Room which is worth a detour. Otherwise continue until you come to a T-junction. Turn right on to Old Loans Road and travel to the mini-roundabout. Turn left and follow Main Street down the hill past the shops of Dundonald. Take the first turning on the left. Drive past the bowling club and park at the entrance to the castle.

### **Clue 11**

Near the visitor centre are two information boards. The ancient ruins of Old Auchans House can still be seen if you make a detour to the Smugglers Trail. Ask for directions in the Visitors Centre! In what year was William Cochrane made Lord Dundonald by King Charles I? The third digit of this date can be eliminated from the list of grid reference numbers!

### **Clue 12**

In which year did the Royal Navy attack the French Fleet at Basque Roads? The last digit of this date can now be eliminated from the list of grid reference numbers!

### **Clue 13**

A highly lucrative smuggling trade operated between Troon and Dundonald in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. What treasure can now be eliminated from the list?



The next two clues involve a steep climb up to the castle but do NOT require entry within the building. However, if you would like to explore the interior of the castle, then buy an entrance ticket from the Visitor Centre BEFORE you climb the hill!

**Clue 14**

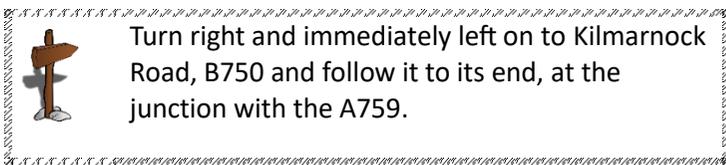
Near the top of the hill, before you reach the castle, look for a viewfinder, showing all major landmarks in a 360° circle from here. What landmark is situated between Dundonald Parish and Loudon Hill? Use the first letter of the name of this tower to eliminate one more letter from the list of grid references!

**Clue 15**

Walk around the castle walls in an anti-clockwise direction. Look very carefully for a very small, rectangular sign on the walls that marks the site of the *Latrine Chutes*. Scramble up the letters of *Latrine Cutes* to form one of the names on the list! Cross it off!

**Clue 16**

Return to the visitor centre where you may wish to sample their wares! Return to the car and make your way back along this narrow road. Before you turn right on to Main Street, notice the name of this road! You should now be able to eliminate one more name from the list!



Turn right and immediately left on to Kilmarnock Road, B750 and follow it to its end, at the junction with the A759.

**Clue 17**

Looking diagonally to the right across the other side of the A759, is a white house with an unusual name. You will now be able to eliminate one more name from the list!



Turn right on to the A759 and continue for a few miles until you arrive at the village of Gatehead. Turn left just before the Cochrane Inn and follow the road until you come to the old mill ruins on the left, which are currently behind safety barriers. Find somewhere to park.

### **Clue 18**

Just beyond the mill buildings is a building that gives board and lodging to four-legged creatures. The name of the building will allow you to eliminate one more name from the list!

### **Clue 19**

Turn around and walk past the mill buildings again until you come to a large sign marking the site of the world's oldest surviving railway viaduct. Use its name to eliminate one more name from the list!

### **Clue 20**

You can battle your way along the nettle infested river path to the viaduct to read the plaque half way across or you can do a bit of Google detective work! Who was the chief engineer involved in the construction of the viaduct and what year did he die in? Take the 2<sup>nd</sup> digit of this year to eliminate one more number from the list of grid references!



Return to your car and make your way back towards the Cochrane Inn. Turn right. Cross the bridge and, on leaving Gatehead, turn left towards Caprington and Earlston. Continue for a few miles until you reach the small hamlet of Earlston.

### **Clue 21**

On the outskirts of the village, on the right-hand side before you reach the village, is the entrance gateway to a converted mill house with an unusual name. Can you eliminate one more name from the list?



Continue through the village until you come to the end of this road at its junction with the B7038 which leads to Kilmarnock. Turn right and immediately left on to a narrow lane. Follow this road where it will cross the A77 dual carriageway and then bends to the right. Continue for some distance and about half a mile after passing a water works plant, look out for a large collection of farm buildings on the left-hand side.



### **Clue 22**

The actual farmhouse itself is white. Use the name of the farm to work out another name from the list. You will need to reverse the name and divide it in two! Cross it off the list!

Continue to the very end of this lane where you will come to a roundabout. Turn left on to the B730 and drive past Hayes Garden Land. You may want to pop in for some refreshments! Continue beyond Somerville Feeds on the left along the B730 until it meets the A719. Turn right and after a few hundred yards, turn left off this road to re-join the B730, signposted to Tarbolton.

### **Clue 23**

A few hundred yards along this road, you will find a place on the left that is both poetic and fishy? What possible demise could have befallen the fools here?



Continue along this road until you enter the village of Tarbolton. Find somewhere to park just beyond the church. You should now find yourselves at crossroads in the heart of the village.

### **Clue 24**

A black signpost shows the way towards many historical sites. A watery location will allow you to work out a further possible name from the list!

### **Clue 25 – Research time!**

King Charles II granted the title of Burgh of Barony in which year? The 2<sup>nd</sup> digit of this date will allow you to eliminate the final number from the grid references. You can now work out the numerical part of the grid reference showing the location of the treasure!

**Clue 26**

Follow the signs to Bachelor's Club. The plaque for the Bachelor's club can be seen on the wall. The animal depicted at its centre can be used to eliminate an unlikely means of death for these parts!!

**Clue 27**

At the far end of Cunninghame Road/Montgomerie Street (you may want to drive!) look for a war memorial situated at crossroads. A small plaque behind the stone memorial mentions a northerly Scottish town. The first letter of its name can be eliminated from the grid reference letters.

**Clue 28**

Opposite the memorial, beside a covered seat is an old cast iron water fountain, partially covered in ivy. The hole of the fountain is formed from the mouth of a lion, but what colour is it painted? You should now be able to eliminate one more type of treasure from the list!

**Clue 29**

Return along Montgomerie Street until you come to a bovine themed hostelry! A drink before you continue, perhaps, or just eliminate one more means of death before you continue on your way!



Make your way back to the crossroads, either by foot or car. Return to your vehicle! Turn left and go past the church. Turn first left on to Westport and continue along this road until it joins the A719. After a few hundred yards, turn right on to the B739 to Monkton. Follow this road under the A77 bypass and past several large buildings on the left.

### Clue 30

Look for the entrance to a Ministry of Defence site with a security barrier. The name of this site will allow you to eliminate one more unlikely means of death from the list!



Continue along this road until you reach a sharp bend to the right in the road. Turn left here, following signs for Prestwick and Troon until you come to traffic lights at the centre of Monkton village. There are four options here!! Take the second turning in to Main Street and find somewhere to park near the church.

### Clue 31

One of the ministers of St Cuthbert's Church was the nephew of Robert Burns who emigrated to which town down under to establish a new church? It was named after Edinburgh! The first letter of this country's name can be eliminated from the grid reference letters!

### Clue 32

On the same information plaque, you can read about a blind minstrel who wrote about William Wallace in a poem. Read it carefully to work out one more name from the list!

**Clue 33**

Now leave the church and look for the World War II memorial that is nearby. Which country is mentioned on it? The first letter of this country can now be eliminated from the grid reference letters!

**Clue 34**

A bench close by to the memorial has many plaques attached to it. It also has the emblem of The Royal British Legion. The emblem depicts thistles and another object? This other object corresponds to one of the treasures on the list. Cross it off!

**Clue 35**

Cross over Main Street and walk down the hill towards the runway viewing area. The last house on the right has a name that will allow you to cross off the final piece of treasure from the list. Congratulations! You should know what type of treasure was stolen from the Baron!

**Clue 36**

Turn around and make your way back towards the traffic lights but keep your eyes firmly looking downwards! A small, square, metal cover can be found on the pavement, allowing access to a vaporous entity! Which town's name is written on the cover? The first letter of the town can be eliminated from the grid reference letters!

### Clue 37

Just before you reach the traffic lights is a building that houses little people who aim high! The emblem on the signage shows an uncommon type of transport. This allows you to rule out the final means of death. Congratulations! You should now know what the actual demise of the Fools was!

### Clue 38

At the traffic lights is a large, square, metal access cover covered in 'DIDI' s. What town name can you see written on it? The first letter of its name can be eliminated from the grid reference letters!

### Clue 39

Cross diagonally to the Carvick Webster Hall and study the information available there. Macrae's Monument commemorate James Macrae who became the Governor of which city? The first letter of this city corresponds to the final grid reference letter. Congratulations! You should now know both the number and the letter that make the correct grid reference!

### Clue 40

Cross over Burnside Road to where a large boulder is situated and read the plaque. With this information, you should be able to eliminate the final name from the list. You should now know the names of The Two Fools of Fail!



Return to your car and turn left at the traffic lights on to the B739, Station Road. Continue past two small roundabouts until you reach a large, busy roundabout. Take the second exit towards Glasgow. Take a left turn on the B749 towards Troon. You are on your way back to South Beach Car Park!

**Clue 45**

One last puzzle to solve before you finish! A surprising inscription was found written on the inside cover of the diary in Latin. You will find this above the gateway into Lochgreen House Hotel. The hotel is situated on the B749 on the left-hand side, just beyond Crosbie Cottage that you visited in Clue 6!! What does it translate as?

**SO.. WHO WERE THE FOOLS AND WHAT DID THEY BURY?**

**It's time to look at the SOLUTION download (assuming, of course, that you haven't already peeked!)**



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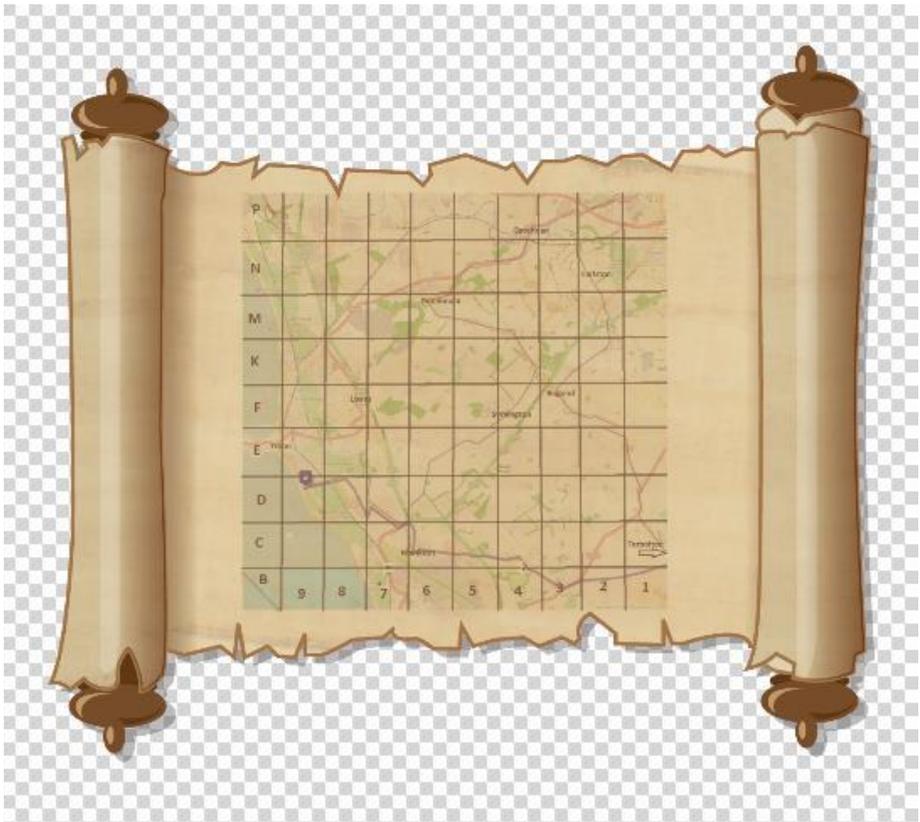
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**UNIQUE TRAIL CODE: TT WFF 12**



## Grid References for Buried Treasure

**B6** Carvick Webster Hall

**C7** Main airport runway

**C5** Adamton House

**D9** 18<sup>th</sup> Green Royal Troon GC

**D1** Fail Monastery Ruins

**E4** Hansel Village

**E7** Marr RFC

**F3** Hayes Garden Land

**F5** Wheatsheaf Inn

**K1** Craigie Castle

**F8** Old Loans Inn

**M2** A77 carriageway

**K3** Coodham House

**N2** Caprington Castle

**M6** Dundonald Castle

**P4** Cochrane Inn

**N6** Eden Garden Centre

**Fools**

Anisette Lurch

Chuck MacCosh

Crosbie C. Ottage

Emily Mill

Harry Wrote

Harper Land

Laigh Milton

Muck Le Stane

Norman Knight

Oliver Loser

Ralf Fats

Tod Rigsmill

Willie Banker

Willie Smill

Yettie Winehouse

**Treasures**

Bronze Cash Crowns Gold Pearls Silver

**Means of Death!**

Balloon – flew up and up and away!

Bees – stung!

Brown Trout Fishery – drowned!

Gannet – pecked!

Lamp – burned!

Lily – poisoned!

Lion – mauled!

**Letters**

B C D E F K M N P

**Numbers**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

**Latin Inscription** .....

**Translation** .....