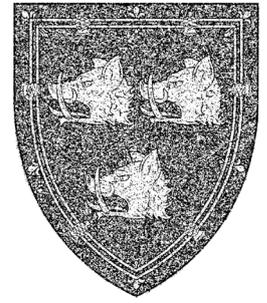


Haddo House - **Undercover**



How to welcome the participants

Before they arrive - check the shop knows a Haddo Undercover is happening and they should direct people to the Game Larder

Have a list of bookings from eventbrite

(Also in the eventbrite booking form there should be access information so all know there are a lot of stairs and uneven ground. The information should say to meet at Game Larder with map)

Welcome Speech:

Welcome all! I hope you're all ready for an adventure?

You're about to get the choice of two treasure hunts which will give you a very different experience of Haddo, including exploring some of the 60 odd rooms that aren't on the usual guided tour. There will be some uneven ground and it's really important you don't touch stuff unless I say it's OK. One of the choices involves a lot of stairs. Can I just check everyone is OK with stairs?

What I'm about to tell you about Lord Aberdeen is entirely fictional. We've made it up because it's fun.

However, when we step into this Game Larder, I want you to fully commit to the story. Are you ready to park your disbelief just here and dive in?

[once inside]

Lord Aberdeen was well known for his jokes. He was perhaps less well known for his clever, witty and sometimes utterly baffling treasure hunts.

Rumours had it that the hunts were often quite staggeringly outlandish, including the midsummer's eve when he hid all of Farmer Wullie's sheep or the weekend when his guests had to spend all of Saturday searching for their shoes.

Most of these hunts are lost. Gone forever. But recent conservation efforts in the far reaches of the attic have unearthed two of Lord Aberdeen (or as we will call him, Johnny's) treasure hunts.

Through painstakingly slow and careful conservation, shred of parchment by shred of parchment we have pieced back together these two marvels of Victorian cunning.

I've set these up without the normal guides knowing, so we need to be hush hush about it, as it would tarnish Johnny's reputation if it got round that he spent most of his days playing games. We must operate undercover: stay quiet, tiptoe where necessary and act normal!

Your first choice: the silver box or the gold?

Other examples of Johnny's hunts you can use whilst on the tour (or, of course, you can invent your own!):

- The hunt where the children were seeking the bacon for breakfast, where the only clue is the smell.
- He hid the servant's Christmas bonuses.
- Unbelievably, Ishbel's birthday present was hiding inside of a pheasant.
- Johnny disguised a flock of penguins as dinner guests and timed how long it took for someone to notice (No one did)
- He put pine cones in ladies wigs at dinner until they noticed.
- He hid meatballs in the trifle
- There was the huge hunt where he hid his racehorse on the day of the grand national and made the jockey hunt for it.
- He played jingle bells by running from bell lever to bell lever to create a coded pathway for a Christmas hunt.
- He once hid the dinner gong at the bottom of a nearby boating pond and made guests solve the clues to get there and wade in to get it before they could eat.
- He hid guests underwear at the top of trees and guests could only find them once they identified the type of tree they were hidden in, based on a series of cryptic cyphers.