

Captain Flint's Trunkette (Editorial)

WELCOME to the second 'edition' of the Online Supplement for *Mixed Moss*. I'm delighted to learn from our hard-working web manager, Diana Wright, that the trial of the Online Supplement has been so successful – it was the eighth most visited page (actually, about 4th most popular of the *internal* TARS pages). While I am no longer able to continue as a *Mixed Moss* editor, the supplement site will remain on the website.

I'd like to start with a quote from Cheryl Paget (previous coordinator of the NZ branch of TARS). In addition to researching and writing some insightful articles and book reviews, she loved a stimulating discussion. While I was editor of *Mixed Moss*, I had some lively conversations with her and as close to five weeks before she passed away she emailed me as follows:

I have written a review of sorts for Peter for Signals of the Alan Kennedy book ... I believe Peter wants a bit of a discussion going on the book, not sure how that will work in a quarterly! ... I haven't read Blue Treacle so I can't comment on it, but I know there are a few of us who are sceptical that he wrote for Tabitha - but that is why literary societies exist - to stimulate debate.

I'd like to 'second' Cheryl's implied request for a place to have this 'stimulating debate'. The technology has certainly made it possible for members to do this in both written and verbal forums such as blogs, Facebook, Tarboard and 'zooms', but all these things need time to set up and monitor.

A few people have asked if a forum like the Book Group (blog + zooms, but focusing on AR's work) would be of interest. Perhaps you could contact one of the TARS officials if you can help out with any of these ideas or have some of your own.

In the meantime, the public AR Facebook Group is taking on some aspects of this forum already. I find it interesting that so few 'controversial' writers in TARS are members of the existing forums (although I understand that limited internet access is a challenge for one of them). It's difficult to be living in an age where there seems to be a new way of communicating being invented every other week (and some of them have risks you need to be aware of), but if you do want to join in a discussion, the Arthur Ransome Group on Facebook is a place I have found both welcoming and stimulating! I hope to see you there.

Of course, the online supplement itself provides a space for both longer and more leisurely responses to ideas presented in printed publications. Maida Follini's response to Martin Beech's (2021) response to David Goodwin's (2020) article on astronomical passages in Ransome's work is a case in point. In this edition of the supplement, you'll also find:

- a revised version of one of Brian Hopton's 'Sparkinson' interviews that couldn't fit into the latest Amazon Publication, *Ransome Centre Stage*
- all the poems submitted for the Poetry Competition
- a compilation of quotations from a book written in 1905 about The Lakes that Linda Phillips found (this seems to fit in quite nicely and quite by accident with Peter Hyland's article on Lake Landscapes)
- a collection of articles and a tour guide to support 'Swallow Down Under' - an article about the Australian and New Zealand influences and references in Ransome's work

I hope you enjoy reading this material as much as I enjoyed finding and reading it myself.

Best wishes,

Catherine Lamont