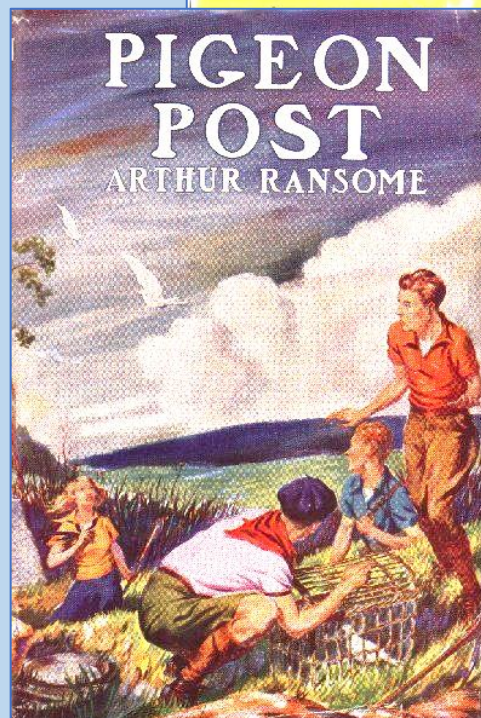
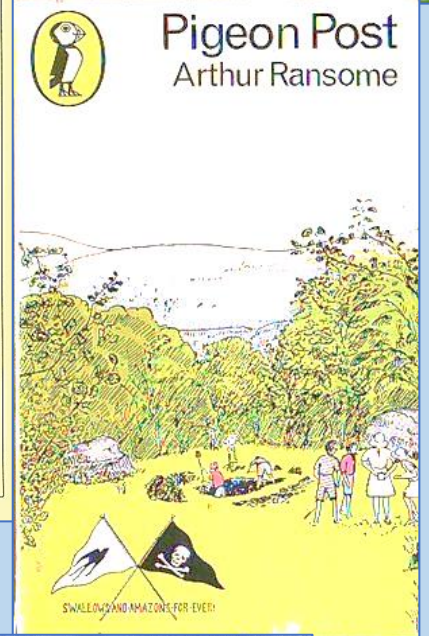
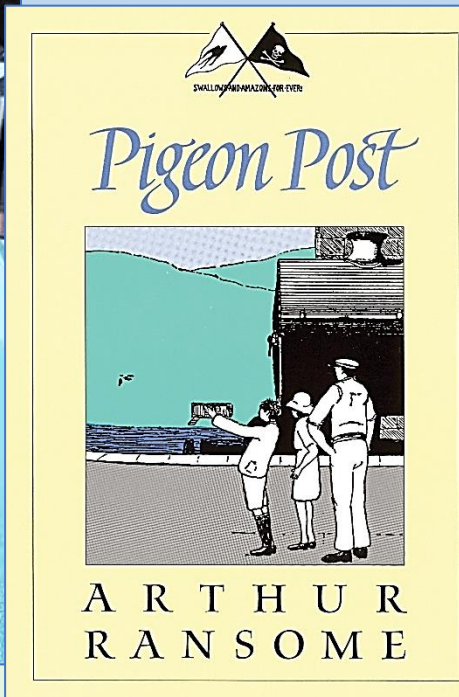
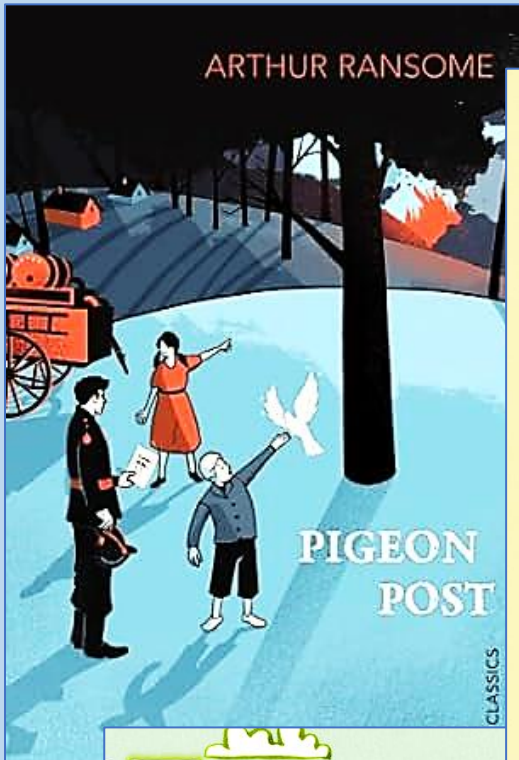
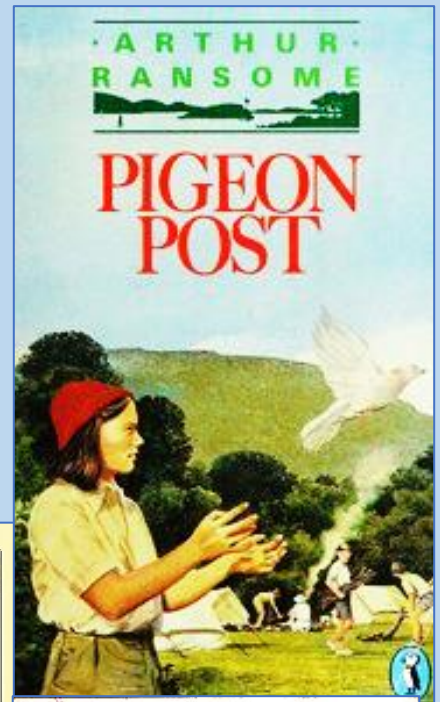


The ⁷⁴ Outlaw Magazine

SPRING ~ SUMMER 2024



EDITORIAL

Welcome to issue 74 of *The Outlaw*! Summer is upon us in the northern Hemisphere and, just like many of you, we have plans afoot to take us on many adventures: we'll be mountain trekking in the English Lakes, in Snowdonia and the Scottish Highlands and islands. We hope to catch up with other Tars at various events – especially so the IAGM in the Peak District in August! Will you be there? It's certainly an event not to be missed if possible – lots of high fun, interesting presentations, competitions, sailing, hikes, and outdoor swimming – and so much more!

Remember in June there is the once-only 50th Anniversary Celebration of the 1974 film, *Swallows and Amazons*, in Bowness-on-Windermere! Lots to see and do, lots to discover and fellow enthusiasts to share your AR enthusiasms and stories with.

We anticipate many tales of summer '24 fun, adventure, and anecdotes from you, so please send in your snaps and snippets by August end.



THE OUTLAW EDITORS

The Blue Family

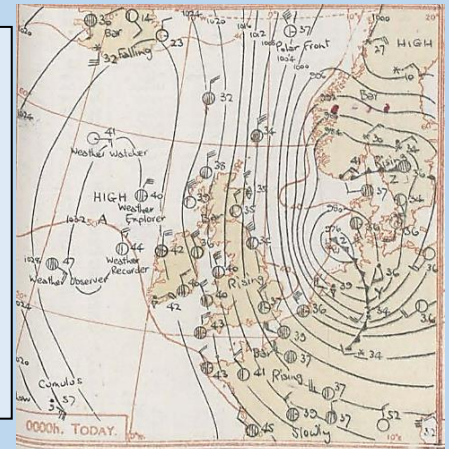
Contact:

C/O Peter Wright,
17 Chesterwood Road,
Kings Heath,
Birmingham B15 0QG

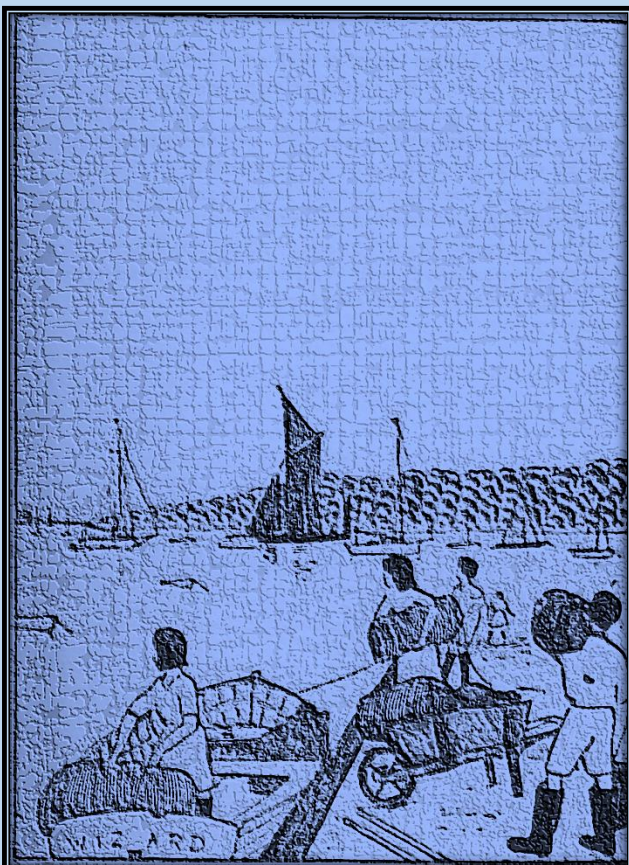
Email:

outlaw@arthur-ransome.org

What's the reason for including this weather chart? Keep turning and see for yourself!



Arthur Ransome was not a self-confessed artist; no weeping abstractions will you find in his illustrations. You will find a harmony of spontaneity, of variation and emphasis on balance, on likeness to his characters. Turn the pages and you will find AR's lines of playfulness – see if you can find any patterns of style: let us know what you think. Whilst you are having a think about this, try your hand at sorting out the captions which have all gotten mixed up. You could win for yourself a couple of AR books from the Tars Stall. Happy scrutinizing!





Six Degrees of Separation



In the winter of 1953, one of the most destructive events in the relationship between Britain and its seas occurred. Strong and dogged north winds blew more water into the North Sea faster than it could cope with in its current bearings and sea levels rose steadily throughout January.

These high sea levels, allied with a high tide and storm waves, overwhelmed the coastal flood defences of south-eastern England, western Belgium and the Netherlands. Sea waters surged inland with forces powerful enough to remove buildings and dismantle trains from their tracks. Most of the eastern coast of Britain was affected, particularly Essex. Sea levels were highest in Harwich, south-west of Felixstowe, south of Shotley.

Many people lost their lives across Britain, Belgium and the Netherlands. Many more lost their homes; over 24,000 homes were damaged in England. Flood defences were breached in over 1,000 places. Extensive damage to farmland was reported, with loss of livestock in the tens of thousands.

There remain many visible reminders in the towns and villages of south-east England of that storm. The Alma Inn is located in the older part of Harwich, itself a mile from the ferry port where travellers often leave for the Hook of Holland. The inn was originally a merchant's home. On a wall inside is a plaque which bears the name, Borough of Harwich. It also carries the level mark that the 1953 floods reached inside the inn: 1 metre above the bar floor!

The flood reached its peak at around midnight, though people leaving the Alma at closing time would have felt much amiss at 10pm. The seas in the harbour would already have been rough, with boats colliding, bracing themselves against their anchors and buoys and the cold, strong north wind, following a dramatic fall in barometric pressure. Within half an hour of closing time, waters had reached the top of the harbour walls and had breached the quay, though high tide was yet to arrive. By midnight then, the sea was surging inland and much of Harwich was underwater!

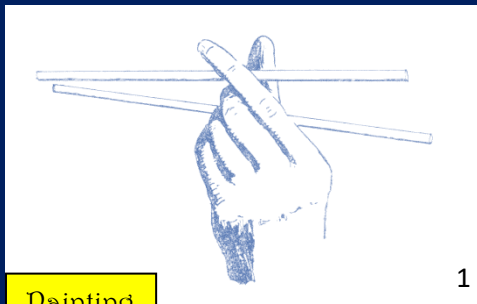
It was a bitterly cold night and coats and warm clothes had been soaked beneath floodwaters; relief came only gradually. Rescue boats arrived by next daylight, ferrying people to communal centres where hot drinks and food were rationed out. The storm surge was this harmful because it arrived around the same time as high tide and the south-east of England is relatively low-lying and faces a large, shallow sea over which storm surges can have a devastating effect.

In the 16th century, the building now housing the Alma Inn was a merchant's house, home to the Twitt family. Sara Twitt married Christopher Jones. Jones was a sea captain and, not long after marrying, in 1620, sailed with his ship, *The Mayflower*, to America, taking the Mayflower Pilgrims, settlers hoping to establish the Separatist Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts.

Harwich itself became a significant naval base and centre for trade with Europe, particularly the Netherlands. The Twitt family home became the Alma Inn in the 1850s, taking its name from a battle fought in the Crimean War, a war during which Florence Nightingale used groundbreaking graphical techniques, including pie charts, to convince army leaders that more soldiers were lost to disease than to enemy wounds.

You will know that our familiar adventurers stayed at *Alma Cottage*, near to the Butt & Oyster, Pin Mill, in *We Didn't Mean to go to Sea*. Pin Mill also featured in *Speret Water*. This is also where Arthur Ransome had some of his own boats built at Harry King's boatyard. This is also a setting in the *Strong Winds* series of books by Julia Jones. You can borrow these books from Tars Library!

RANSOME ILLUSTRATES A POINT



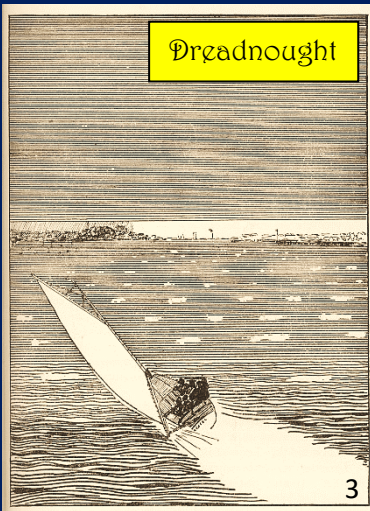
Painting

1

Here you can celebrate 60 illustrations by AR that can be found within the pages of his '12' books. Whilst the illustrations are fairly true, the captions have all been mixed up. Your challenge is to fit the correct captions to their pictures, by noting each caption with the corresponding number, i.e. 'Dreadnought' with caption 5, 1-60, or to make correct those that have been 'slightly' altered.

There may even be a red herring ...

Highest correct answer score by August end wins a prize of two AR books from TARS stall!



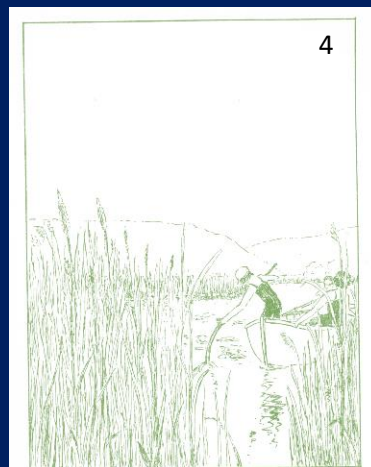
Dreadnought

3



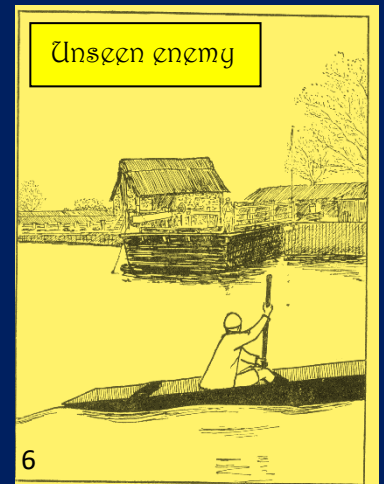
2

Making Ship's papers



4

Wet week in the lagoon



Unseen enemy

6



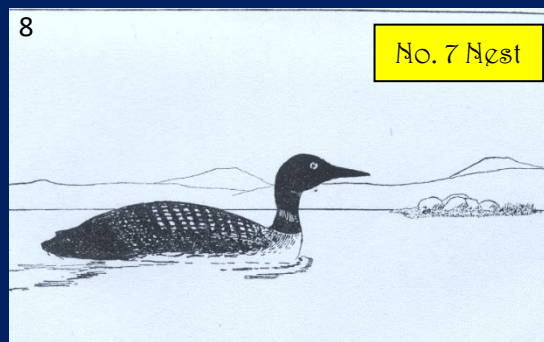
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Tom came sailing home.



7

Flooded field



8

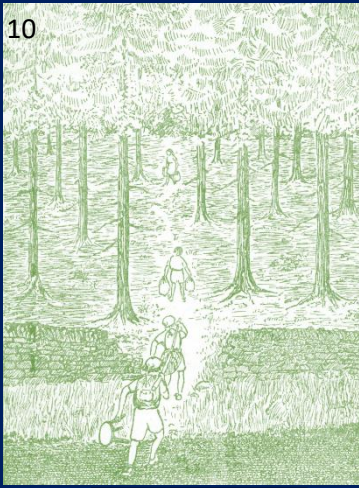
No. 7 Nest



9

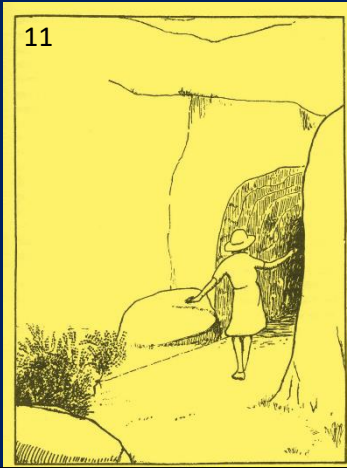
Combing the Topps

10



Detectives on

11



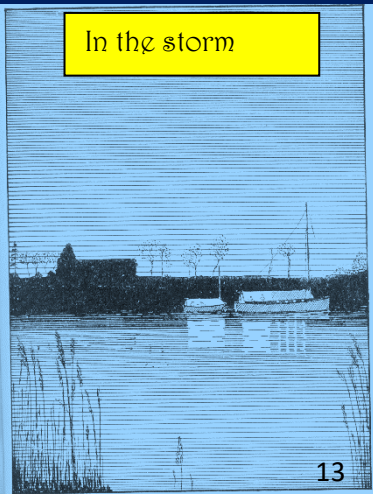
No need to envy them now.

12



Baba Yaga hut

In the storm



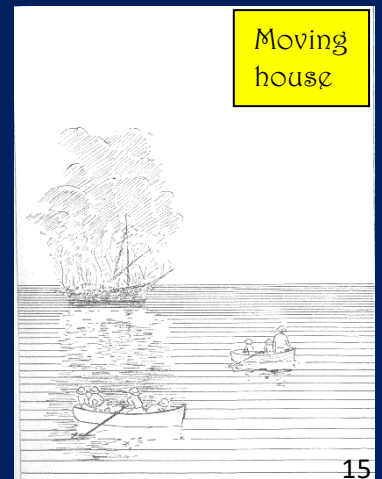
13

14



Is it for us?

Moving house



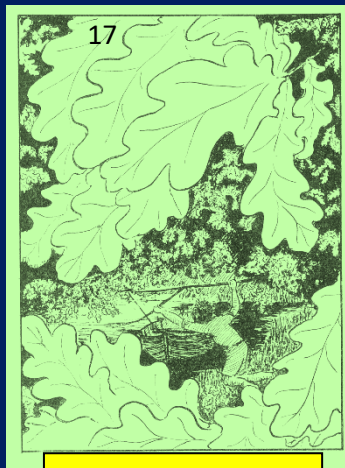
15

On the March



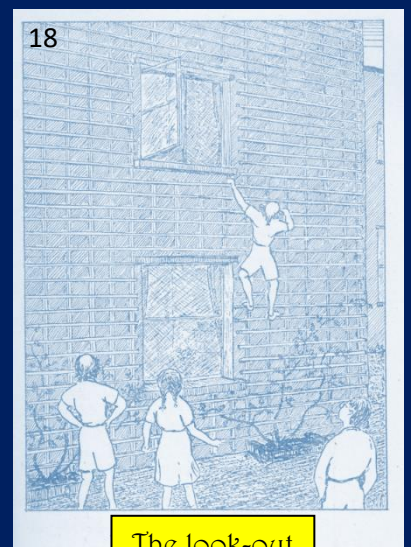
16

17



They had seen him

18



The look-out

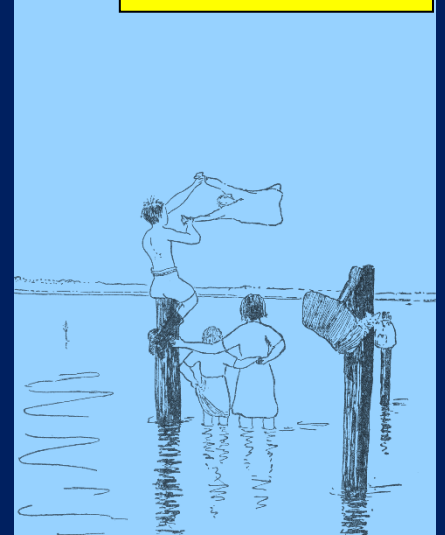
19



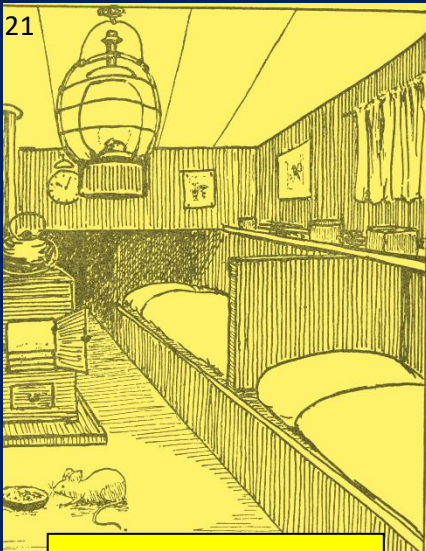
Captain John backwatered

20

How not to lower sail



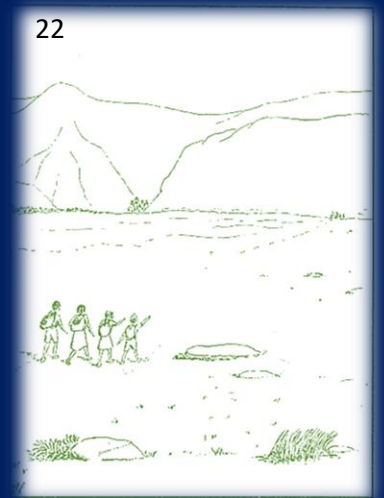
21



A great improvement to the house

Did you know that Arthur Ransome's mother, Edith, had been inspired by her father's gift for illustration and watercolour painting, and years later could be called upon to encourage him when he was struggling with his own illustrations for the *Swallows and Amazons* books. Edith often read the proofs and, until she died, Ransome sent her a weekly letter, of which more than 300 exist!

22



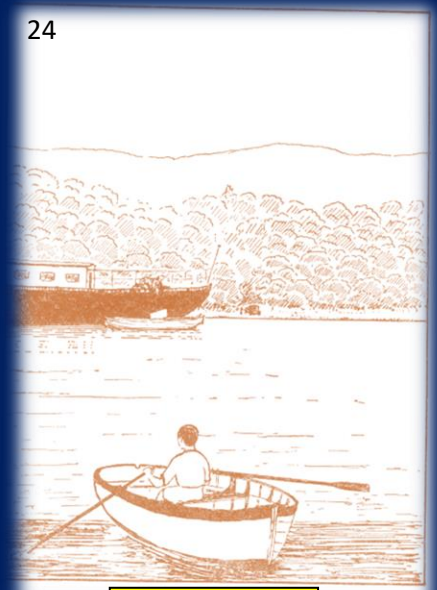
Return of an able-seaman

23



The camp-fire

24



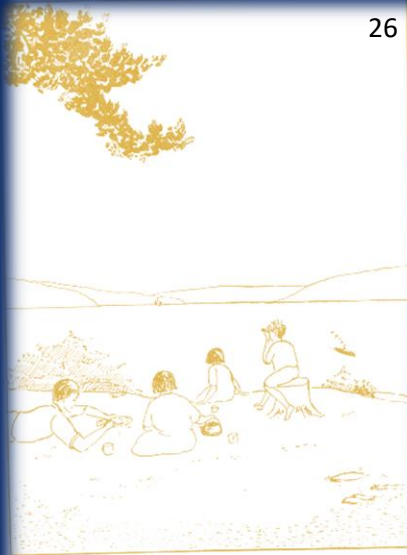
Dick goes off

25



Sleeping Beauty

26

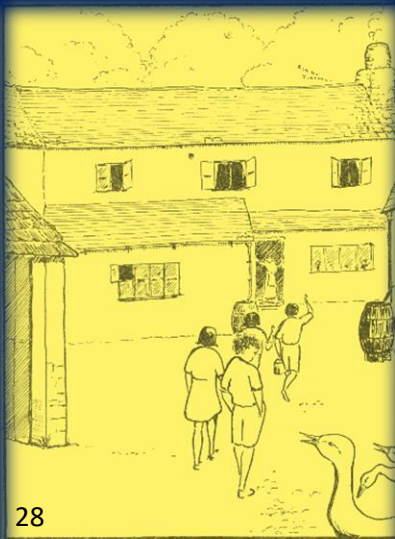


Breakfast on the way

27



Logging the pan



28

The Explorers.

Arthur, when he lived at Low Ludderburn, south Lakeland, had a large, blanket-draped, table which was his writing space. Here was kept his typewriter, a brass and enamel ink-well, a peasant doll, some feline figurines, a holed stone from The Old Man of Coniston, a telescope, a George III penny, a pocket compass and some candlesticks. He had a tin of pen-nibs and each of his pencils had a Turk's head knot around its middle to stop it from rolling off the table. What is that? Do you have a special writing space? If so, send in a decent picture and we'll publish it in the next episode of *The Outlaw!*

29



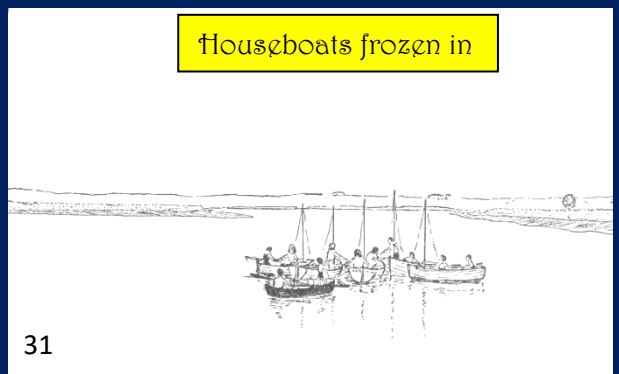
Navigators

30



Watchtower Rock

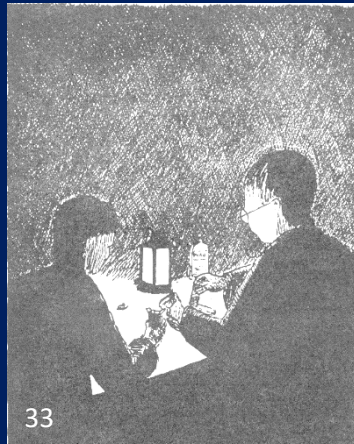
Houseboats frozen in



31

Meal deal

32



33

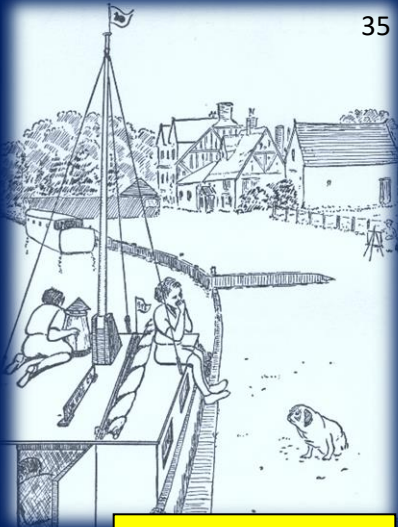
Inside the cabin

34



Despatches

35



Inside the Goblin

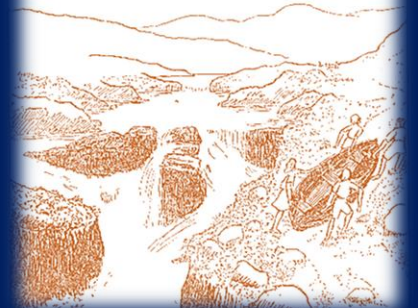
Chopsticks

36



37

It's a shark!

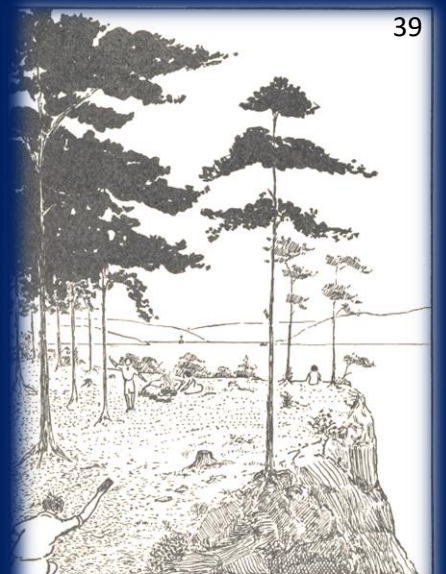


No!

38



39



Distress signal

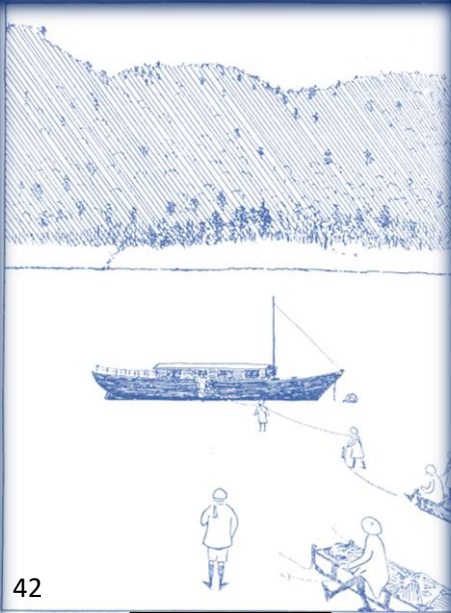
40

Taking bearings



41

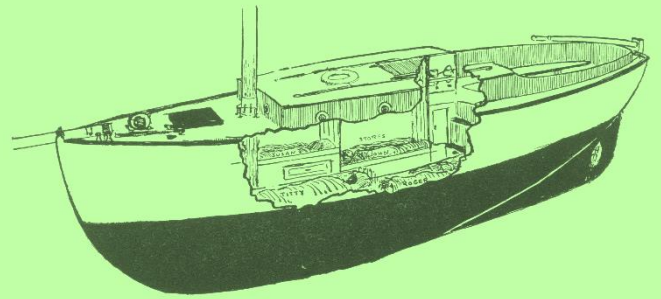
Drifting



42

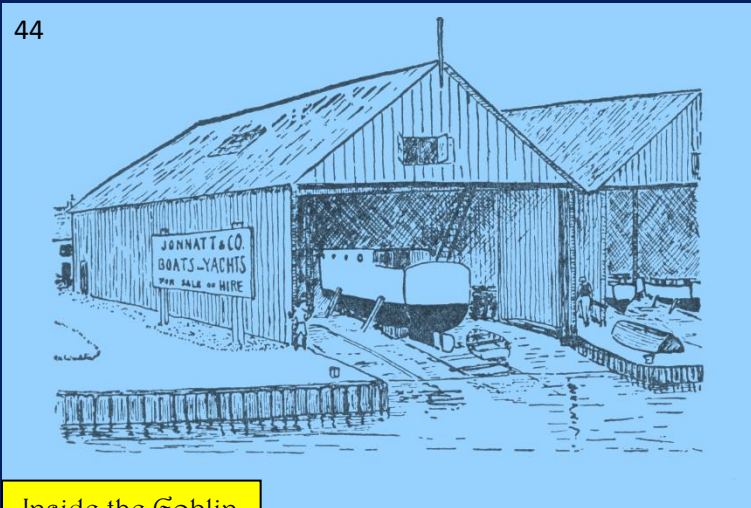
Hidden boat

43



Great Northern Diver

44



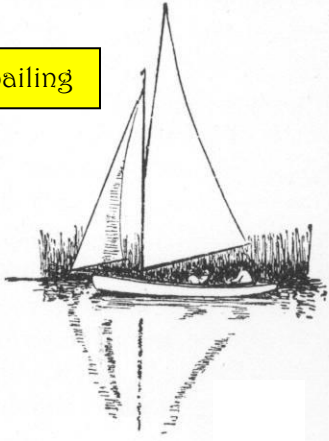
Inside the Goblin

45



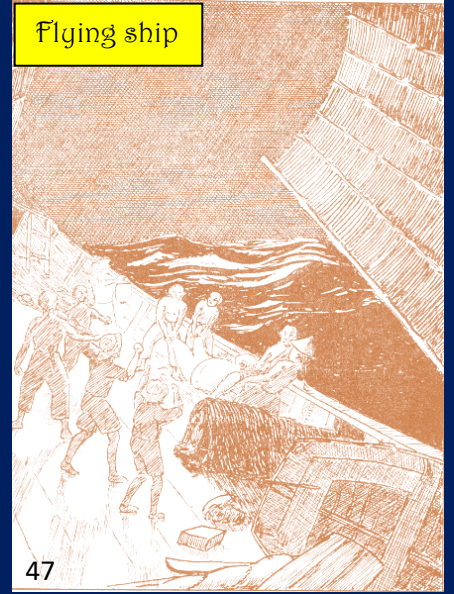
The Outlaw

Sailing



46

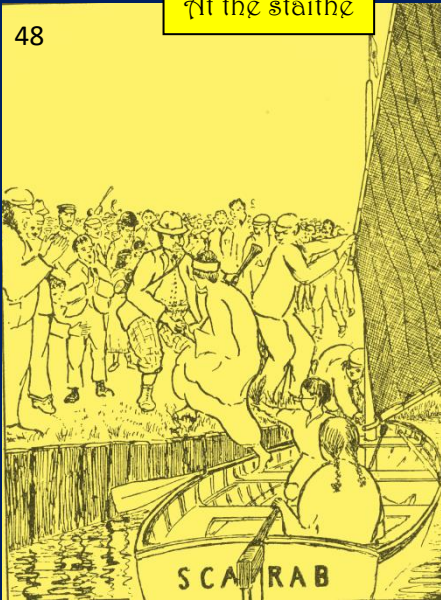
Flying ship



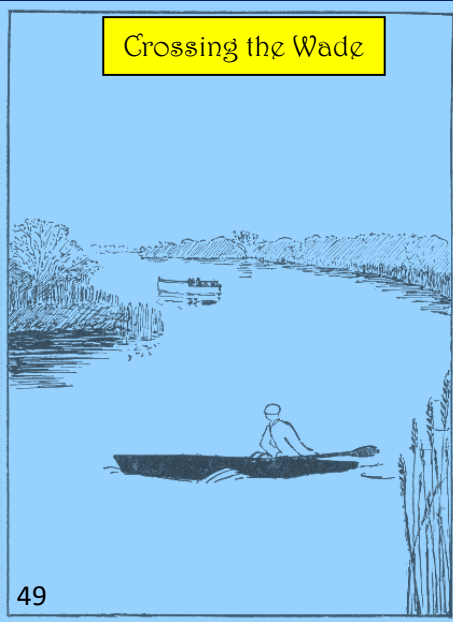
47

At the staithe

48

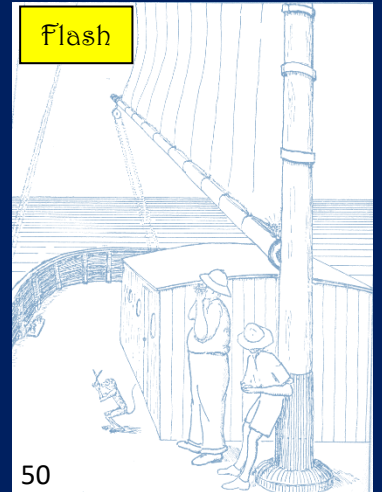


Crossing the Wade



49

Flash



50

52



Jonnats

Dixon's farm



51

53



First mug of water

Up the Amazon River



54

55

Tsar's palace



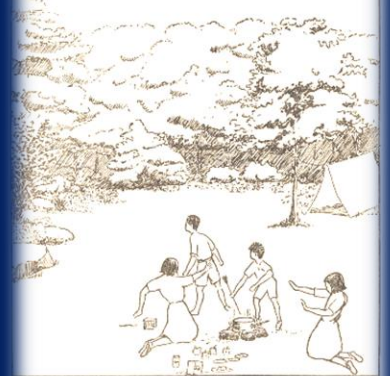
Portage

56



Ransome's early book sketches were drawn in soft pencil then inked over using *India* ink, after which the pencil lines were rubbed away.

57



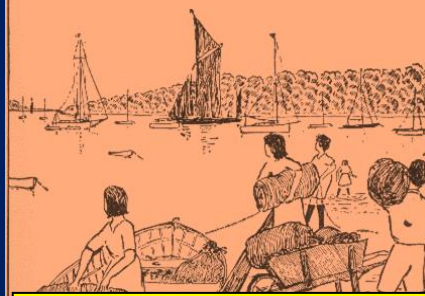
Burning Wildcat

58



They've gone in!

59



The great-aunt comes ashore

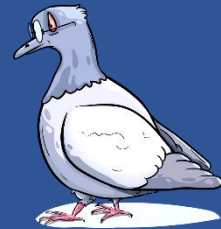
60



Charcoal pudding

P

erusing Pigeons!



A respected girl's school becomes a hotbed for theft, spies, and political intrigue ...

Agatha Christie

CAT AMONG THE PIGEONS

PIGEON POST
AND OTHER STORIES

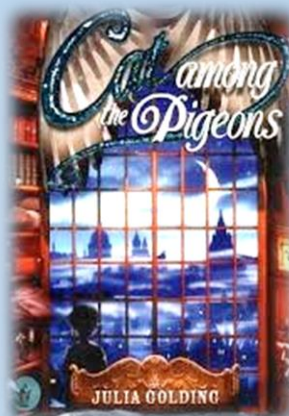


GWEN SMITH

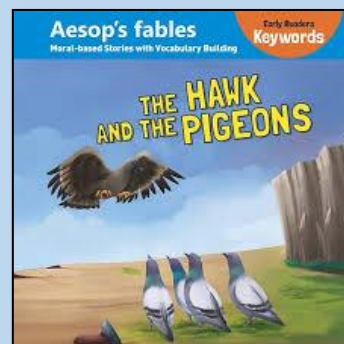
Some of the characters are young enough for even a wander around the garden to find an intriguing adventure...



The Swallows, Amazons and friends search for 'gold' in the Lake District hills, keeping in touch via homing pigeons!



Going off to France, Cat joins the French revolution and discovers mystery and intrigue...



The pigeons are terrified of the kite, so they call upon the hawk to help protect the pigeons.

But what will happen?



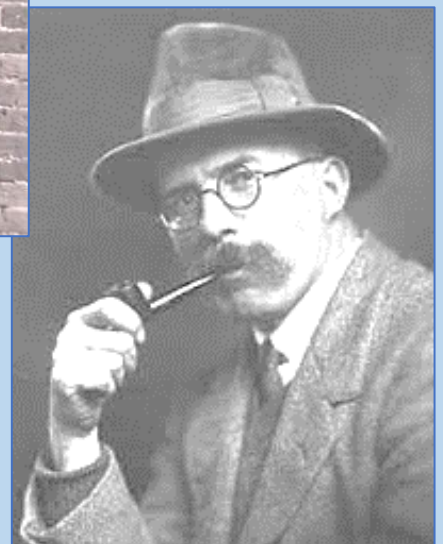
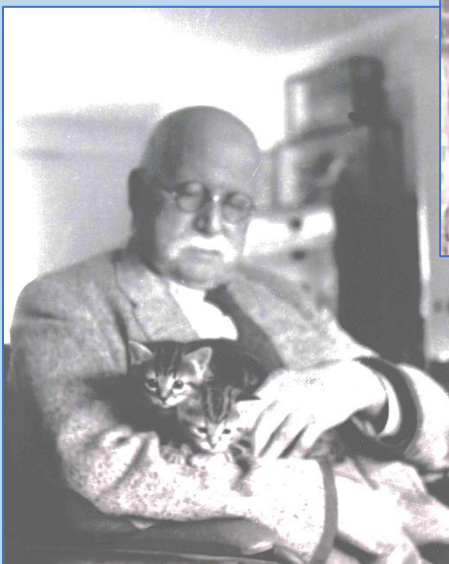
Who is disturbing and disrupting the birds? Can the twitchers save the birds? A lively, twisty crime drama series! Send in a review!





BIOGRAPHY QUIZ

1. Why did AR's father carry him to the top of the Old Man of Coniston while still only a baby?
2. How old was AR when he received his first copy of 'Robinson Crusoe'?
3. What pets did AR have with him at boarding school and what did he teach them to do?
4. Which famous poet did AR drink 'Opal Hush' with and what was it?
5. Which famous poet did AR share a room with?
6. What did AR say that talking to Dora Collingwood was like?
7. What was AR's agent number?
8. What is AR describing? – "It's a prambulating biscuit tin ... that rattles about beautifully."
9. Whilst writing 'Swallows and Amazons', what did AR keep on his writing desk and what was it made from?
10. What were the Swallows' and the Amazons' names originally going to be?
11. Who was 'Peter Duck' dedicated to?
12. Which of AR's boats was named after a character from one of his books?
13. Which two ladies is Misses Lee based on?
14. How many copies of 'Picts and Martyrs' were printed by June 28th 1934?
15. When AR and Evgenia moved into a London flat, why did AR end up sleeping in the bathroom?



SUMMER STORES

Lonsdale Scones

Ingredients

- 🍞 12 oz flour
- 🍞 1 tablespoon sugar
- 🍞 1 teaspoon bicarbonate soda
- 🍞 3.5 oz lard
- 🍞 2 teaspoons cream of tartar
- 🍞 Milk to make soft dough

Method

- 🍷 Turn oven to 200° c
- 🍷 Sieve flour, cream of tartar and bicarbonate of soda together
- 🍷 Rub in the lard
- 🍷 Mix in the sugar
- 🍷 Add milk to make soft dough
- 🍷 Roll out onto a floured board to ¾ inch thickness
- 🍷 Cut into rounds with biscuit cutter
- 🍷 Brush tops with milk
- 🍷 Bake for around 15 minutes
- 🍷 Enjoy!

What do you have on your scone? Jam, cream, clotted cream, butter? Do you add the jam first or the cream? Let us know and send us a photo of what you make!

Perhaps you could take them on a lovely summer Lakeland picnic?

- Ed.

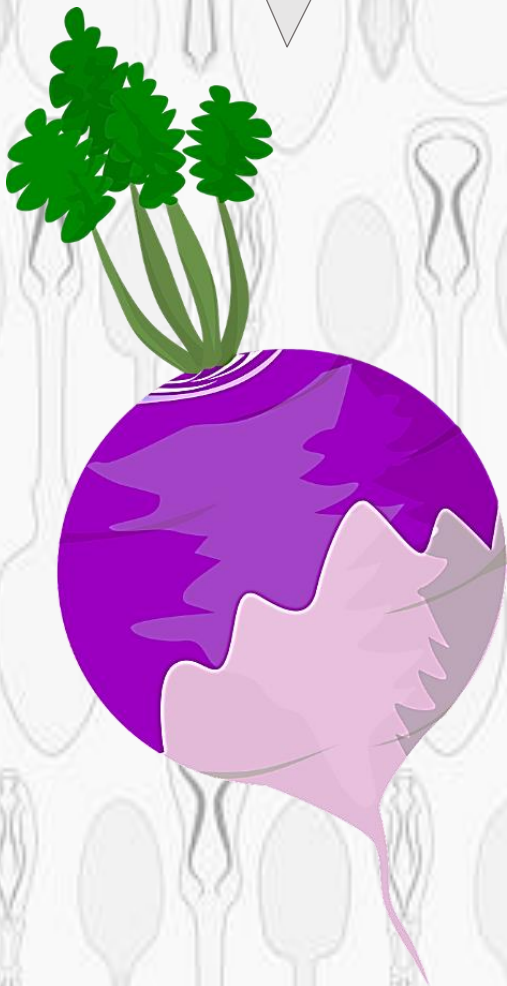
"We can't do any more without the knapsacks," said Dick. (Shifting Camp)

Pigeon Post



Yum, Lakeland Pie! With this recipe you could try to grow your own vegetables in the garden and make them into this delicious pie! We would love to hear about whether you tried this out – send us a photo and review. You could also try swapping the vegetables to your favourites.

– Ed.



Turnip Pie

Ingredients

- ✿ 1 ½ lb turnips or swede or parsnips (peeled)
- ✿ 8 oz milk
- ✿ 2 tablespoons cream
- ✿ Grated nutmeg
- ✿ Pinch of mixed herbs
- ✿ 4 oz cheese, grated
- ✿ 5 oz fresh breadcrumbs
- ✿ Salt and Pepper
- ✿ 2 oz butter

Method

- ✿ Turn oven to 180° c
- ✿ Grease a casserole dish
- ✿ Peel turnips and slice thinly
- ✿ Boil in salted water until almost tender
- ✿ Drain and arrange in casserole dish
- ✿ Season and add herbs and nutmeg
- ✿ Pour over milk and cream
- ✿ Mix cheese and breadcrumbs together and sprinkle over the top
- ✿ Dot butter over
- ✿ Bake for 30-40 minutes
- ✿ Eat as an accompaniment to meal or on its own
- ✿ Enjoy!

'All but Nancy carried knapsacks, with sandwiches and thermos flasks of tea. Peggy's knapsack held Nancy's provisions as well as her own, ...'

(Consulting Slater Bob) ~ Pigeon Post

TARS JUNIOR FUND – CHALLENGE YOURSELF!

The Fund provides grants to help young Tars take part in Ransome-inspired activities. It is named after Bridget Altounyan, who was TARS' first president, and the fund was set up in her memory. Bridget was the fifth *Swallow*.

Are you Eligible? Tars between age 13 and 19 may apply and this includes those who are part of family memberships. The fund is trying to encourage adventurous activities that will stretch you and enable you to learn new skills. Young Tars from anywhere in the world can apply.

What may you receive? The fund gives financial grants towards the cost of undertaking Ransome-inspired activities. We usually don't cover the full cost of any activity because we feel that raising funding yourself is an important part of undertaking an activity.

What activities are covered? The range is wide – sailing, climbing, camping, cycling, riding, chess tournaments, scientific activities, archaeological events, or activities involving birds or the conservation of wildlife. They can be under the supervision of any recognised adventure-training group.

What activities are not covered? School trips and GCSE field trips.

How do I apply? Write to **Paul Crisp**: p.crisp048@btinternet.com



*** STOP PRESS! ***

AROUND GREAT BRITAIN
WITH THE ARTHUR
RANSOME SOCIETY



Hike, bike, trike, kayak, sail, row, swim or take a train ride (even hot-air balloon!) and share your AR journey in words or pictures with us! Let's see if we can circumnavigate or cross GB together.

For help with routes, try:

www.sustrans.org.uk (sustainable travel/National Cycle Network)

www.britishcanoeing.org.uk

www.bmc.co.uk (British Mountaineering Council)

Send your route adventures by email and see them feature in *Outlaw* &/or *Signals* and even on the website!

