

Yearly Report from the All Things Ransome Chairman

For the period from the 2018 Annual General Meeting to the 2019 Meeting (12 months)

I Chairman's Remarks: Looking Forward

When we established the ATR website (and the organization) we intended (and said) that the website was intended as a permanent repository for materials about AR, focused on those interested in research and learning more about AR, his written work, etc. The ATR site benefited from inheriting the content from the previous Arthur Ransome website begun in the mid-90s by Peter Dowden and Dave Thewlis, including the Literary Pages, and has grown from there.

Over the last few years the rate of adding new content has fallen off, which I believe is largely a matter of reaching maturity and "completion" in terms of material readily available. And we do receive feedback on the value of All Things Ransome to such researchers. Our availability to try and find answer to questions is also appreciated.

Generally we have not actively sought new material, and the most likely new sources appear to be things already published in *Mixed Moss* or regional TARS publications. This may be worthwhile, as items published in *Mixed Moss* and the other TARS publications are not usually readily available or even findable by non-subscribers, and like all publications they are to some extent ephemeral (although we have archived all issues of *SfT* from the outset, articles in them are still buried in PDFs with little probability of search engine exposure — and as far as I know other regional publications, and *MM* itself, are not online at all). Certainly with the consent of the original author(s) we can publish them, if the authors so choose.

If we feel it is important to the Ransome Community in general that more of this material be available, we should consider ways to identify potential material and contact the author(s) to determine interest, as part of a Director's remit.

The other concern we probably need to start addressing seriously is participation in ATR. None of us are growing younger. This is particularly important in the case of the ATR website (which I deal with) and TarBoard (which Woll and to some degree Adam deal with).

II The All Things Ransome Website new content and format

The period since the last AGM has been comparatively slow in terms of both content offered and anything accomplished.

- A link to Ransome's novel "The Elixir of Life" was added to the Books by Ransome section of the Literary paPages.
- A review of Michael Bell's "Summer at Forsaken Lake" has been added to the RRR section.

- A review of Cynthia Harnett's "The Wool-Pack" has been added to the RRR section.
- New versions of Mike Field's maps of the Island, the Lake, and Secret Water were added, plus new maps of the Northern and Southern Broads.
- The Online Indices to MM were updated through 2018.
- New links to the Roger Altounyan clips in the Media Vault were found by Andrew after we discovered the old ones were no longer valid.
- From last year's report: Owen's original Mixed Moss article on Swallowdale - The Missing Link, updated and along with the Author's Note from the first edition of Swallowdale (permission granted by ARLE to reprint the note). (This started as a discussion on whether or not to try and put "Their Own Story" up on ATR; ultimately we decided not to ask ARLE on this and it morphed into updating and publishing Owen's article.) Apparently we have never finished posting this article?

III **TarBoard and ATR websites**

- The "sandbox" area we established last April under the internal directory of ATR for Andrew to use in developing his interactive Walton Backwaters pages was not successful as he was unable to log into the server.
- Woll had to deal with the inevitable problems caused by any perturbation to the Perl environment on which TarBoard relies.
- In early June Mike Field brought up on TarBoard (again) free Ransome eBooks (from a Canadian site, Faded Page). Adam sorted that quickly pointing out our online statement concerning copyrights.
- In February, Ed Kiser had a problem with initiating new threads, which apparently went away on its own. The problem was probably not caused by the TarBoard script.
- I discovered a potential oddity with the TarBoard "Recent Messages" rendering of text; it appears to be using a different default font set than the main body of the individual message, which causes special characters to be rendered as unknown characters. As far as I know this is still outstanding.
- We have received a few queries asking for our help over the last period including one from Christina Hardyment who was trying to find the review of "The Elixir of Life" by Walter de la Mare.

IV **Administrative**

- No appeal was held in 2018. We will probably need one in 2019.
- One of the two Bank Accounts was closed. We retain one account at Redwood Capital Bank, plus the Paypal account for receiving payments.
- The All Things Ransome Directors and Officers remain unchanged:
 - Chairman Dave Thewlis
 - Vice Chairman Owen Roberts
 - Secretary Andrew Goltz
 - Treasurer Woll Newall
 - Chief Operations Officer Adam Quinan

V Action Items and Future Prospectus

Actions

- Create Google Map of all practical locations - potential to crowdsource in future (Adam)
- Edit of Ed Kiser's assessment of Beckfoot layout and related items (Andrew)
- New TarBoard (Woll)

Wish List

- Completion of revised Locations pages (Dave)
- Possible "Ransome Roaming" or some such compilation of resources for those who want to visit Ransome-related places (Andrew essay on Naze; "sandbox")

Administrative

- Develop list of potential candidates for ATR Director and circulate (Adam)
- Succession Planning and Disaster Recovery (Andrew)
- Identify additional people (Director candidates?) to do mission critical duties as backups (all)