

THE

OUTLAW

AUTUMN 2021





THE OUTLAW EDITORS

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*Hello again and welcome to **THE OUTLAW!***

Sadly, the world seems to be still *in the doldrums* as we write this copy and we noticed that there's a passage in *Great Northern?* in the chapter 'He's Still There' (referring to the egg collector) that perhaps echoes a note on these troubled times. 'But the wind was no more than a promise. It kept dying down and then raising false hopes by new catspaws off the land that rippled the water astern, filled the sails, and for a moment or two sent the *Sea Bear* on her way. ... It was a strange feeling, to be sailing and yet to see by the land that though she was going ahead she was losing ground with every minute.' But, as you know, the good news is that everything works out just fine in the end!

And so, we once again find Captain Flint with a crew of Blacketts, Walkers and Callums, this time aboard a Norwegian pilot cutter, the *Sea Bear*, lolloping comfortably along in The Minch, or North Minch, which is a strait in north-west Scotland, separating the north-west Highlands and the northern Inner Hebrides from Lewis and Harris in the Outer Hebrides. It was known as Skotlandsfjörð in Old Norse. The mythological *blue men of The Minch* are reputed to have lived here – storm kelpies looking for sailors to drown and stricken boats to sink, with the power to create storms. Suggestions to explain these blue-torsoed men are that they were Picts, whose painted bodies might have given the impression of men raising themselves out of the water if seen crossing the sea in kayak-like boats. Fortunately, there is none of this to contend with in *Great Northern?* but there are other contenders!

Just as in *Coot Club*, Arthur Ransome is in bird/egg 'protection mode'. The *Sea Bear* and its crew have enjoyed 'a fortnight of good sailing and were looking for a sheltered cove in which to scrape off barnacles and weed, put a fresh coat of paint on her below the water-line and take her back to port on the mainland from which they had started, to hand her over to her owner ...'. Earlier in the voyage you've seen they had come across a motor yacht, the *Pterodactyl*, which later on passes close by. The owner of the craft is a 'rare bird man', according to a local longshoreman.

A twist in this book finds Nancy in wistful mood as she finds herself at the tiller, 'alone on deck. ... This was better than going into any harbour with buoys and lighthouses and shops and quays. Sailing towards an unknown coast, watching for a tiny break in the coast-line, she had the ship to herself and wished that tea in the cabin would last forever.' Both Titty and Dorothea are also in visionary mind when they come to the sheltered cove: "It's just the place for a story," ... looking at the blue hills far inland, ... "Better than any harbour," said Titty. (*Putting Her on Legs*)

Adventure is afoot! 'Great Auks and Guillemots! I never thought birds could be half such fun.' Like Nancy and the others, have you had the chance to have such adventures this year?

In this issue be on the look-out for: a boy in highland dress, a hand on a bell, a stag, Portree harbour, "pterodactyl" in red letters on a blue jersey, a pair of binoculars, a spanner, 2 Great Northern Diver eggs, a slab of chocolate in red wrapping with gold lettering, a pair of pink pyjamas, a hand waving bank notes and a cheque book, 5 red herrings, 8 lemonade bottles and a kilted piper. The first reader to find these pictures can have a choice of one of AR's '12' books. In the next issue of *The Outlaw*, we ask: who is the **outlaw** in each of the 12 books? We'll also be looking at Ransome's *hiding* locations and will be making a character analysis. If you have thoughts on these, please let us know by the end of October.

We'd really like to hear from you! (Editorial Crew)

TWENTY QUESTIONS? *Prize: A choice of one vintage (pre-loved) green hard-back copy of one of AR's 12!*

(Chapter headings in brackets)

- 1~ What are the things that Dick dreams about one day having/doing? (The Sea Bear)
- 2~ Why does Captain Flint pull out his compass to take a bearing of the square-topped hill? (The Sea Bear)
- 3~ What does the 'ting ... ting ... ting' signal? (Feeling her way In)
- 4~ Why, according to Titty and Dorothea, is this the best day of the whole cruise? (The First Discovery)
- 5~ What kind of fossils does Dorothea think they will find on the island? (We are Being Stalked)
- 6~ How many miles does Roger believe they have been since they last had grub? (First Sight of the Birds)
- 7~ Who is the first character to use the name *dogmudgeon*? (He's Still There)
- 8~ Who said: CREDO QUIA IMPOSSIBILE and what does it mean? (Cross Purposes)
- 9~ Who was neither asleep nor awake? (Giving Him the Slip)
- 10~ Who was *sodden with sleep*, according to Dorothea? (Giving him the Slip)
- 11~ Why were the crew busy *knitting netting*? (Interrupted Netting Party)
- 12~ Who thought that he might be the last or first of his race, and why? (A Good Look-Out)
- 13~ What were the *ghillies*? (A Good Look-Out)
- 14~ When awoken by a hoodie crow, what did Roger find and not find? (A Good Look-Out)
- 15~ From whom or what do the crew need to *hide the hide*? (Enemies Afloat & Ashore)
- 16~ Who becomes Dick? (A Clear Coast for Dick)
- 17~ Who are the decoys and who the red herrings? (The Decoys)
- 18~ Who was saying, *go back! go back! go back!* – according to Titty? (The Red Herrings)
- 19~ Why was Susan troubled, though the red herrings walked in triumph? (The Round -Up)
- 20~ What, according to Titty, had turned the McGinty and his Gaels into allies instead of gaolers? (Quick! Quick!)

LETTERS TO *THE OUTLAW!*

Dear Outlaw Editors,

With the help of our A.P.s, we made Susan's Seed Cake and it was quite delicious. We enjoyed it with some hot cocoa while the A.P.s had coffee with their slices. We'll definitely be making it again!

Greetings from Munich, Germany,

Ezra and Abram Hon

~ Please do keep trying out the recipes and copy us











in with a photograph! Ed.*



DO YOU THINK I'D BETTER TASTE THE CAKE?

GINGER AND RAISIN CAKE

Ingredients:

-  8 oz. flour
-  8 oz. treacle
-  3 oz. sugar
-  3 level tsp. ground ginger
-  1 level tsp. bicarbonate soda
-  4 oz. butter
-  1 large egg, beaten
-  8 oz. raisins
-  ¼ pint milk
-  2 tbsp. lemon juice










Method:

- ~ Set oven at 170°C or 325°F.
- ~ Butter and line the base of a 7-inch cake tin.
- ~ Warm the treacle and sugar gently until thoroughly melted and then cool.
- ~ Sift the flour with the bicarbonate of soda and ground ginger into a bowl.
- ~ Rub in the butter and stir in the raisins.
- ~ Form a well in the centre of the dry ingredients and add the cooled treacle, egg, lemon juice and milk.
- ~ Mix thoroughly & pour into cake tin and bake for about 1 ¼ hours.
- ~ Test with a skewer which will come out clean when the cake is cooked.
- ~ Cool in tin for 15 minutes, then turn onto a wire rack.



POTTED HERRINGS – OR DECOY FOOD RATIONS?

Ingredients:

-  8 gutted small fresh herrings
-  Salt and pepper
-  1 finely sliced large onion
-  2 bay leaves
-  10 peppercorns
-  2 cloves
-  ¼ pint water
-  ¼ pint malt vinegar
-  ½ teaspoon granulated sugar

Method: Set the oven to 170°C or 325°F. Bone the herrings (unless tinned!) and season with salt and pepper. Tightly roll up herrings from head to tail, skin side out and arrange in an ovenproof dish. Cover with the sliced onion, add bay leaves, peppercorns and cloves. Mix together with water, vinegar and sugar and pour over fish. cover and bake for 30-35 minutes. Allow herrings to cool in the cooking liquid, then drain and chill before serving. *Enjoy!*



EGG AND HERRING SNACK –

FOOD ON THE MARCH?

Ingredients:

- 4 hard-boiled eggs
- 8 oz. tomatoes, skinned and sliced
- 190 gm tin herrings in tomato sauce
- Salt and pepper
- 3 oz. grated cheddar cheese
- watercress to garnish

Method:

Hard boil eggs for 10 minutes and put in cold water to cool. Blanch tomatoes in boiling water, to remove skins and cut into thin slices. Shell the eggs, cut in half lengthways and remove the yolks. Put the yolks into a bowl and mash, add the herrings and mix well. Season to taste. Arrange eggs whites in an ovenproof dish, fill with herring mixture, arrange tomato slices around edge and sprinkle with cheese. Cook under grill until cheese is bubbling and eggs and fish are heated through. Garnish with watercress.



'The main box of red herrings stowed themselves in the dinghy, Susan, Peggy, Dorothea, Titty and Roger. Nancy rowed them quickly ashore at the place where the *Sea Bear* had been put on legs to be scrubbed.'

(*A Clear Coast for Dick*)

WHAT WOULD YOU TAKE?

Packed lunches are an important part of any expedition or adventure, so it's important that you choose well. What would you choose? Sandwiches – what filling? Grog – or something else to drink? Snacks? Fruit? **We need advice!**

"We'll have our grub," said Nancy. "And my tongue's hanging out for grog. If that bottle's as hot as I am, it'll burst in another minute."...They threw themselves down on short dry heather, shrugged out of their knapsacks, opened their sandwiches and let the corks from their bottles go off ...

(*The Decoys*)



TARS BOOKWORLDS?

Maps, or Knowing Where You Are?



Email address for the TARS Library:
tarslib@arthur-ransome.org

Have you ever noticed that all of the twelve Swallows and Amazons books have something in common? No, not Nancy or John or Captain Flint – not *one* of them is in all twelve books – but what they share in common is **MAPS AND CHARTS!** Each book is illustrated with a very clear inked map showing where the events took place, so you can see at a glance the lie of the land – and the water, of course. Some, like those in *We Didn't Mean to Go to Sea* or *Secret Water* are more water than land, while most of the others are a combination of the two. Think of trying to figure out exactly what is going on in *Coot Club*, for example, without looking at one of the two maps of the northern and southern rivers.

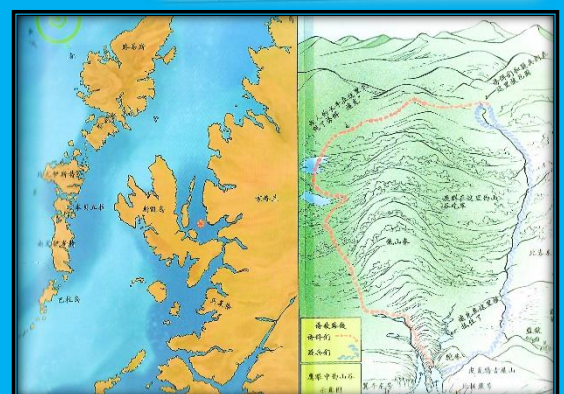
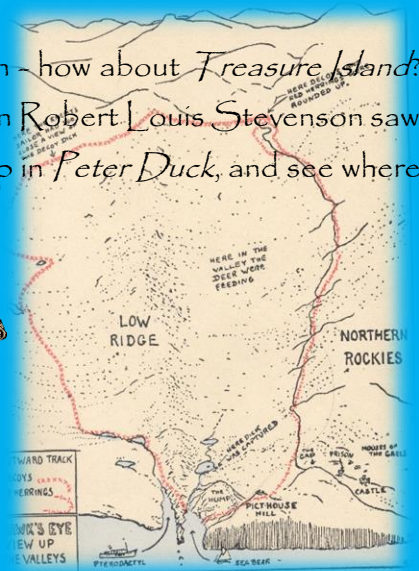
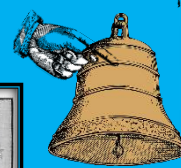
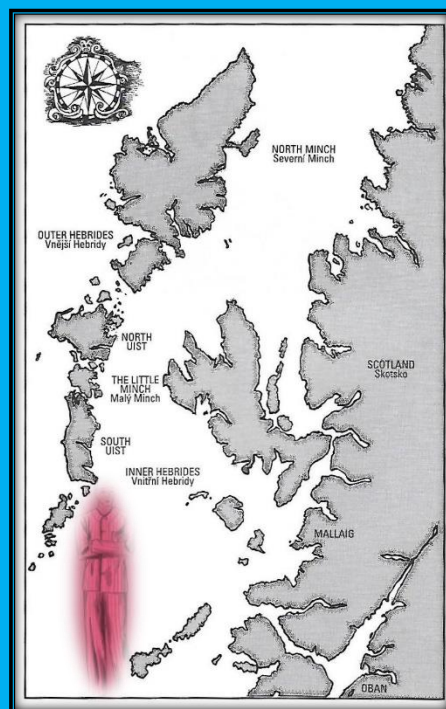
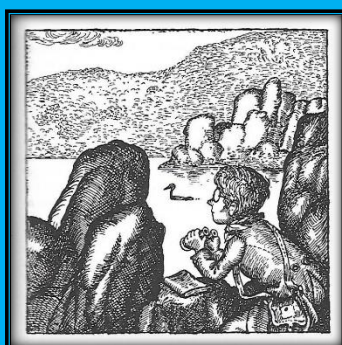
Great Northern? is no exception, and it's really important to be able to see where the *Sea Bear* was anchored, and where the lochs were in relation to the ship and Pict-house Hill, or where John and Nancy tried to lead the sailor from the *Pterodactyl* away from Dick's birds.

Several years ago, TARS Library was given a complete set of the twelve books in Chinese, but how was I to tell which were which? Fortunately, inside each book was a beautiful fold-out coloured map, which told me at a glance which book I was holding in my hands. Here is the one from *Great Northern?* Could you follow the story using this map?

Talking of books in languages other than English – or translations – we have nearly all of the Twelve in the Czech language. They also have maps, but I particularly like some of the illustrations too. Here is one of Dick in his hide on the loch, drawn by someone who, you might think, must have been there with him! Compare it with Arthur's illustration, and see which you like best. Perhaps you could do better than both artists?

Think of other books with maps which have fired your imagination – how about *Treasure Island*? Did you know that the map came first, drawn by a boy called Lloyd? When Robert Louis Stevenson saw his map, he promptly made up the story to go with it. Now look at the map in *Peter Duck*, and see where Ransome found his inspiration!

Winifred Wilson
June 2021



SHIP'S NATURALIST?



Dick's List of Birds?

Can you unscramble the anagrams to discover which birds he had spotted at the beginning of the cruise of the *Sea Bear*? Here are the anagrams, write the bird on the lines provided:

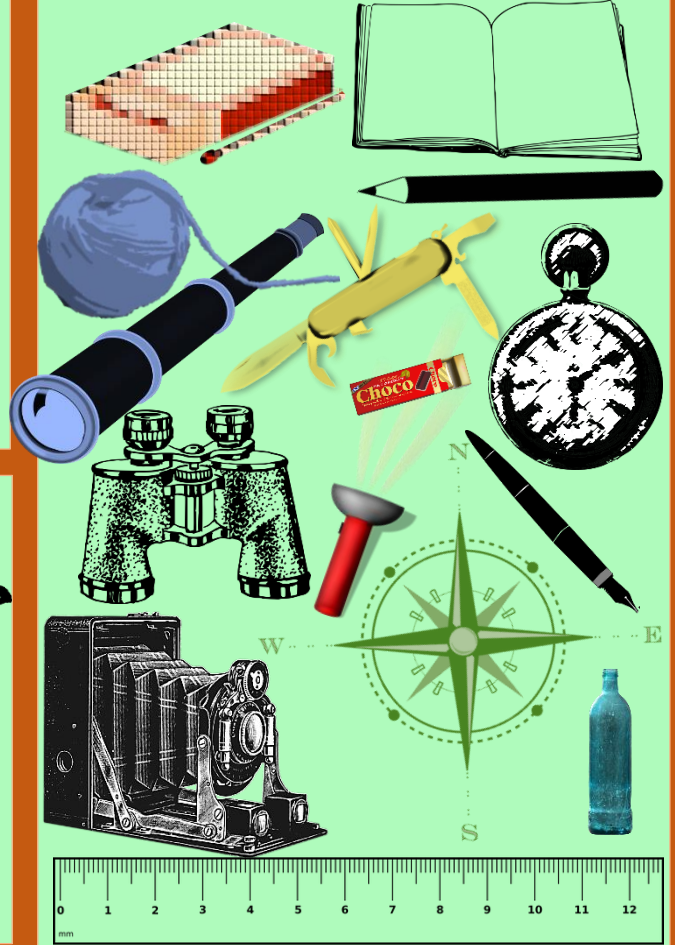
- netgans _____.
- motguilles _____.
- snert _____.
- slertep _____.
- samlurf _____.
- sniffup _____.
- sliblorzar _____.
- sersganmer _____.



Dick's Knapsack?

What did Dick take with him when on the 'Land Party' expedition, can you remember?

Choose from below & *which* are red herrings?



Colour in the birds on this page?



Top Tip?

When you are using binoculars, it is tricky to use a free hand and still keep steady your binoculars.

Here we have some tips on binocular-steadying:

Crouch down, lean your arm upon your knee: this will keep them steady.

To focus them, keep your eye on what you would like to observe closer, then, without moving your head, bring the binoculars to your eyes: you should be looking at the object!
Remember: always wear the strap!



Draw A Diver?

Upon first seeing the divers, Dick draws the bird so that the *Pterodactyl's* owner might recognise the bird. Can you have a go at drawing a Great Northern?



PICT HOUSES?

BUILD YOUR OWN BROCH:

- . Quick drying clay
- . Newspaper
- . Soapy water
- . A table knife
- . Paint



Spread newspaper across your work space, put your bowl of soapy water next to you so that you can easily wash your hands after you have finished your Broch.

Take a piece of clay, and flatten it for your base.

Next, take a chunk of clay and shape it so it is in a bottle shape & add to the base.

Take your knife and cut little brick shapes into the clay. If you want your Broch to look ruined you can take half of the top off.

Paint your Broch whatever colour you want. Enjoy! Send picture to us?

The word 'Broch' is derived from Lowland Scots 'brough', meaning (among many things) fort. In the mid-19th century Scottish antiquaries called brochs 'Burgs', after the Old Norse 'Borq', with the same meaning. Place names in Scandinavian Scotland such as Burgawater and Urgan show that Old Norse 'Borq' is the older word used for these structures in the north. Brochs are often referred to as duns in the west. Antiquarians began to use the spelling *broch* in the 1870s.

Pict houses are also known as Souterrains (from the French 'sous terrain' meaning 'Underground' and also from the German 'Souterrain' meaning 'Basement'.) which is a name given by archaeologists to a type of underground structure associated mainly with the European Atlantic Iron Age. The structures appear to have been brought northwards from Gaul during the late Iron age. Regional names include earth houses, fogous and Pictish houses. The term Souterrain is a distinct term from 'fogou' meaning 'cave'. In Cornwall the regional name of 'fogou', which is Cornish for 'cave', is applied to Souterrain structures. The design of underground structures has been shown to differ among regions.



We came across a newly-discovered /excavated roundhouse/Souterrain (French: underground) at a secret location on the Isle of Skye. How many Pict house images can you see?

Safety Notice

Visitors should note that access in the passage is restricted - it is 17 metres long - 0.75 metres wide with a maximum height of 1.5 metres and is winding and damp with limited natural light.

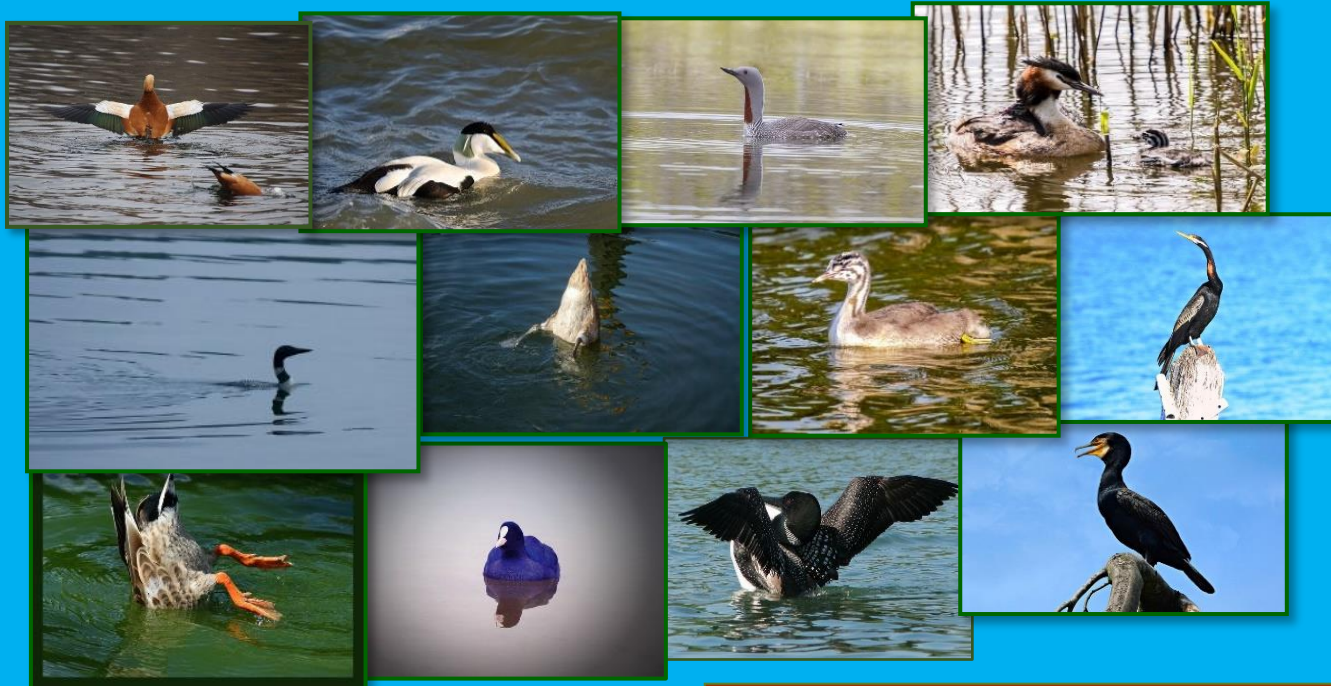


DIVING BIRDS OR DIVERSE DIVERS?

'He was consoling himself by remembering how many others he had been able to add to the list of birds he had seen with his own eyes ... gannets, guillemots, terns, petrels, fulmars, puffins, razorbills, mergansers ...'

Can you identify these perfectly-adapted water birds, some of which spend most of their lives at sea but, during May-June, breed and nest on lakes and lochs? Some breed in Britain regularly, one rarely and one is a rare visitor. Just as we see in Great Northern?, a diver's nest might be on the ground or a heap of weed with a slipway from the eggs to the water down which the female scuttles at the first sign of danger. Discover a little more besides ...

Adult uniformly piebald and velvety. Black, patched forehead and eye. Slow, ponderous, low in flight. Loud, moaning, crooning calls.



The summer adult has white underparts and a black back with bold white chequer squared markings and a black neck broken by two collars of black and white. also with a dark beak, large and massive. Yodel-like wailing voice.

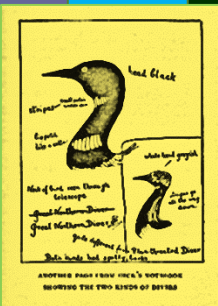
One of the larger surface-breeching birds, goose-like, with striking plumage. Prefers estuaries and sheltered sandy/muddy coastal inlets.

Summer adult has white underparts and a dark back with bold white markings; head and nape grey-white, throat streaked black with central black patch at back; its beak is dark and dagger-shaped.

The summer adult has a grey-brown back, white below; neck white with brown patches; often flies out to sea to feed & returns to sea inlets.

'Birds Royal' - adult all white all year-round; neck carried gracefully; beak orange with a black knob. Only resident British species are *mute*.

Not really a diver as such, though does feed beneath water. Curled black feathers form rump. Head bottle-green, legs orange. Often seen upended!



Crake; its flanks, belly, rump, and tail are a dull, velvety black. Fleshy white forehead.

Large broad-winged seabird; usually dark, metallic sheened with hooked, yellow beak.

CHAIRMAN'S GRAND POETRY COMPETITION 2020: RUNNERS-UP!

Judging has taken place and distinction and reward has been bestowed.

UNDER 8'S RUNNER-UP

Joseph Maddison

From hills tall and lakes vast
Arthur Ransome's stories sail far.
As signals travel across the seas,
pointing hands and bent knees
in secret codes, adventures unfold.
Signals from Mars
encourage us to join TARS.

OVER 12'S RUNNER-UP

The Joy of Sailing

Nina Cormack

Slip, slap
flip, flap
thwack, thwack
go back.

With wind on our cheeks
sailing fast
who'd go back?

Not we!

UNDER 8'S RUNNER-UP

Esme Blue

"To all of you, as well."
Or, My Life In Books So Far, So Good

Once upon a time in a place called
home, I began with a hundred-acre
wood followed by an old bear and
little books by Beatrix, then favourite
fairy tales, glassy slippers, sly foxes,
foolish geese, an Aurora,
red hoods and eaten grandmas,
Rats! Rats! Rats!

letting of hair down, little helpful
elves, triplets of piglets,
then cats in hats,
Millys Mollys Mandys,
satyrs fawns dryads and naiads in
Narnian woods.

Indian princesses followed
eggs and hams all gone green
and adventures with a Haddock
and a Tintin.

Laura and Mary on a prairie led
to Swallows and Amazons for ever!

Slip, slap
flip, flap
thwack, thwack
go back.

White water foam
running astern
who'd go back?

Not we!

Slip, slap
flip, flap
thwack, thwack
go back.

A mast swaying overhead
canvas filling
in the breeze
who'd go back?

Not we!

Judged by Ruth Ratcliffe

HUMOROUS RUNNER-UP

HOW TO JOIN THE S.D.P.S. (Secret Daughter Protection Society)

STEP 1.

If you need to get into your parents' "You're not a suspect." good books,
just ask: 'Do you want a cuppa?'

or

'I'll fetch a stool so you can put up your weary feet.'

or

'I need to work on my Grammatical Grammar book.'



They'll say, 'Okay, get out your Grammatical Grammar and don't forget
your French, Go-Geography! and Microscopic Map-reading study.'

Most importantly, pretend to be good!

TAKE A
BOW!!

STEP 2.

If you want to join the S.D.P.S. - secret daughter protection society -
when you fall out of the tree, tell no-one;
fighting with siblings? - when parents come in
- pretend you had nothing to do with it
by putting on your best 'innocent' look.

And most importantly, pretend to be good!



STEP 3.

Do everything behind closed doors -
like the hanging-upside-down game
and reading under covers
and plotting.

Most important, pretend to be good!

AURORA B.E. BLUE

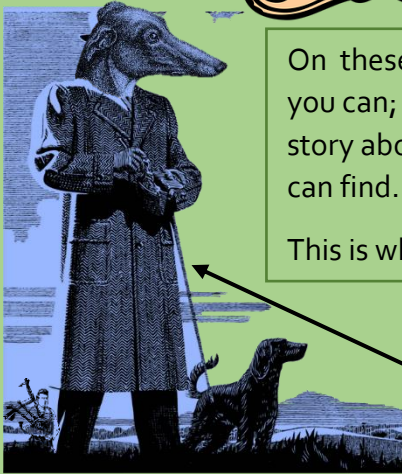
8~12 RUNNER-UP

The Day We Sail

**The sunny, breezy ocean winds
raced around across the seas today
and beckoned us to navigate
to some perfect place without delay,
we charted our course, set our sails,
and we skilfully cruised away.**

Charlotte Cossar

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY?



On these pages you will have to find as many bagpipers as you can; try to find Roger; sort out 6 anagrams; create a story about Roger and see how many heather bird hides you can find. Have fun!



This is what Roger looks like:



1. "hwat a gomddgeunloy tuebr," dais geror. "s'noegdumgod a odog rowd," dais yannc. "t'nsi ti?" dais geror. "lil' endl ti ouy fi uyo keli." *The First Discovery*



2. "gabpiesp!" dais geror. fianlty, morf arf waay, het iskri fo gabpiesp rifdtde owdn teh niwd. *The First Discovery*

3. "ti's a ligr" dais geror, yn lgi ta herti tefe, swoble no het dnuogr nad epocslete ot sih yee. *We are Being Stalked!*

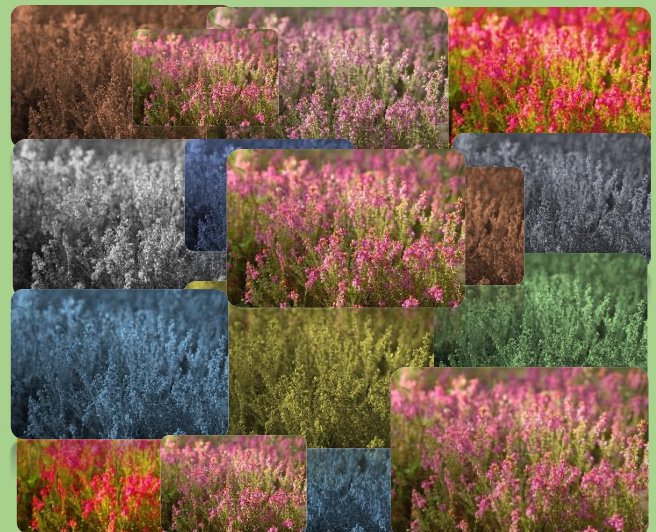
4. "lohlu," dais geror "het lod cDaty'l nuhryg oto." *Waiting for a Chance*

Hiding the Hide

Below there is a mosaic of heather-clad bird-hides: How many can you see?

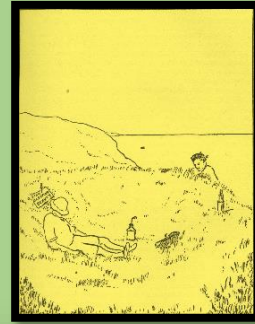
5. "Baetss! Baetss!" dais geror. sih mesha urtend ot regna ont ta sehmi fl utb ta het hetors. *A Good Look-Out*

6. geror htgouht on rome fo shi vaetprie uefd, shi lanosper ymenre. *Roger's Dull Day*

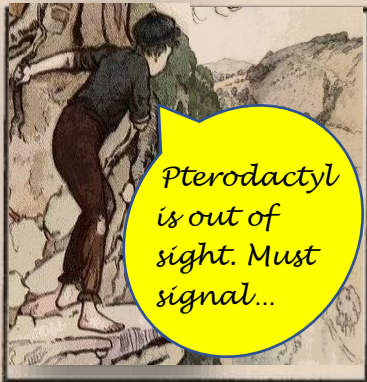


Roger is an Able seaman, but what is an Able Seaman? Well, an Able seaman works under a Bo(a)tswain, completing tasks such as working moor lines, operating deck gear, standing anchor details, and working cargo. An Able Seaman also stands a navigational watch, generally as a lookout or helmsman.

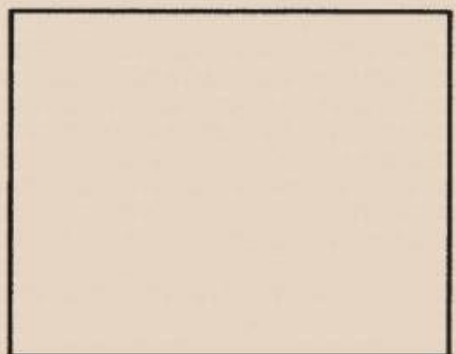
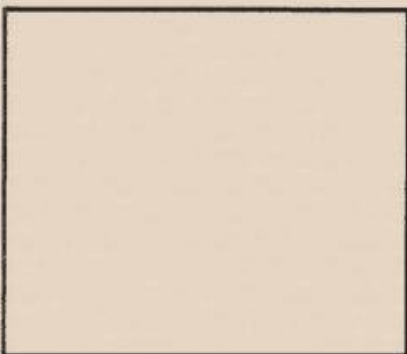
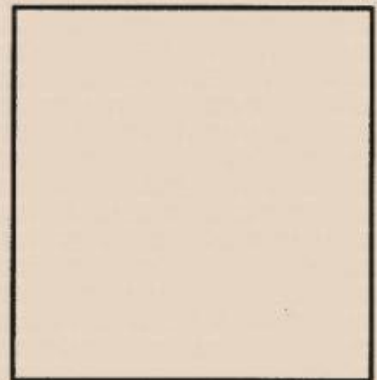
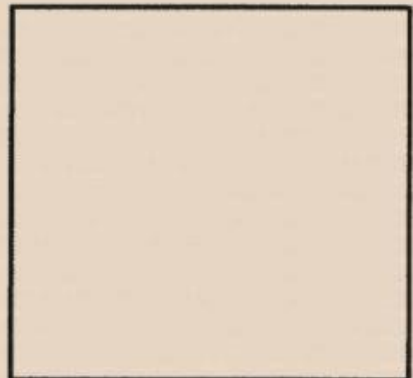
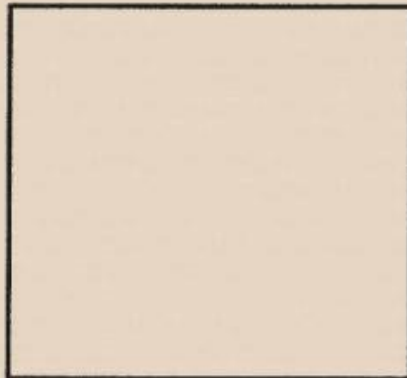
Complete this graphic page about Roger on his Pict House Hill. Send in your story to us & if it fits we will publish it in the next issue of *The Outlaw!*



Roger is looking out to see if he can espy the young chieftain ...



Pterodactyl is out of sight. Must signal...



DECOYS & RED HERRINGS?

Scottish Gaelic Dictionary

Boy – Balach (said: balak)

Cow – Bò (said: bow)

Diver – Daoibhear

Dog – Cù (said: Coo)

Girl – Caileag (said: Calak)

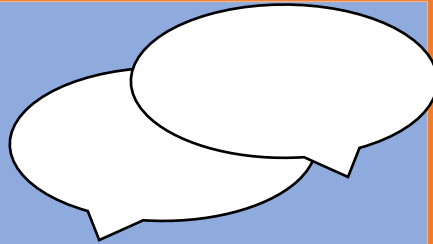
I am/ My name is ... – Is mise... (said: Ish misha)

Sea Bear – Mathan Mara

Egg – Ugh (said: uuu)

Scotland – Alba (said: allaba)

Gaelic is good – Tha Gàidhlig spòrsail (said: ha gaalaig spawsail)



Did you know ...?

Did you know that the Scottish Gaelic writing in the diary of the 'Young Chieftain' (Da fiadh dheug ... damh a fireach ... Damh is eildean ...) means:

"Twelve deer ... a stag and a deer ... an ox and a hind..." ?



Broken Conversation

In *The Egg Collector Cooks His Own Goose*, the Swallows and Amazons hear scraps of the Egg Collector and Captain Flint's conversation. Can you fill in the blanks to either help it make sense, or create a comical conversation?

" _____ mistaken _____ description
certainly accurate _____ inclined myself to think he saw what he described. If so, the
matter is of some importance _____ Useless, of course, unless confirmed by
competent witnesses _____ Prepared to confirm it myself _____ The
boy could not be expected to understand _____ Unable to tell me the
exact spot _____ Now ...

How Did Captain Flint Spend The Day?

Everyone can remember what both the Swallows and Amazons spent their day doing - being Red Herrings; but can you recall what did Captain Flint was doing?

What would *you* do in Captain Flint's position?

Who Said What, What said who?

In the chapter *The Sea Bear*, there is quite a confusion of conversation, can you identify who said what at the sight of the *Pterodactyl*?

Who said:

~ "Look here, it's my turn now. I spotted her first."

~ "Only a motor boat, anyway."

Probably carrying dispatches."

~ "She's going to pass us pretty close."

~ "You carry on, Nancy. We've the right of way. You've nothing to worry about. She'll pass under our stern."

~ "She's coming up a terrific lick."

~ "Or taking a doctor to one of the lighthouses."

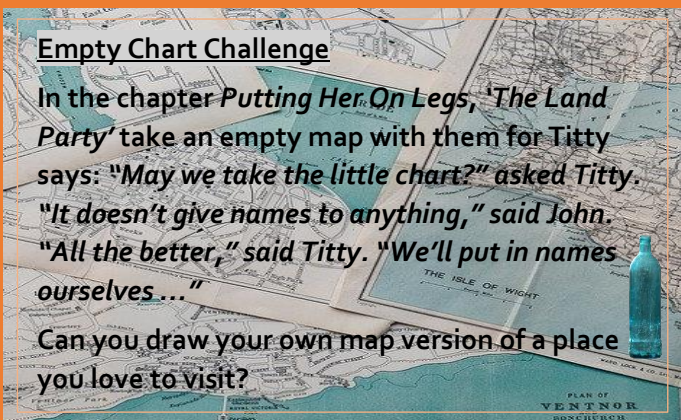
~ "It's Dick's boat."



Empty Chart Challenge

In the chapter *Putting Her On Legs*, 'The Land Party' take an empty map with them for Titty says: "May we take the little chart?" asked Titty. "It doesn't give names to anything," said John. "All the better," said Titty. "We'll put in names ourselves ..."

Can you draw your own map version of a place you love to visit?



WORD SEARCH

S	T	D	N	A	L	T	O	C	S
D	E	E	B	F	P	E	G	G	E
F	R	E	V	I	D	C	A	R	A
U	N	R	G	O	D	G	N	N	B
L	O	C	H	N	P	M	N	L	E
M	A	J	L	U	I	Q	E	E	A
A	H	T	F	K	C	R	T	R	R
R	O	F	I	E	T	W	R	T	Z
V	I	Y	M	X	Y	O	C	E	A
N	U	C	U	R	L	E	W	P	H

Can you find all of the words below in the wordsearch above?

CURLEW

EGG

PETREL

DECOY

FULMAR

PICT

DEER

GANNET

PUFFIN

DIVER

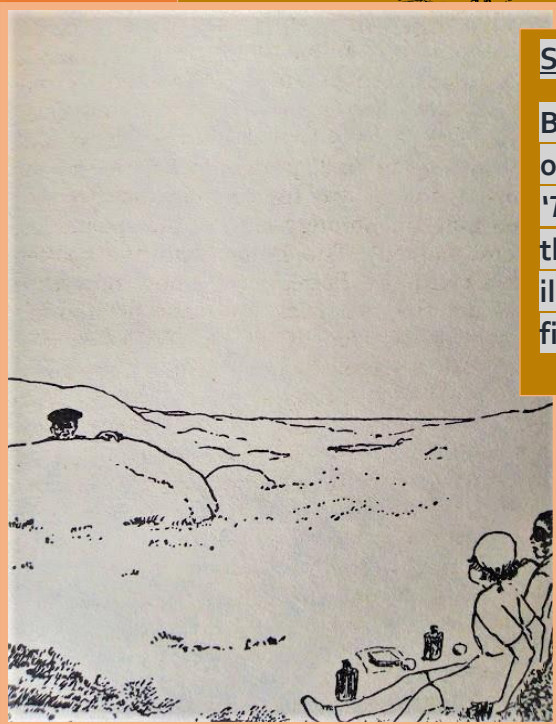
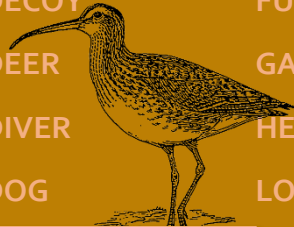
HERRING

SCOTLAND

DOG

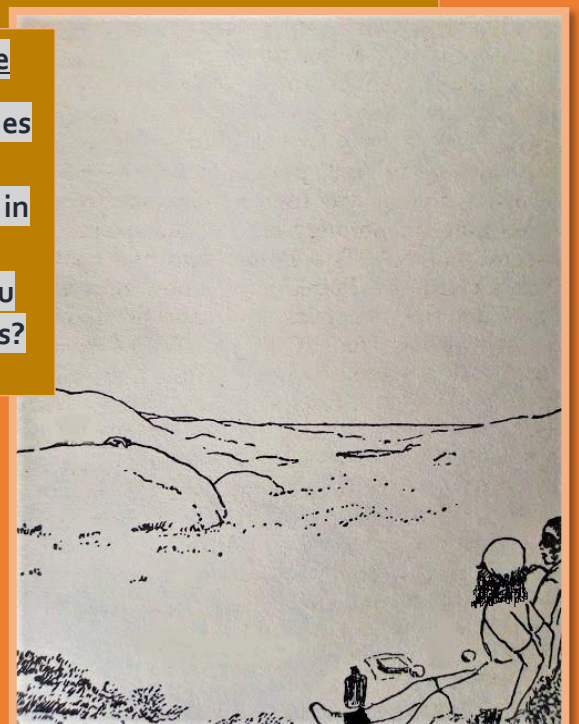
LOCH

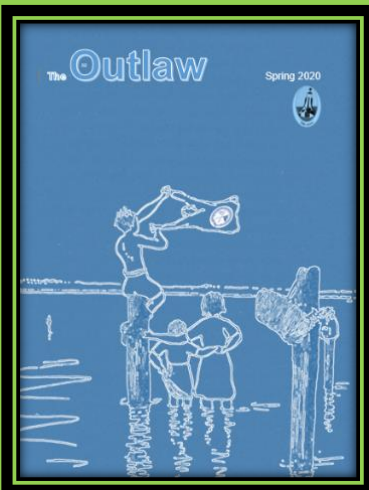
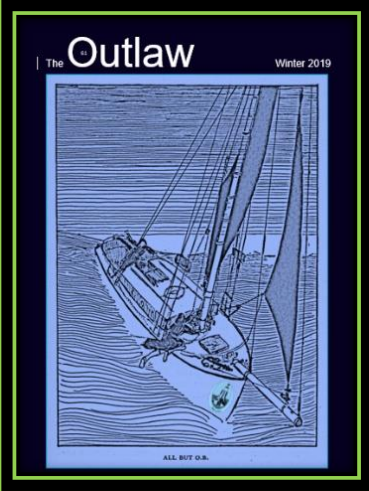
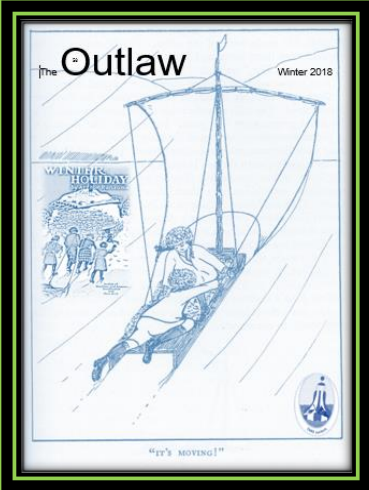
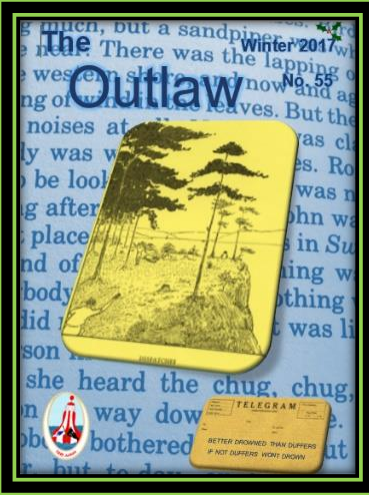
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Spot the Difference

Below are two copies of the illustration 'Too Close A View'; in the second illustration, can you find five differences?





ARTHUR RANSOME WROTE TWELVE BOOKS FOR YOU! WE HAVE FOLLOWED THEM WITH YOU ONE BY ONE. LOOK OUT IN THE NEXT ISSUE FOR A DIFFERENT TACK.

