

Sadness of a Sontaran?

WELCOME TO *THE TIDES OF TIME*, NUMBER 39. Publishing a **Doctor Who** fanzine in the middle of a series is an odd move. Even though *Tides* is now an e-zine distributed as a pdf, I was loath to publish the issue at the end of the series when university term was over, most students would have gone home and the publisher – the Oxford (University) **Doctor Who** Society – would have dispersed.

This decision might be of more symbolic importance than real. Given the speed of communication and the increasing importance of social media, there's a sense in which the society is in permanent session. Indeed, contributors to this issue include several people remote from Oxford, including *Tides*'s founding editor, my exact contemporary (give or take a few hours) Louise Dennis, taking a break from explaining artificial intelligence to the world with the help of her Lego robots. We also have articles from two friends of the society, Cambridge's quizmaster extraordinary James Baillie, and one-time Cardiff student, tour guide and acafan supreme, Melissa Beattie. James and Mel are making their *Tides* debuts this issue, as are expert on alien life James Ashworth, treader of boards Tom Marshall and prolific (and good) Oxford writer William Shaw. Former editor John Salway and Katrin Thier return, while Sam Sheppard allowed me to borrow some artwork he had shared elsewhere for the cover.

Returning to the editorship of this publication after nearly twelve years was a decision based on sentiment rather than practicality. I've been very fond of *Tides* in all its incarnations and returned telling myself and everyone else that I'd be an editor-in-chief, ideally working with others. As it is, I've not delegated very much editing or design this issue, and into the bargain have produced a more labour-intensive one than planned. I am thinking of a standard template next time round which will help develop a more collaborative model, too, to justify my assurances to myself that I was returning to demonstrate to a new generation the worshipful and ancient art of fanzine-making.



I'd like to involve more people for a practical reason, which will not have escaped followers of publication schedules: namely, that I have a book to write in the near future. With the aforesaid *The Black Archive: The Time Warrior* in mind, on our recent trip to the **Doctor Who** Experience at Cardiff, I was struck by the wistful expression of its 'classic series' Sontaran (pictured left). While its head is based on the mask worn by Kevin Lindsay as Linx in *The Time Warrior* in 1973, it's attached to the somewhat spangly uniform seen on a Sontaran in 1985's *The Two Doctors*, a far less well-loved tale which didn't greatly honour the Sontarans. Like a lot of us in everyday life, the story just had too much to do.

There's not very much on series ten in this issue, but look out for the release of a collective review in the summer, which Ian Bayley is co-ordinating, before its later incorporation into issue 40. I already have received a few articles and further contributions are welcome at matthew.kilburn@gmail.com. Until next issue (or before!),

Happy times and places,