

CORFU 34



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U.S. Postal address for memberships:

Corflu 34, Elayne Pelz
15931 Kalisher Street
Granada Hills, CA 91344

Membership inquiries:

elaynepelz AT frontier DOT com
(please format appropriately)

UK Agent Postal address for memberships:

Rob Jackson
Chinthey, Nightingale Lane,
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West Sussex PO18 8UH, UK

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All art in this PR is by Marc Schirmeister



CORFLU 34

WHY LOS ANGELES?

- 3 - Why Los Angeles?
- 5 - The LASFS Clubhouse
- Marty Cantor
- 4 - Introduction to John DeChancie's article
- Fred Patten
- 5 - Those North Hollywood Nights
- John DeChancie
- 7 - The FAAn Awards - Murray Moore
- 8 - Corflu Program - Milt Stevens
- 8 - Con Suite - Karl Lembke
- 9 - The Corflu 50 - Rob Jackson
- 10 - The Corflu 50 Delegate: Pete Young -
Claire Brialey
- 12 - Lifetime Achievement Award:
the story so far - Clair Brialey
- 14 - Current Corflu 34 Members

There is a lot of stuff on-line; and, like many APAhacks, I am always finding interesting illos and other items to, er, steal, er, temporarily borrow, for the edification of the other members of the APA.

Many of these things I use are found whilst looking for something else, and what is below is one of those things. See, I was just looking to find the number of square miles in the City of Los Angeles as part of something I was thinking to put into this PR.

And then I found just the item to sort of explain why I (and many others) live here.

So, everybody read this so that I can put it back afterwards. Provided, of course, I can find where I got it

But first, let me give another answer to "Why Los Angeles?" with said answer being an answer as to why hold Corflu 34 in Los Angeles. Simply put, I wanted a Corflu within easy driving distance to where I live - and it had been 24 years since Los Angeles had hosted a Corflu.

--- Marty Cantor

Marty Cantor

Con Chair
Publications

Elayne Pelz

Treasurer
Hotel Liaison
Membership

Milt Stevens

Programming

Karl Lembke

Con Suite

Marc Schirmeister

Art

Murray Moore

FAAn Awards

Rob Jackson

UK Representative

Bill Burns

Web Site



For a number of reasons, we get a bunch of questions asking what it's really like in SoCal. First of all, I'll tell you what it's NOT like: It's not like anything on TV. People watch shows on TV and think that's what it's like out here. The "Real OC", Newport Beach, The Hills, etc. Ever wonder why people in those shows never have to pay bills, do laundry, and are NEVER stuck in traffic? Because it's FAKE. And the news doesn't help either, since they know that sex and sensationalism sells. News flash: There aren't running gun battles in the street. There aren't shootouts every day. Also, you don't see celebrities just walking down the street, all glammed up, or sipping a cappuccino at Starbucks waiting to sign autographs. We don't go surfing during lunch hour. Some sections are REALLY nice, others are "ghetto". Too many people have this vision in their head that LA and Orange County are one or the other (either Beverly Hills or Compton). They either think it is a fairy tale fantasy or an apocalyptic ghetto. In fact, most of it is working class and middle class stiff's working to pay the bills. Like me. The variety of food here is incredible. New Yorkers come here and complain that the pizza is terrible (it's not as good as NY Pizza), but the Mexican food is GREAT here. That more than makes up for it. The weather here is incredible. 340+ days of sunshine makes up for a lot of traffic. You NEED a car to live in Southern Califor-

nia. We don't have an effective public transportation like New York or San Francisco. One reason is that LA is larger in area than either of those, without a central hub. Hollywood is 8 miles north of downtown, and 38 miles north of Disneyland. Average commute is 20-30 miles.. The freeway traffic is probably the worst thing about living here. The 405 is the worst. Know why they call it the 405? Because you go 4 o' 5 miles per hour, and it takes 4 o' 5 hours to get where you're going. Freeway Traffic is bad from 6-10 AM and bad from 3-7 PM. I don't know why they call it rush hour. It's more than an hour, and nobody's rushing, that's for sure. The gangs are the cause of many rumors. Keep in mind that there are gangs in any large town, in every part of the country. In LA, the gangs aren't really downtown, they are in South LA, East LA, and north Long Beach. And here's the deal: Mostly, they just kill each other. Gas is expensive in California. It's about 20-30 cents above the national average. Yes, gas and real estate are very expensive in SoCal. However, this would be the best time to BUY a house because it's a buyer's market right now. There are a lot of foreclosures, and too many houses on the market. If you want to rent, figure on \$1200 per month for a 1BR in a decent neighborhood. You need to make about \$30,000 per year in order to do that. You can't do it on minimum wage. Yep, freeways are a drag, it's smoggy in summer, and expensive to live here. Yet, if it's so bad, why do we have thousands and thousands of people moving here? Weather, year-round activities, jobs, beaches, mountains, and deserts all within driving distance, and plenty of opportunity for those who have the skills and tenacity. However, it is not for everyone. Every time someone posts this question, you get the LA haters who post their bile and venom. A lot of them don't know what they are talking about. Some people never even visit, and hate it on principle and stereotypes. Some actually visited once, and found out it wasn't like it was on TV, and it certainly wasn't Mayberry. And some actually lived here, and couldn't deal with the expense, the traffic, or the somewhat impersonal nature of living in a large metropolis. It's just the lifestyle here: People want their own private space. It's sort of "you do your thing, I'll do mine". To those hateful souls I would say "good luck" to you wherever you are, but please don't spew your hatred in this forum. To summarize, it's a HUGE metropolis that really defies easy description. I live in one of the nicer suburbs, but the commute is no fun, often 1-2 hours each way each day. However, 340+ days of sunshine really helps. Yeah, it's expensive. Mrs. Obviousman and I both have to work to pay the mortgage. But is it worth it? Absolutely!

THE LASFS CLUBHOUSE

As of this writing, November 2016, the LASFS has just sold its clubhouse, the third one it has owned. There were several reasons for this including deteriorating neighborhood, lack of parking, and the need for more space for its library.

If there is an update to the information about a fourth clubhouse before this PR goes to press, I will put that information in this PR.

---Marty Cantor

*INTRO TO JOHN DeCHANCIE article
in LASFAPA #476*

In May 1934, Wonder Stories announced the creation of the Science Fiction League, an international SF club which was to be coordinated through a column in the magazine. Members living in the same city were encouraged to get together and start a local SFL chapter. The first SFL chapters were on the East Coast, but on Saturday, October 27, 1934, seven Los Angeles SFL members and two guests met in the garage of member E. C. Reynolds. These nine fans sent a letter to Wonder Stories asking to become an SFL chapter. The Los Angeles Science Fiction League (LASFL) was granted a charter dated November 13, 1934 as the club's fourth chapter.

When the parent Science Fiction League began to fall apart in the late 1930s, the club stayed alive by declaring its independence on March 27, 1940 as the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society.

The LASFS began to build this spirit

during the 1960s, determining to buy its own clubhouse and incorporating in 1968 as a non-profit educational organization. Due to property prices, the club moved from the central Los Angeles area into San Fernando Valley, becoming the first SF club to buy its own property, at 11360 Ventura Boulevard, Studio City in 1973. In 1977 the LASFS replaced it with a larger clubhouse at 11513 Burbank Boulevard in North Hollywood.

In 2011, after 34 increasingly cramped years at its Burbank Blvd. home, the LASFS moved into a larger clubhouse at 6012 Tyrone Avenue, Van Nuys 91401.

*---Fred Patten
(from the LASFS history at the LASFS web site)*

The following article was written by LASFAPA member and APA-L contributor, John DeChancie. The LASFS clubhouse to which it refers is the second one, the one in North Hollywood.

---Marty Cantor

THOSE NORTH HOLLYWOOD NIGHTS

*A plane rises steep
Into North Hollywood dusk;
Night falls, fans gather.
A lighted courtyard;
Laughter and murmuring now
'Neath the lemon tree.
The gavel falls loud;
The meeting begins. . .*

I wrote those lines as a jape, but taken another way, they express the wistful nostalgia I feel about the old LASFS clubhouse, and all the Thursday nights that have happened there, all the camaraderie, all the fellowship, the games,

THE FAAn AWARDS

I appear before you (in print) a changed FAAn Awards administrator. Corflu 34 will be my fourth time as your administrator (previous ->Corflu 23, Toronto; Corflu 24, Austin; Corflu 25, Las Vegas (Henderson, actually)).

Last year during ChiFlu in Chicago, Milt Stevens invited me to be Corflu 34's tally counter. How could I say No?

My epiphany happened Saturday evening. Other of that Corflu's attendees – maybe you were one – I name no names – came to me and said variations of “Help us!” “This can't continue!” “My head is going to explode.” In response I felt I had no choice. I knew what I had to do, who I had to become. I metamorphosed from Tally Counter to Fanzine Activity Achievement (FAAn) Awards Dictator for Life.

But wait. I just remembered, all of these pleas were made to me during Nigel Rowe's Excellent Quiz AKA Art Widner Memorial Fanball Classic.

No. Coincidence. Besides, the Quiz is the only opportunity I expect ever to see an apoplectic Sandra Bond. Good times. Anyway.

I am carrying through with a version of my comments during the ChiFlu Whither The FAAn Awards? panel. I suggested then that juries, for centuries, have been entrusted with voting on verdicts as serious as life or death.

Being Fanzine Activity Achievement (FAAn) Awards Dictator for Life has made the Awards clear to me, for the

first time. You are my people: I know what you think. However -waste of time, really- I have decided -this year- to appear to be democratic.

In 2016 FAAn Awards voters will be given a ballot with four of the five categories filled. Example: Best Artist, of the five slots, four slots will have a name. The fifth slot will be a write-in slot.

Four out of five slots in each category will be the results of nomination by my jury. Not a jury of twelve: a jury of 42 – the 40 fans who voted last year plus two who recused themselves. These 40 + 2 fans, starting Jan. 1, will have until Feb. 28 to ponder and weigh and then turn in to me their maximum four choices in a category.

Categories will be the same as last year: Fan Artist, Fanzine Cover, Genzine, Letterhack, Personal Zine, Special Publication, Fan Writer, and Fan Website.

Why the opportunity on the ballot for a write-in vote? Because, despite my transmogrification, I am afraid of Mike Meara. I know. Inexplicable. But there you are.

After Feb. 28 the ballot will be distributed – four slots filled, fifth slot empty, in each category. Voting is open to everyone, including nominators.

Why should you vote this year? Answer a question with a question: Doyou want to be a nominator next year? Did you miss the bit about me being Fanzine Activity Achievement (FAAn) Awards Dictator for Life?

--- Murray Moore

CORFLU PROGRAM

I have reached the point of thinking about thinking about the program. I have a few ideas. However, we don't have many members as yet, so I can't flesh out the ideas.

Program Ideas:

Fandom and Us. Who are all these other people who claim to be fans, and what do they have to do with us?

Beyond Numbered Fandoms. If we can't update the numbered fandoms model, we probably need a new model. What can we say for sure about fan history?

Corflu Nostalgia Panel. Everybody does one. Why should I be any different?

The Electronic Others. There are these things on the internet that claim to be fanzines. Has anybody tried reading any of them? Do they have any redeeming social or anti-social value?

Beyond Sercon and Fannish. Do these distinctions make any difference anymore? Did they ever?

Second Fandom. Many of us might be members of Second Fandom if Second Fandom existed. Do you suppose it should exist?

The Fanzine I Would Publish If Only I Published a Fanzine. Title says all.

Auction. Two or three hours of the usual.

--- Milt Stevens

CON SUITE

The Con Suite, or Hospitality Suite, is a special place. At many conventions, it's a place to get away from the insanity in the programrooms and the halls of the convention. It's also a (reasonably) quiet placeto meet people and strike up conversations.

The Con Suite also provides refreshment such as crisps, pretzels, cookies, fruit and vegetable plates, and a variety of beverages. In many cases, theCon Suite will provide more substantial fare such as sandwiches.

By long tradition, the Con Suite at Corflu provides "adult beverages" containing alcohol, usually beer and wine. Since the hotel bar has beenadvised to stock up on British imports for our visitors from overseas, theCon Suite intends to stock a selection of American craft beers, which have finally recovered from that horrible Volstead Act of the last century. These will include at least one selection brewed by the Con Suite committee head. The Con Suite will also stock a small quantity of mead, just because the Committee head has some in stock.

Con Suite will consult with the Chairman and with longstanding members of Corflu to set the menu and provide a congenial place for members of the convention to enjoy each other's company.

HAVE YOU FANACED TODAY?

--- Karl Lembke



YEAH, HAVE YOU?

THE CORFLU 50

A few months ago, the email group of kindly Corflu supporters who make up the Corflu Fifty confirmed their selection of the person they would like to make the trip to Woodland Hills, CA next April for Corflu 34.

Elsewhere in this PR you will find information about this year's winner, British/Thai fanzine editor Pete Young, and just why he will be a good person to meet in our LA suburb next spring.

Last year, for Chiflu in Chicago, we brought legendary fan cartoonist Grant Canfield across the country from the City By The Bay, and to the delight of all con members he produced an anthology of his best cartoon work, *Xenotect* 1. With this wonderful publication, he both reminded those of us who'd known him when he was most active, in the 70s and 80s, and educated newer fanzine fans about just exactly why he is so revered as a cartoonist with both great draughtsmanship skills and a devilish sense of humour. Not everyone publishes a new zine specially, but this was certainly appreciated!

It was also great to meet him in person and hang out with him. And that is the whole point of the Corflu Fifty – to meet, hang out with and honour those who have Done Great Stuff in fanzines and might benefit from the honour and the support to make the trip.

So how did this Corflu Fifty thing start?

In February 2007, just after Corflu Quire in Austin, Rich Coad set up an email list inviting fanzine fans to join “a

group of donors, each willing to donate \$25 or £15 per year, for the express purpose of bringing persons to Corflu who otherwise could not attend. This idea grew out of the successful funds to bring Bruce Gillespie and William Breiding to Corflu Titanium and to bring Harry Bell to Corflu Quire. At Corflu Quire additional names were mentioned for fans we would like to see at Corflu but who are unable to attend for a variety of reasons.”

This list is called the Corflu Fifty. The target has been \$1250 (minimum) each year, to help a fanzine fan who has earned the respect of their peers and would be particularly welcome at that year's Corflu, but couldn't otherwise make the journey. Though we don't quite have fifty members (yet!), we have achieved that target through both the core donations and extra fund-raising efforts.

Rich Coad set the group and the e-list up; then Curt Phillips took over for a while till his involvement with TAFF led him to hand the role back to Rich. I have been the UK Administrator since the group started. The Corflu Fifty's recipients are chosen through discussion on the group's email list – the_corflu_fifty@yahoogroups.com (note the underlines as separators).

Beneficiaries so far:

Year	Winner To	From Venue
2008	Steve & Elaine Stiles Corflu Silver	US E Coast Las Vegas, NV
2009	Curt Phillips Corflu Zed	US E Coast Seattle, WA
2010	Earl Kemp Corflu Cobalt	Mexico Winchester, UK
2011	Dave Hicks CorFlu Vitus	UK Sunnyvale, CA

2012	Shelby Vick Corflu Glitter	US E Coast Las Vegas, NV
2013	Rob Hansen Corflu XXX	UK Portland, OR
2014	Dan & Lynn Steffan Corflu 31	US W Coast Richmond, VA
2015	Geri Sullivan Tynecon III: the Corflu	US E Coast Newcastle upon Tyne, UK
2016	Grant Canfield Chiflu	US W Coast Chicago, IL
2017	Pete Young Corflu 34	UK/Thailand Los Angeles, CA

We have five times managed to support Transatlantic trips (or Transpacific if Pete leaves from his base in Thailand), and twice supported couples to travel within the US. If you not only want to help out financially, but also to help influence who gets the group's support next time round, please join!

Go to: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/the_corflu_fifty/ where there should be a Join This Group option.

-- Rob Jackson, November 2016



THE CORFLU 50 DELEGATE TO CORFLU 34



PETE YOUNG

It's quite a responsibility introducing the Corflu 50 delegate, so although I've known Pete Young for nearly 20 years now I've spent some additional time researching his earlier life and checking some of the facts. It's so easy to misremember things and to make assumptions; since Pete himself gives up quite a lot of time to trying to set the record straight for posterity about fanzine fandom, it would be embarrassing to need him next to turn his attention to this biography.

So, starting there, some people will already be familiar with Pete's work without realising what they owe him. Building on his own interests as a book collector, he has created one of the largest and most significant resources available to scholarship, estimated at between 40,000 and 400,000 papyrus scrolls before the library burned down during

the Roman conquest... Hold on a moment. No, I'm obviously getting Pete confused with someone else. That'll teach me to start reading Wikipedia.

I'll come back to his fan historical work; we should really be starting with fanzines anyway. Born in Bath, Pete was the editor of the *Manchester Guardian* from 1872 until 1929 – no, of course not. Sorry. Born in London, Pete used eye-catching typography and designs for his publication of pacifist and socialist non-fiction as well as a solid selection of contemporary fiction, many of which were easily recognisable by their yellow dust jackets. No, I realise that can't be right either. Look, never mind his fan activity as an editor and publisher: maybe it would be better to focus on his fanwriting.

Pete's account of his travels to central and south-east Asia are recorded in *Livres des merveilles du monde*, which he dictated to a cellmate during some subsequent years of imprisonment and which was published around the turn of the century. His influence on European cartography led to the introduction of the Fra Mauro map and... I'm afraid I've gone wrong again.

Pete is also an artist who works in a range of media, exploring the relationship between artistic expression, celebrity culture and adverts and becoming a leading figure in the visual art movement known as pop art. No, that's not it at all: as well as graphic art and illustration, he's known for his photography – nominated as Asia Pacific Photographer of the Year in 2011, with a ten-year stint as chief photographer for *Rolling Stone* including a cover featuring John Lennon and Yoko Ono on the day Lennon

was assassinated. Ah.

Perhaps we should start again. There are many facets to the talented, erudite and charming Pete Young, and I'm delighted that Corflu attendees who haven't yet had the chance to meet him in person will be able to do so in April. As some of you will already know, in reality he is one of those splendidly versatile fanzine fans who contributes as a writer, an artist, and an editor.

His first fanzine, *Zoo Nation*, saw seven (or eight) issues from 2002 and was recognised with Nova awards in 2003 and 2004. Pete has also been a guest editor for four issues of *Journey Planet*, and he currently has three titles on the go: the genzine *Big Sky*, his personal fanzine, *The White Notebooks* (both of which you can find at efanzines.com/bigsky/ although *The White Notebooks* also has a paper edition), and *The Thai Literary Supplement* – a paper review zine covering literature about Thailand. His publications consistently demonstrate strong design sensibilities, thought-provoking writing, intelligent engagement with SF and fandom, humour, and contributions from people whose writing we might not have the chance to read in fanzines otherwise. And he's just as interesting to talk to.

Pete is employed by A Large British Airline and, when not travelling on their behalf, splits his time between the UK – where, in the spirit of nominative determinism, he is based in Reading – and Thailand, where his wife, Benji, and their children Miles and Sky live too, at their home in Hua Hin. We try not to spread the rumour that Pete's book collection is so large that he needs to store it in separate countries. His travels, in-

cluding for work, have nonetheless given him some additional opportunities to capture some spectacular photographs (including from planes and hotel rooms), some of which you may already have seen on websites, print publications and adverts. You can see more of them, along with those taken closer to home, at flickr.com/photos/ascendent/

In what remains of his spare time, Pete is one of those fans who helps to keep fandom moving forward while remembering where it's been: he's a moderating editor at ISFDB, a contributor to *Fancylopedia 3*, and helped to proof-read the first e-pub edition as well as the bumper 2016 expanded edition of Rob Hansen's *Then*. As a result of this he probably knows more about what we've all been doing in fandom than anyone except Sandra Bond, and so in future you won't have to rely on the wild imaginings of people like me in fanzines.

So please say hello to Pete Young in California; give him a fanzine and make time for a chat. He's a gentleman, a scholar, a science fiction fan, and a citizen of the world in an era when strong international relationships and intelligent communications seem more worth nurturing than ever.

---Claire Brialey, November 2016

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD:
THE STORY SO FAR**

The Lifetime Achievement Award has been presented at Corflu since 2010 and thus the award's own lifetime is not yet

particularly extended. It even could be argued that the award is still in its infancy, although that would be to make the mistake of considering this as if the award were a human being; if it were a beer, a hamster, or a monthly fanzine, after enduring for seven years the Lifetime Achievement Award would already be considered exceptionally venerable.

Which, not coincidentally, could also be said of the fans who have won it, although it's not an official requirement of the award that they be so. The award doesn't have many official requirements and – like most activities which have come to seem traditional at Corflu – how it is conducted and whether it is presented at all are matters for each year's committee to decide for themselves.

What is clear is that the Lifetime Achievement Award was devised by the committee of Corflu Cobalt, led by Rob Jackson, and is intended to honour a living fan for their fan activity over a long time in fandom. Since this is Corflu, such fan activity is generally expected to include some notable contributions to fanzine fandom. Some committees have additionally taken the view that the winner needs still to be interested and active in fanzines – which may or may not allow for intervening periods of gaffiation – while others have focused more on the significance of each fan's achievement, whenever it was made.

The Lifetime Achievement Award is not a FAAn award, although so far it has been announced and presented at the same time as the FAAn awards; in its first year, the award was open for popular vote alongside the FAAn categories.

Subsequent winners have been selected by each Corflu committee, usually through a small sub-committee which has also included representatives of recent Corflu chairs, former winners of the awards, and/or other fans who can help to broaden the collective thinking about potential candidates.

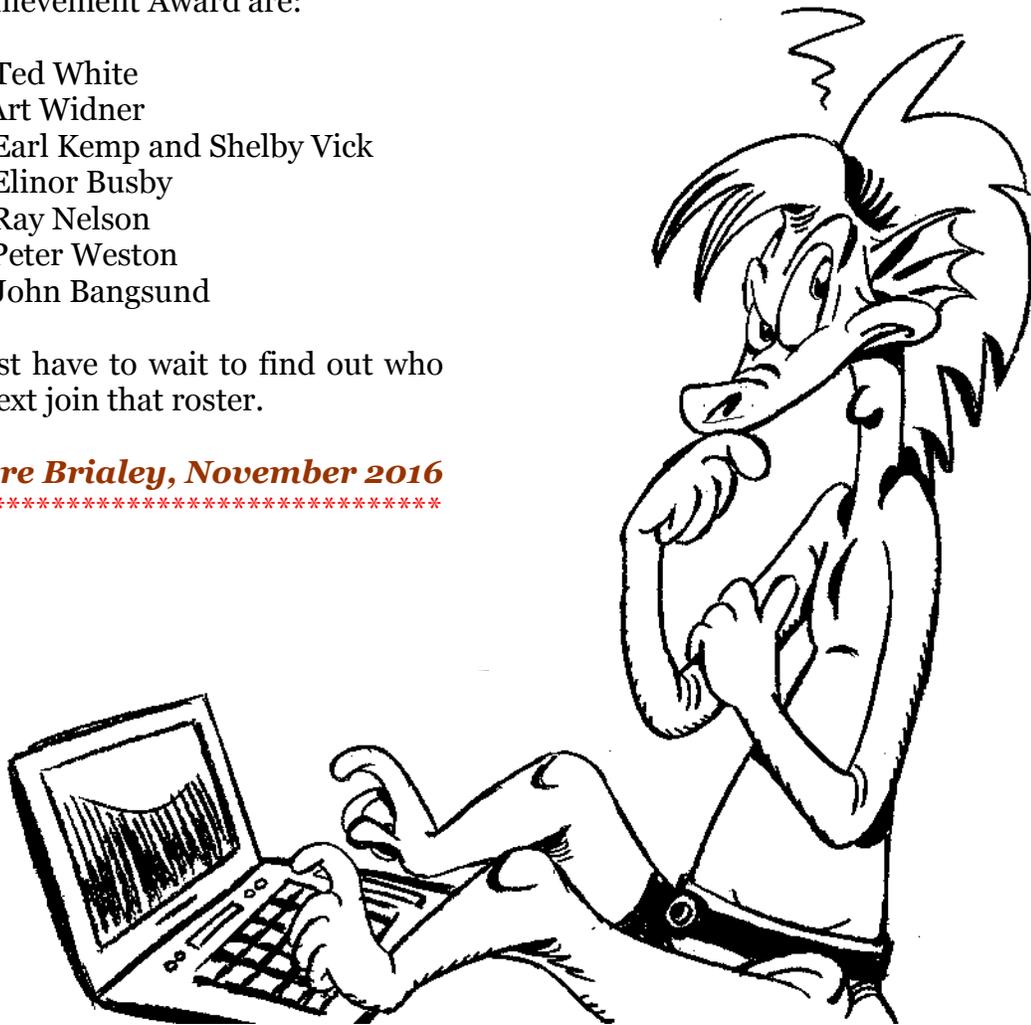
While people might quibble with the changing process, the winners have met with more general favour – which is perhaps not surprising when you see that those who have received the Lifetime Achievement Award are:

- 2010 – Ted White
- 2011 – Art Widner
- 2012 – Earl Kemp and Shelby Vick
- 2013 – Elinor Busby
- 2014 – Ray Nelson
- 2015 – Peter Weston
- 2016 – John Bangsund

We'll just have to wait to find out who might next join that roster.

---Claire Brialey, November 2016

TYPEWRITER OR LAPTOP-
IT'S THE OLD PROBLEM-
-WHAT TO WRITE ABOUT?



MEMBERS

Attending

- 1 Ted White
- 2 Nigel Rowe
- 3 Grant Canfield
- 4 Michael Dobson
- 5 Milt Stevens
- 6 Murray Moore
- 7 Mary Ellen Moore
- 8 Carrie Root
- 9 Andy Hooper
- 10 Sandra Bond
- 11 Pat Virzi
- 12 Ken Forman
- 13 Spike
- 14 Ron Salomon
- 15 Tom Becker
- 17 Marty Cantor
- 20 Rob Jackson
- 23 Karl Lembke
- 24 Barry Gold
- 25 Lee Gold
- 26 Elayne Pelz
- 27 Greg Benford
- 30 Gary Mattingly
- 31 June Moffatt
- 32 George McUrso
- 33 Barbara Gratz Harmon
- 34 Gordon Eklund
- 35 Pete Young
- 40 Jack Calvert

Supporting

- 16 Gary Hunnewell
- 18 John Nielsen Hall
- 19 Audrey Nielsen Hall
- 21 Claire Brialey
- 22 Mark Plummer
- 28 Robert Lichtman
- 29 R-Laurraine Tutihasi
- 36 Pat Charnock
- 37 Keith Freeman
- 38 Mike Meara
- 39 Pat Meara
- 41 John Hertz

ATTENTION

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2017,
MEMBERSHIP RATES WILL INCREASE

Attending \$115 (US), £90 (UK)

(Supporting will remain the same:
\$25 (US), £15 (UK)

If you have a Supporting membership and you think that there is a good possibility that you might attend Corflu 34, convert your Supporting membership to an Attending membership before the membership rate increase on January 1. The conversion rate before January 1 is: \$70 (US) and £50 (UK).

See page 2 of this Progress Report for current membership rates and hotel information.

Before PR2 is pubbed I am currently considering putting out a short, updating circular.

NOW -
JUST WHO WANTS TO CHAIR
CORFLU 35