



CORFLU CRAIC

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Corflu Craic (Corflu 40)

Progress Report 2

The Malone Hotel, 60 Eglantine Avenue

Belfast, BT9 6DY UK.

31st March—2nd April, 2023

Running the weekend before EasterCon, this is a great opportunity to have a wonderful fannish holiday in the UK. We're lining up special publications, bus trips, a special list of program items, a workshop and a particularly fine Saturday evening of entertainment—with a very local colour!

This progress report gives a lot more detail on travelling to the convention—mainly by air and then onward to Belfast city and the hotel. If you are looking for details of ferries, car rental etc. give me a shout and I can point you in the right direction. Apologies if it is a bit text heavy!

There is also a bit of a teaser on the program—which we have a theme for and I'm now starting to pull together. James Bacon and I will be reaching out to people to help us in due course—especially for the really interesting and special program items.

Mainly this Progress Report is to remind you that Corflu Craic is happening and to get your money into our coffers so I can plan well ahead. Nigel Rowe and I will also be taking memberships at Corflu Pangloss in October if you want to get in under the wire of price rises.

Travel to Belfast—International From the US

You can't fly direct internationally from the United States into Belfast at the moment. You used to be able to fly direct into Belfast—it may be worth keeping an eye on United or Norwegian Air flights from New York (Newark) as we get closer to the convention, in case they start up again. Right now you have two alternatives:

Dublin

You can fly direct to Dublin with a number of carriers—notably Aer Lingus—but American, United and Delta also fly here. Cities in both the East Coast and West Coast are well served by these airlines and availability and frequency is good. Prices at 21st July 2022

- Aer Lingus—Boston—Dublin for two weeks over Easter is currently \$630 economy
- Aer Lingus—Seattle—Dublin for two weeks over Easter is currently \$730 economy
- Delta New York—Dublin for two weeks over Easter is currently \$650 economy
- American Philadelphia—Dublin for two weeks over Easter is currently \$500 economy

London

Flights into London are ridiculously cheap, frequent and you can depart from just about anywhere

- Chicago —London Heathrow is served by British Airways, American and United. Best price for two weeks over Easter is currently \$700 with Lufthansa economy
- Seattle—London Heathrow is served by British Airways, American, Delta and Virgin Atlantic. Best price for two weeks over Easter is currently \$840 with BA economy
- New York—London Heathrow is served by British Airways, American, Delta and Virgin Atlantic. Best price for two weeks over Easter is currently \$70 with American economy

Birmingham (UK)

- The UK EasterCon has announced that its location will be the Birmingham NEC the Easter week after Corflu Craic. There are no direct flights from the United States into Birmingham.

Choices?

It really depends on what you're doing with your time before and after Corflu Craic. If you're staying in Ireland for a tour—then Dublin is your best bet. If—as I hope—you are attending EasterCon after Corflu Craic then London is your best bet.

Travel to Belfast—From Dublin

Choices?

1. I'm coming straight to Belfast from Dublin airport.

Get the bus! I know of some people who simply refuse to travel on a bus / coach and will always go for the train—but take it from me getting into Dublin to get the train to Belfast from Dublin airport will take time, cost and be a major hassle. Just don't do it.

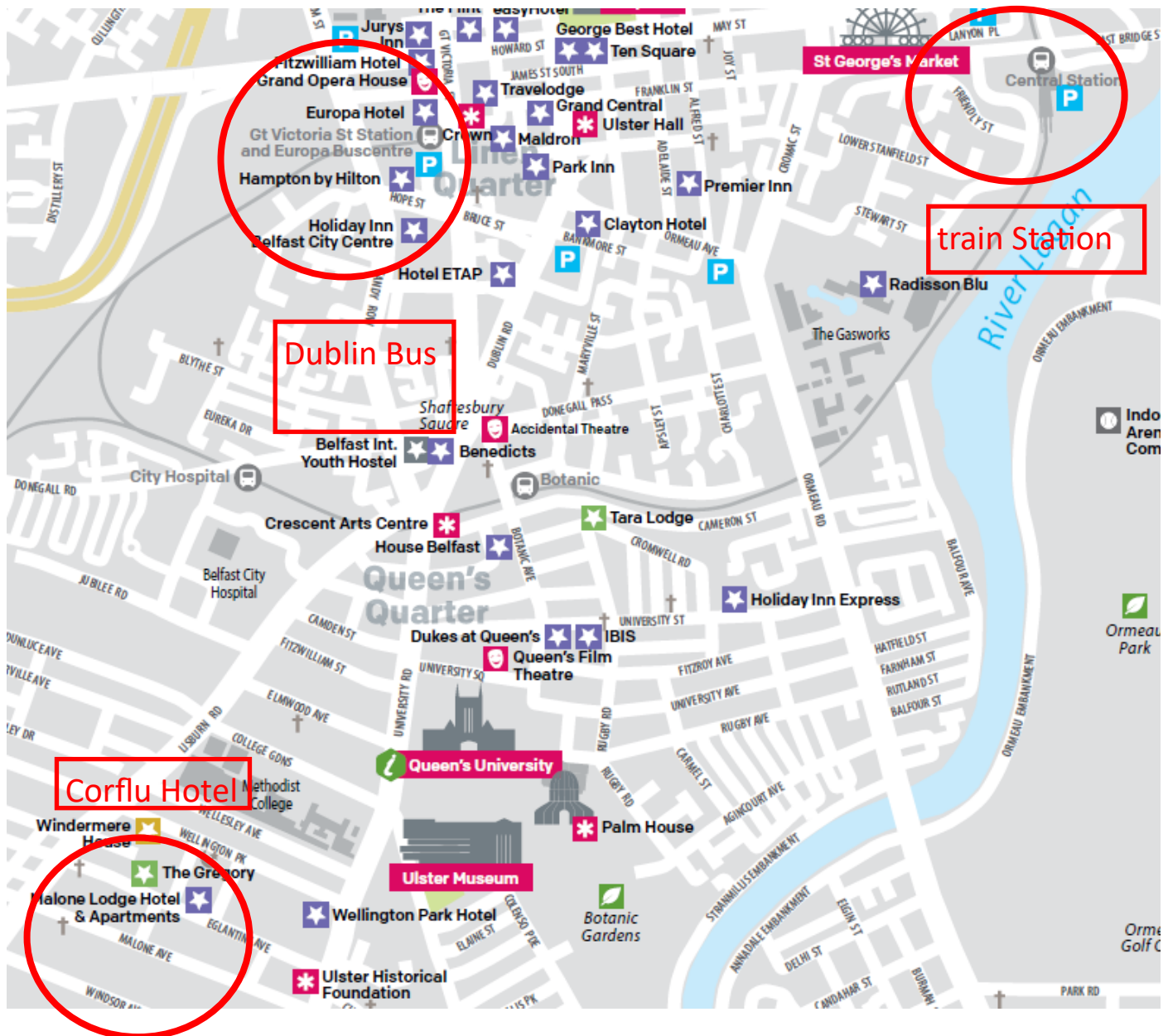
Coaches are:

- Bus Eireann / Ulster Bus (Translink) are the national coach companies of the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland respectively. They run a joint service between the airport and Belfast city centre every hour. Web fare £8 single, cash fare £15 single (£16 / £22 for returns)
- Aircoach—is a private company doing the same route however its buses are 24 hours. Web fare £11 single £18 for returns but these prices are liable to change depending on time and demand.

2. I'm going to Dublin for a visit first

- By train. It's longer, and costs more and is a bit of a hassle location wise. I have to say it is a great journey—very relaxing (unless you are coming from Dublin on a Friday afternoon or evening when it is crowded and not very pleasant) Web fare £11 single, cash fare £30 single (£45 / £55 for returns)
- By coach—as above—but the pick up points are obviously different—though both are city centre and easy to get to.

<https://discovernorthernireland.com/destinations/belfast>



This is an excerpt of the map you can find [here](https://visitbelfast.com/plan/brochures-and-downloads/#maps) (<https://visitbelfast.com/plan/brochures-and-downloads/#maps>) with three travel locations highlighted.

- Top right is the train station where Dublin trains will arrive into.
- Top left is the bus station. This is where Dublin airport and Dublin city centre buses will drop off. This is also where buses from Belfast International Airport and Belfast City Airport (George Best Airport) will drop off.
- Bottom Left is the location of the hotel in relation to these.

Distances

From the bus station to the hotel is 1.2 miles - - about a 25 minute walk.

From the train station to the hotel is 1.8 miles - - about a 40 minute walk.

Taxi services are noted on p5.

Belfast—Getting to the Hotel

Airports

1. International Airport BFS (Aldergrove)

- Bus—Ulster Bus have a regular service every 30 minutes into Glengall Street bus station. The pick up is right outside arrivals and I'd suggest booking online. A single ticket is £8 and a return is £11.50—see below for details of getting to the hotel from the Bus Station.

[https://www.translink.co.uk/usingtranslink/airport services](https://www.translink.co.uk/usingtranslink/airport%20services)

- Taxi—there is a line of cabs outside that will take you directly to the hotel—but it ain't cheap—approximately £35!

2. Belfast City BHD (George Best airport)

- Bus—Ulster Bus have a regular service every 30 minutes into Glengall Street bus station. The pick up is right outside arrivals and I'd suggest booking online. A single ticket is £2.60 and a return is £5—see below for details of getting to the hotel from the Bus Station.

[https://www.translink.co.uk/using translink/airportservices](https://www.translink.co.uk/using%20translink/airportservices)

- Taxi—there is a line of cabs outside that will take you directly to the hotel—fare is about £12.

Train

- Bus—If you take the train from Dublin there is a free shuttle bus to the bus station—or you can walk 5 minutes into town and get a Metro bus—see below.
- Taxi—there is a line of cabs outside that will take you directly to the hotel—fare is about £9

Getting to the hotel—from town

- Taxis—there are two service in Belfast who are professional and reliable ValueCabs (028 90 80 90 80) and Fonacab (028 90 333 333). Both of them have apps you can download as well. A typical fare from the city centre is £7-8.
- Metro Bus—the city's bus service is regular during the day and drops off to once every half hour after the rush hour with the last bus being 11pm from the city centre. The Malone Lodge Hotel is on Malone Road and any of the Metro 8 buses will get you there. Bus drivers will let you off at the street the hotel is on. Cash fare is £2.10 but multi journey tickets are cheaper.

Program

Staying with tradition we thought we would have a program next year! And we have a theme:

“Old Wine in New Bottles”

Great theme Tommy—but what does that mean?

As Corflu ‘comes home’ we’re going to be looking back at where it all got started. I know there's an argument there—but I’m sure there’ll be time to debate it. Can fans of today actually produce something as beautiful as a Slant? Is the technology of those days still available? Do you know your twil-tone from your 80gms? We’ll have workshops if you don’t.

What about also looking to the future. Has the pdf format killed off the old artistry? Do fanzines have to be ‘paper’ based? Is a fannish video, podcast or TikTok actually a fanzine? What is it to be a fanzine fan these days? We’re going to have debates and discussions I’m sure—but it is the future of what we’re about—so we need to have them.

Lots of other surprises in store as well—including various non-con related activities, parties and visits. More details in the next Progress Report—or I may spill some beans at Pangloss.

Meet the Team

- Chair & Hotel Liaison: Tommy Ferguson
- Program: James Bacon
- Finances: Keith Freeman
- Local On-Site: Eugene Doherty, Mark McCann & Malcolm Hutchinson
- Special fan publication: Geri Sullivan, Sandra Bond and John Berry (committee)
- Virtual Corflu: Peter Sullivan
- US Agent: Nigel Rowe
- Website: Bill Burns

Membership Rates

Attending memberships are £50.00 or \$60.00 until after Corflu Pangloss—24th October 2022—when they will be reviewed. Rates may well rise thereafter, so join early!

Supporting memberships will be £15.00 or \$20.00 throughout.

- UK: Payments via PayPal (£ sterling) to <https://www.paypal.me/tferguk> or by post cheques payable to Thomas Ferguson, 125 Haypark Avenue, Belfast, BT7 3FG UK.
- USA: Payments in US\$ via PayPal to Nigel Rowe <https://www.paypal.me/nrowe84>

Please send your postal and email address details with payment.

Advance information (Progress Reports and other details) will be sent by email unless specifically requested. Publications at the convention will be printed and mailed by post to those who do not attend. Personal information will be held on computer but shared with no other agency.

Hotel Information *(Thanks to Dublin 2019 for the grant to cover the deposit!)*

Our agreed room rates are £99 for single occupancy, per night including breakfast (£109 for two people sharing, including breakfast for both). These are valid Thursday 30th March through to Monday 3rd April 2023 —and can be extended further upon request. These rates are inclusive of any tax—what you see is what you pay.

Self contained one bed roomed apartments in the annex across the street are £149 per night bed and also include breakfast. Those of you who would like to book a suite or other rooms—drop me a line and I will sort you out!

I have block booked 20 rooms in my name—so the booking process is simple—just email belfast@corflu.org with your preferred dates and I will reserve them in your name.

<https://www.themalonehotel.com/>

Virtual Conference tour- <https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=ZjV4tu6Ybnr>



For more details contact: belfast@corflu.org



The best of all possible Corflus, under the circumstances

March 18-20, 2022

Best Western+ Sands Hotel

1755 Davie Street, Vancouver, BC, V6G 1W5, Canada

Full Details at the Corflu website: <https://corflu.org/>

For more details contact: belfast@corflu.org