



Corflu Craic (Corflu 40)

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Progress Report 3 – Feb 2023

The Malone Hotel, 60 Eglantine Avenue

Belfast, BT9 6DY UK.

31st March—2nd April, 2023

Introduction

We're now two months away from the convention and everything is in full swing. Hotel rooms are all booked and confirmed (again get in touch if you've not heard from me) and initial discussions have been had on set-up etc. of the function space, corkage and parties – all the important things.

Our theme is 'Old Wine in New Bottles' and this will be reflected in our programmed events – Friday and Saturday morning will be Old Wine, with Saturday afternoon and Sunday looking at New Bottles. See later in this PR for some highlights.

More importantly this will be a celebration of forty years of Corflu – and we're going to have a party. So, Corflu Craic will do what it says on the tin – we'll have some 'wile' craic. A lot of the program will be organised and disorganised social events, designed to get us together and having a good time. Myself and the committee want to be there as well so some slight changes to normal:

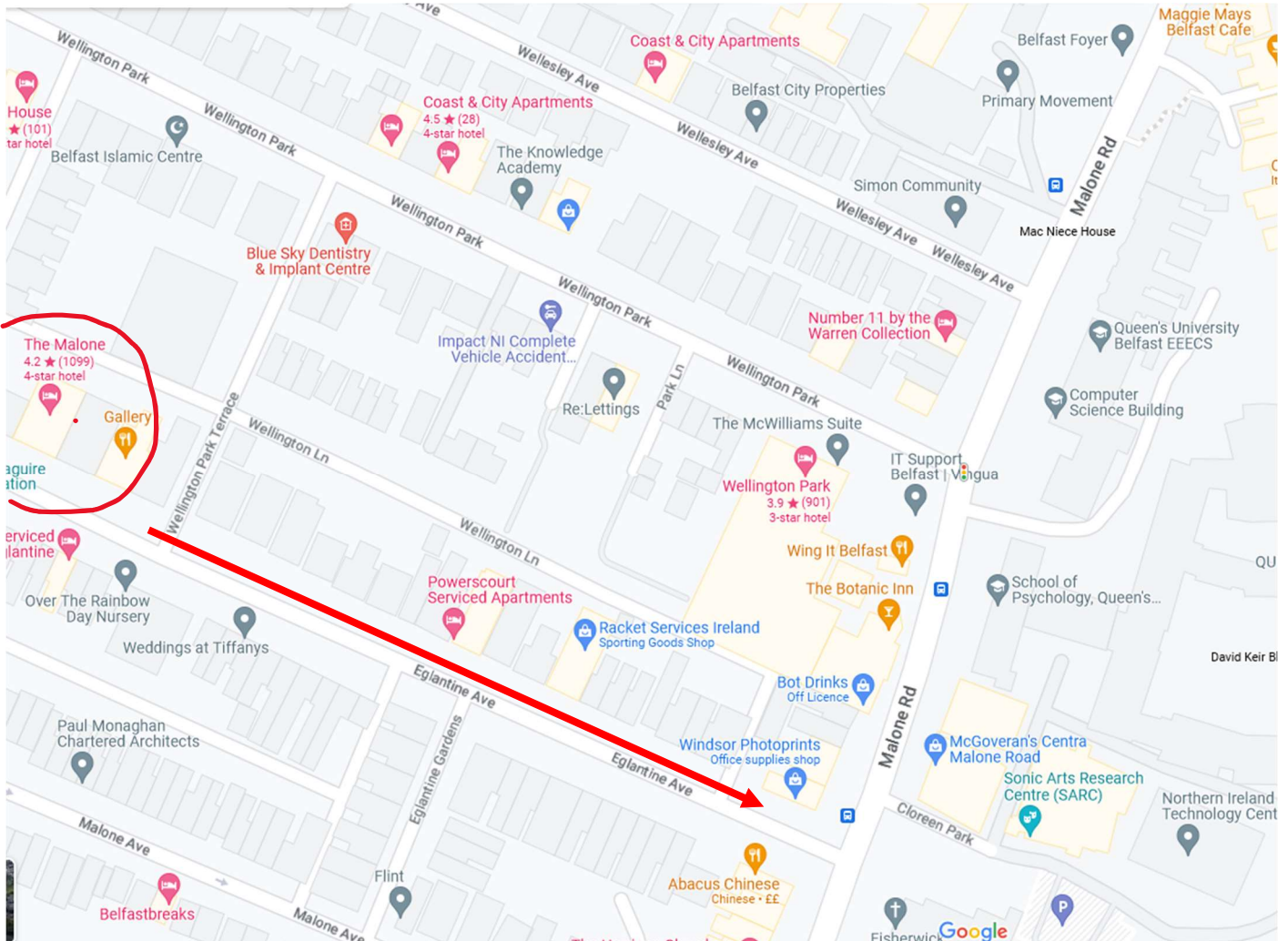
- No registration desk – badges, readme and programme books are all self-serve from reception.
- Wear your badge – it's your ticket to all events, function space, whiskey/wine tasting and buffet.
- Zoom – will be available via the hotel infrastructure, but will be static so Rob Jackson can enjoy himself.
- Participation – will be mandatory. You can't have fun unless you're involved.
- Help yourself – as my mother used to say, if you want something, you're big enough and ugly enough to go get it yourself. That said, the local organising committee will be very happy to point you in the right direction for things
- Tee shirts – more information on design, pricing and ordering will be coming real soon now.

So, get your party rags packed, it's going to be a blast.

For more details contact: belfast@corflu.org

Food & Drink – Part 1

These are many places to eat and drink which are, at most, 100 metres from the hotel. I'll do them from either end of the Eglantine Road, highlighted with the arrow. In this report we'll look at the Malone Road end of the street. Top five from local knowledge. Avoid the pubs, they're soulless unless there is a sports event on, and then they're rowdy.



1. Blank - A couple of images to tell you all about it. Ian McDonald is very keen to go. It's pricey but is making real waves in the Belfast food scene.



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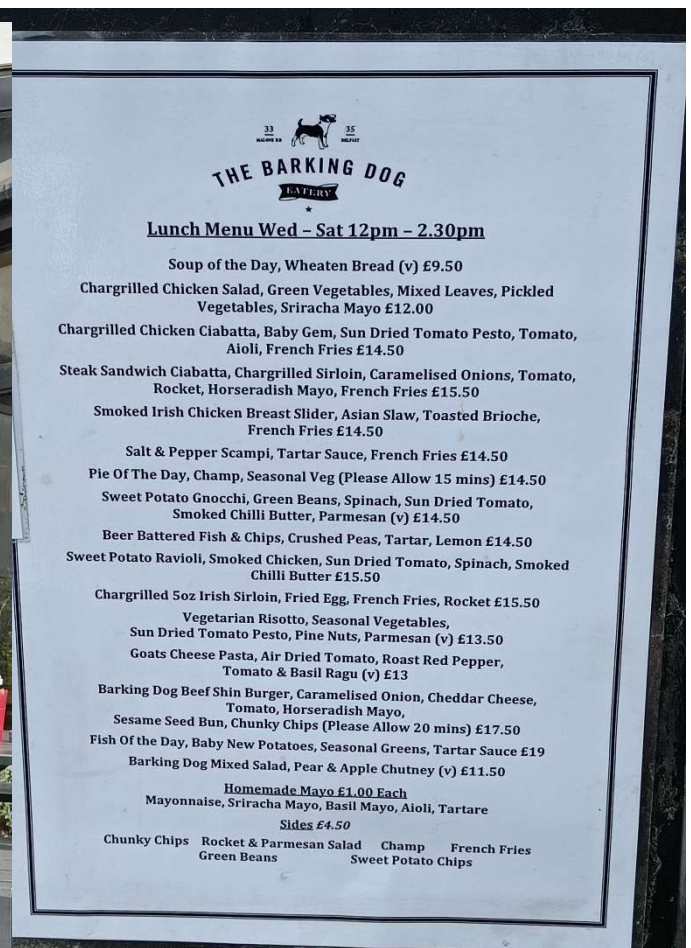
2. Abacus - A great Chinese restaurant – reasonably priced – does all the standard stuff.



Don't be misled by the outside

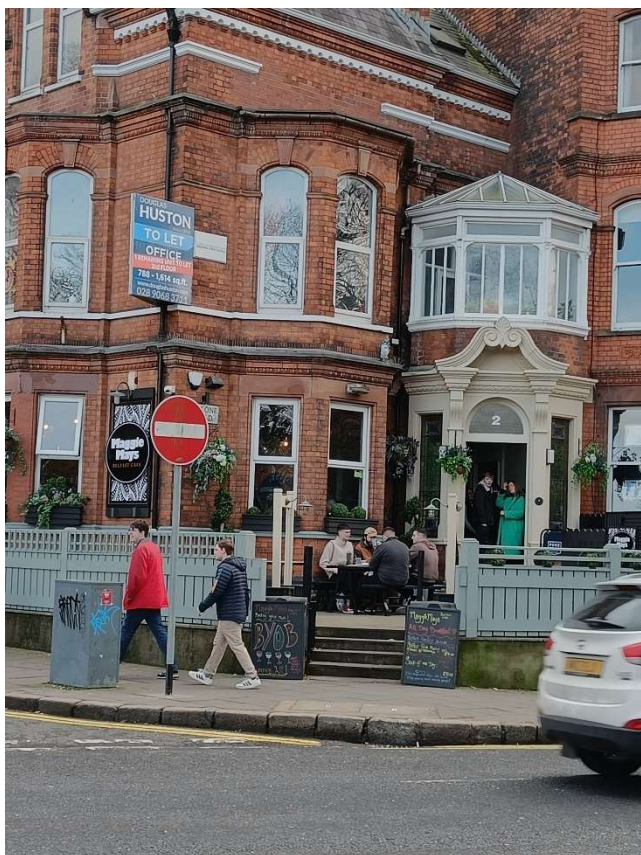


3. Barking Dog - Mid range but a decent bite.



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4. Maggie Mays – A Belfast classic! There is a queue outside here on a Sunday for brunch – but it is all burgers, chips, fry-ups, omelettes, sandwiches.



5. Wing it - a takeaway joint new to me – which some friends have tried after a night on the beer. I'm particular about my wings so will check it out before the con and report back.

Pubs

There are a few pubs in the area – the Botanic Inn ('The Bot'), the Eglantine Inn ('The Egg') and the Wellington Park Hotel bar ('The Welly') where you can get a drink if you must. However, the Malone bar in the hotel, The Greyhound, is much superior to these and in terms of the Welly – much cheaper.

Drinking establishments will be covered in Progress Report Four, due out in March with the second part of the local food scene looking at the Lisburn Road end of Eglantine. I'll be pointing you to some of our favourite boozers, still less than 500 metres from the hotel, with a few in town that you can drop into if you're about.

Of course, Thursday night is meet the locals night – and we'll be in The Errigle Inn for the Belfast SF Group meeting. Couple of other nice pubs across the street from it too! Geri will recall Northern Lights for example, where I recently had a bubblegum sour, and it wasn't awful.



Programme- Outline

Friday Night – Old Bottles

- Fanzine Slam – Pangloss did a version of this (where Hyphen was cruelly robbed of the title at the end) and I'll be running with the theme here. Expect arguments and debates galore.
- Old bottles of Whiskey will be tasted and notes and noses compared. Donations of bottles always welcome – but the con will be laying on its own favourites and discussing them at length.

Saturday Morning – Old Bottles

- Old Wine ages gracefully and with a lot of body, just like Corflu. We'll be celebrating 40 years of Corflu with a panel discussion on the best Corflu yet, building on articles in the programme book, prior to this one of course. Expect to hear stories that can't be printed and reminiscences on times past.
- Also in Old Bottles are reflection on the importance of Belfast in the history of fanzine fandom. Walt Willis, James White and Bob Shaw will all be discussed. How they started our fandom and set the tone for the ways we write and communicate.
- Possible surprise item here as well...

Saturday Afternoon – New Wine

- We'll be celebrating 40 years of Corflu with a panel discussion on the best Corflu yet – building on articles in the programme book - prior to this one of course. Expect to hear stories that can't be printed and reminiscence of times past.

Saturday Night – New Wine

- Just a Minac, it's back and ~~better than~~, well, just the same madness and nonsense. Can Keith Freeman regain his crown now that Jen Farey won't be here? Will Rich Coad rise from the dead or will Belfast fandom run riot (again...) and lift the crown?
- It's an Irish Turkey Buffet – Eugene Doherty is back with a whole new rendering of his infamous turkey buffet show. Remember Spiderman in Belfast? The Ray Bradbury inspired disco extravaganza and just what will a genre actor do for cash when no one is looking? Eugene will reveal all.
- New bottles, and a few old ones, in the Wine tasting. Experts will be on hand to tell you whether it is red or white and if it is off or not.

Sunday Morning – New Wine

- We're working on some items here but debating whether anyone will be awake to take part! More later.
- Corflu Buffet will be around lunch time as the breakfast that comes with your room is fantastic. If you're not staying at the hotel Maggie Mays down the road does a great breakfast too, which comes a close second to set you up for the day.

Sunday Afternoon – New Wine

- Closing ceremony, awards and where are we going on our holidays next year bid session.

Programme – Other Events

Thursday– Old & New Bottles

Thursday afternoon. Tommy will be your guide to the best two wine, beer and whiskey off-sales in Belfast. You may want to stock up for the whiskey tasting on Friday night or the wine tasting on Saturday.

On Thursday night Belfast SF Group hosts dinner and drinks in their normal haunt of the Errigle Inn. It's in the oak bar, whose panelling gives the bar its name. There is no music and no TVs here, it's all about people socialising. You may recall it from EuroCon 2019 in Belfast, though not if you indulged too well then.

Friday– Old Bottles

Friday morning / afternoon - Belfast fannish bus tour – taking in the original Tower of Tru Fandom. Geri Sullivan and Eugene Doherty are your hosts. This is a free event made possible by a grant from Dublin 2019 - An Irish Worldcon.

Saturday – Old Bottlers (sic)

Park run anyone?

It's award season!

The Incomplete Register 2022 (<https://efanzines.com/TIR/index.htm>), contains the voters' guide and pro forma ballot for the 2023 FAAn awards, fanzine fandom's only dedicated honours, and voting is now open.

The voting deadline is midnight (Pacific time) Friday March 10 2023, and ballots must be received by then (please note this if you're sending by snail mail). Your own name and contact details should also be clearly supplied.

The awards will be announced at Corflu Craic in Belfast, Northern Ireland on April 2 2023. Voting is open to anyone with an interest in fanzines, no memberships of anything are required.

Publicity is welcomed. Feel free to share and distribute this as far and wide as you like.

Nic Farey (Current FAAn Awards administrator)



John Hertz writes: "I have forty copies of the Moffatt's TAFF report. It's quite wonderful, as they were. Sixty pages, drawings by Atom and Jeeves.

I'll mail you one as a thank-you gift if you donate at least US\$10 or equivalent to TAFF. Include a mailing address with your donation; ask the Administrator to notify me."

John Hertz

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For more details contact: belfast@corflu.org

Membership List (as at 1st February 2023)

Drop me a line if I've missed you off this, or you know someone who should be on it, but isn't.

Corflu 40 Members					Corflu 40 Members			
1	Ted	White	S		35	Alan	Rosenthal	A
2	Tommy	Ferguson	A		36	Jeanne	Bowman	A
3	Rich	Coad	A		37	Moshe	Feder	A
4	Stacy	Scott	A		38	Bill	Burns	A
5	David	Hodson	A		39	Mary	Burns	A
6	Spike		A		40	Sandra	Bond	A
7	Tom	Becker	A		41	Ian	Sorensen	A
8	Pat	Virzi	A		42	Yvonne	Rowse	A
9	Dennis	Virzi	A		43	Mike	Meara	A
10	Robert	Lichtman	S		44	Pat	Meara	A
11	Geri	Sullivan	A		45	Roy	Kettle	A
12	Nigel	Rowe	A		46	Kathleen	Mitchell	A
13	Rob	Jackson	A		47	Hazel	Ashworth West	A
14	Martin	Tudor	A		48	Tony	Berry	A
15	Heloise	Tudor	A		49	Sue	Mason	A
16	Christina	Lake	A		50	Alison	Scott	A
17	Doug	Bell	A		51	Steven	Cain	A
18	Mark	McCann	A		52	Pascal	Thomas	A
19	Gary	Mattingly	A		53	John	Berry	A
20	Malcolm	Hutchinson	A		54	Heath	Row	S
21	Marcin	Klak	A		55	Perry	Middlemiss	S
22	Lucy	Huntzinger	A		56	Murray	Moore	A
23	Peter	Sullivan	S		57	Mary Ellen	Moore	A
24	Jerry	Kaufman	A		58	John	Nielsen-Hall	A
25	Suzanne	Tompkins	A		59	Joe	Siclari	A
26	Keith	Freeman	A		60	Edie	Stern	A
27	Claire	Brialey	A		61	Cat	Coast	A
28	Mark	Plummer	A		62	Dave	Hicks	A
29	Nic	Farey	S		63	Rich	McAllister	A
30	Jen	Farey	S		64	Lin	McAllister	A
31	Eugene	Doherty	A		65	John	Hertz	S
32	Harry	Bell	A		66	Dave	Langford	A
33	Pat	Bell	A		67	Joseph	Nicholas	A
34	Ron	Gemmell	A					

“Any craic, lads?”

Craic is the Irish word that most confuses outsiders, yet it is a relatively simple concept. It is the atmosphere, fun, carry-on surrounding a particular night out.

“How was the craic?” is the first question uppermost in most young (and old) Irish minds after a weekend. Here’s the encyclopedia definition:

"Craic" (/kræk/ KRACK), or "crack" is a term for news, gossip, fun, entertainment, and enjoyable conversation, particularly prominent in Ireland. It is often used with the definite article – the craic.

So now that you have a grasp on what craic is, here's all the different kinds of craic (as if you weren't confused enough!):

- **Good craic:** A fairly ok night out, fun but nothing too amazing.
- **Mighty craic:** Better than good craic, not quite at the highest level, someone did some crazy stuff maybe.
- **Savage craic:** Almost there, great night all together, everyone on top form, Guinness flowing, great jokes.
- **Deadly craic:** A step above savage craic but not quite the Everest moment.
- **Wile Craic:** Next level stuff – Derry Craic (Derry Girls anyone?) - It represents a pronunciation of wild!
- **The craic was ninety:** The nirvana of craic, everything was amazing, incredible, everyone hooked up, the pints were great. No one quite sure how the word ninety came into it--a famous Christy Moore song “The craic was ninety in the Isle of Man” maybe...