



Corflu Craic (Corflu 40)

Art: Sue Mason
Lettering: Alison Scott

Progress Report 5 – Mar 2023

The Malone Hotel, 60 Eglantine Avenue

Belfast, BT9 6DY UK.

31st March—2nd April, 2023

It's next week!

Virtual Corflu

Zoom number 603 746 8803 Password (C0rflu40 – zeros not letters)

Corflu has a long tradition of virtual participation and that's going to continue this year as well. Whilst it is great that people can take part online – to manage this interactively is frankly, a right pain in the arse. I want people at the con to enjoy themselves and interact with those there in person – rather than get tied to a laptop screen during programme items. That said the logistics team will be hopping off and on the zoom and catching up with any issues etc.

Discord. As with recent Corflus there will also be an online Discord channel. I know lots of people don't think of this as a thing they want to get involved in – but it really has helped with lots of discussion prior to the convention, and is a great place to hang out online if you can't get to the con itself. A huge thanks to Claire Briailey for the organisation and set-up of this year's version. The one set up for Corflu Concorde still works – here:

<https://discord.gg/rcQmjNdUCH>

You can use your existing Discord logon or register with a new one, then just look for Corflu.

For more details contact: belfast@corflu.org

T-Shirts

T-shirts – as modelled here by your host of the weekend – the fantastic illustration by Sue Mason with lettering by Alison Scott is available in the UK only now. It will still be available during and after the con if you've not managed to get one. I'm happy to take delivery and hand over at Eastercon if required. Email me for address details.

Order from:

<https://stow-shirts.myshopify.com/.../creator-corflu-craic>

Programme - highlights

As with all Corflus this is really an opportunity for us to get together in person. Whilst we will have people on panels I'm hoping that the audience will, when invited, get involved as well. There's nothing worse than a modern convention which is organised as a spectator sport – we all know each other, we all know about fanzines and our hobby – let's share and get involved. I promise you – it will be more fun for everyone, including yourself.

The full programme will be available at the con in the ReadMe, put together by Rob Jackson – highlights are:

Thursday 30 March

- 20.00 Belfast SF Group meet (Errigle Inn) Taxis laid on courtesy of Pangloss from the hotel.

Friday 31 March

- 10.00 Belfast Fannish Bus Tour, hosted by Geri Sullivan and Eugene Doherty
18.00 Opening Ceremony: welcome to Belfast, and Guest of Honour draw
18.20 Fanzine Slam: hosted by Rich Coad.
21.00 Turkey Buffet: hosted by Eugene Doherty.
22.00 Whiskey Tasting: hosted by Tommy Ferguson. 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.

Saturday 1 April

- 10.00 Irish Fandom: The Wheels of IF: hosted by Edie Stern,
11.00 The First Corflu: A celebration of 40 years of Corflu. Hosted by Jerry Kaufman
14.00 In Memoriam: hosted by Gary Mattingly.
15.00 What's a fanzine these days? Hosted by Tommy Ferguson
16.00 Why am I here? The Future of Corflus: hosted by Rob Jackson
21.00 Just a Minac: hosted by Sandra Bond
22.00 Wine Tasting: Hosted by Spike.

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Followed by Bid Party for the 2024 Vegas Corflu and 2025 Belfast Eastercon.

Sunday 2 April

11.30 Convention Photo

12.00 Corflu Buffet

Followed by Auction, Hosted by Geri Sullivan & James Bacon

14.00 Awards Ceremony: Toastmaster Tommy Ferguson. FAAn Award Presentations, Lifetime Achievement Award, Guest of Honour Speech, fwa nominations and award, Future Corflus.

Followed by Closing Ceremony.

19.00 Dead Dog dinner and drinks: Whatever we all feel like doing and wherever we feel like going

In Memoriam

I was very touched with the item at Pangloss on those we had lost in our community the previous year – and wanted to do something similar at Craic. Given this is Corflu's 40th birthday I thought it was a good time to look back further and acknowledge all those who have contributed over the past forty years and celebrate them. Gary has updated the list – happy for further revision – and Bill has put it on the web site here:

<https://corflu.org/Corflu40/FansDeceasedSince1984.pdf>

The idea is that this will be a chance for everyone to contribute thoughts and memories of those they remember and, as Terry Pratchett said in *Going Postal*: "A man is not dead while his name is still spoken."

Please join us and let's speak their names.

Auction – after brunch on Sunday

We've got some fantastic items for auction at Corflu Craic – building on our themes of celebrating Irish Fandom and 40 years of Corflu:

- Slant – issues 3 – 7 – 5 chances to own a copy of this legendary fanzine.
- Hyphen – a range of issues – which need to be seen to be believed.
- Shangri-L'Affaires from the 1940s – very rare and unlikely to be seen again
- Voice of the Imagination – really keen to see this.

All of the above are from Joe Siclari – for which many thanks.

Greg Pickersgill has also sent a box of fanzines for auction and sale – and some of the highlights include.

- The Harp Stateside – original edition which I'm very keen to own.
- The Futurian – two issues from 1939
- By British – the 1970s collection of British fan writing
- And some classic zines like Triode, Orion, Retribution...

Geri Sullivan and James Bacon will be hosting this and we'll try and get something organised for online bids – with a catalog as well.

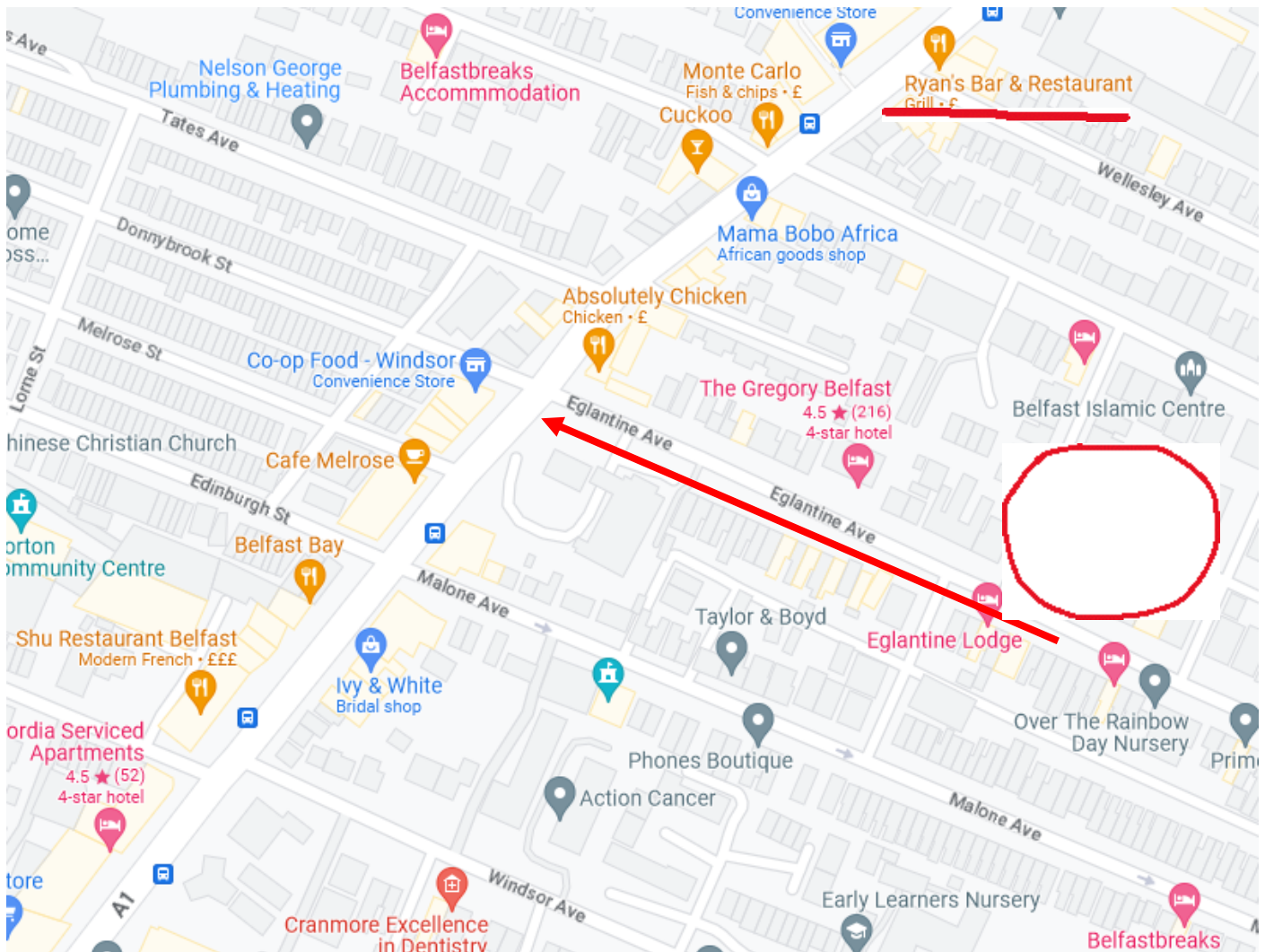
So, get your party rags packed, it's going to be a blast.

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Food & Drink – Part 2

This time we're turning right out of the hotel and heading down to the Lisburn Road end of Eglantine Avenue. As you can see from the map there are loads of cafes, restaurants and a couple of pubs – I've underlined **Ryans** as a good first stop to get the lay of the land. The Lisburn Road, if you turn left at the bottom of Eglantine Avenue gets progressively 'posher' and the shops are more boutique – but it also means the coffee and the cafes are of a much better quality than the other end of the street. For quick and cheap eats – turn right and you can see from the map the chip shop, and there's also a pizza and Indian food takeaway – all of which are reasonable quality.

Here a few others worth checking out.



1. **Shu** – This is one of my favourite restaurants in Belfast and its head chef, Matt Jordan, recently featured on the Great British Menu on the BBC: <https://www.greatbritishchefs.com/features/great-british-menu-2023-gbm-northern-ireland-preview> It's a bit pricey – so special occasions and you'll need to book.

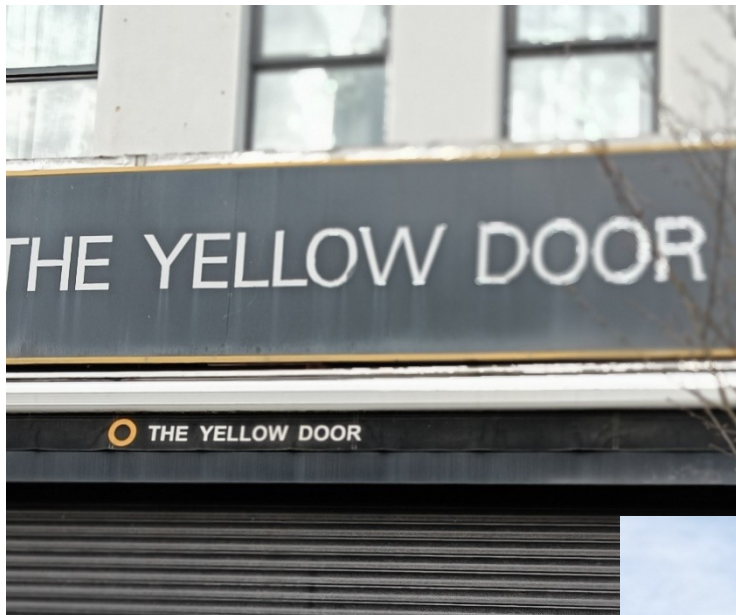


2. **French Village** is a great café-cum-bistro – all sourced locally and a fantastic bakery. Highly recommended and reasonably priced.

Not a great picture I'm afraid but you can see there is a store to the left where you can buy produce as well.



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3. **The Yellow Door.** Some of the best bread and pastries in Belfast – my wife Leslie used to be the head baker here. Rich and dark coffees too – will certainly wake you up in the morning.

4. **The Raj** – Another great Indian restaurant on the street – a bit further up the road. This has been a Belfast institution for as long as I’ve lived here – well over 30 years – and there is a reason for that.



£12.00 (bone), curry and rice	ALOO CHANA Potatoes and chickpeas in a spiced sauce	£6.00
	MATAR PANEER Peas and paneer (home-made indian style cheese) with a hot and spicy sauce	£6.00
ell a member of staff		
THE RAJ SPECIAL DISHES		
	CHICKEN PASANDA ♦	£13.95
	Chicken breast marinated with yoghurt and The Raj Indian spices, cooked in our tandoori oven, served with a creamy red wine, almond and coconut sauce. (contains cream, nuts and coconut with high fat content). With your choice of plain rice, pilau rice or plain nan	
	CHICKEN TIKKA MASALA ♦	£13.95
	Chicken breast marinated with yoghurt and The Raj Indian spices, cooked in our tandoori oven, served with a creamy almond and coconut sauce. (contains cream, nuts and coconut with high fat content). With your choice of plain rice, pilau rice or plain nan	
	BUTTER CHICKEN ♦	£13.95
	Chicken marinated with yoghurt and The Raj Indian spices, cooked in our tandoori oven, served with a creamy almond sauce. With your choice of plain rice, pilau rice or plain nan	
	RAJ SPECIAL MIXED CURRY ♦♦	£14.95
	Chicken, lamb, prawns dry cooked with green peppers and onions and a curry sauce. With your choice of plain rice, pilau rice or plain nan	
	ROSHANI ♦♦♦♦	£13.95
	A creamy curry with plenty of garlic and finely chopped onions, green peppers and green chillies. Served with rice/nan	
	RAJ TIKKA KHAZANA ♦	£13.95
	A selection of chicken, lamb tikka, leg prawn, pepper and onion in a thick sauce With your choice of plain rice, pilau rice or plain nan	
£13.50	THE RAJ BIRYANI	

FANAC Scanning Station

FANAC will have a scanning station at Corflu Craic in Belfast at the end of March, and we hope to have one at Conversation 2023, the Birmingham Eastercon being held the following week. If you are

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planning to attend either of these, please bring fanzines for us to scan. If you can, write to let us know so we can plan ahead.

Please remember two things: First, to scan each issue, we carefully take each issue apart and then re-staple it. Second, we do not put fanzines online without permission from editors who are still around. Keep that in mind when you bring them. If you can provide contact information for the editor, we'll try to reach them later. In the meantime, we will keep them archived until the editors can be reached. If you're not sure, drop a note to fanac@fanac.org.

Of course, please check the site first to see if the issues are already online. We're hoping to get some quality Irish/UK/European zines that we haven't had access to in the past.



John Hertz writes: "I have forty copies of the Moffatts' 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

236 S. Coronado St., 409

Los Angeles, CA 90057, U.S.A.

2131384-6622

Membership List (as at 24th March 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 Members				Corflu Members			
1	Ted	White	S	40	Sandra	Bond	A
2	Tommy	Ferguson	A	41	Ian	Sorensen	A
3	Rich	Coad	A	42	Yvonne	Rowse	A
4	Stacy	Scott	A	43	Mike	Meara	A
5	David	Hodson	A	44	Pat	Meara	A
6	Spike		A	45	Roy	Kettle	A
7	Tom	Becker	A	46	Kathleen	Mitchell	A
8	Pat	Virzi	A	47	Hazel	Ashworth West	A
9	Dennis	Virzi	A	48	Tony	Berry	A
10	Robert	Lichtman	S	49	Sue	Mason	A
11	Geri	Sullivan	A	50	Alison	Scott	A
12	Nigel	Rowe	A	51	Steven	Cain	A
13	Rob	Jackson	A	52	Pascal	Thomas	A
14	Martin	Tudor	A	53	John	Berry	A
15	Heloise	Tudor	A	54	Heath	Row	S
16	Christina	Lake	A	55	Perry	Middlemiss	S
17	Doug	Bell	A	56	Murray	Moore	A
18	Mark	McCann	A	57	Mary Ellen	Moore	A
19	Gary	Mattingly	A	58	John	Nielsen Hall	A
20	Malcolm	Hutchinson	A	59	Joe	Siclari	A
21	Marcin	Klak	A	60	Edie	Stern	A
22	Lucy	Huntzinger	A	61	Cat	Coast	A
23	Peter	Sullivan	S	62	Dave	Hicks	A
24	Jerry	Kaufman	A	63	Rich	McAllister	A
25	Suzanne	Tompkins	A	64	Lin	McAllister	A
26	Keith	Freeman	A	65	John	Hertz	S
27	Claire	Brialey	A	66	Dave	Langford	A
28	Mark	Plummer	A	67	Joseph	Nicholas	A
29	Nic	Farey	S	68	Steve	Jeffery	A
30	Jen	Farey	S	69	Vikki Lee	France	A
31	Eugene	Doherty	A	70	Linda	Krawecka	A
32	Harry	Bell	A	71	Ian	McDonald	A
33	Pat	Bell	A	72	Vincent	Docherty	A
34	Ron	Gemmell	A	73	James	Bacon	A
35	Alan	Rosenthal	A	74	Zi	Graves	A
36	Jeanne	Bowman	A	75	Rowan	Jenkins	A
37	Moshe	Feder	A	76	Joyce	Scrivner	S
38	Bill	Burns	A	77	Pat	Charnock	S
39	Mary	Burns	A				

"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.

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