

Corflu 42

Progress Report 3 – December 2024

Memberships:

As of 1/12/2024, we have 78 members; 62 currently plan to attend, with 13 supporting and 2 virtual members. A list of all members can be found at:

<https://corflu.org>

Membership rates:

Attending membership rates are currently £75/\$95, whilst supporting memberships are £25/\$32 and virtual memberships are £10/\$15.

Day rates are now available as detailed in the main text.

Payments:

Please refer to the website at:

<https://corflu.org>

Staff:

David Hodson – Chair

Claire Brialey – Memberships/
Money/General All-round

Good Sense

David, Mark Plummer &

Tommy Ferguson –
Programme

Tommy Ferguson – Resident
Tech Geek

Noel Collyer – At Con Tech

Wrangler

Nigel Rowe – U.S. Agent

Bill Burns – Website



The Chequers Hotel,
Newbury, UK

11–13 April 2025

Progress Being Reported... Gosh Wow!

On the Sunday morning of Novacon 53, an intrepid bunch of potential alcoholics retired to a micro-brewery close to the Palace Hotel in Buxton to hatch plans for the entertainment of the great and good (and even potentially sober) of fanzine fandom in Spring 2025.

I enjoy planning events with sensible people like Claire, Mark, and Tommy. They tend to save me from my own worst excesses, and we ended up with an embryonic programme despite, rather than because of, me.

I had hoped to organize a three-way Corby Trouser Press relay race, featuring teams led by joint Corflu 50 delegate and injured party Nic Farey, innocent party (at least on this occasion) James Bacon, and genuine miscreant Mark Plumage, in the wake of Plumage's revelations in last year's Guest of Honour speech, but Claire pointed out, quite correctly, that our event insurance wouldn't cover the potential damage to any of the participants without an eye-watering excess.

My plans to revise the methodology for selecting the Guest of Honour via a pub games tournament that would only conclude on the morning of the Guest of Honour speech also met with Claire moving my pint of craft lager away from me on the table and telling me that my particular brand of

sadistic to the point of Milgram-esque torture just wouldn't bear fruit as participants, some of whom hail from Las Vegas (not you, Jen), couldn't be trusted not to game the system.

Plans for a Saturday night '80s themed disco to compensate Spike for her lack of musical entertainment at Rubicon in 1986 also fell by the wayside as, again after Claire's protests about insurance costs, a quick check with the local NHS hospital revealed no plans to hold that many hip replacements in stock for the foreseeable future.

So, having seen all my plans shot down in flames, I sat and watched as Mark, Claire, and Tommy set about pulling several irons out of three days' worth of fires. I at least came in useful as I ferried the next round of drinks up the steep set of narrow stairs from the bar to our note paper covered table.

As I made a swift escape from buying another round, due to the cancellation of the later train I had planned to catch, I congratulated myself on once again avoiding any hard work.

"Get in there, my son!" I thought...

Dave

I remember this conversation rather differently, although the beer was very good. – Claire

The nominations for the 2025 Fanzine of Honour (with all issue numbers approximate, given some interim and double issues) are:

Apparatchik (Andy Hooper, later with Victor Gonzalez and then Carl Juarez): 80 issues, 1994-1997 – <https://fanac.org/fanzines/Apparatchik/index.html>

Attitude (Michael Abbott, John Dallman, and Pam Wells): 12 issues (and a convention), 1994-1997 – <https://efanzines.com/Attitude/>

Australian SF Review, latterly *Scythrop* (John Bangsund): 29 issues, 1966-1973 plus a 1978 return – https://fanac.org/fanzines/Australian_Science_Fiction_Review/index.html

Empties (Martin Tudor): 17 issues, 1983-1996

Energumen (Mike Glicksohn and Susan Wood): 16 issues, 1970-1981 – <https://fanac.org/fanzines/Energumen/index.html>



Thanks to everyone who nominated fanzines for our Fanzine of Honour pool. The idea here is that members of Corflu 42 will collectively pick a fanzine to honour at the convention – enabling people to read it in advance, discuss it in a specific programme item, and consider more generally how and why it's still relevant and interesting for fanzine fans and SF fandom now.

Corflu Pangloss in 2022 took a different approach to this overall idea, inviting people to champion a specific fanzine in a programme item and letting the audience vote at the end; but, instead, we're borrowing the approach used by the Potlatch conventions for their Book of Honor. Most of the five fanzines featured in the 2022 discussion have been nominated again this time, and I was really pleased to see the range of titles we've got for you to choose from.

And you don't have to choose only one. We're using a preference vote system (like most fan funds, and, indeed, like countries with

sensible electoral systems), so you can rank your choices in order.

How to vote, and what happens next

Email me via claire.fishlifter@gmail.com (or send me a direct message in some other way) with your preferences from the list below, starting with 1 for your favourite and ranking as many of the others as you want to – all the way down to 13 if you like. Votes must be with me by Sunday 19 January 2025.

If any fanzine wins more than half the votes cast in the first round, that's our Fanzine of Honour (although I'll be amazed). Otherwise, the fanzine(s) with the lowest number of first place votes will be eliminated, and the next preferences on those ballots redistributed to the relevant titles. I'll keep going until one of the contenders has got more than half the available votes.

Only votes for fanzines in this list of nominations will be counted; if you skip a place or try to do

Corflu 42's Fanzine of Honour

By Claire Briailey

anything too creative with your rankings, I reserve the right to interpret your votes in a more rational way – although I will contact anyone who's done something a bit different, to give you a chance to correct anything that wouldn't count otherwise. Please try not to make me regret this whole idea, though.

Talking about these fanzines

Individual votes will be kept confidential – although you're very welcome to discuss your preferences and opinions in the Corflu Discord, or wherever you talk about fanzines, and urge others to vote – but I will reveal at least the top-placed titles when I announce the result and encourage you to get (re)reading.

Some of the fanzines are available online, and some of you will have some or all to hand already, if you want to refresh your memory; but don't feel that you need to do lots of research into titles you don't recognise. Please just vote for the fanzines that you already know and enjoyed, and if something wins that you're not familiar with or can't access there'll be more opportunities to find out about it at the con.

So, vote soon, and anyway by Sunday 19 January! Send votes in the way described above to claire.fishlifter@gmail.com



DAY RATES!

We're keeping our membership rates as originally set (£75 / US\$95 for full attending, £25 / US\$32 for supporting and £10 / US\$15 for virtual) but we know not everyone who wants to attend in person can make it for the whole weekend or stay overnight. So, we're also offering a Saturday membership of £30 (which, like the other membership rates, gets you access to the online programme and Discord for the whole con.) Tell your friends.

We're assuming that day members

are only going to be from the UK, but if you really need a US\$ rate or are interested instead in a day rate for Friday, or for Sunday (including Sunday lunch), contact us via corflu42@corflu.org. If you want to attend only part of the con, your choice is either one day membership or full attending

BANQUET

Since Corflu is in the UK in 2025, we wanted to offer at least one traditional British experience. (No, not that. Or that – what are you like? Or the other thing you don't even dare to mention.)

The Corflu 42 banquet will be a Sunday lunch, scheduled for 1 pm since breakfast is already included in the rate at the Chequers.

By 'Sunday lunch' we mean a plated two-course meal (main and dessert) rather than a buffet, with three options including a vegetarian dish for the main course. We'll provide more information in PR4 and ask people attending the con to tell us by the end of March which main course you want (or if you won't be joining us for the meal at all) plus any food allergies or intolerances of which the hotel should be aware.

Electronic Travel Authorisation for the UK

Starting on 8 January 2025, travellers from non-European countries including the USA, Australia, and Canada will be required to apply for permission to enter the UK through a new scheme known as Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA).

After several delays, the UK ETA application portal officially opened for non-European travellers on 27 November 2024. and travellers with trips planned to the UK next year can now apply via the UK ETA mobile app or [website](#). While most applications are approved the same day, it can take up to 72 hours.

The UK government is in the process of fully digitising UK borders by the end of 2025. Soon, all visitors to the UK (which includes England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland) who aren't UK or Irish citizens will be required to receive advanced approval through an ETA or an eVisa, a system that UK visitors to the US are already familiar with.

There were rumours in the UK press that the system had been delayed beyond April 2025, but at the time of writing this has not been verified on the UK government websites.

The nominations for the
2025 Fanzine of Honour
(continued):

Fouler (Greg Pickersgill with Leroy Kettle): 6 issues, 1970-1972-
<https://fanac.org/fanzine/s/Fouler/>

Khatru (Jeff Smith, sometimes with Jeff Frane): 7 issues, 1975-1978 –
<https://fanac.org/fanzine/s/Khatru/index.html>

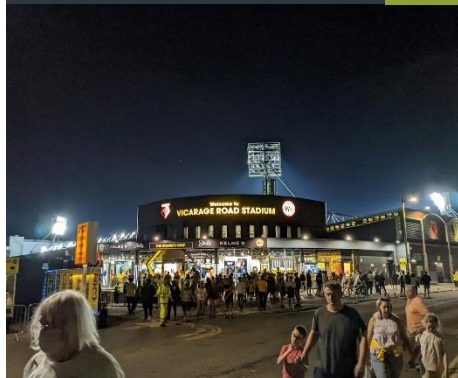
Mota (Terry Hughes): 31 issues, 1971-1980 –
<https://fanac.org/fanzine/s/Mota/index.html> and including *The MOTA Reader*

Plokta (Alison Scott, Steve Davies, and Mike Scott): 41 issues, 1996-2011 –
<https://www.plokta.com/plokta/index.html>

Pulp (Avedon Carol, Rob Hansen, Vince Clarke, John Harvey, and Pam Wells): 19 issues, 1986-1991

<https://fanac.org/fanzine/s/Pulp/>

SF Commentary (Bruce Gillespie): 118 issues and counting, 1969-present –
<https://efanzines.com/SF/C/and>
https://fanac.org/fanzine/s/SF_Commentary/index.html



The nominations for the 2025 Fanzine of Honour (continued):

Shipyard Blues (John D Owen): 8 issues, 1989-1992 plus a 2000 return –

https://fanac.org/fanzines/Shipyard_Blues/index.html

Trap Door (Robert Lichtman): 34 issues, 1983-2018 –

https://fanac.org/fanzines/Trap_Door/index.html

What Even Is Time?

Those of you who need to do some advance planning might want to know this:

- On Tuesday 8 April, Nic, Dave, and a few others are planning to attend the Watford – Hull City football match at the Vicarage Road Stadium. Kick-off: 7.45pm. If anyone would like to join them contact Nic for details. (note: 8 April is also my birthday, so things could get messy! – Dave)
- There will definitely be Corflu people at the Chequers on Thursday night (10 April) including Dave, Tommy, Mark, and Claire at least, but no officially scheduled activities. Make your own entertainment! (ie: buy us beers! – Dave)
- On Friday morning Kevin Williams will be leading a War of the Worlds walk around Woking (as described in [Rob Jackson's Inca 23](#)), quite possibly followed by a pub lunch, but we'll encourage everyone to hurry back for the start of programming at 3 pm.
- The dinner break on Friday will be between 5.30 pm and 8, and there will be generous lunch and dinner breaks scheduled on Saturday as well (and short gaps between items) so that you can go to all the programme if you want to without skimping on social activity.
- After the banquet on Sunday, we expect things to wind down by about 4 pm, but of course there'll be some form of dead dog party in the hotel later.

Discord

Remember that there's been a Corflu Discord server since 2021 (thanks to Peter Sullivan) which offers opportunities before the con to chat with other members, make plans, and generally get the party started – and where, during the con weekend, you can get more involved whether you're in Newbury or anywhere else in the world, both while watching programme or just hanging out.

Need a refresher? At <https://discord.com> you can create an account if you haven't used Discord before, or log in if you have but aren't on it all the time – and also download Discord for your computer or open it in your browser (or you can get an app for your device from the relevant app store).

If you've not previously joined the Corflu server, make sure you're logged in on whatever device you want to use for it and then follow this link

<https://discord.gg/cMKZy5axAS> – and if after a couple of hours you can't see all the channels for Corflu 42, post in the #helpdesk channel to attract my attention. Then have a look around and get chatting – including about the Fanzine of Honour. If you were a member of other recent Corflus you'll have access to all the archived channels for those too.

The world remains the mollusc of your choice.

Claire