

April 2025

The Chequers Hotel,
Newbury, UK

11 – 13 April



Less than a month until I can retire into happy gaffiation again... Yeah, right!

Corflu 42

Progress Report 5

Memberships:

As of 1/04/2025, we have 98 members; 74 currently plan to attend, with 16 supporting and 4 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 for Saturday only are £30 (which, like other memberships, gets you access to the online programme and Discord for the whole con). 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

A Personal Message from the Chair...

What comes next?...

Although I'm happy to see the end of the Corflu 42 tunnel in sight I am rather sorry that it means I won't have spurious excuses for emailing Claire, and Mark, and Tommy, and Uncle Tom Cobby an'all, every few days or arranging extracurricular drinks on nights other than a Thursday.

One of the main reasons I wanted to run this Corflu was the opportunity it presented to bring Nic and Jen to the UK: a return home for Nic, and hopefully a wonderful first trip outside the US for Jen.

I think Nic thought I was doing this because I was prematurely consigning him to his urn after his health problems of the last few years, but it wasn't that. When Nic told me several years ago that he was intending to run another Corflu in Las Vegas, Bryan Barrett was still alive. I, of course, shared Nic's plans with Bryan and we agreed, after several decades of not being in the same room, to meet and catch up there. When Bryan died in 2022 I was heartbroken; he was someone whose visits to the UK in the 1980s and 1990s I looked forward to and he was a major contributor to making my visit to the 1988 Worldcon in New Orleans such a fun time. I was determined to not miss out on time spent with people I liked ever again if I could help it.

And not only because of any health problems other people may be enduring, but also because of my own over the last decade. Mission accomplished in this instance, I hope.

It's not betraying any confidences to mention Rich Coad's plans for next year's Corflu in Sonoma County, California; he has written about them in This Here... and online at Inthebar and in the Corflu 50 group.

Many Brits are a little reluctant to travel to the US at the moment, given the antics of the great orange turd in the White House, and this seems to have caused Rich to question whether it's a good idea to continue but I'm developing a "fuck you!" attitude to Trump, his enablers, and lackeys.

Provided I can pull the funds together, I'll see you all in California. If I'm not going to allow ill health to stop me seeing people I like, why should I let a tin-pot dictator do it instead?

See you all next year...

Outline Programme...

Attending members will get a printed programme leaflet at the con with full details of programme items and participants, all of which information will also be set out on Discord as well with a direct Zoom link for live streaming of each programme item. (The link will also be emailed to members, but not until shortly before the con, since we're borrowing the Zoom and don't want to send you crashing into someone else's meeting!)

But for now, here's an outline to whet your appetite (or help you plan when to stay in the bar, you slackers). It's possible we'll still need to move an item or two around, but these are the items we're definitely planning and the times of all the programme slots.

FRIDAY

Morning/lunch – *War of the Worlds* trip to Woking (depart from the Chequers at 9:45; lunch at the Herbert Wells pub at 12:30).
Contact Rob Jackson
(robjackson60@gmail.com) if you've not yet signed up or need to change your plans.

15:00-16:00 – Panel: Where is all the good fan writing these days?

16:30-17:30 – Panel: Fanzine of Honour

(Dinner break)

20:00 – Opening ceremony

20:30-21:15 – An Appreciation



21:30-22:30 – Just a Minac

Later – Wine tasting (unless it's whisky)

SATURDAY

10:30-11:30 – Panel: Where are UK cons going (also literally)?

12:00-13:00 – Presentation: Party like it's 1979

(Lunch break)

Registration and Hotel...

You know this isn't going to be very formal, but you'll still need a badge to access the convention spaces – and, more importantly, to help us all remember one another's names – and we've got publications to give you too (this is Corflu, after all).

Don't expect anything to be up and running before Friday morning; after that, if you can't find a con registration desk then check in the Garden Room (but quietly, if programme's happening!) or the Carnarvon Room next door.

If you've got a lanyard you're happy to reuse for your con badge, please bring it.

We will have some spare lanyards and lots of badge clips available, but it's become customary at UK cons not to treat them as disposable resources.

Pictured left are the wonderful Events Manager for the Chequers, Queen Banda, who some of you will have spoken to on the phone over the last few months, and Hotel Manager George. Both will be on site for most of the weekend should there be any problems that need addressing.



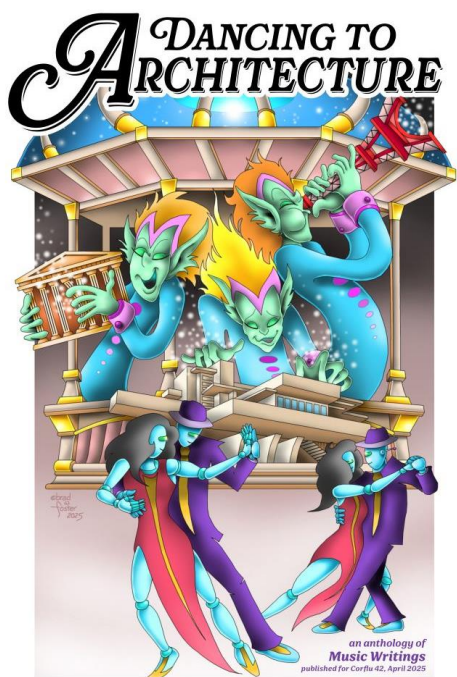
Immortality is Within Your Reach!

Well, if not immortality, at least we can preserve your golden words! FANAC.org will be scanning at Corflu 42, with hopes of getting as many additional fanzines digitized as possible. Let us scan your fanzines, and please bring along other fanzines that you think we should have in our digital archive. For material you bring that is not your own, we will seek permissions from the editors before putting anything online. You can see what we already have available at https://fanac.org/fanzines/alphabetical_listing_of_fanzines.html



Fanthology and Memory Book...

At the convention you'll be getting a copy of the fabulous fanthology pictured below, edited by Dashin' Doug Bell and designed by Peerless Pat Virzi (my comic roots are showing... Dave), but you won't be getting a con souvenir book – because we've decided to follow the trend of producing a memory book after the convention instead.



After all, why have all these fan artists and writers as members of the convention and not quarry all of your observations, impressions, experiences, and other memories for a publication that will record for posterity whatever we want to claim was going on?

So, make notes, sketches, photos (with the subjects' permission), anecdotes, and wild imaginings – and be ready to polish them and send them to us when we've all got home and had the chance to sleep for a week after the Belfast Eastercon.

It might also be nice if any attendees who have caches of unused work by any of the writers or artists discussed on any of our panels could dig them out and forward them on to us. We wouldn't be talking about these fan icons if we didn't think their work should be seen, and this could be a wonderful opportunity.



Pub Games...

Remembering the pool, darts, and bowling tournaments – and some almost legendary matches – at the MiScons of old, we had a vague hankering to put on something similar at Corflu 42 in which everyone could participate, regardless of experience or skill. Fortunately, we saw sense before we realised there'd be no time for any programme items, and so abandoned the idea of mandatory fun.

Nonetheless, thanks to Steven Cain and Alison Scott we're expecting there to be shove ha'penny and 'somewhat crappy' bar skittles available in the hotel bar – with thanks also to the hotel for letting us make the place look untidy – and we encourage participation; simplified rules should be available! If you play a game, record the results, and we'll see if we can work out an overall Pub Games Champion by the end of the con.

In the unlikely event that any ~~of you~~ ~~drunkards~~ attendees don't know how to play shove ha'penny or bar skittles video instructions can be found at [Shove Ha'penny - How to play & History of the game](#) and [#shorts How to play Bar Skittles / Table Skittles](#).

Good luck!

Outline Programme... (Continued)

SATURDAY (continued)

14:30-15:30 – Corflu 50 interview

16:00-17:00 – Panel: Fan art now and then

17:30-18:30 – Panel: What makes fan writing British?

(Dinner break)

21:00-22:00 – Vry UnSrs Music Quiz

Later – Whisky tasting (unless it's wine)

SUNDAY

10:45-11:45 – Panel: Fan funds a go-go

12:00-12:45 – Group photos

13:00 – Sunday lunch

14:00-15:00 – Auction

15:15-16:00 – Corflu business (and closing ceremony)

Later – Dead dog party

Before the Con...

If you're travelling from outside the UK and still need an electronic travel authorisation, act now! Apologies that the link included in a previous PR was broken; you need to check <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-electronic-travel-authorisation-eta>

Whatever your membership type, check out (and hang out in) the Discord server. If you've not previously joined the Corflu server, once you're signed in use the invitation link <https://discord.gg/MSZy5axAS> (more details in [PR 1](#)) – and please change your display name for this server to something like your badge name that we'll all recognise

Don't forget to (re)read at least some of [Encoremen, Corflu 42's Fanzine of Honour](#)

If you're attending in person, remember to pack:

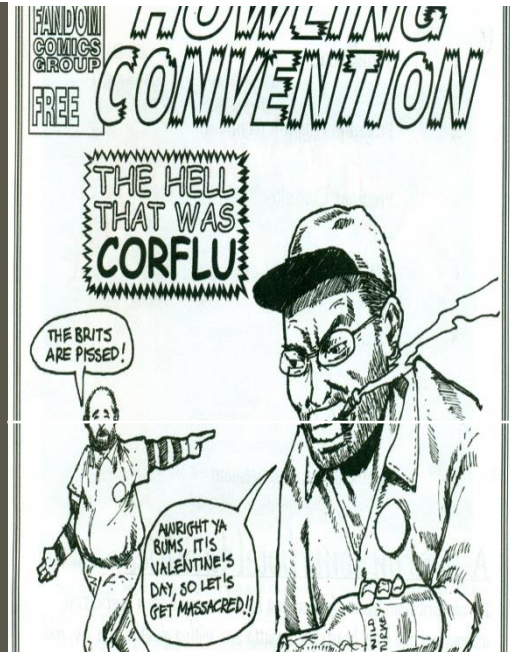
- anything you've told Mark and Sandra you're donating to the auction
- fanzines for scanning, as described by Joe
- any fanzines of your own you want to distribute
- any fanzines you want to donate to the free fanzines table (or books you want to go on to the Eastercon to be given away too, with thanks to James Bacon) – more details in [PR 2](#)
- a lanyard for your con badge, if you've got one you're happy to reuse
- whatever else you need for your health, safety, comfort and general decency (we can but try)

After the Con...

Hopefully, a goodly few of you will be following Dave, Mark, Claire, Tommy, Bill, and Noel on to Reconnect, the 76th UK National Convention, in Belfast, which is co-chaired by Tommy with James Bacon (Tommy is a glutton for punishment, but I won't elaborate on which of the two reasons makes him the bigger masochist... Dave).

Several of us will be arriving in Belfast on Thursday 17 April, and there is a fan meeting at the wonderful Errigle Inn, fondly remembered from Corflu Craic two years ago, that same evening.

If I had any hair left, this is the evening I'd probably be letting it down after a year preparing for this Corflu. I hope I haven't disappointed any of you... Dave.



Immortality is Within Your Reach!

(continued)

We do need to remove the staples for scanning, but we will put them back carefully. We already have over 26,500 issues scanned and available, representing more than 3000 titles. That's over 450,000 pages of fannish prose, art, and news. Take advantage of this easy opportunity to bring along your publications and have them added. We're also looking for convention publications – flyers and specialty pubs, as well as PRs and Program Books. Bring them! You will also get your name on our contributors list.

The FanHistory Project is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization, an outgrowth of MagiCon, the 1992 Worldcon. FANAC.org is being archived by the U.S. Library of Congress.

Joe Siclari

In the next issue...

There isn't one...

Hurrah!