

The Eighty Second issue of a sort-of letter substitute, fanzine kinda thing. Maybe weekly, maybe not. Available from:

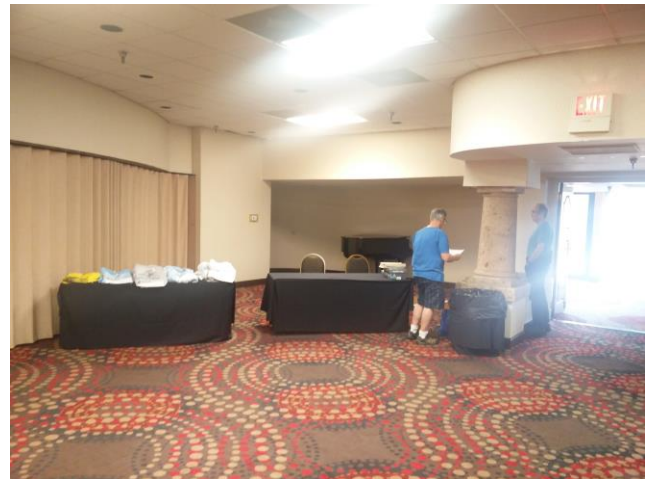
125 Haypark Ave, Belfast, BT7 3FG, Northern Ireland
tw@tommyworld.net
<http://tommyworld.net>

Available via the World Wide Web, or as an email attachment. I recommend the Portable Document Format (pdf) or, if you insist, a word or Rich Text Format (rtf) can also be emailed or posted. Get in touch and we'll sort something out. Please do email and respond – I will be printing locs. Another burst of fannish energy from Tommy, proof read by Eugene Doherty. Dated, already, 13/03/2021.

Corflu Heatwave Talk – Part 2ⁱ

So, it's been a year since Corflu Heatwave took place in Texas (Details here: <https://corflu.org/Corflu37/index.html>) I've just finished my trip report for Nic Farey's Beam, so thought it was about time to resurrect the second part of my fandom in NI speech. Previous instalment was in TommyWorld 81 (pdf here: <http://www.tommyworld.net/download/tw81.pdf>)

The first part of the talk dwelt on my return to fannish fandom with a few ideas of how we might get more people like me to come back into the fold. I'll be taking forward a few of those actions in due course, with the potential hosting of Corflu in 2023 in Belfast as a key step on that road. However, I did ramble on about a few other things at the time – here's a few more highlights.



The crowds gather for Tommy's Corflu speech

The Poster



"I spent a bit of time talking through this academic style poster detailing the history of NI fandom - I'm not going to dwell on some of the earlier stuff - as I look out, I can see people way more knowledgeable than me. Indeed, at WorldCon a wonderful panel with John Berry, Sandra Bond, Geri Sullivan and chaired by Gerry Kaufman did that extremely well (be keen to see anyone's notes on that!) And talking of posters – there was another on James White from Caroline Mullan – whose talk was reprinted in Banana Wings 75 – well worth a read. However, I did trail and article entitled "Walt Willis and Me" in a forthcoming fanzine from myself – more of that much later.

Bob Shaw

Bob Shaw we all know and love. We invited him as Guest of Honour to NIcon 87 in Belfast. Arranged during the winter mid-

term break we had the University student's union building free – as well as empty of 'normal' students. However, being the complete idiots, we were it we didn't realise it was at the same time as Novacon. Ah well I thought. Little did we know that up to that point Bob Shaw had never missed a Novacon ever - indeed after NiCon 87 he never missed another one either.

But he turned up - read one of his Serious scientific talks and took part like a real trooper. He also took time to visit family and friends - we didn't have any money and apart from buying him a decent meal - he paid for it all on his dime. A fantastic writer, a wonderful fan and a great man.

James White

Now here is someone who has changed my fannish life and shown me how to be a better human being. I missed Caroline Mullan's presentation at WorldCon - don't know why all the fannish stuff was scheduled for Thursday - but she did share her poster with me for comments ahead of the convention. Even just seeing some of the things on that poster I know she had nailed it.

For those of you who've had a chance to read my piece in TommyWorld Redux - *James was a Gentleman and a gentle fan*. Impeccably polite, always available - very much present as we would say today - and generous with his time and stories. No matter what he was telling me it was always something new, whereas most fans tend to repeat the same good stories time and again - God knows I'm one of them.

He was honorary president of the Queen's University Belfast Science Fiction Society from the very first time he was asked... Gave his time each year to address us and help the budding writers as well as the young kids on the block. (Ian McDonald is now the current president!) Again, NI fandom at its best.

The New Kids on the Block

There's a range of people in NI Fandom after the Golden Age - we wanted to call these the lost decades - but in reality, there is a lot of good stuff there. Graham Andrews is the bridge - was around at the time of James & Bob - I think Walt Willis had bowed out of the regular fan groups. Then Paul Campbell who edited and publisher *Extro*, NI's only SF magazine. Jim Mallory from the US and a professor of archaeology at Queen's University - he's my bridge to the old fans. Frank McKeever, Joe Nolan whose names may not mean anything to you but they are both central to this part of the history of NI fandom. I'll be writing this part our history up for a fanzine. They are gone but not forgotten.

Corflu Heatwave was really fun and in the main is responsible for you reading this. Thanks."

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Many thanks for the replies on the last issue – I will have lettercol in a forthcoming release.

ⁱ Edited to make sense, but originally delivered at Corflu Heatwave, March 2020