

# **TYNECON III – THE CORFLU**



## **PROGRESS REPORT NUMBER 2**

# **IT'S COMING...**

# **REAL SOON NOW... .**

## **Madame Chairperson Pat Charnock speaks**

Welcome to our last Progress Report. In it, you'll find information about how to get to the Vermont Hotel in Newcastle upon Tyne, what to expect once you get there, and how to make the most of your visit.

We're very pleased to be bringing Corflu back to the UK. My first Corflu was Corflu Silver in Las Vegas in 2008 when I came to the realisation that this was my part of fandom. Since then I've managed to attend two more and had to bow out of attending another when my husband was sick. I was involved in helping to stage the 2010 con in Winchester. But most importantly I've started publishing a fanzine again. Sadly I won't be handing out my latest issue at Tynecon III, as my focus this year has had to be on Corflu.

I'm looking forward to meeting as many of you in Newcastle upon Tyne as I can. We're going to have a busy weekend, and I hope you'll enjoy yourselves.

Our main programme room is the Ballroom of the Heritage Suite on Level 4 of the Vermont Hotel. In the adjoining Assembly Room bar (known to us as the Goat and Gusset for reasons which we hope will never become clear) you'll find the registration desk where you can pick up your badge and programme book, as well as a mini guide to some of the local eateries. Please wear your badge around the convention.

As is customary for Corflu, our Guest of Honour (hereinafter referred to as the GOH) will be randomly selected from our members. The GOH will be invited to give a short, time limited presentation at the Awards ceremony at the end of the con. Previous GOHs will not be eligible, and if you really don't want to be honoured, you can opt out. If you want to opt out of this honour, you can let

us know in advance by email, you can tell us at the registration desk when you pick up your badge, or you can wait until the last minute when we pull your name out of the hat and disappoint the whole hall.

We will also be pleased to welcome the Corflu 50 delegate, Geri Sullivan.

If you're receiving this PR, you will already be a member, but please let your friends know that no full attending memberships can be issued after 15th March 2015 as we have to confirm numbers to the hotel for the Sunday lunch. But they could still attend on a day basis - Friday will cost £15 and Saturday will set you back £20.

The GOH selection and meet-the-committee session will be held at 5.00 pm on Friday.

In the UK the clocks go forward 1 hour at 1am on the last Sunday in March. Unfortunately that's right in the middle of Corflu. So please make sure you don't wake up an hour late on the Sunday and miss the Sunday lunch. But hopefully you'll still be in time for the Awards ceremony.



# THE VERMONT HOTEL

Like many of the similar Victorian buildings which surround it, the Vermont is a striking piece of architecture. It is built on the side of a very steep part of the north bank of the river Tyne in central Newcastle. The vehicle entrance off St. Nicholas' Street (the approach road to the High Level Bridge) is at level 6, half-way up the hotel – the brightly lit side in the night photo here. That is where we arrive by car, train or Metro, and the exit for city centre bars, restaurants and sights.



The east side, facing downriver (on the right in the night photo) has three single storeys and one double height story below that. See the photo of the side of the hotel alongside the huge railway arch below. At ground level is the hotel's night spot, Livello's, which has a patio just visible behind black railings in the photo below. That is at level 1 in the lift, which is also the exit at Quayside level from the hotel – so we may make a lot of use of that exit on our way to bars and restaurants, sightsee on the Quayside or to visit the Baltic art gallery or the Millennium Bridge. The lift is Really Useful – saves us having to do a lot of hill climbing.



Our main convention hall is the Ballroom, which historically was Northumberland County Council's main council chamber when the building was the council's headquarters. The striking oak panelling and

historic leaded illustrations in the chamber windows are preserved for posterity and the pleasure of hotel guests such as us. See the double-height windows in the photo on the left. The whole hotel is recently refurbished in quiet and urbane greys and browns with much leather upholstery and a fin-de-siecle feel.

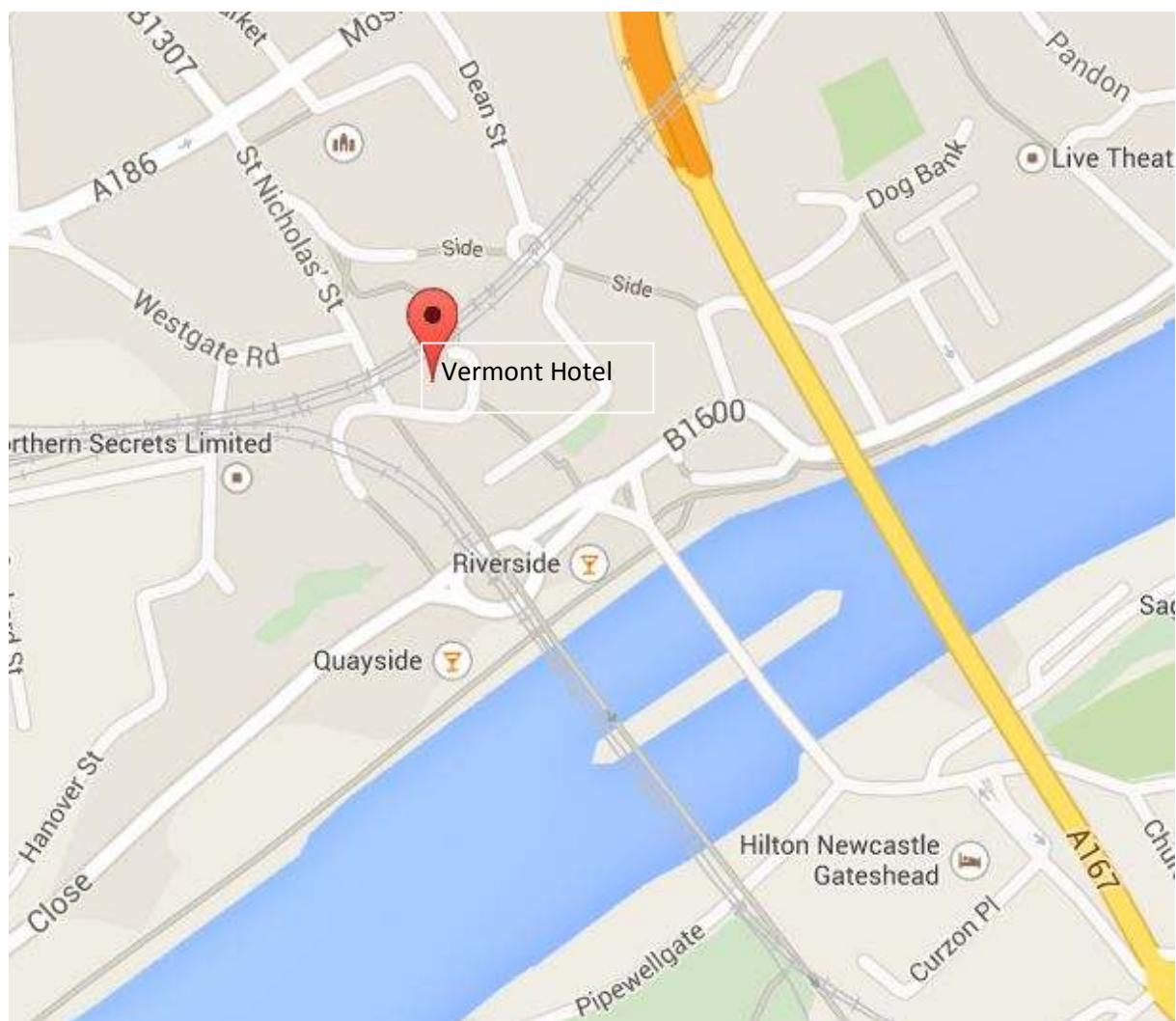
Corflu's facilities are on Level 4 in the lift, two lift levels down from the entrance. (Most bedrooms are on levels 7-11.) The Goat and Gusset, our bar and lounge, is in the Assembly Room (or ante-room for what was the main Council chamber), and the con hall itself is the Ballroom. Our registration desk is in the Goat and Gusset. There will be display tables for fanzines and other auction material down the left and right sides of the Ballroom, and whatever else we or you need to show off.... WiFi is free, and fast (or at least it was very fast when we tried it in the Ballroom). The lobby lounge (where afternoon tea is available), Redwood Bar (the hotel's main bar) and the Bridge Brasserie (where breakfast is served) are all on Level 6, the main access floor which is in effect the hotel's ground floor.

The hotel is perfectly central for a load of restaurants, bars including real ale pubs, and fun and enlightening ways to spend your time – from the Baltic Gallery of Contemporary Art just over the river via the Gateshead Millennium bridge (itself a major attraction), the Sage concert halls, the Quayside as a whole with the Five Bridges (actually seven now), and beyond the Central Station the Life museum. More details will be in the guide to local entertainments Harry and Pat Bell will be preparing for us at the convention itself.

### **Hotel booking**

By the time you receive this Progress Report the deadline for booking rooms at the hotel's discounted rate for Corflu will have passed, and the rooms will (as of 27 February) have been released for booking by other guests. But if you are *\*very\** lucky (despite your belated booking) they may still have some rooms available at the discounted rate. And of course if you do still want to come we will be delighted to welcome you!

But there is another deadline – as full membership includes the Banquet on the Sunday lunchtime, and the hotel need to know numbers for that more than a week ahead, we cannot accept full memberships after the cut-off date of 15th March. Day members are still welcome (including walk-ins on the day) on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March at £15 for the Friday (when the programme starts at 2 pm) and £20 for the Saturday (the programme is all day, but starting at the civilised hour of 11 am).



# **AND HERE'S ROB JACKSON OUR HOTEL LIAISON MAN WITH SOME WORDS FOR TRAVELLERS...**

Travel to Newcastle

**Car:** set your satnav for the Vermont Hotel, Castle Garth, NE1 1RQ.

**From the South:** Most people will come up through Yorkshire and Durham on the A1(M). Follow the signs for central Newcastle. Just after the Washington services, the motorway forks. Your satnav may take you on the A194(M) towards the Tyne Tunnel then bring you to the Tyne Bridge via the A184 road in from Sunderland; do this if you like. A more direct route but with less dual carriageway is to keep left on the A1 (M) which soon stops being motorway. A mile later, part way down the hill, come off at the Angel of the North junction. Though this is signposted Gateshead (South), take it anyway, as you turn right on to the A167 which takes you to the Tyne Bridge. Cross the Tyne Bridge on the A167, and be ready to come off at the junction immediately at the end of the bridge, signed A186, City Centre (South). Take the first exit, City Centre (South and West), then follow the final directions below.

**From the West or North:** From the A69 coming from the West or the A1 coming from the North, there are loads of routes, but most of the best ones end up bringing you into Newcastle from the north-west on the A167 which connects the A1 Newcastle Bypass with the A167(M) Central Motorway East. This is a short piece of split-level dual carriageway. Just after the southbound carriageway emerges from under the northbound one, don't take the first exit (A193, Wallsend) but the second one (A186, City Centre South). Take the third exit off the roundabout, signed City Centre South and West, then do as below.

**Final directions from the A167(M) to the hotel:** Go straight on through the first set of traffic lights (in a dip in the road), then at the next follow the road round to the left (which is all the road layout will let you do anyway). Go straight on under a metal arched railway bridge, then turn immediately left, just past the castle and just before the Bridge Hotel pub. The Vermont Hotel is behind the castle, so is now ahead of you on your left.

**Car parking:** On the right, down a slope just beyond the Bridge Hotel, is a car park for Vermont Hotel guests. This is free, as is other parking in front of the hotel; on-street parking is ticketed. To make best use of the space, the hotel suggests you leave your keys with the concierge at the front desk so the cars can be double-parked and moved so people can come and go. Other car parks are available starting at £8.00 for 24 hours for the Central Station long-stay one; visit the Parkopedia website for central Newcastle <http://goo.gl/Y0O4v> for more detailed info. If the hotel one is full, it may be worthwhile parking elsewhere on a short-term basis then moving when a space is freed up.

**Train:** Once you have arrived at Newcastle Central Station, Google Maps says the walk should take you 7 minutes: <http://goo.gl/maps/yKS3T>; but there is a large taxi rank available at the station if you prefer. Turn right out of the main entrance onto Neville Street. Pass the Royal Station Hotel (site of Tynecon 74 and Tynecon II: the Mexicon). Mind the roadworks, which are plaguing the station forecourt area currently. Stay on the right-hand side of the pavement (er, sidewalk). Bear slightly right down Westgate Road, which comes alongside the railway above you to your right. Ignore the two tunnels under the railway (well, admire them if you like, but don't go through them). You reach a junction with a metallic arched bridge on your right. Cross the road via the pedestrian controlled lights, then go under the bridge and turn left towards the Castle. The Vermont is round behind the castle.

**Plane:** Arrive at Newcastle International Airport. Get a taxi if you wish, but the Metro is very simple. Look for the black serif M on a yellow square, and go down the inclined walkway. The ticket machines are down at the Metro station rather than in the airport concourse itself; they accept coins, notes and credit cards. You need an All Zones single journey costing £3.40 if you are an adult. All the trains from the airport go to Central Station, which is the thirteenth Metro station on the line. Haymarket and Monument are the preceding stations. Then walk or taxi to the hotel as above. On the return journey you will need a Green Line train to the Airport.

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# **MEANWHILE OUR PROGRAMME TEAM OF CHRISTINA LAKE, DOUG BELL, CLAIRE BRIALEY AND MARK PLUMMER HAVE BEEN BUSY PLOTTING AND CASTING THEIR PLANS AGAINST US...**

The Programme is gradually coming together. We're planning to get official proceedings under way at 2 pm on Friday (after the walk) to keep you involved and entertained before the all-important draw for the Guest of Honour. This will take place in our Meet the Committee slot, scheduled for around 5 pm, where the perpetrators of the current Corflu will welcome you all to the convention and Chairman Pat will select our Guest of Honour from a special hat (fabricated by Rob Jackson in his woodshed). There will be no fix! All will be fair and above the board (also fabricated by Rob). Yes, it really could be you. However, if you don't want the chance to be heaped with all the honours that Newcastle can supply, and the opportunity to impress your friends and fellow fans with your speech at the Corflu awards ceremony, then just let us know ([corflu32@gmail.com](mailto:corflu32@gmail.com)) and your name won't go in the hat to start with.

We're also very excited to be working on a fanzine launch event for Friday evening. If you're planning to pub your ish for Corflu (and who wouldn't be?) then consider bringing some extra copies along to the convention so that they can be launched in style! There will be drinks, readings, signing and some spot prizes; get in touch if you'd like to be part of the launch – and help to sponsor it so that the drinks and spot prizes run freely for longer. If you're not publishing a fanzine, but would like to help assuage your guilt by sponsoring your fellow fan-eds, then get in touch about that too to the Corflu address.

The programme for Saturday is looking pretty exciting too, with Kev Williams's Gannet Fandom slideshow, a chance to see Corflu 50 delegate Geri Sullivan in

action, panels celebrating other facets of our fannish heritage and some light-hearted evening entertainment to supplement the Auction (which will, of course, be entertainment in its own right).

Finally, Sunday will see our special Corflu lunch where we'll all come together to eat, drink, be entertained by the GoH and find out who will be the winners of the prestigious FAAn Awards (vote now, vote often!). Informal afternoon events may or may not involve some Craft Beers, so don't say you haven't been warned; the dog could be feeling no pain well before the Dead Dog party on Sunday evening!

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## THE NEWCASTLE RAMBLE

Harry and Pat Bell write:

Corflu programming will start early in the Afternoon on Friday. If anybody is around in the morning and fancies getting some air and working up an appetite for lunch, we will be leading a sight-seeing ramble (or amble) through the town, pointing out places of interest, (including pubs). We plan a walk of two halves, The Toon followed by the Quayside and Bridges. You can join the whole walk or half as we will pass by the hotel halfway.

Here in more detail is our planned walk although we have not tested it for times yet.

From the main hotel door we start with a brief detour to The High Level Bridge for a view of the river and quayside, then up St Nicholas Street past The Keep, the Black Gate and St Nicholas' Cathedral. Walking up The Bigg Market, we turn right into Grainger Street turning off into the old covered Grainger Market and The Central Arcade. That leads us to The Monument where we can take Blackett Street to point out The Laing Art Gallery and the shops of Northumberland Street. Turning down Pilgrim Street we head to High Bridge Street past the Bacchus pub to Grey Street. Taking in the elegant sweep of

Georgian architecture we turn down Grey Street and Dean Street finishing the first part of our walk back to the lower hotel entrance.

Folks can then decide to do the second part, or give up, and any new willing souls can join us. We set off again down The Side past The Crown Posada to The Quayside where we turn left downriver to the Millennium Bridge. We cross the bridge to Gateshead passing The Baltic Contemporary Art Gallery, to walk through The Sage Concert Hall, pointing out St Mary's Heritage Centre then back down Bridge Street. We cross The Swing Bridge, turn right and round to bring us back to the hotel.

Various restaurants and pubs listed in our guide will be passed and pointed out en route.

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## **EVERY GOOD CORFLU DESERVES A FANTHOLOGY**

And why should ours be any different? A fanthology of fanwritings associated with Gannet fandom, Tyne Capsule, is nearing completion under the editorship of ex-Gannet Rob Jackson. It will be free to all attending and supporting members. The contents include writings by Gannet fans, items published in Gannet fanzines by Gannets and others, and pieces about Gannet cons and other events. Rob confesses he has had huge fun reminding himself how much excellent and amusing fannish writing (and artwork mostly by Harry Bell, though not exclusively) was produced by or associated with the Gannets in the 70s and 80s. Rob has finished up as the main Editor, but acknowledges the help of many others both on the Tynecon III committee and otherwise. We hope you enjoy the results!

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## **THE VIRTUAL CONSUTE**

Graham Charnock speaks:

I first came across the concept of the virtual consuite at Corflu Silver in Las Vegas in 2008, where it was capably managed by Bill and Roxie Mills. I have

only ever been involved with this technology with regard to Corflu, and my own involvement started in Sunnyvale where Katrina Templeton had set up a computer in the consuite where questions and answers could be dealt with, and later I roamed around feeding video into Kat's iphone. Virtual consuites have always been beholden to the kindness of strangers of course. For the Richmond Corflu I struggled with Nic Farey for several months to try and persuade him he could do a virtual consuite without any expenditure and also without too much effort. In the end it worked so well I managed to spend a fortune bidding at the auction. Other cons don't do a virtual consuite of course, like Novacon or indeed Loncon (despite having a budget of several million pounds). It's invariably left to real fanzine fans with a real sense of community to lead the way. Corflu 32 will have a virtual consuite, masterminded by John Harvey, with technical assistance from Martin Hoare, and urls will be posted to members directly and also on social media sites in due course. We plan to stream most major events on the programme, including a live link to the Auction for non-attendees. Watch this space. Or that space over there. You know the one I mean.

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## **MEANWHILE THE FAAN MAN SPEAKS...**

I have written, if that's not too strong a word (it is - ed.) a little ditty to remind some of us that a fan's gotta do what a fan's gotta do. It goes like this:

### **Remember Song**

*Oh it's a long long time from January to Corflu*

*But the days grow short when you reach the end of February, oh yes they do.*

*When the winter weather turns your brain to hay*

*Then you can't remember what and who you were going to vote for anyway.*

*Oh the days dwindle down to a precious few*

*So why not get yer arse in gear and send in a ballot or two?*

Yes, I know the days are actually growing *longer*, but mentioning that would just be confusing. And just one ballot per person will suffice. (Get on with it - ed.)

Some of us don't need this reminder, and can skip over this bit with a sigh of relief. But as I write, "some" equals only eight. That's right - only eight fans have voted in thirty-eight days. We are not even into double figures yet. For the rest of you, which is almost everybody, it's too late to vote early, but it's not too early to vote later. You know it makes sense.

The deadline you need to remember is **Saturday March 14th**, and the time: **midnight**, your local time. Please don't imagine that voting a bit late doesn't matter - the timescale we are working to is very tight, and late votes *will* be discounted. So pour some antifreeze on your synapses and see what and who you can recall with pleasure from the fan world of 2014. If you need a ballot, you can download one from the Corflu website (**[www.corflu.org](http://www.corflu.org)**). Having read the words of wisdom therein, you can chuck it away and vote by email to **mikepat25@gmail.com**.

The Administrator and his hand-picked team of enforcers toting rolled-up copies of *Warhoon 28* look forward to hearing from you.

Yours in hope, Mike Meara

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## **AND A WORD FROM THE FORGOTTEN MAN OF THE COMMITTEE, ROBERT LICHTMAN**

There's not a lot of fame, glory or even hard work involved in my lofty position as US Agent for Tynecon III - The Corflu. I've been collecting membership funds from those all-too-few Americans who still use checks as a means of payment, keeping track of the total received, and for good measure maintain a list with their physical and e-mail addresses. I wish for there to be more to do – as of this writing there are only fourteen members (three of them supporting) who've signed up through me – and encourage any Americans reading this who have been procrastinating about taking out a membership to do it now. If not planning to attend, a supporting membership is only \$25 and gets you all the print publications produced for the convention.

One of those supporting memberships is mine. I've only been to eleven of the

thirty-one Corflus to date, largely because of an aversion to flying (which ramped up considerably after 9/11 and the new and intrusive “security” requirements). I’ve only flown to three of them: the first two Seattle Corflus and the one in the DC area in 1994. Other than that I’ve driven, including marathon one-day trips to the first three Vegas outings.

My most recent road trip was to Portland in 2013. Carol came with me – her first time attending an entire Corflu, though she’d been to bits of Walnut Creek in 1997 and San Francisco in 2005 – and we made a mini-vacation of it. We took two days both coming and going – staying in lovely Ashland, Oregon, on the way up, and in not-all-that-lovely Dunsmuir, California, on our return trip. While in Portland, as many others also did we visited some tourist venues: the Portland Art Museum, where we indulged our love of Native American art, and the Lan Su Chinese Garden, where we communed with managed nature and enjoyed a lovely lunch at their tea room. Not counting the motel room from hell in Dunsmuir, we had a great time – and look forward to more west coast Corflus in driving distance.

Meanwhile, as I wrote above, I look forward to more memberships.

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## **AND EVERY CORFLU DESERVES AN AUCTION**

There will indeed be an auction, cunningly timed for late in the evening on Saturday so that people with deep pockets in the US in particular may join in through the courtesy of internet technology. Someone in the audience with a wireless device will be posted to take note and pass on any bids received, hopefully allowing for any communications time delay. Even now our auction supremo Dame Sandra Bond is searching through her drawers for suitable material and taking delivery of vast packing cases full of rare and sought after material. She’ll be cataloguing these donations and compiling a list which will be posted online in advance of the event. Meanwhile there is no time embargo on donating useful items. Bring them with you if you are attending; if you are not you can mail them to us at our busy Corflu Office at 45 Kimberley Gardens, London N4 1LD, United Kingdom by Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at the latest.

What sells at internet auctions is unpredictable, but signed material is obviously more attractive than unsigned, and unusual personalized items and artwork probably gets a better price than incomplete runs of desultory pulps or dog-eared paperbacks (unless Curt Phillips is bidding). Auction proceeds will be divided up sensibly between Corflu, Taff, Guff and other worthy fan funds. If you are donating especially valuable material and want any revenue to go to a specific cause, please let us know. Worth noting perhaps that we do not undertake to act as agents for personal sales, and unsold material will not be returned but will be passed on to other charitable ventures or else disposed of according to time-honoured traditions depending on our assessment of its value.

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## **T SHIRTS T SHIRTS T SHIRTS**

Let there be T-Shirts.

Corflu has a fine tradition of producing T-shirts commemorating each year's convention, and we are pleased to announce that this year is no exception. And with Harry Bell giving us his first ever full-colour Corflu logo, how could we do otherwise?

Rather than order a load in advance for sale "on spec" at the convention and risk running out of some sizes and being left with heaps of other sizes, we have made them available for advance order online. For Corflu 31 last year, Spreadshirt's US arm offered very efficient sales and mailing, and this year their UK and European team have given us a superb service in setting up our sales process and also have very reasonable prices.

£12.10 strikes me as excellent value. Order through our virtual shop, here:

<http://1029603.spreadshirt.co.uk/customize/noCache/1>

Any overseas Corflu members who want a T-shirt for use at the con may like to

pick their shirt up when they register. If so, please email us on the committee; I am willing for my postal address to be given for UK delivery in advance of the con. That may save you overseas delivery charges too! If you do this, make sure your shirt is delivered to me at home by Tuesday 24th March at the latest - by the time our postman arrives the next day I will be well on the way to Newcastle...

Rob Jackson

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## **CORFLU 32 - MEMBERSHIP LIST**

as at 19 February 2015

S = Supporting member  
Sat = Saturday member

51 Tom Becker	65 Keith Freeman	7 Frank Lunney (S)	53 Alison Scott
15 Doug Bell	9 Ron Gemmell	13 Gary Mattingly	24 Cas Skelton
61 Harry Bell	59 Dave Haddock	67 Mike Meara	23 Paul Skelton
62 Pat Bell	38 Judith Hanna	68 Pat Meara	55 Ian Sorensen
35 Tony Berry	57 Rob Hansen	28 Farah Mendlesohn	46 Douglas Spencer
64 Sandra Bond	32 Eve Harvey	66 Nick Mills	50 Spike
17 Claire Brialey	33 John Harvey	26 Mary Ellen Moore	20 Elaine Stiles
54 Steven Cain	69 Dave Hicks	25 Murray Moore	19 Steve Stiles
73 Jack Calvert (S)	78 Martin Hoare	30 Carrie Mowatt	71 Ian Stockdale
58 Avedon Carol	74 John-Henri Holmberg	29 Jim Mowatt	63 June Strachan
11 Graham Charnock	5 Gary Hunnewell (S)	37 Joseph Nicholas	43 Geri Sullivan
10 Pat Charnock	14 Rob Jackson	39 Audrey Nielsen Hall	44 Peter Sullivan
8 Rich Coad	42 Jerry Kaufman (S)	40 John Nielsen Hall	76 R-Laurraine Tutihasi (S)
47 Dave Cockfield	75 Roy Kettle	52 Brian Parker	77 Tobes Valois
45 Julia Daly	16 Christina Lake	36 Curt Phillips (S)	2 Pat Virzi
12 Alan Dorey	34 Dave Langford	18 Mark Plummer	1 Ted White
48 Martin Easterbrook	72 Ruth Leibig	49 David Redd (S)	27 Kevin Williams
60 Lilian Edwards	31 Robert Lichtman (S)	3 Nigel Rowe	70 Ian Williams (Sat)
41 Miss Fairchild	21 Jim Linwood	56 Yvonne Rowse	
6 Nic Farey (S)	22 Marion Linwood	4 Ron Salomon	