



Taffluorescence! first issue



The newsletter of the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund,
produced for the edification of all by:

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Who is the incoming European administrator. Much love to the outgoing one, *Fia Karlsson.*

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Absolutely Indispensable Website: taff.org.uk ~ ~ How is it November 2023 already?



Let's start with the vital news: the 2024 TAFF race, from North America to Europe, will get under way on 1st December 2023, with the opening of nominations. The winner will travel to the 2024 Worldcon in Glasgow, from 8th to 12th August 2024, and no doubt will also journey elsewhere on the eastern side of the big puddle, being welcomed and feted wherever they go.

Nominations will close on 7th January 2024, and ballot forms will then be circulated throughout fandom. Voting will continue until 2nd April 2024. Once the ballots close, the admins will tot up the votes, with the winner to be announced as soon as possible thereafter.

Votes must be accompanied by a minimum payment of £3 (GBP), €3 (EUR), or \$4 (USD), and any fan may vote who's been active in fandom since April 2022 or earlier.

Do you know a fan whom you believe worthy of the TAFF honour? Or do you yourself think you come under that heading? Splendid! Here's what you have to submit, in order to appear on the 2024 TAFF ballot:

- Three nominators from North America, and two nominators from Europe
- A bond of (UK) £10, (US) \$20, or (EU) €12
- A platform to go on the ballot, of 101 words or fewer, saying why folk should vote for you

There is every expectation that the Glasgow Worldcon will be a shining example of the genus. The committee are very much aware of TAFF and of its significance to fandom round the world in bringing us all closer together; to that end, not only have they already confirmed that they will provide gratis membership and board to the winning fan, but have installed former TAFF winner Geri Sullivan as Fan Fund Liaison for the convention. TAFF applauds them for taking so proactive a stance, which saves the administrators a great deal of stress and worry at this stage of developments. Other Worldcons should feel free to copy...



In other news, I, Sandra Bond, can confirm that I travelled around the USA and Canada in July and August 2023, upon TAFF's dime. Did I have a good time? Hell, yes I did! Such a good time that nearly four months later I can still be elevated into something of a daze just by allowing myself to dwell upon the memories of it.

But dwell on them I must, because – no ingrate, I – I have already set to work upon my TAFF report, the written record of my gratitude to fandom for granting me this honour, and the latest in a long and noble tradition of such publications. This will appear, chapter by chapter, in as many different places as I can wrangle it. The purpose of doing it that way, rather than

simply coming out with it all at once in one volume, is not only to split this daunting task up into more manageable, bite-sized, pieces, but also to ensure that it covers as wide a readership at first instance as possible – an important consideration given the size and spread of modern fandom.

One chapter is due imminently in the revival issue (#13) of *Idea*, edited by Geri Sullivan, which will be available for free download or purchase if you aren't already on her mailing list. FANAC.org and efanzines.com will host the free PDFs; Geri is using Kindle Direct Publishing for printed copies, which will be available via Amazon in many different countries (details will be posted to facebook.com/TAFFnews, taff.co.uk, file770.com, and other fannish venues when *Idea* 13 is published). This is her first issue in over 20 years, and to call it eagerly expected is quite an understatement.

Then, an extract from the next chapter after that will debut in – a fannish first, this! -- the 98th edition of the podcast *Octothorpe*, from John Coxon, Alison Scott and Liz Batty; I shall be guest-starring, and read it out on mic. This will be freely available at <https://octothorpe.podbean.com/>, or wherever you normally obtain your podcasts from.

After that, other chapters will pop up like Cadmus's soldiers whenever and wherever you least expect them. The overall title of the report is *Her Beautiful Mistake*, and a small TAFF no-prize goes to the first person to nail that reference.



Finances. I'm glad to say that TAFF is not too badly off just now; however, we need to keep donations rolling in, or else that state of affairs won't long continue. We are open to monetary donations at any time, not just during a race. **Please note the NA PayPal address in the colophon**; Mike Lowrey's own PayPal should not be used for TAFF purposes. If you have non-monetary donations, please email your nearest admin, and we'll see how we can best deal with them case by case.

At the time of writing, NA TAFF holds funds of \$6866.13 in Mike Lowrey's main TAFF account, plus \$189.84 in PayPal (including \$11.66 in royalties from LuLu from Jeanne Gomoll's TAFF report), and \$40.16 in Geri Sullivan's checking account. Meantime, in Europe, the TAFF accounts hold £7,436.75; the majority is in the bank, but this sum also includes £907.71 held in PayPal, along with €229.72, 74.17 kr, US\$172.31, one of a pair of diamond cuff-links, and half a chicken sandwich.

Furthermore, Dave Langford currently holds "a little over £360" for TAFF from sales of books available from Ansible Editions via <https://ae.ansible.uk/?id=taff>; this is merely the latest tranche of funds raised over the years by this saintly fan by the same means. Go look at taff.org.uk, and enjoy the resources there – books, previous trip reports, a wealth of info.



A list of thank-yous to fill out the page. Many names worthy of inclusion are doubtless missing. If yours is one of them, sorry: Claire Brialey, Dave Langford, Alison Scott, Geri Sullivan, Ted White, Mark Plummer, Andy Hooper, Carrie Root, Rob Hansen, Pemmi-Con, FANAC, SCIFI, Michael Dobson, Nigel Rowe, Alan Rosenthal, Jeanne Bowman, Nic Farey, Jen Farey, Jacq Monaghan, Curt Gibson, Alice Ableman, Larry Sanderson, Joyce Scrivner, Gary Farber, the estate of Denny Lien, Mike Ward, Karen Schaffer, Chessie Russell-Page, Andy Porter, Edie Stern, Joe Siclari, and a cast of thousands...