

# PNNewt 4

Goodness, Easter seems to be Creeping Up on Us Edition



## Corflu "Major Love-In Experience"

News from Corflu seems to be remarkably thin on the ground, beyond everyone saying what a nice time they had. The FAAN awards happened, as follows: **Letterhack** – Lloyd Penney, **New Fan** – Max, **Fan Artist** – Dave Hicks, **Fan Writer** – Alison Freebairn, **Fanzine** – *Wabe*, edited by Bill Bodden, Tracy Benton and Jae Leslie Adams. Eve and John Harvey were elected past presidents of fwa. Go Brits. Moshe Feder was Guest of Honour.



*Moshe working on his speech*

Most remarkable was Max's win for Best New Fan; after her 86 votes, the second place had 8. Next year's Corflu will be run by something not unlike the *Wabe* team, in Madison, Wisconsin, and will be the week after Easter for those seeking to do a back-to-back with Minicon – note that Madison is scarcely further from Minneapolis than London is from Moscow.



*The Booz Brothers:  
"On a mission from Bob"*

## Meanwhile in Boston

The only person who attended both Boskone and Corflu was Pete Weston, shown here having a religious conversion.



At Boskone, Dave Langford was named winner of this year's Skylark Award. Martin Hoare was on hand to assume his usual duties, including the traditional middle-of-the-night phone call to Reading. Only this time the 3:15 am call was completely unanticipated.

The Edward E. Smith Memorial Award for Imaginative Fiction (the Skylark) is presented annually by NESFA to some person, who, in the opinion of the membership, has contributed significantly to science fiction, both through work in the field and by exemplifying the personal qualities which made the late "Doc" Smith well-loved by those who knew him. The award is in the shape of a giant lens, and resulted in a terribly funny anecdote that I'm not going to reprint here unless I'm very, very short of news on Wednesday evening.

## Maureen Kincaid Speller is Scheming Again

She's asked us to publicise her latest wheeze.

"There are a number of unsung heroes in the sf world. One of them is the brother of someone extremely famous.



*Dave Langford and Fred Clarke discuss the experience of being "brother of the more famous"*

At the "Celebration of British SF" in Liverpool last year one of the things that struck some of the organisers was the number of people who came up and said "I've just met Fred Clarke. Isn't he wonderful?" Well, isn't he? Fred Clarke is known to many of us as keeper of the Clarkives. The Arthur C. Clarke Award owes a lot to his energy.

Those of us who have the good fortune to know Fred will be aware of how hard he works behind the scene to support the British sf scene. We can point to his support of the SF Foundation and the Clarke Award over the years, but more important are the small acts of kindness and encouragement he has offered to so many individuals.

The year 2001 was, rightly Arthur's year, and Fred pulled out all the stops to make it so, but in doing that he made us realise what a debt we owe him. Fred has never been part of fandom in the way many of us are but the science fiction world would be poorer without his generosity and sheer niceness.

We — a small group of individuals who are doing this outside our involvement with whatever groups we belong to — simply think it's time that this was recognised, and we want to make sure that it is. We are asking for donations so that a token of the esteem with which everyone who has had the pleasure of coming into contact with him holds him can be presented to Fred at the next Clarke Award ceremony in London, in May.

So, we're another couple of fans asking for your money again, but we think it's a good cause. If everyone who has said over the past year that Fred is all-round great guy could give a couple of quid, we'd probably be able to finance a moon-shot, but we'd settle for enough for a decent presentation and some rousing cheers. If there are substantial sums left over, we envisage, in the spirit of Fred's own generosity, making it over to him to present to a local educational charity of his choice.

Please feel free to spread the word far and wide, though remember - this is a secret. It's a very public secret, but we'd like to surprise Fred on the day.

Please send contributions to Maureen Kincaid Speller (please make cheques payable to Maureen Speller. US\$ cheques are also gladly accepted.)"

## 2001 GUFF Report Published

Jean Weber and Eric Lindsay report that they have published their 2001 GUFF report, *Jean and Eric 'Avalook at the UK*. The report is 54 pages; in glorious Technicolor on the Internet, or in plain ol' black and white with colour cover on paper. Reports of three conventions, various visits to various fans, and lots of photos. You can purchase a paper copy, or, and I get the impression this is preferred, download a .pdf in return for a donation to GUFF:

<http://www.ericlindsay.com/guff/donate.htm>

## Signs of Life

is a *free* one-day SF event, happening on 13<sup>th</sup> April and incorporating the AGMs of both the SF Foundation and the BSFA. It takes place at the Friends House, Euston Road, London, from 10am till 6pm, and M John Harrison and Gwyneth Jones are guests. It's probably churlish of me to suggest that there's unlikely to be a bar. The following week, on April 20<sup>th</sup>, the 2005 Worldcon is having an open meeting from 2pm, followed by a social from 7:30pm. The venue is the Florence Nightingale, so I dare say there *will* be a bar this time. Remember, never conduct business, or, indeed, sign up to run major areas of a Worldcon, on premises where alcohol is being consumed.

## Increase in Moose Stories Baffles Scientists

*PNNewt's* sister paper, the *Anchorage Daily News*, continues to provide us with plenty of copy. First, it reports that a hunter who shot a pregnant cow moose discovered a two-headed fetus. The moose was shot near an Air Force station; so locals are troubled by the thought that there may be a general outbreak of two-headed moose. A scientist, asked to comment, said, roughly, 'it's conjoined twins and happens from time to time in all vertebrate species, you know.'



*Haven't you heard? I come in sixpacks*

Meanwhile, Pascataquis county in Maine decided to avoid offending local Native Americans by renaming every place name containing the word Squaw. They did this by changing Squaw Lake, Squaw River and so on to Moose Lake, Moose River, etc. Unfortunately, there were already plenty of places named Moose Lake, Moose River, etc., and so it's become rather confusing. Oddest is the local mountain, now known as Moose Bosom. Alison, meanwhile, is reeling from discovering that one of her favourite mathematical jokes is no longer politically correct.

Still on the topic of renaming, Canada's Northwest Territories still hankers after changing its name. However, plans have been put on ice – last time they put it to a vote, the most popular name was “Northwest Territories”, and the second most popular name was Bob.

Still in Canada, *Wired* reports that British Columbia is attempting to reduce the annual \$2 million bill caused by cars running into moose. It's doing this by investing in

automated infrared moose sensors, adapted from Cold War missile recognition systems, connected to electronic signs on the roads. And of course there's a concealed camera to record the subsequent man/moose interaction and determine whether or not you slowed down when you saw the sign.

So, if the axis of evil™ ever attacks Canada using missiles armed with moose warheads, at least we'll have a photographic record of the event. Coming soon, the Stealth Moose!

## Investment Opportunity

Rog Peyton is looking for investors who have £5000 to buy a share in a new company, which would buy the assets of Andromeda Bookshop. If you're interested, you should contact Rog as soon as possible (details from Dave Langford or, indeed, me). Rog explained “The only way I can go forward is to start another company and do the only thing I'm any good at and that is to sell *good* books.” We wish him every success.

## News from the 2005 Worldcon

Industrious little bunnies, aren't they? Heady with delight from their mention in *The Guardian* on 2 February, the Glasgow bid is gearing up for the vote. Full details on the website, but a fair summary is:

Nothing worthy of this size print has happened to the 2005 bid this month.

## Splice the Mainbrace

Tall ships experience? Busy this summer? Director Peter Weir (*The Truman Show*, *Green Card*) is looking for men and boys with tall ships sailing experience to play speaking parts and extras in the forthcoming film of the Patrick O'Brian novel *The Far Side of the World*. You'd need to go and spend up to 20 weeks in Baja California; sounds hard, doesn't it? Worse, they've apparently signed Russell Crowe to play Jack Aubrey, so you'd have to hang around with him. On a boat. Life's hard. They need people of all sizes, shapes and colours to portray a wide range of sailors. Except, of course, for women. Bugger.

Still on film news, there was barely concealed glee on *PNV* at the news that *Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring* had been nominated for 13 Oscars, including such famed categories as Art Direction, Costume Design and Most Thoroughly Convincing Slightly Pained Expression (Elijah Wood).

## Full Faan Awards

Votes in brackets. **Best Fanzine:** Alison Freebairn (30), Ted White (27), Guy Lillian (22), Jae Leslie Adams (20), Victor Gonzalez (12), Lillian Edwards (12), Yvonne Rowse (11), John Hertz (10), Dave Langford (9), Mike Glycer (8), E.B. Frohvet (8), John Foyster (8), Doug Bell (8), Tracy Benton (7), Bruce Gillespie (6), Arnie Katz (6), Randy Byers (6), Jo Walton (5), David Levine (5), Paul Kincaid (5), Dale Speirs (5), Milt Stevens (5), Harlan Ellison (5), Christina Lake (5), Nic Farey (5), Mark Plummer (5), Claire Brialey (5), Murray Moore (4), Patrick Nielsen Hayden (3), Robert Sabella (3), Sue Mason (3), Simon Ounsley (3), Geri Sullivan (1), Joe Major (1), Arthur

Hlavaty (1), Denny Lien (1), Steve Silver (1), Robert Lichtman (1), Tony Keen (1), Dave Hicks (1) **Best Fanzine:** *Wabe* (36), *Science Fiction Five Yearly* (34), *Head* (34), *Challenger* (20), *S.F. Commentary* (17), *Plokta* (13), *Twink* (11), *Bento* (9), *File 770* (9), *Shebang* (9), *Mimosa* (8), *No Award* (7), *Floss* (7), *Gloss* (7), *International Revolutionary Gardener* (6), *Idea* (6), *Jackpot* (5), *Ansible* (5), *Binnacle* (5), *Argentus* (5), *Joie De Vivre* (5), *eFNAC* (3), *Connections* (3), *Banana Wings* (3), *This Here* (3), *Festzine* (3), *Opuntia* (3), *Knarley News* (1), *Steam Engine Time* (1), *Vision of Paradise* (1), *Emerald City* (1), *Tortoise* (1), *Talking Shit* (1), *Vanamonde* (1). **Best Letterhack:** Lloyd Penney (32), Harry Warner Jr. (27), Robert Lichtman (25), Ron Bennett (17), Joseph Nicholas (12), Jerry Kaufman (8), Eric Lindsay (8), Ted White (5), Maureen Kincaid Speller (5), D. West (5), John Hertz (5), Kim Huett (5), Sherry Thompson (3), Gary Deindorfer (3), Steve Jeffrey (3), Sue Jones (3), Jae Leslie Adams (2), Chesler Cuthbert (1), Mike Glicksohn (1), Janine Stinson (1), E.B. Frohvet (1), Dave Langford (1), Arthur Hlavaty (1), Harry Warner III (1).

**Best Fan Artist:** Dave Hicks (51), Steve Stiles (45), D. West (30), Brad Foster (20), Georgie Schnobrich (18), Tom Foster (18), Dan Steffan (17), Sue Mason (13), Craig Smith (12), Teddy Harvia (7), Stu Shiffman (7), Sheryl Birkhead (6), Dick Jenssen (Ditmar) (6), Kurt Erichsen (5), Craig Moore (5), Alan White (5), Taral Wayne (3), Terry Jeeves (3), Bill Rotsler (2), Ray Nelson (1).

**Best New Fanzine Fan:** Max (86), Yvonne Rowse (8), Erica Maria Lacey (5), Randy Byers (5), Sherry Thompson (5), Eloise Beltz Decker (5), Steve Silver (5), Pete Young (5), Julie Zachman (5), Sheila Lightsey (4), Sue Jones (3), Ron Solomon (3), Michael J Lowrey (3), Tony Keen (3), Michael Waite (1), Pat Sayre McCoy (1)

## R.I.P

Harry Nadler, Manchester fan and organiser of the Festival of Fantastic Film, died on 1 March aged 61.

## MemeStream

Special porn for Plokta readers: <http://www.lindkvist.com/digitaldataporn/xxx.html>, China Miéville's *Fifty Fantasy & Science Fiction Works That Socialists Should Read*: <http://www.sfsite.com/fm/show.html>? *rw,50socialist,1*, *Plokta 23* up on the web at <http://www.plokta.com/plokta/issue23.htm>, Virtual Love Heart Generator: [www.acme.com/heartmaker/](http://www.acme.com/heartmaker/)



The *Plokta News Newt* is the dead tree edition of the Plokta News Network, undigitised by Alison Scott. *PNV* includes regularly updated news for SF fans, along with other interesting stuff, and you can read it online at <http://www.plokta.com/pnn> or sign up for emails. Newt by Sue Mason. Photos by Max (Corflu), Alison Scott (Fred & Ginger), some *alaskan* (moose fetus). Send news, LoCs and feedback to Alison Scott, 24 St Mary Road, Walthamstow, London E17 9RC or to [locs@plokta.com](mailto:locs@plokta.com). Issue 4, March Nurse, 2002.