



## RT #1: #CORFLU

RT #1 was written at Corflu Cobalt by @johncoxon between Friday 19th and Sunday 21st March 2010. zines@chickensinvelopes.net // eFanzines.com/Retweet

Hello, and welcome to the inaugural issue of Retweet! RT came about as an idea at Eastercon LX in Bradford after a panel on which I spent a great deal of time tweeting, and I promptly didn't do anything for a year before I started writing this at Corflu Cobalt. @BohemianCoast (who drew the awesome title artwork) nagged me about it this weekend, and thus here it is!

This zine is, in essence, a con report of the convention in question told through the medium of Twitter. It perhaps doesn't focus so much on certain aspects of the convention (for instance, the programme) but then again, neither do I, so that's fine! I hope you enjoy it – feel free to loc and let me know what you think of the concept.

See you in the bar – John.

### TWITTER

About a week before #corflu, I tweeted, raising the concern that either the fanzine fans didn't use Twitter or weren't using the #corflu hashtag. Fortunately, this started a torrent of #corflu tweets that has reached a crescendo now we're at the convention itself.

There were the usual tweets about getting ready – @lilianedwards tweeted about how long her fanzine was whilst @ang\_grrr and I despaired over how long ours weren't!

Friday eventually rolled around, with @frandowdsofa keeping an eye on arrivals via Twitter, despite her absence. @ceemage had a series of problems with his flight whilst keeping people informed of this.

@despotliz, @spikeiowa, @lapswood and @johnnyeponymous all tweeted to let #corflu know that they were following along via the

virtual consuite (more on which later!) and the hashtag.

A couple of other discussions were happening behind the scenes – it was determined that @ang\_grrr and @problem\_chimp were amongst the youngest fans attending. In the meantime, @ang\_grrr tweeted about @sguod's "inadequate interface", at which point @frandowdsofa warned against tweeting about Julia like that!

Rumours began to spread through the Twitterverse about @MKKare having been anointed Fan Guest of Honour, with @spikeiowa, @ceemage, @TigerBenton, @frandowdsofa and @johnnyeponymous all mentioning it on Twitter. The rumour probably wasn't hurt by the fact that @MKKare was anointed Fan Guest of Honour!

After the opening ceremony, the day wore on and eventually people started tweeting about going to bed. @ang\_grrr apologised to the convention before turning in, and @zer\_netmouse (half of the TAFF delegation) tweeted to tell us all she'd had a lovely time at #corflu so far. A photograph of some chicken appeared, courtesy of @BohemianCoast, and I tweeted slightly drunkenly about how great #corflu was.

The next morning it was a disappointed me who realised that there had been no responses to his tweet about the position of breakfast president. @frandowdsofa was incredulous that there had even been an attempt to replace her in the role whilst poor @ang\_grrr ended up at breakfast on her own.

After the (rather heated) e-mail discussion about bondage programming via the Odyssey 2010 #eastercon mailing list over the last



couple of weeks, it was decided that #corflu needed some bondage programming, and so @ang\_grrr took the above photograph of @sguod demonstrating an impromptu, in-the-bar programme item.

At some point in between then and the pub quiz, I was distracted by Dirk Maggs arriving at the convention and talking with me, @aeglefinus, @FlushedFish and @jimmowatt for a while about *The Hitchhiker's Guide* and other such related things. (Unfortunately, I didn't get around to tweeting about that until after writing about it in this zine!)

Later in the day, I got slightly too excited about an American place that I found with the aforementioned ZZ9ers called Buddy's Diner, and tweeted a couple of photographs of Captain America (right) and various comic covers that had been on the bar. I also tweeted enthusiastically about the music playing, and discussed it at length in the bar after getting back.

Another discussion of Odyssey programming ended with @ang\_grrr simply tweeting: "bondage bondage bondage bondage bondage bondage bondage bondage bondage bondage bondage knitting knitting!"

Unfortunately, as with all good things, it was time for the con to come to an end. I tweeted that morning to let people know that a massive ball of gas had appeared in the sky, but it soon went away again, much to my relief. In the interests of attempting to get this printed, however, I've stopped writing just in time for the banquet to go unreported!

## VIRTUAL REALITY

Whilst at the convention, @ceemage was running a virtual consuite to allow people to keep up with the convention's programming via both chatroom and video feed. This is such an invaluable way for people to keep in touch with a convention that they are unable to get to, and so hats off to him for being so dedicated and brilliant. I understand that previous iterations of #corflu have done this in the past, maybe I should keep an eye on that next year!

## LIVE JOURNAL

Over on LiveJournal (the granddaddy of fannish social networking!), @katster started a conversation on the corflu community to ask if anyone wanted to take part in the creation of a virtual fanzine. At the time of writing (Sunday morning) there was at least one contribution to the zine, and @katster expressed a wish to be in the bar with us after a drunk tweet from me at about 4am on the Sunday morning. If you'd like to contribute to the fanzine that she wrote, get along to the LJ community sharpish – you may still be in with a chance to meet the deadline!

**That's all for this issue. Hope you all had a great #corflu, and I'll see you at Odyssey 2010!**



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