

JOHAN FOR TAFF



Welcome to

JOHAN FOR TAFF

Excellent Reasons to vote for Johan!

Caroline Mullan and
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Artwork

Many thanks to Dave Hicks for all the artwork, including the **Johan on Mars** cover!

Johan For TAFF is a 'last minute publication that comes to you from **Ron Gemmell** and is available for the 'usual', at ron.gemmell@btinternet.com or:

There are a multitude of reasons why this mini zine is later than expected, the principal one being the simple fact that it's being published by Ron Gemmell - I'm never as organised as I think I am.

I've been busy honest! In the last three months I've started work for a new client (I'm a freelance mechanical engineer on

my day job), this one being near perfect – a 4 day week just a fifteen minute walk from my front door. I've also been crazy busy with the 'weekend' job, I'm a part time freelance outdoor first aid trainer, the winter months are always my busiest.

So there hasn't been a lot of time for Fandom, it ceased being a way of life to me quite a while ago I'm afraid. That said, I seem to manage attending two or three conventions a year (with a Scandinavian convention every couple of years or so) and one or two fanzines a year so it's safe to say it is a major hobby!

But that's enough about my excuses, let's talk about Johan Anglemark and why you really should vote for him in this year's TAFF Race

Here's a great piece from **Caroline Mullan** followed by a few words from myself

Excellent Reasons to vote for Johan!

Have you met Johan? There was a time when I hadn't, even though he's been around a while.

Someone I knew vaguely as someone you see around in science fiction fandom. We'd talked about books, sometimes, and conventions.

Then there was the wedding of sf fan to sf fan, where many of the guests were sf fans, and we were seated at the same table. All there were friends of the couple getting married, of course, but not necessarily with each other, although some of us were acquaintances. There was a conversation. It started, as many conversations do, with people rather assuming that they agreed with each other, that some kind of magical sorting process had ensured that all present would agree on a particular matter and you could start from there. It wasn't like that, of course. We disagreed.

It could have all gone horribly wrong - so many conversations do. Someone takes offence, someone gives offence, all too easy. But this one didn't. Instead, there was a conversation about conversation: the ways it works and doesn't; what kinds of conversation feed what kinds of purposes; how people with diverse views can come to mutual understanding, sometimes even while they continue to disagree.

What kinds of conditions foster such mutual understanding? Well, we had them there. We shared a community, were there together for a shared purpose, had time and space for conversation, sufficient trust in each other to continue past offence to explore further. In short, we had the benefit of our shared fandom, cutting across differences of nationality, faith, education and opinion. But we also had Johan.

That was one conversation, three years ago, and we have gone on from there; there have been many since. Johan and his wife Linnéa have become friends. We have stayed at the house they share on the edge of a wood near Uppsala, envied their library and games room, fondled their cats. We've bought books from the charity bookstall he runs to fund fan activity. We have seen Johan moving in and shaking Swedish fandom, running conventions, looking after guests, running the Swedish Science Fiction Foundation, facilitating international co-operation and friendship in all that he does. We've hung out in Uppsala and Stockholm, Manchester and Birmingham, London, and Helsinki, sharing books and fandoms, knowledge and opinions, coffee and cocktails, and friends.

Please, TAFF voters, send Johan to the USA. You couldn't have a better TAFF delegate from Europe to North America. All our fandoms will be richer for the shared experience.

Caroline Mullan

And now it's my turn – brace yourself ..

I can't remember the first time I met Johan but it's likely to have been thirty years or more ago in my dim and distant past. I was a late arrival to Fandom sometime in 1984 and I suspect it could well have been at the 1985 Eastercon in Leeds where we first met (though I can't be certain, I went to a lot of conventions over a short period of time in 80's, they have a tendency to merge at the best of times). My fan light shone reasonably bright for a short handful of years up to 1990, I effectively gaffiated in 1991. I briefly resurfaced at Glasgow in 2005, but returned fully in 2009 – and am probably more active now than I had been back in 1986

Like Bilbo I've been and come back again, aging somewhat. Like Elrond, Johan has always been here and looks like he's

only aged by a few months; I suspect he might possibly be at least half elf..

Elf or not, he is a really nice bloke who has been active in European Fandom for decades, he has a fine sense of humour and he's great company. I've never known him to be anything else but friendly to everybody he meets and his knowledge of all things Science Fiction is not only extensive but current.

I like him a lot and reckon He will be a brilliant TAFF delegate!

I'm going to end with a brief story, something that might give you an inkling of the kind of guy he is. Back in the August of 2013 we visited Sweden for the first time as a family, staying for a few days in Stockholm. I posted on Facebook that I was in town and would like to meet up with any Swedish friends who might be available. Johan got back to me saying he could call in to meet up and we arranged a time and place (near the central station square). I was with my eldest son Josh (who was brand new to fandom) and the three of us enjoyed a fine afternoon which included the brilliant bookshop in Stockholm's Old Town before heading back to Urban Gunnerson's amazing

workshop and then on to the legendary Monks American Bar.

Unsurprisingly both Urban and Johan were perfect hosts and introduced Josh and myself to the fine beers and food at Monks, a great afternoon was had by all.

Josh and I left later in the day to meet up with Wanda and Ben for dinner (my wife and my younger son) Johan no doubt stayed a little longer at Monks with Urban before going back to Central Station for his train home.

Johan doesn't live in Stockholm, he lives an hour away to the north in Uppsala. He had taken the day off work and spent the afternoon taking a couple of British Fans to a few key places of the city.

He was a great host and will equally be a great guest – please vote Johan for this year's TAFF delegate – he will be great!

Ron Gemmell

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