

TAFF News #3



The ~~monthly~~¹ newsletter of the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund

THE QUESTIONS

[In this, the third issue of TAFF NEWS, all three candidates respond to a questionnaire I sent to them. The purpose of this set of four questions is to give potential voters more information on who exactly are the three candidates contending to be the 2018 Trans-Atlantic Fan Fun Delegate to Worldcon 76 in San Jose, California, held on August 16-20, 2018.]

The format this is simple: first will be the four questions I sent them. Then, in alphabetic order, will be the candidates' responses. I hope you will enjoy what they wrote in addition to learning more about each of them. Pictures of each being fannish are from their Facebook pages and were approved by them.

1) Tell us something about yourself and fandom: where did it begin for you and when.

2) Are there any specific subgenres of Science Fiction & Fantasy you prefer? e.g., hard science, alternative history, steampunk, etc.

3) Describe your fannish activity: clubs you've been in, official roles (club president, or whatever), cons you've attended/worked on, and fanzines you've produced, and so forth.

4) What was the craziest or most fun thing you have ever done or experienced in fandom?

Johan Anglemark

1. My first contact with fandom was a false start. I discovered the *Lord of the Rings* on my mother's boyfriend's bookshelf and devoured it. A couple of years later I heard of a Tolkien society in Stockholm and promptly joined it. It had been founded by fans and pros, and several prominent local fans were still members, but I didn't realise that at the time.

However, I also used to sit in the school library and read one of the two Swedish sf magazines at the time, Jules Verne Magasinet, which had a rather extensive fan column penned by two Swedish fans. They mainly reviewed fanzines and published con reports. I found the idea of people publishing their own sf magazines subtly irresistible so I did what it said: sent some stamps and my address to a few of the faneds, and got their zines in return. I fell in love

with the whole thing there and then, all of it: Creating your own magazine, laying it out, distributing it, the letter columns and debates, the reports from fan gatherings and conventions.

¹ Heck with it. I give up. This sucker's gonna come out on an as needed basis.



That same year I graduated from secondary school and moved to Uppsala to study at the university. I quickly identified several classmates who were into science fiction and fantasy and in a parallel class from mine there was one guy who had published his own fanzines and been to sf conventions, and he introduced me to others. They persuaded me to join them to a con in Stockholm; Swecon 1983, and I've never really looked back.

2. I'm more of an sf reader than a film buff. I do like movies, but I'm more an art cinema aficionado than a sci-fi guy. When it comes to reading I don't really have any favourite subgenres. A good book is a good book. That being said, my favourites tend to be the weird stuff, magical realism, slipstream, interstitial. Things with a touch of absurdism, gender bending, or something else that surprises me. I love books like Italo Calvino's *If on a*

winter's night a traveller, Graham Joyce's *The Facts of Life*, Ellen Kushner's *The privilege of the sword*, Flann O'Brien's *The third policeman*, Mervyn Peake's *Gormenghast*, Maria Turtschaninoff's *Maresi*, or Catherynne M. Valente's *In the night garden*.

3. I've always been very much an all-round fan. I'm a comics, gaming, and literary fan. I am or have been a member of the *Stockholm Tolkien Society*, *The Uppsala Tolkien Society*, *Stockholm's Scandinavian Society for Science Fiction*, *Uppsala's European Society for Science Fiction* (named in an effort to best the Stockholmers). The Uppsala club is in reality an informal circle, the paperwork is only for being able to rent venues for cons. I've been the driving force in our local fan gatherings for the last fifteen or so years.

Since 2003 I have been the chairman of the the *Alvar Appeltofft Memorial Foundation*, a non-profit organisation best known for the grant awarded yearly to commemorate the legendary fan Alvar Appeltofft. I received the award for 1998. We also award grants to fannish projects which we believe will have a lasting, positive impact on Swedish fandom. To raise money, I accept donations of used sf and fantasy which I travel with to conventions in Sweden to sell. At the moment I have around 4,000 of these books and magazines in the garage!

I published a couple of fanzines back in the 80s, a couple of OE fanzines for an APA in the 00s and a number of contributions to Stipple-APA in the 10s. I've also contributed columns to a couple of fanzines over the years.

The first con I worked on was back in 1985, after we—between the fifth and the sixth pint at a local pub meeting—decided to organise one. We went back to the student dorm and sat down with a typewriter to produce a flyer. Since we had no facts, we made everything up: Concom, venue, dates. That later became a problem when we noticed that some people refused to take us seriously, including one or two of the people who'd agreed to serve on the concom without realising that the con would actually happen.

I was on the concom for two more local cons in the 80s. Then I was Guest of Honour liaison for a couple of Stockholm cons, *Fantastika 92* and *East of the Sun* in 1995. Then we ran a series of local cons in

Uppsala between 1996 and 2000, and I was either chair, co-chair, or head of programming on all of those (although they were so small that the roles were rather loosely defined). In 1997 I proposed to two friends that we found a National Swedish convention, a proposal that we presented to Swedish fandom and which led to the Swecon, now on its twentieth year. I was in charge of programming for Swecon 2003 in Uppsala and I chaired Swecon 2012, also in Uppsala. I was GoH liaison for Swecon 2006 and 2009, both in Stockholm, and also worked heavily on programming for those two cons. I've been on the concom for most of the joint Finnish/Swedish Åcons (2007–), and I co-chaired the rather larger Archipelacon (2015). I was Site Selection Area Head for Worldcon 75 in Helsinki.

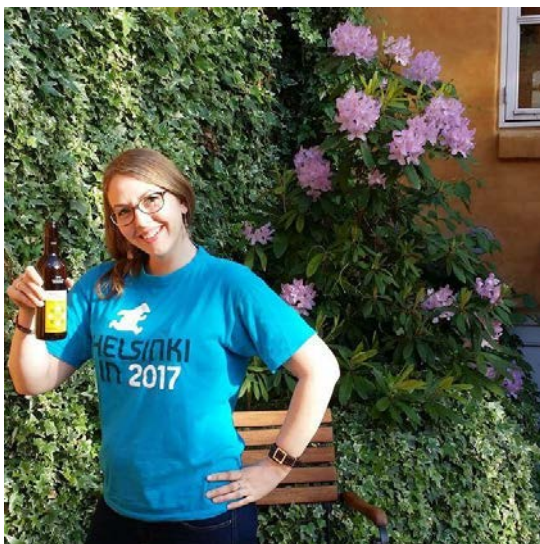
If my count is correct, I've attended 125 cons in eleven countries over the years. My first UK Eastercon was in 1986 and my first Worldcon was the one in the Hague in 1990. I've only been to one single con in the US, Readercon in 2001.

4. The first con I was part of organising was a rather small and very fannish con. We were around 50 members and drinking was the principal program item. I was a lapsed engineering physics student and had been promised to host the con in a university building by the department prefect. Officially we would be listening to popular science talks. Yeah, right.

We were not particularly bright. We hadn't realised that there would be a night watchman doing his rounds. He arrived at just before midnight and took a look, and promptly called the prefect. The prefect arrived, looked around and saw a couple of dozen fans in varying degrees of intoxication. "Who's in charge here!" he roared, and unfortunately my good friend and co-chair Magnus was just making his appearance from the restroom, walking on all fours (I think he was impersonating a dog), so people pointed to Magnus and said, "Him!"

We were given fifteen minutes to evacuate the building before the prefect would call the cops. Have you ever evacuated a con in fifteen minutes? Well, I have. We had to lift the bar out a window so that the prefect wouldn't catch sight of it. Then we walked through town to a backup venue (we had actually booked two because we couldn't make our minds up) and continued the con at 1 AM in a new venue.

It was a nightmare when it happened, a great anecdote afterwards, but not anything I would care to repeat.



Fia Karlsson

1) I grew up in a small town in the northern part of Sweden, near the Arctic Circle, surrounded by the great outdoors, mountains, forests, rivers, and reindeers. We didn't have much in the way of fine culture, but I had scope for the imagination, as Anne Shirley would say. My favourite thing was sitting on a cliff overlooking the valley where I lived, writing poems and epic fantasy, and dreaming of magical kingdoms and life among the stars.

At home there was always some kind of science fiction show on TV. My family loved watching Star Trek The Next Generation together every week, and later I fell in love with X-files. I didn't know it at the time, but I wrote a lot of fan fiction about Mulder and Scully.

As I grew older and went to high school, I realised how much I loved organising things. I joined the business programme, became it's ambassador, and started up a student café at school with an employee of my own. I had two other jobs as well, and kept myself busy.

Later, at university, I found myself being the head of the outreach department of the student nightclub, promoting club events and organising staff events.

After graduating from university in 2007, I packed up my whole life and moved 1560 kilometres down to the southern shores of Sweden, to Malmö, looking for a job and a change of scenery. In the beginning I spent most of my days at the local library, reading and blogging, and after a while I found a Swedish book blogger community online. In 2009, I reached out to them, asking if anyone would like to start an SF book circle with me.

Best. Move. Ever.

I ended up meeting my best friend Frida. We formed a book circle with some other people, and then one day someone mentioned this big convention called Eurocon happening in Stockholm in June 2011. So, I went, absolutely loved it, and from then on I was completely bitten by the fandom bug.

The following year I attended Kontrast, the Swedish national convention of 2012, and after that me and a friend started our local club Malmöfandom, which is now a fairly big group with regular pub meets, writing circles, book circles, and the occasional sf conventions in Malmö and Lund.

2) I absolutely love time travel! There's so much to be said about this. Time travel isn't just about killer machines from the future, flying cars, or a police box, it's about revisiting or interpreting our past or speculating about where humanity could go next, dreaming of what could have been different if we lived in an alternative timeline, thinking up epic paradoxes and adventures where we save the universe from impending doom. There's always a sense of emergency and epic stakes, and there are so many different takes on how to play with temporal mechanics from Doctor Who's wibbly wobbly timey wimey to Connie Willis's time as a god-like entity. I also think it's a great way to introduce non-linear family relationships and families in different constellations, and really play with destiny and history.

3) After my initial encounter with fandom in 2011, my fannish activities started to snowball. I attended more and more cons, starting with Swecons (Swecon is the annual, national convention in Sweden), and then the Nordic cons (Danish and Finnish conventions).

As I mentioned earlier, I founded the local club in Malmö in 2012 together with a friend. I'm the residing president of the club and have so far chaired two local conventions, with more to come. In 2016 I was awarded the Alvar Award for doing good work for Swedish fandom, and in 2017 I was elected the NoFF delegate and sent to Dublin for Octocon.

Going to Loncon in 2014 was the thing that really got me into international conrunning. It was an amazing experience, and after that I've just wanted more. I've helped with international conventions like Archipelacon and Åcon 8, I helped Swecon 2017 with social media, and I was also the Social Media Area Head of Worldcon 75.

I have really fallen in love with Finnish fandom, and it turned out to be a mutual affection since they decided to adopt me as their own after the Worldcon.

For a time in 2015-2016, I also blogged for the Swedish TV series blog Onda Cirkeln (Named after "The Evil Circle", from The Craft), which was a fun experience.

My initial book blog from 2008 is still alive and running, although these days it's mostly on the backburner, except for con reports.

4) Where do I begin?

I've seen things you people wouldn't believe. Dead dog partes with group karaoke during bright midsummer nights in Åland. I've watched fan villages glitter in the dark near the Canary Wharf. I've sat by a lake one summer night, on a wooden bench next to Jasper Fforde, drinking Pimms. I've seen men painted red like candy, I've had tar soda, I've written erotic poems about dill (dillotica), I've seen Bellis dance disco dance. I've live tweeted the Hugo Awards for Worldcon 75 sitting in the front row, in a huge arena. All those moments... will be remembered forever.

Helena McCallum

1) I'm afraid I judged a book by its cover, I loved the look of the titles on the SF/F shelves and gondolas in the library in East Kilbride. A large town, it didn't have a bookshop. And even if it had, I had no money. Not knowing anyone who read at all I had no recommendations so I worked through them as I felt fit, often alphabetically. So Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy came close to the start and so did joining ZZ9 Plural Z Alpha, the appreciation society.



It is all their fault.

2) As for Genre, these days I champion works by women, from Margaret Cavendish to Emma Newman and lots in between. I feel that there is space for diverse stories, and as my friends call it, we are sick of "dicks in space."

3) Famished activity. I'm either behind the scenes organising meetings or Lazlar Lyricon 3, the latest convention I helped with, or being at the front starting a party.

I go regularly to fannish meet ups in London, where I live now; my favourite being The Super Relaxed Fantasy Club

for keeping me up to date with new releases, or relaxing at the tun.

4) I became notorious for turning up at my first convention in a wedding dress. There was a point and a cosplay but all people remember is the blonde in the dress.


I believe in the power of a very good pair of shoes.


Well, not included in this issue of *TAFF News* is the official ballot for the 2018 TAFF race. However, if you go to the official TAFF webpage, all of the rules regarding voting are provided, and you can read each of the candidates' platform statements and see their list of nominators. The voting period has been officially open since December 1, 2017, and will close at midnight (EST) of Tuesday, April 3, 2018, to coincide with the end of Eastercon 2018. Eligible fans (see the rules on the first page of the official ballot) may vote either by downloading the form from the TAFF website at <http://taff.org.uk/> then mail in the entire ballot to the TAFF administrator on your side of the Atlantic Ocean along with the applicable minimum voting fee (£3.00 (GBP) or \$4.00 (USD)), although larger donations are gratefully accepted. If you prefer to vote online, go to this link <http://taff.org.uk/vote.php> and follow the directions. It is a very quick and easy to navigate process. The addresses and PayPal email addresses are provided below.

BLATANT ADVERTISEMENT

A copy of *SAME PLANET, DIFFERENT WORLD: the Adventures of Jacq in the UK*, the TAFF report of Jacqueline Monahan, the 2012 TAFF winner, is available for a mere \$12.50 payment to me, John Purcell, or via PayPal (see below for email address when you are asked on the PayPal site). This amount is broken down into a \$10 donation to the Fund, and the remaining \$2.50 covers the postage. Please provide your real world physical mailing address when requesting a copy. **Only five copies remain!**

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