



# More Balls 4

September 2008  
*Superlambanaballs*



## I've not been reading fanzines a lot lately.

**So I feel** somewhat guilty about writing one. This is the first fanzine I've produced since Worldcon in 2005. It's been an interesting few years, I've lost a non-essential organ (gallbladder), gained a fan-fund administration job (GUFF) and developed an unhealthy obsession with a concrete animal/fruit hybrid which has seen me travel from half a mile down the road to 545 meters up a hill.

What have I been up to since Worldcon? Well financial difficulties meant I had to miss a number of conventions, then family commitments and the like prevented me going to some more. But I've made it to a day at Novacon 2007 and a couple of days at Eastercon 2007. I managed to get to all of Year of the Teledu (more on that in a later edition) plus this year's Eastercon at Heathrow. This should appear at or around Zombiecon and then I'll almost certainly be at LX in Bradford next year. A good think, really, as I'm supposed to be helping with the programming and hopefully I'll have a Australasian GUFF delegate to look after.

I'll just finish writing this before I pack my unread 'zines in my bag to take to read in the bar at Zombiecon. I can't stand Zombies...

## Superlambanana Fan

Liverpool is European Capital of Culture in 2008 and as I live a mere 5 miles away and work in the city I've reaped a number of the cultural benefits. One idea that I thought was terrific was "Gosuperlambananas": a trail of statues based on the iconic artwork was going to be laid across the city for a month. Originally I was really very strict with myself and wasn't going to go out banana hunting and then.. well.. The first one was so easy, practically across the road, the second one just over the road from that. Then I passed some on the way to work and it seemed easier to bow to the inevitable and let the obsession take over...

### First flurry of activity

It was a Monday morning, 16th June. I was at work and I wandered across the road to pick up a pint of milk. On the way I passed "Superstudentlambanana", painted in the colours of an arts graduate and wearing a mortarboard. Across the road was "Superabbeyroadlambanana", a John Lennon look-a-like, glasses and all. By the time I'd boiled the kettle for my morning cup of coffee I was hooked and by the end of the day I'd bagged my first eight superlambananas. A couple of days later I captured another two on my way to a hairdressing appointment.

### A short stroll before a concert

Caroline returned from holiday and we discussed the superlambanana situation, deciding to coordinate our efforts and start photographing them in a more organised fashion. We went out straight away and caught another four before an Elvis Costello concert at the Phil. At the same time I noticed some changes to superlambananas I'd already seen—the graduate superlambanana, for example, had been moved to under CCTV as idiots kept on trying to nick it's hat. Eventually they would stop replacing the hat but it fared better than poor Bridget who was retired after local "youths" decapitated her.

Around about now Caroline and I looked into travelling to Euston (London) for the day to capture the lambanana there but engineering works would make this expensive and lengthy trip so we decided we would let that one go. What Caroline did do, though, was arrange for me to be able to help decorate their company lambanana. A week or so later we encountered a flunch (or is it a block?) of lambananas at the Tatton Flower Show on the Wild in Art stand, unexpectedly swelling the numbers.

### 50 ways to photograph a Superlambanana

On a Saturday in the middle of August, with rather changeable, blustery weather, we packed our

If you want to see a succession of not terribly good cameraphone shots of lambananas they are on flickr...

[http://www.flickr.com/photos/ang\\_grrr/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/ang_grrr/)

Look for the "gosuperlambananas" set.

waterproofs and decided to strike out for the highest concentration of superlambananas around the city centre. We started with "Both sides of the Baas" at Walton Prison and finished with "Stanley" outside my old college, Hugh Baird. Altogether we snapped 59 lambananas in just over four hours.

It was on this trip out that we discovered that we were not the only people wanting to snap all the artworks. We passed quite a lot families and tourists. My favourite co-banana hunters were a couple who were on a lambanana pub crawl. They'd only managed one pub so far, though, as the pie they'd eaten had been so filling they'd rather run out of oomph..

### **If anybody wants me I'll be somewhere along Queen's Drive**

With more than half the lambananas now photographed we realised that we could actually do this and set out to mop out some isolated lambananas to the north of the city. This turned into a rather sprawling and uncoordinated journey with a low capture rate. It ended with us rushing back to the car while being circled by teenage motorcyclists in the dark.

### **Moel Famau and the Wirral Connection**

Perhaps the most bonkers thing we did was climb the top of a Welsh hill to snap a lambanana. Placed there to commemorate the links between Liverpool and North Wales, 70's organised bus trips to Moel Famau were evoked by a succession of wet and cold children sulking at the top of a mountain they'd been forced to climb. I can't think of a better way to spend an afternoon.

The walk organisers had arranged a park and ride system and it was on this bus we met the highest concentration of true obsessives. There was a young boy with his Nan and Grandad who HAD travelled to Euston, a couple who we'd

met previously, a Nana and grandchildren who we then met at every lambanana we subsequently photographed on The Wirral, and the unofficial champions who were actually planning to buy one during the charity auction. It made Caroline and I look positively normal.

### **To Speke! While we have the light!**

On a Sunday evening we decided to pick up some outliers on the south side of the city. The main purpose was to capture "Peel" and "Youth Division" which were plonked on an island in the middle of Speke Boulevard, one of the busiest roads in the city. It seemed sensible to try and capture it later on a Sunday evening when the traffic was quiet but even then I nearly lost a leg getting back and forth.

On the way back from Speke we came up with what we thought was a sensible way to deal with the bananas in Runcorn. We would catch the train to Runcorn one evening, photograph the lambananas at the station, then get the next train back. A Wednesday was chosen and we managed to catch the elusive "Baa" (a lambanana with working beer pump) and even better, "Lovemedoodle" the lambanana that had been on Euston Station. The round trip would have worked like clockwork except the return train was delayed and we spend some substantial time being laughed at by the station manager.

Then next evening we drove in the completely opposite direction to get "Tiger in the Woods", placed near Royal Birkdale while the Open Golf Championship. Another haircut later in the week provided a chance for me to catch some lambananas I'd missed out on because I'd forgotten my camera. I spent an afternoon of holiday time wandering around the Albert Dock trying to snap the statues in the brief moments that Norwegian Beatles Fans weren't attached or a small boy called Oliver wasn't running toward me.

### **Final, frantic photography session**

By the 23rd August we'd photographed all but fourteen of the official trail bananas plus Caroline's research had unearthed an additional lambanana that wasn't on the list. We knew that the lambananas were going to be taken back into storage starting on the 26th August and with both of us looking at busy Bank Holiday weekends decided to invest another Saturday into finishing the trail.

Given the events of the week before I charged Caroline with planning a route the evening before and when she sat down in my car she was armed with an A-Z of Liverpool festooned with post-it notes. This approach proved successful, a mere three hours later we were at the last lambanana on display - "Zip" - outside the Everton campus of Hope University. As of now we are missing a single lambanana, "Urbanasplash", which is a wire model of the original and expected to be a permanent installation

**More Balls** is available "for the usual" from:

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Or as a pdf file via that new fangled interweb thingy:

*<http://www.liv.ac.uk/~lister/balls/>*

A page that also includes links of interest connected with this fanzine.

Ang's livejournal is at:

*[http://ang\\_grrr.livejournal.com/](http://ang_grrr.livejournal.com/)*

Your one stop source for information on banana-hunting, refuse collection and international jam transfers.