

# FAFIA #4

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## Winding Down

I did promise one final issue before returning to work, which now looks as if it will be tomorrow – starting with a couple of half-days to get back up to speed.

Thanks for those who e-mailed copies of efanazines – I'm now back with full internet access again, so can get issues off the web myself again from this point on.

After re-reading the last three issues, I have decided to make FAFIA available on Bill Burns' efanazines.com website – subject to Bill's permission, of course. Whilst it's possible that a potential future employer might find it if they Googled for me, there's nothing in here that wouldn't have to go on a confidential medical declaration form anyway. I know I said that letters of comment would be assumed to be for publication anyway. But if anyone wrote rather more than they intended on the assumption that this would not ever be generally available, let me know by the end of this week and I'll willingly re-edit from the "public" version.

## E-mails

**We Also Heard From:** David Burton, Iain Bowen, Bruce Gillespie, Shelby Vick. Many thanks for all of your good wishes.

### **Eric Mayer writes:**

Good luck with it. I didn't realize there was a possibility of a quickie bypass, which sounds scary. I'm a total wimp when it comes to medical procedures. It just makes me queasy thinking about it. I'd be good for nothing. I feel guilty even sending this to you, actually.

### **Peter replies:**

The beauty of an angioplasty is that it removes the need for a by-pass, by getting the existing artery back into use. They just stick something that looks like the metal springy bit from inside a biro in and then balloon it up to trap the existing artery open. This makes it a much less invasive operation - I am being good and waiting the whole week that the doctor recommended before going back to work. But after a full-scale bypass, it would probably be a six month wait.

### **Jim Burgess writes:**

Congratulations and best wishes. In so many cases, it goes precisely as smoothly as it did for you. And it is amazing, isn't it? Only 50 years ago, your chances of living for more than a year or so would have been very slim.

**Peter replies:**

Certainly as far as any kind of active lifestyle goes – I might have been able to hang on a few years with minimal exertion and housebound. But that would mean no job, for a start.

**R-Laurraine Tutihasi wrote:**

So happy to hear you had the operation and that things went so well. Not happy to hear you will have to go back in 5-10 years. Maybe by that time, there will be something longer lasting.

**Peter replies:**

Yes - although I suspect the 5-10 years is probably a bit understated - sorta like a "warranty period". It's partly within my control, of course, as I *will* be continuing to make the lifestyle changes needed to keep it up the upper end of that range. And, as you say, there may be significant advances in this area by the time it becomes an issue.

**R-Laurraine continues:**

You were really lucky that you were able to discover the problem before it became life-threatening.

**Peter replies:**

I think this is the key thing I am taking away from the whole experience - I suspect that I may have been as little as a few weeks from a major heart attack. Even if I had survived, trying to repair things after they've "crashed" is always a harder job.

Finally, many thanks to all of you for your e-mails and good wishes over the past few weeks. I'm not a natural convalescent, as I just get too easily bored. You have all helped more than you probably realise.

### Colophon

FAFIA #4 is a Startling Press Production. Errors and Omissions Excepted. Member: fwa. WAW with the Crew in '52. Britain is Fine in '79. (I suspect that at least some of these taglines may now be out of date, but no matter.)