

Programme Changes

Friday

24:00 "Is SF a Race and Class Issue?" postponed (hopefully it will still happen Monday).

Saturday

11:00 Mitchell Burnside Clapp Guest of Honour talk. This is moved from Monday to Saturday! So don't get caught out. He talks about planes, spacecraft, funding and filks (and maybe how to play the muscial hose!)

To make room "God in Space" has moved to later on Saturday.

There Is A Green Room

Please could programme participants go to the Green Room about 15 minutes before their items, where we will get them a free drink!

Green Room closes after 10pm items start, but will distribute drinks vouchers to participants in later program items who come to collect.

The Green Room is up the left hand stairs to the Spanish Hall suite.

Banquet

The Banquet started a bit late due to the possibility of some of the participants being turned away by security. The policy of only letting in people attending the banquet also meant a serious shortage of gophers able to unload the late running van with artshow stands and newsletter kit!

Several fans dug out their medieval kit including Sue Mason's now traditional "debauched milk maid" outfit – see the above self-portrait.

Food was ample if a little plain and meat orientated. We were well entertained by a singer and band which degenerated into a knees-up oompah band towards the end.

Lost

Brown cardboard box containing Printer for Newsletter – it disappeared from the registration area yesterday, and its return would greatly help production of your favourite newsletter.

Gophers Wanted

At times there is a desperate need for people to help out in making the convention a success. Please volunteer at registration, or ask around at the places you'd like to lend a hand.

Your dependable newsletter office certainly could use some help during the actual printing of the thousands of copies necessary to bring you your favourite reading material.

Photos?

If you are taking digital photos at the convention then please come round to the newsletter room to drop them on our main PC. If we have time then we will produce a CD souvenir of these. More details later on.



Video Cameras

Anyone who has brought a video camera with them please get in touch with David Wake to film the play "Tartan: Restrung" on Sunday.

Games

The games area is by the stage in the Spanish Hall. They are trying to be all inclusive catering for those who want to be evil dictators or destroy millions of people. Personally I'll be happy with a quick game of Fluxx and some Snatch late at night.

Henry Proctor asks that all keen roleplayers contact him to organise a game of Diplomacy, Credo, or something else from his extensive collection.

Awards

"Eats Shoots & Leaves" by Lynn Truss won the British Book Award this week despite being non-fiction about punctuation.

A collection is going round to buy a copy for the ReadMe editors but we are not sure whether it will do anything for their spelling.

Free Books

No - not DiverseBooks.com review books. The newsletter editor has a number of books to give away to people who help out with the newsletter. Anyone can submit articles at the newsletter room, or drop them in the box on the registration desk. However we could also do with people willing to help type, print, and distribute it.

Transport

Colm McMurray and Roger Robinson had an exciting rollercoaster ride on the M6 on the way to Blackpool on Thursday.

First indication was a truck driver pointing at one of Colm's tyres. Thinking that the vibration he was feeling deserved further investigation he started to pull over. The tyre promptly exploded leaving Colm the job of driving the last few yards on just a rim and stopping on chevrons. A tow from the police and assistance from the RAC got them both safely to Blackpool.

More about Pat's Brother Colm later on.

LiveJournal

Some of you may have noticed a bit of a LiveJournal theme to this newsletter. If you use LiveJournal to keep an online diary or want to find out more then find AlexMc in the newsletter room.

We have some whiteboard markers which can be used to write your LJ user name onto your badges.



Medical Emergencies

As well as the first aiders in the convention, there is a NHS Drop-in centre in Talbot Road. (There are flyers on the table opposite the Registration desk as well as Blackpool maps!)

If you need medications then the Adelaide Surgery is on Adelaide Street, and a second surgery is reached by turning right onto Kings Street.

This information should not be considered medical advice. You should always consult your GP before doing exercise. You probably drink too much beer.

Food Review

Please submit restaurant reviews to the newsletter room or the box on the registration desk (legibly written text preferred).

As a starting place, you may want to consider Deep Pan Pizza, just next to the Winter Gardens. It serves a decent pizza and a nice variety of other dishes, and service seemed quietly efficient (this of course may change when it gets busier).

Mamma's on Toppington Street serves reasonably priced Italian food. It may only open at 5:30 this weekend, but also has a half price pizza/pasta deal Sunday to Thursday. Book or be prepared to wait. (01253 622345 / 751285)

Badshah serves "traditional" Indian food. Delicious. Recommended. Corner of Central Drive and Reads Avenue. (01253 628044 / 622637)

Red Pepper, Peking & Cantonese Cuisine, at 51 Central Drive, is "adequate, cheap and cheerful", with good service. (01253 291152)

The Chinese Restaurant on Haverlock Street is "ok". Self Catering? There is a good indoor market just North of the Winter Gardens on Edwards Road.

WiFi

We are looking for a WiFi access point within a short walk of the Winter Gardens. If you find one please tell us. Loathe as I am to encourage you to go there, we have heard rumours that there is one in <shudder> McDonalds.

Beer

As usual there aren't enough real ale brews. And we were chucked out of the Spanish Hall Bar at 11pm on Thursday. Boo.

Late Night Action

Ever get those late night munchies? Well don't forget tonight's Ceilidh. Not only do you get the chance to show off in a reel, but sometime after 10pm this Friday we'll be serving Haggis Tatties & Neeps. All courtesy of Interaction.

Overheard

I was up till 2am painting huge penises for David Wake. (Bug)

So I'm in charge of vice then. (Marcia Illingworth on the chain of command in Ops)

Beyond Cyberdrome needs pilots!

If you think you can do your 'Bit' to defend these shores, pop along to the Beyond Cyberdrome 'SCRAP' Workshop (From 10.00am each day) and take a look at the crates you *could* fly if you have the ginger.

You'll be amazed at some of the wizard wheezes that the boffins have come up with in the field of powered flight!

B.C. Air Ministry

Artshow

The artshow looks like a stunner this year with art by our guest artists Danny Flynn and Sue Mason. There are many more artists represented this year - too many to list here.

The Artshow Team recommends that people bid early and bid often on artwork before the auction on Sunday. The Monday slot for part of the art auction is probably going to be cancelled due to the large number of artists with other commitments. The Artshow itself, however, will re-open at 10am Monday, with material not for sale and whatever has not been sold/collected yet. Art might be purchased then at artists' normal prices which might be more than the price you could have got it at auction.

British Science Fiction Association Awards

All attending members of Concourse are eligible to vote on the BSFA Awards for best novel, short fiction, artwork and non-fiction writing of 2003.

Ballot forms, ballot boxes, and copies of the nominated artwork can be found at the Cold Tonnage Books table in the dealers' room; forms and another ballot box can be found at the information desk.

The deadline for voting is noon on Sunday, and the awards will be presented at 4pm on Sunday in the Arena suite.

BSFA members may now submit nominations for the 2004 awards (and may continue to do so until January 2005) in three categories: novel, short fiction, and artwork. More information from awards@fishlifter.demon.co.uk and in the BSFA's magazine Matrix or on the website www.bsfa.co.uk shortly. Or, of course, talk to Claire Brialety at the Cold Tonnage table in the dealers' room, where you can also buy (or renew) your BSFA memberships.

Any Bids?

If you want to present a bid for Eastercon 2006 at the bid session on Sunday morning, please contact Fran Dowd at the Paragon2 desk in the dealers' room.

Stop Press

Dr Who exhibition just opened in the "Fun Land" building on the seafront.

"LieJournal" has been brought to you by Alex McLintock with help from Jan van't Ent and folks who dropped by.

