

HELICON 2



Progress Report 3

Helicon 2 will be held over the Easter weekend 2002 (March 29th to April 1st) at the Hotel De France in St Helier, Jersey. Our email address is helicon2@smof.demon.co.uk and our website is <http://www.helicon.org.uk>. Attending membership is £35 until 28th February 2002. Memberships should be sent to 33 Meyrick Drive, Wash Common, Newbury, Berks RG14 6SY

Phone: 0709 2304391 (voice, fax and voicemail) if you have urgent problems.

Introduction

This is the last PR. It is now only weeks to Helicon 2. The programme is now mostly finalized. A draft version is available on the Helicon web site. John Richards has had to step down from his position as committee member in charge of programming due to pressure of work from his job. I would like to thank him for all the work he has done so far.

I am looking forward to meeting our guests of honour: Brian Stableford, Harry Turtledove and Peter Weston who will be providing us with many interesting programme items. An Eastercon relies on volunteers to make it a successful event. All of the committee and other staff and helpers do it for the love of science fiction. Nobody gets paid for their work. Usually about 25 to 30% of the attendees work in some way or another on the convention. As always, we are still short of volunteers at present. If you would like to try your hand at anything from stewarding to tech please contact us now either by email or post. A volunteer form is available on the web site.

Winter has taken its toll. I came down with 'flu just before Christmas and was laid low for a month. This caused some delay in me processing the hotel bookings. I apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused. As I expected, the single rooms filled very quickly, but there are still some doubles and twins left. If you have not booked already please do so as soon as possible

I have noticed that many of you are arriving early or staying on after the convention. Jersey is a beautiful island with many tourist attractions. Gerald Durrell's award winning Jersey Zoo is well worth a visit. This is one of Helicon's charities should we have a financial surplus. The web site contains a list of ten things to do on Jersey.

Finally I would like to thank all the committee, staff, volunteers, program participants and Guests of Honour for the work so far and the work to come. Special thanks goes to Jackie Maratier, the conference and banqueting manager of the Hotel de France for doing so much to help Helicon 2.

See you all at Easter.

Martin Hoare

H otel

The Hotel de France is considered to be one of the finest hotels in Jersey. The convention room rates are £55 pppn (per person per night) in a twin/double/triple. The single rooms have now all been allocated. Please contact us about sharing or else single occupancy of a twin room is £90 per night. The hotel has a small number of suites. Again, please contact us for details. The first child under 12 can share the parents' room for free. Subsequent children are half price. As has been the case with recent Eastercon hotels the Hotel de France requires a deposit of one night's accommodation. Full terms and conditions are on the booking form. If you need another booking form, contact us.

The Hotel De France still has plenty of rooms available, and we are a long way off filling up our room block (which we are contracted to fill, unless we want to pay thousands of pounds for the function space). If you decide to take a chance and show up without booking through Helicon, please be sure that the Hotel recognise you are part of the convention and count towards our room block.

The hotel's phone number is (01534) 614000. Their email is defrance@itl.net.

The hotel have promised us that they will send out confirmations of room bookings. As of today, they have not yet done so and we realise that people need this information in order to confirm travel and so on. We have included with this PR a sticker confirming whether we have passed your booking details on to the hotel. Obviously, if you have booked your own room, we won't know about it and the sticker will say "No Room Booked". If you need more information, please contact us.

T ravel

We have a travel agent on the island who can get discounts on Air and Ferry fares. They are Incentive & Conference Specialists, 7 David Place, St. Helier, Jersey JE2 4TD Tel: +44(0) 1534 877727 Fax: +44(0) 1534 872085 email: icsjersey@jerseymail.co.uk
Contact: Carole Oliver

The Helicon 2 web site also has links to airlines flying to Jersey and Condor Ferries. There are one conventional ferry and two fast ferries each day.

Budget accommodation from £17 pppn can be booked via Incentive & Conference Specialists or Jersey Tourism. Package deals from £218 per for seven nights in a guest house including flights from Gatwick are available. We apologise that we were not able to send out the guide to cheap Jersey hotels as we promised. Despite continued prompting, they still have not been supplied to us as promised by Jersey Tourism and we have no stocks available. We suggest contacting Jersey Tourism directly (<http://www.jersey.com> or phone 01534-500700).

Getting to the Hotel De France

The main ways of getting to Jersey are by plane and by ferry. If you come by plane you will end up at Jersey airport which is about as far away from St Helier as you can get on an island that is only 10 or so miles across. Get the number 15 bus to St Helier bus station (right by the ferry port, takes about half an hour), or take a taxi to the hotel. We recommend taking a taxi.

Once you are in the middle of St Helier, either at the ferry port or bus station, you want to head for St Saviour's Road, possibly signposted A7. We don't recommend you try and walk from the ferry port to the hotel, it's about a mile and the hotel has a very steep drive leading up to it. You can take a 3b, 4 or 23 bus (look for buses to the zoo), but then you've still got to walk up that steep drive. There is a map of St Helier on Jersey Tourism's website at <http://www.jersey.com/maps/> with the hotel at gh34.html.

Although Jersey's weather is generally better than the UK, on previous occasions there have been problems with fog and other bad weather which have resulted in both planes and ferries being delayed. Please allow for extra time getting to Jersey. The car ferry from Portsmouth generally takes around 9 hours, the hydrofoil from Poole or Weymouth about 3 hours. You can also come from France, via St Malo. You'll probably need to book in advance since there are a number of other events taking place on Jersey over the Easter weekend. For details see <http://www.condorferries.co.uk>.

Programme

There is a draft programme up on the Helicon website (<http://www.helicon.org.uk>). Please feel free to go and to look at it, however we must emphasise that this *is* a draft and may change closer the time.

Beyond Cyberdrome

SMS tells us that the Beyond Cyberdrome website is now up and running at <http://www.beyondcyberdrome.org.uk> with lots of information on rules, how to build robots, full-frontal Sprokette pin-ups and much more. Anyone can play. Not to be confused with Robot Wars which is a very different sort of a beast.



Bead Workshop

Anyone who wants to take part in this should please register an interest in advance with the office (main convention address) so we know how much stuff to bring with us.

Late News

Pressure of work means that John Richards has had to pull out of doing the Helicon programme. Fortunately, John has left us with a nearly complete programme and we hope to run with it. However, it is inevitable that a few things may get lost in the handover and we apologise in advance to any of you who get asked to be on programme items at the last minute.

Peter Weston

Peter Weston can generally be found at conventions by looking for someone smoking cigars, surrounded by tall, beautiful women. A fanzine fan since 1963, Peter edited *Zenith* and later *Speculation* (the original New Wave fanzine) and won the Nova in 1973.

He managed to cap this by winning the TAFF race in the following year and attending the 1974 Worldcon (Discon II) in Washington DC. His report of the convention, "Stranger in a Very Strange Land" was originally published in *Science Fiction Monthly* and is available from <http://www.dcs.gla.ac.uk/SF-Archives/Taff/pw1.html>. Looking back, I remember reading this and wondering what it was doing in a magazine devoted to large glossy reproductions of book cover art (not unlike last year's Turner Prize, really). His laments over the lack of a bar with decent beer will strike a familiar chord with any British fan who has attended an American Worldcon.

Peter's TAFF victory was soon revealed as a cunning tactic in his master plan to bring the Worldcon to Brighton for Seacon in 1979. Peter was chairman and managed to cope with the entire 3-ring Worldcon circus, and a TV crew with great aplomb. Oh, and he also won the Doc Weir Award that year.

Is there no end to this man's achievements? He was the founder and long-time chairman of the Brum Group, edited the *Andromeda* series of original anthologies and was Fan Guest of Honour at Boskone 37 in 2000 and will be again at the next Boston Worldcon, Noreascon 4 in 2004. Perhaps his great claim to fame is as the manufacturer of the Hugo rockets. Certainly every time a Worldcon tries something different, the transparent acrylic debacle comes to mind, the next several years of Worldcon committees all go back to Peter for a set of real Hugo rockets.

Moreover, whenever a bar full of fans suddenly descends into Hum and Sway, or people start trying to crawl across the floor with the aid of beer cans, Peter is generally at the heart of it. A final quote from the last *Helicon*, watching fans acrobatically rupture themselves at his imperious behest: "My old troublemaking skills have not deserted me. All this suffering, caused by just two Guinness cans".

Useful Information

We have a few last minute notices. Please note that this is likely to be a smaller than average Eastercon (for a number of reasons) and we are having to cut back in some areas as a result.

Volunteers

If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Janet Figg (email: janetfigg@hotmail.com). *Helicon* still needs volunteers in a number of areas.

Registration

Registration will open on Thursday 28th March from 16:00 to 18:00.

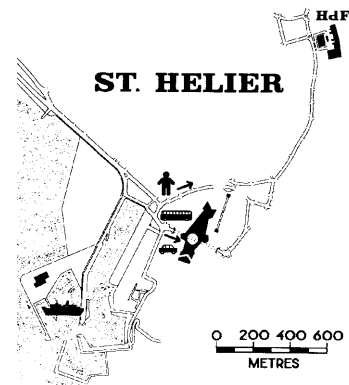
From Friday 29th to 31st it will be open from 09:00 to 18:00 each day.

On Monday 1st April it will be open 09:30 to 14:00

Lost badges will be charged a replacement cost proportional to the type of membership and the number of remaining days of the convention.

Handicapped and Special Requirements

Please talk to us if you have any special requirements. Phone, email, fax, whatever. Tell us your problems in plenty of time before the convention starts and we can try to help. The week immediately before the con is probably too late, but we might be able to manage something. At the con is really too late. Please note that there is a steep drive up to the hotel from the town. Once you are at the top of the drive, access to the hotel is on a level and it is now possible to get to Reception without having to climb stairs.



Artists

At the moment we have virtually no artists who have asked for space in the Art Show or who have asked about transporting art to Jersey. Since taking the art show boards to the Channel Islands is likely to be expensive, we are considering cutting this right back. If you are an artist and are planning to bring art, please contact us so we know to bring enough boards and poles. We can't guarantee space if you just turn up on the day.

Flyers

There is a Helicon flyer included with this PR. If you know anyone who might be interested in coming, please give it to them. Alternatively, perhaps you could stick it on a noticeboard at work, at the local library or somewhere. Fandom always needs new blood and it's hard for us to get the information about the convention out to the right places.

Phone

You may notice from the contact details that we now have an emergency phone number. It is 0709-2304391. Please note that it is charged at mobile phone rates. You can also send faxes and leave voicemail on this number, but we would appreciate it if you didn't call outside of normal UK waking hours.

Mobile Phones

The cell phone service on Jersey is operated by Jersey Telecom. It operates on the same band as Vodaphone and BT cellnet. If you have an Orange or One-2-One phone it must have dual band capability. JT is a separate system from the UK operators and roaming charges apply. Please check that your phone allows roaming if you intend to use it on the island.



54th Easter Convention

The Hanover International
Hinckley
Leicestershire

18 - 21 April 2003

GUESTS
CHRIS BAKER (FANGORN)
CHRISTOPHER EVANS
MARY GENTLE

Membership: £35 attending, £20 supporting (valid until 1/4/02)
Contact: Seacon Memberships, 8 The Orchard, Tonwell, Herts. SG12 0HR
www.seacon03.org.uk

New members (since 29 Sept 2001)

547	Åkesson, Annaew	598	Brush, Colin	653	Fairgrove, Rowan
581	Allum, Mike	568	Bryson, Bob	671	Fleissner, Dimitra
551	Amies, Chris	584	Brännvall, Tage	672	Fleissner, Peter
662	Auden, Sandra	573	Burns, Jim	667	Freedman, Tanja
557	Bains, Catherine	591	Chappell, Arthur	619	Furlong, Karen
554	Bains, Eleanor	655	Coad, Rich	617	Furlong, Nigel
556	Bains, Isabel	621	Coast, Caitriona	618	Furlong, Sabine
553	Bains, Jane	654	Corner, Joanne	668	Gardner, Donald
555	Bains, Richard	574	Cotter, Del	652	Gillet, Marilyn
552	Bains, William	615	Courtenay Grimwood, Jon	579	Gonzalez, Victor
616	Baker, Samantha	639	Cowans, Chris	548	Gustafsson, Andreas
647	Banks, Aileen	628	Cox, David	649	Hamilton, Kate
623	Bark, John	661	da Silva, Miguel	648	Hamilton, Peter F.
627	Bennemann, Gabriela	664	Davey, Andrew	570	Harvey, Eve
629	Bennett, Sam	578	Day, Peter	569	Harvey, John
592	Boothby, Clare	669	Dollin, Chris	602	Haynes, Susie
545	Brown, Doug	670	Dollin, Michael	585	Hedenlund, Alice
643	Brown, Patricia	593	Dunk, Chris	544	Hedenlund, Anders
576	Brown, Tanya	605	English, John	587	Hedenlund, Felix
642	Brown, Vernon	563	Ewyck, Annemarie van	586	Hedenlund, Jeanette

540	Hetherington, Karen	626	Moxey, Simon	539	Stross, Charlie
620	Hicks, Dave	582	Murphy, Ronan	612	Tibbles, Sue
565	James, Richard	603	Newman, Hazel	562	Veenkamp, Nico
633	Jordan, Keith	577	Newman, Robert	604	Veer, Bart
634	Jordan, Sheila	571	O'Neill, David	640	Walters, Dai
564	Kelly, Mark	572	O'Neill, Maryse	580	Walters, Huw
611	Kemp, Sue	561	O'Shea, Chris	594	Wardzinski, Bob
622	Kirk, Tim	558	Peart, James	596	Wardzinski, Charlotte
601	Leonard, Mary	659	Proctor, Henry	597	Wardzinski, Francesca
600	Leonard, Paul	658	Proctor, Ricard	595	Wardzinski, Julie
583	Lightsey, Sheila	641	Richards, John	550	Williams, Robert
644	Livingstone, Colin	665	Robinson, T.R.	651	Williamson, Neil
610	Lohr, Marisa	650	Rowse, Yvonne	609	Wilson, Andrew J
606	Lord, Jan	656	Scott, Stacy	567	Wilson, Juliet
607	Lord, Vivian	566	Sketchley, Martin	636	Winter, Graham
575	Mason, Sue	599	Skinner, Daniel	638	Winter, Rose
589	McConnel, Michael	546	Smith, Anthony David	637	Winter, Sue
624	McIvor-Main, Kevin	635	Smithers, Jasper	614	Yound, Melinda
608	McLaren, Lorna	590	Smithers, Nathaniel		
660	McMillan, Lucy	632	Stephenson, Richard		
646	Messenger, Chloe	657	Stewart, Alastair		
645	Messenger, Sara	549	Stewart, Chrisine		
663	Mitchell, Sue	588	Stokes, Keith		
613	Moor, David	559	Streets, Parent 1 of		
625	Moxey, Nicola	560	Streets, Parent 2 of		

Rates

Helicon's address is 33 Meyrick Drive, Wash Common, Newbury, Berks RG14 6SY
 Attending membership is £35, supporting/junior (12-16) £18 until 28/2/2002. Child (6-11)
 membership is £5. Please note that all membership details will be held on our database
 but will not be given, lent or sold to anyone else, except the 2003 Eastercon.

Helicon 2, 33 Meyrick Drive, Wash Common, Newbury, Berks RG14 6SY

I enclose £..... for attending/supporting memberships of Helicon 2

Name: _____

Address: _____
