



WELCOME TO OLYMPUS

Congratulations—You got here!



Programme Changes

Friday 5pm - James Barclay removed from *There's a Hole in My Plot*

Friday 7pm - Justina Robson replaces Pat Cadigan on *Just a Minute*

Saturday 11am - Thomas Olde Heuvelt replaces Vince Docherty as moderator on *Non-Anglophone SF*

Saturday 12 noon - Chad Dixon added to *Why are the books of Philip K Dick...*

Saturday 2pm - Chris Morgan added to *Poetry Reading*

NEW Saturday 4pm *Game of Thrones* cast panel in Commonwealth

Saturday 4pm - Graham Sleight replaces Nial Harrison as moderator on *The Fantastic Landscape*

Saturday 5pm - Pat Cadigan added to *Wild Cards*

Saturday 6pm - Lucy Ramsey added to *Aidan Harte Book Launch*

Saturday 8pm - CE Murphy removed from *Publishing Outside the Box*

Sunday 12 noon - CE Murphy removed from *Comics Outside the Mainstream*

Monday 2pm - David Richardson removed from *Blake's 7: What are Big Finish Doing to our Show*

Monday 3pm - John Coxon removed from *Virtual Convention*

Gopher It!

Olympus 2012 events couldn't function without an army of volunteers, known as Gophers, who sit on the door of panels, stuff bags, organise sign-ups, etc. If you can spare an hour or twelve over the weekend to help out, please pop in to the Gopher Hole (Rm 31) at any time and find the Gopher Mum and Dad, who will be very pleased to find you something to do!

Item Tech Check

If you are a programme participant and you are using a laptop or other presentation tech for your item, please take it along to the tech team in the main hall as soon as possible so they can check it out. We have been have some compatibility problems so please check with the tech team so we can see if there is an issue and sort it out in advance.

Volunteers Wanted

The *Iris*, the official newsletter of Olympus 2012, is appealing for reports, photographs, gossip, volunteers, and ideas for content—so if you know what you want to see but don't want to write it yourself, just let us know!

The newsletter offices are in the Business Centre on the third floor, Room 37, email us at olympus2012news@gmail.com, or find Eddie Cochrane in the bar.

Real Ale Bar

The Real Ale Bar in the Atrium is serving Spitfire and Bombardier real ales, and Old Rosie Cider at £4.00 a pint, Worthingtons at £3.50, Carling lager at £2.90 a pint and red and white wine by the glass or bottle. The Old Rosie is 7.5% ABV, and is a 'real scrumpy'—the original price was based on providing Strongbow. The Old Rosie is more expensive than previously advertised—but you're getting much more bang for your buck!

Drink prices

If you drink in the Bijou bar you will be charged normal hotel prices. For convention prices come to the Atrium bars—and why not sample the real ale and scrumpy?

Twitter

If you're a Twitter user, please remember to use hashtags—**#eastercon** and **#olympus2012**. You might find your 140 characters of condensed wisdom making it into the newsletter!

Limited Place Events

Beer and Chocolate tasting panels have 30 places each; the Kaffeeklatsches are limited to 10 places. Sign up at Registration now to avoid disappointment!

Ballot boxes and Sign-up sheets

The ballot boxes for the BSFA Award and Doc Weir Award, and the sign-up sheets for the limited place events are now being kept at the Registration Desk and not in Ops. Go vote!

Convention T-shirts and Raffle Tickets

Shirts are now on sale outside Royal B. Raffle tickets are also available—win knitted Doctor Who goodies and help raise funds for convention charities. Prizes drawn at the closing ceremony.

Guidebook and Newsfeed

Olympus 2012 is the first Eastercon to be able to make use of Guidebook—a free app for Android, Apple devices, and Mobile Web devices. Simply download, choose Olympus (as redeem code or just search for it), and browse for items you'd like. Selecting them for your own personal schedule is very easy, and you can set reminders so you'll never accidentally miss a panel again!

One of the features of the Guidebook app is a newsfeed which is being updated in real time by Olympus's hardworking IT team. For instant updates please check this. *Iris* will be available online soon after each printing, and notification of each issue will be available via the newsfeed.

John Christopher Tribute

John Christopher (1922-2012) was remembered by a showing of *No Blade of Grass* (1970) this morning, based on his classic catastrophe novel *The Death of Grass* (1956). The film hammered home the anti-pollution message right up to the credits and theme song. The story followed that of the novel: John Custance leads a group of refugees to his brother's farm in Cumbria, hoping for a welcome. Filmed on location in a bleak Cumbrian landscape, it dramatically shows the kill-or-be-killed survival rules. The audience then discussed how prophetic both book and film were, noting the collapse of the bee population, for example. *JY*

Evening Meals

Tickets for all evening meals are available at Reception every day. This means you won't have to pay on the door, and can pay by card.

Battlestar Galactica

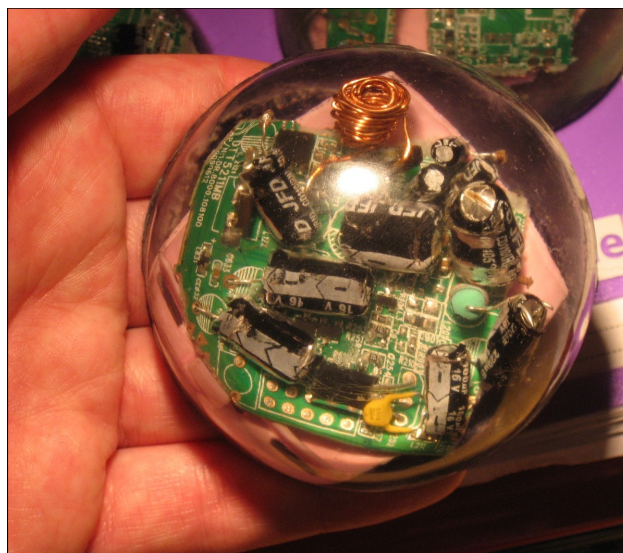
If you want to play the Battlestar Galactica RPG (Sat 2pm), please sign up on the sign-up sheet at Registration. There are places for 6 players.

Legoland

If anyone would like to share taxis for a trip to Legoland Windsor on Monday, please contact TraceyJane via Ops.

Saga of the Errant Pink Box

Those of you who attended Illustrious last year may remember a slight kerfuffle surrounding the malfunctioning of a certain piece of tech kit at a rather important juncture, which got the entire Tech team a little worried. Yr hmbl crspndnt, heading up that team, has since moved to a part



of the world not entirely unlike Middle Earth—but the spirit of a good con never dies...

On closing day, we ritually applied a lump hammer to the kit, as many of you witnessed and a few joined in. The smithereens were duly gathered up and travelled to the other side of the world, where they ended up in my shed awaiting their fate. The result? Some of the more interesting fragments have found themselves cast in resin and turned into decorative paperweights for all eternity.

The message to all pieces of technology which may be sufficiently sentient to comprehend this missive should be clear:

Don't cross Eastercon. You will regret it.

Ross Younger, by email