



The Daily Drone

The Newsletter of Ytterbium, the 2019 Eastercon

Issue 1, Friday Afternoon

Welcome to Ytterbium

Welcome to Ytterbium! This is the second time we've been in the Park Inn so do admire the new decor.

We have a weekend full of wonderful panels, workshops and special events including the British Premier of *Brown Girl Begins*, an adaptation of Nalo Hopkinson's first novel, short films from African directors on Saturday, and a Hay Lecture on magnetic imaging. There are loads of parties happening, including book launches in Bader and Tereshkova, a party for Dublin 2019, and a launch for the Glasgow 2024 Worldcon bid. There are discos on Saturday and Sunday, we have Mitch Benn and Playing Rapunzel performing on Saturday, and a children's concert on Sunday night. And on top of all this we'll have fantastic talks from our Guests of Honour: DC, Frances Hardinge, Sydney Padua and John Scalzi.

Check out the Art Show, the real ale bar and the dealers, who are spread between the syndicate rooms and Endeavour.

Keep an eye on the newsletter for any changes, and tell us all about the things you enjoyed.

Have a great weekend.

—Farah and Phil

The Daily Drone

We'll be publishing every day this weekend. Come find us in the Newsletter room, or email us at newsletter@ytterbium.org.uk

Submissions may be edited viciously to fill space or for comic effect.

How to Eat

Breakfast: 6-11am. Standard hotel buffet. If you want eggs other than scrambled, just ask the hotel staff and they will miraculously appear.

Lunch: noon-3pm. Meal deals in the lounge bar, restaurant open for buffet and a tuck shop (sandwiches, crisps, choc, cereal bars etc), burgers and hot dogs in the real ale bar.

Dinner: 5:30-10:30pm. Buffet menu available in the restaurant, hot dogs and burgers in the real ale bar, and a tuck shop.

Late Night: 11-midnight. Snacks in the real ale bar, bacon/egg rolls and vegan option.

The tuck shop has vegetarian options; lounge bar and buffet will have vegan options.

The buffet can be pre-booked and paid for at hotel reception or at the restaurant (pre-purchase of vouchers will save you time).

Shameless Plug 1

Come join the Washington DC in 2021 Bid for Worldcon in the real ale bar from 7pm to 9pm tonight for some great company and a pint on us!

Programme Changes

The kaffeeklatsches with Frances Hardinge, John Scalzi and Farah Mendlesohn will be in Bader. Sydney Padua's kaffeeklatsch will be in Syndicate Room 16.

All Syndicate Room 11 events have been moved to Bader (most of these are book launches). The Luna Press book launch is now in Syndicate Room 16.

We have lots of craft workshops, including Bronze and Copper Clay, Family Circus and Beading. They're all on Grenadine, but there's a full list at Info Desk including sign up sheets where needed.

Nicholas Jackson's Fun with Maths (Sat 10.15am) is now Maths Creativity (Sun 9am, Armstrong), for children and anyone else who's interested.

David Wake's book launch (was 'Atcode', now 'The Derring-Do Club in Death on the Suez') starts 8.15pm on Friday not 7pm.

Tor.com book launch and signing in Tereshkova now starts at 3.45pm not 3.15pm on Saturday.

Access

Please reserve ramps for people with wheels. Note that some of our scooters don't have a backing beep; please watch out and take care. We have a whole range of access badges:



Always use microphones on programme items and when speaking from the audience. If you need a large print version of something, please ask at Info Desk.

Brown Girl Premieres

Tonight at 7pm we are showing the British premiere of *Brown Girl Begins*, based on the novel *Brown Girls in the Ring* by Worldcon 75 Guest of Honour, Nalo Hopkinson. The film will be introduced by novelist Courttia Newland, and we are delighted to welcome the director of the movie, Sharon Lewis, who will be giving a short talk and Q&A at the end. If you see Sharon and her mother Kathleen around the convention today, please do say hello.

Shameless Plug 2

Dave Langford would like everyone to know that he's at the con today and will flog you a copy of his brand new

John Sladek collection, *New Maps*.

Spot the Dealers

Rumours that Ytterbium has no Dealers' Room have been greatly exaggerated. In fact we have a record number of Dealers' Rooms. Some of our dealers are in Endeavour opposite the main programme room and registration. The rest of the dealers are in Syndicate Rooms 1-10 and they are all looking forward to ~~parting you from your money~~ seeing you.

Jack Cohen

Jack has moved to a new home and would very much appreciate letters from old fan friends. Send them to:

Waterloo Care Home
Ringwood Rd
Three Legged Cross
Dorset BH21 6RD

There is a card at the Info Desk for everyone who would like to send him good wishes to sign.

—John Bray and Dave Langford

parkrun Update

parkrun takes place at Bedford Lakes on Saturday morning. We have a bus booked to depart at 8:15 in the morning. Please note that this is slightly earlier than originally advertised.

Sign-up for the bus has closed, but there are a couple of seats available on a first come first serve basis. If you would like to join us please meet at the Info Desk at 8am. If you have booked

but don't show up by 8:10am, we may give your seat on the bus away, which will surprise someone who thought it was the airport shuttle.

The convention is subsidising the bus, but we would ask parkrunners to make a voluntary contribution of £3 towards the cost.

#EasterconRebellion

The Metropolitan Police have been sweeping the hotel in search of badly-dressed costumed weirdos who are planning peaceful blockades. We sent them to Ops.

Kids Get Out!

If you want to take children (preferably your own) out of the convention, there is a small playground on Sipson Way, Turn right out of the hotel onto the main road, take the bridge over the motorway and turn right again into Sipson Way. There is also a mini-market there and a small Portugese restaurant (closed on Sunday) called Madeirinhas.

Getting Your Groats

If you're volunteering, you should get a volunteer form from your team leader. After your shift ends, they should sign off your forms so you can collect groats, and tell you where to get them. There will always be someone in Gringroats Conrunning Bank from 9:30-11:30am and 5:30-6:30pm daily. Rumours that Friday and Monday are bank holidays are also greatly exaggerated.