

Read Me!

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	10.00 Genetic Manipulation	10.00 Catching Starlight
	11.30 Book Auction	11.30 Art Auction
	13.00 Somehow the Catastrophes are not so Cosy Anymore.	13.00 Eastercon
	14.30 I want My Kids to Read SF...	14.30 Politics
	16.00 GUEST OF HONOUR	16.00 Dr Who
19.00 Opening Ceremony	17.30 The Julian Headlong Experience	17.00 Awards and Not the Closing Ceremony
19.30 Book Launch	19.00 The Stars Like Frogspawn	19.30 Beer Tasting and Indonesian Food
	20.00 Saturday Night Film Fest	
21.30 Room 101		
22.30 The Dave Hicks Special Quiz	21.30 Fan Auction	
	22.30 Novacon Disco	

The Programme by Yvonne Rowse

[Note: At time of writing, we don't expect any major changes to the programme. Last minute amendments will be announced at the opening ceremony and/or widely publicised both via notices and by the tried and tested method of a man shouting in the bar. More details in programme book.]

Friday

7.00 Opening Ceremony

In which the committee introduce Alastair Reynolds, Guest of Honour, read any important notices and escape as soon as possible.

7.30 Book Launch!

Come and buy Alastair's new book: Get it signed. Take advantage of free wine and nibbles.

9.30 Room 101

Steve Green quizzes Alastair about the things he hates most and decides which should be sent to Room 101

10.30 The Dave Hicks Special Quiz

Birmingham versus the Universe -(in the fight between you and the Universe - back the Universe). Do you know more about SF than the panellists

Saturday

10.00 Genetic Manipulation

Pauline Morgan asks Alastair Reynolds & Charles Stross to take a look at the ideas in science and beyond

11.30 Book Auction

The Novacon Book Auction brought to you by those celebrated auctioneers, Chris Morgan and Rog Peyton. We hope you have plenty of books requiring sensitive adoption

1.00 Somehow the Catastrophes are not so Cosy, Anymore

Following a year full of disasters and with the media full of portents of doom about bird flu, we ask our panelists Nigel and Sabine Furlong, Julian Headlong and Pete Young about how we deal with catastrophe in the Real World and whether SF will help us to be among the survivors...

2.30 I want My Kids to read SF

We were mostly, I guess, infected with SF in our Teens and for most of us it has provided a lifelong obsession. I'd like my kids to read SF. I ask the panel which five books they would recommend and why. Would they choose a different set of books for each sex? With Peter Weston, Julia Daly, Claire Brialey and Farah Mendlesohn

4.00 Guest of Honour

Alastair Reynold's speech to Novacon

5.30 The Julian Headlong Experience

Science Fiction, Science Fact and Julian Headlong - 50 years of basic naughtiness...

8.00 Saturday Night Film Fest

Those of you who attended Novacon 34 may recall our Friday night showcasing of the award winning Italian science fiction short E:D:E:N, fresh from its acclaim at Manchester's Festival of Fantastic Films. This time we're widening the event with a selection that includes Ross Shepherd's Delta award winning fantasy *The Kingdom of Shadows*, a gentle paean to the frontier years of cinema, Sam Rogers' twisted psychodrama *Feathers*, Ian Hothersall's apocalyptic comedy *The Omnicide 8000* and Daniel Austin's chilling *Bloodline*. Plus the usual surprises (who could forget last years 30-second versions of *The Shining* and *The Exorcist*, reenacted by bunnies?) Don't forget the popcorn!

9.30 Fan Auction

Alison Scott and Claire Brialey auction fabulous items for TAFF and GUFF.

10.30 Novacon Disco

In which we celebrate the graying of British Fandom. Julian Headlong, Dave Holmes & Paul Oldroyd are 50 this year and fandom itself is 75. Bring along a playlist and we'll try to get the DJ to turn the amp down from 11.

Sunday

10.00 Catching Starlight

Until he became a full time writer Alastair Reynolds worked as an astrophysicist. Here he talks about the research he has been involved in over the last few years.

11.30 Art Auction

Your chance to buy from the artshow with master auctioneers, Rog Peyton and Chris Morgan

1.00 Eastercon

2007 - will there be one? Do we care? With Eve Harvey, Fran Dowd, Simon Bradshaw and Michael Abbott.

2.30 Politics

This is not about the content of modern politics but about the processes taking a very broad view of politics as comprising the processes by which people collectively settle on what is to be done and how when there is no agreement about either. With Caroline Mullan and Claire Brialey

4.00 Dr Who

So how did it happen? How did the series that everyone except Paul Oldroyd had given up on become the darling of the BBC again? And is there anyone out there who doesn't think that Christopher Eccleston was a fab Doctor? With Andrew Adams, Lucy Zinkiewicz and Martin Easterbrook.

5.00 Awards Ceremony

The raffle is drawn, the Novas presented, the committee breathes a sigh of relief and we tell you about next year. But wait, it's not over yet because then it's...

7.30 Beer Tasting and Indonesian Food

As is traditional the Sunday night Food has been chosen by our Guest of Honour. Alastair has a fondness for the Indonesian Rice Table so we are presenting you with the chance to sample one tonight. Ticket Holders ONLY. Tickets £9.50 from registration.

The equally traditional Beer Tasting will also be taking place. As usual admittance is by presenting registration with three bottles of beer (or £5.00 if you're really boring) in return for a BEER BADGE. Only badge

holders may take part in the beer tasting although soft drinks are available for all.

Dave Lally's Programme

In addition to the highlights above the Dave Lally Programme will run from 4pm on Friday until Sunday afternoon in the Dudley Room (straight down the corridor from Hotel reception, first syndicate room on your left after the stairs); see the flip chart outside for details of what Dave will have on offer.

Food and Drink

Breakfast

Breakfast will be served in the Saddle Room Restaurant (next to the bar) from 8am until 10.30am on Saturday and Sunday, and 7.30am until 9.30am on Monday.

Lounge (No 10) Bar

Will be open from 10.30am each day and cash and GRTs (Gopher Reward Tokens) will be accepted in payment for drinks throughout the weekend.

Also throughout the weekend Soup & Roll for £1.75 and a selection of filled baguettes (salad & filling) at £2 each will be available from the bar.

Tea and Coffee will also be available from the bar throughout the weekend for £1.25 per serving, or you can order from the hotel's swish new coffee machine. Chocolate bars will also be on sale.

The Hotel have laid on a supply of Timothy Taylor's Landlord (4.3% abv) at the special price of £2.15 per pint. In addition the Hotel have arranged a supply of draught Addlestons Cider especially for the con at £2.15 per pint.

In addition to the Landlord, special con prices have been arranged with the Hotel for the following: Worthington and Carling £2.15 per pint; Grolsch, Caffreys and Murphys at £2.35 per pint; 10oz glasses of lemonade or coke at 75p each; orange juice and lemonade at £1.50 per pint

Convention Menu

Evening meals will be served in the Saddle Room Restaurant; Lunch time menus in the No 10 Lounge Bar on Saturday from 12 - 2.30pm, with a limited selection throughout Sunday afternoon.

But please note that Sunday Lunch will be available in the Saddle Room Restaurant from 12 - 3pm, full roast Carvery at just £6.95 per head.

Friday

From the Saddle Room Restaurant 6pm-9.00pm. Selection of hot food with vegetarian option - £6.50 per person for one plate. Salad bar £2.00 per person. £1.50 extra for dessert (from the dessert "trolley")

From Servery in No 10 Bar Midnight

Bacon, Sausage or Chip rolls/sandwiches £1.50 each. Vegetarian option

Saturday

From the No 10 Lounge Bar 12.00-2.30pm

Hot dish £6.50 per person

Selection of filled baguettes with Salad £2 each Soup & Roll £1.75

Jacket Potatoes & Fillings £2.00 Salad Bar £2.00

From the Saddle Room Restaurant 6pm-9.30pm

Selection of hot food with vegetarian option £6.50 per person. Salad bar £2.00. £1.50 extra for dessert

Or From the Saddle Room Restaurant 6pm-9.30pm

Salmon Steak £7.50 Rump Steak £8.50 Sirloin Steak £9.50

All steaks served with chips, mushrooms and grilled tomato.

From Servery in No 10 Bar Midnight

Bacon, Sausage or Chip rolls/baps/sandwiches £1.50 each. Vegetarian option.

Sunday

From the Saddle Room Restaurant 12.00 - 3.00pm

Roast Carvery Selection / Hot Vegetarian Option £6.95 per person.

From the No 10 Lounge Bar All afternoon
Selection of filled baguettes with Salad £2 each Soup & Roll £1.50

(In the King Charles Suite) 8.00pm
Indonesian Food will be served in the King Charles Suite but tickets (@
£9.50 per head) must be purchased in advance from the Novacon
Registration Hatch before 4pm on Sunday:

Gado Gado - Indonesian vegetable salad
Nasi Goreng – Spicy fried rice with chicken and prawns
Bami Goreng – Fried egg noodles with diced pork
Zesty lemon chicken

From Servery in No 10 Bar Midnight
Bacon, Sausage or Chip rolls/baps/sandwiches £1.50 each

General Information

Novacon Registration

The Novacon Registration Hatch will be open:

Friday: 4pm-6.45pm and 7.30pm-10pm for N35 Registrations ONLY.
Saturday: 10am-3.15pm and 4.30pm-8pm for all Novacon business.
Sunday: 10am-4.15pm for all Novacon business.

From Saturday morning onwards the hatch will be selling: Novacon
35 full memberships at £40 and day memberships at £10 Friday, £20
Saturday and £15 Sunday; a variety of Novacon merchandise and
publications from previous Novacons (£2 per set for Specials and
Programme Books; BEER BADGES for the Beer Tasting (£5.00 per person or
your 3 bottles of beer); tickets for the Indonesian Food at £9.50 (on sale
until 4pm Sunday); memberships to Novacon 36 (just £30.00 at Novacon
35, rising to £33.00 after the con); raffle tickets in aid of the RNIB's Books
for the Blind Project.

Dealers' Room

This is in the King Charles Suite and will be open from 4pm until
6.45pm on Friday, 10am until 6pm Saturday and 10am until 4pm on
Sunday. Times are subject to change.

Art Show

In the Sedgley and Brierley Rooms (turn right at Hotel Reception
and keep walking they're on your left). Next door in the Netherton, you
will find our CD ROM artshow. They will be open from 10am until 6pm on
Saturday and on Sunday from Sunday from 10am until noon.

Novacon Beer Tasting

As usual at such events we will be running the latest in a long series of Novacon Beer Tastings at the same time as our Indonesian Food. This will be using the ever-popular BYOB (bring your own beer) format.

As usual Novacon will have Sarah Hughes Dark Ruby Mild on draught as well as a few other interesting bottles - the rest is up to you!

To partake of the *beer*, you need to bring at least *three* bottles of your favourite British or foreign beer to the convention and check them in at the Novacon Registration Hatch when you arrive. In return you'll receive a Technicolor "*Beer Badge*" which will entitle you to drink the beer at the Tasting on Sunday. Alternatively, you can also take part by buying a "*Beer Badge*" for £5.00 from the Novacon Registration Hatch.

All Novacon members are welcome to attend the Tasting. The convention will supply an assortment of non-alcoholic drinks at the Tasting, which will be free to everyone, but only those with "*Beer Badges*" will be entitled to drink the beer and only those with "*Indonesian Food Tickets*" will be able to partake of that culinary delight.

The Beer Tasting will start at 7pm on Sunday in the King Charles Suite. (Food will be served from 8.00pm only to those people who have purchased tickets at £9.50 per head, see elsewhere for details.) *[Please remember, although we have come to an arrangement with the Quality Hotel regarding the Beer Tasting, this does not extend to you bringing in your own supplies of drink elsewhere during the con. The Hotel can and will charge corkage to people smuggling food or drink into the hotel!]*

Gophers

If you *have* volunteered to be a gopher or if you *wish* to volunteer please report to Cat Coast or Chris Murphy in the Ops Room (Hatherton, up the stairs, which are down the corridor from Hotel reception).

R.N.I.B. Raffle

If you wish to purchase tickets for the annual raffle in aid of RNIB's Books for the Blind Project, Anne Woodford will be selling them around the con, but tickets will also be available from the Novacon Registration Hatch -- Saturday onwards. In a change from established tradition, prizes will *not* be given out as the draw is made at the Award Ceremony. Instead prizes will be available for collection from a table set up in the Oliver Cromwell suite *after* the ceremony and winning numbers will be posted on the flip chart near the Novacon Registration Hatch.

Prizes will be listed on the flip chart near the Novacon Registration Hatch from Saturday evening onwards.

Operations

As we are sure you are aware Novacon, like most conventions in Britain, is run by volunteers and we can't have too many of them! So if you are willing to help out at the convention -- anything from moving chairs to helping with tech ops or working on the programme, please contact Cat Coast or Chris Murphy, in the Ops Room.

Operations will be in the Hatherton Room, like last year we shall be operating a fascist 'tidy' Ops Room designated areas for stuff to be stored and no non-essential furniture (or people). However, you will still be able to leave coats and bags in Ops on request and at your own risk.

No Smoking

Please refrain from smoking in the Programme & Dealers Rooms, Art Show, and in other designated areas. Please note that the only *smoking* area of the Bar is to the left of the Main Entrance, facing Reception.

Dire Warnings

Please remember that the Quality Hotel is in the business of selling accommodation, drink and food for profit. Neither the management of the Quality Hotel nor the Novacon committee will approve of people "crashing" in rooms they haven't paid for, and/or smuggling food/drink into the hotel. The Novacon committee will obviously support the hotel in any dispute with members of Novacon caught "crashing" and/or "smuggling".

Badges

As we have (again) failed to fill the hotel there will be non-convention guests in the Hotel. It is therefore essential that you wear your con badge AT ALL TIMES! If you do not you may be refused service in the con bars and food from the con menu. You WILL be challenged by our own security staff and prevented from entering function spaces and Hotel Staff may challenge anyone not wearing a badge.

Duplicate Room Keys

We have made arrangements with the Hotel so that if you are sharing a room and require a key each you should be able to get one this year. (Unfortunately if you are in one of the 30 executive suites you cannot have a key each as they have different locks to policy, with the other rooms in the Hotel.)

However, if you require a key each you should have notified the Hotel of this on arrival. You may not be able to change your mind later because the Hotel will have programmed 100 rooms to accept duplicate key sets before we arrive. This is a time-consuming process and there are a limited number of these duplicate key sets available - the Hotel does not normally use them and is buying them in especially for Novacon.

If you do have a key each please don't lose them! If you lose your key two new keys will be need to be issued immediately as your sharer's key won't work after you've used your new key! As there are limited quantities of these duplicate keys available you may find that if you've lost your key the Hotel will be forced to reprogram the lock on your room to take their standard single key system again.

If you do not have a key each you can still easily gain access to your room by either tracking down your sharer or by asking Hotel Reception to let you in with a master, but please don't get them doing this all the time. The hotel will require you to produce your keycard as proof that it is your room, so please ensure you carry it.

Creche

There is NO formal crèche this year, but The Children's Play Room will still be available for parents to make their own arrangements. This is the Ashmore Room (down the corridor past Hotel receptions, all the way past the Art Show Rooms, on the corner).

Check In & Out

Check-in time is from 2pm and check-out by 11am on the day of departure. (Bedrooms will be cleaned between 10am and 3pm).

There is a special late check out time of 2pm on Sunday only.

Cashpoints/Banks

Woolwich cashpoint in Spar (24 hour shop) which also offers a cashback facility on purchases, Wolverhampton Road, Willenhall.

Abbey National/Link, Park Street, Walsall.

Lloyds/TSB, New Road, Willenhall (opposite J D Wetherspoons).

Lloyds/TSB, Park Street, Walsall.

HSBC, New Road, Willenhall (opposite J D Wetherspoons).

HSBC, St. Paul's Square (facing the steps from the Bus Station).

Halifax, Bridge Street, Walsall.

Petrol Station

Next to Spar on Wolverhampton Road, Willenhall (drive away from Junction 10 towards Willenhall, a few minutes later you'll see it on your right between Car Showrooms and Spar).

Post Office

Darwall Street in Walsall, near the Bus station.

Pharmacy

Chemist on Queen Elizabeth Avenue, Bentley.

Boots the Chemist, Park Street, Walsall.

Plane/Bus/Train

Flight information: 0121-767-5511.

Local Bus/Rail: Centro Hotline on 0121-200-2700.

Rail National enquiries: 08457-484950.

Taxis

A1 Rosehill, Willenhall, 01902-606090 or 633337

AJK Cars, Walsall, 01922-640630

Bentley Cars, 01902-711121

Walsall TOA Taxis, 01922-642020 or 723623

[This publication was produced by Tony Berry and Helena Bowles for Novacon 35 so if there are any mistakes you know who to blame. Of course I'll blame her.]

This space for doodles

