

Novacon 41

11-13 November 2011

READ ME

Friday		Saturday		Sunday	
		10.00	The Dark Side of the Universe	10.30	Megadeath
		11.30	Book Auction	12.00	Art Auction
		13.30	GoH Talk	14.00	Badly Drawn Fans
		15.00	History of the British Paperback	15.30	Attack of the Sixty Three Inch Woman
		16.30	This is our Fannish Life	17.00	Awards Ceremony
19.00	Opening Ceremony	18.00	Reel Horrorshow	19.00	Beer Tasting and Mexican Food
19.30	They Tried To Make Him Go To Rehab	19.30	I Can Make You Write		
21.00	Party and Book Launch	21.30	15:1		
22.30	Charades	23.00	Novacon Considered as a Helix of Semi-funny Skits		

Off-piste items – there will be several impromptu items taking place in the downstairs bar over the weekend. Watch out for notices by the registration desk. One we have definitely confirmed so far is. . . .

Tea & Scones – Saturday, 16.00 hrs

Come and join the London in 2014 bidding committee for some light refreshments

The Programme

Friday

19.00 – 19.30 Opening Ceremony

Your chance to meet the committee and our Guest of Honour, find out what treats are in store for you over the weekend, and find out how to volunteer your services.

19.30 – 20.30 They Tried To Make Him Go To Rehab

We tried for Jonathan Ross, but even the BBC couldn't afford *his* contract. At least Steve Green will host his infamous Novacon chat show for a pint and a packet of peanuts, and actually he's not that fussed about the peanuts.

21.00 – 22.00 Book Launch Party

Come along and get a fresh, sparkling copy of John Meaney's new book *Transmission* long before it is in the shops, signed then and there by the author. Free wine and nibbles!

22.30 – 00.00 Charades

Take a break from all the intellectual cut and thrust and free your inner child with some physical silliness

Saturday

10.00 – 11.00 The Dark Side of the Universe

Push those hangover cures to the limit with the first of this weekend's science talks, featuring Dr. Meghan Gray from the School of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Nottingham who will discuss the mysterious dark matter that we believe makes up most of the mass in the Universe: why we think it is out there, the techniques we use to find it, and how it underpins the growth of structure on cosmological scales. She will also play devil's advocate and ask the question: what if we've got it all wrong? Are there alternative explanations for the observations we see?

11.30 – 13.00 Book Auction

Rog Peyton and Chris Morgan will help you expand your extensive book collection with some second hand but well loved bargains.

13.30 – 14.30 Guest of Honour Talk

Come and get to know John Meaney our Guest of Honour.

15.00 – 16.00 British Paperbacks, especially SF: a brief history.

Chris Morgan presents a history of paperbacks in Britain from the earliest times up to about 1960, concentrating on SF, with lots of lovely cover art depicting scientifically inaccurate and sexist subject matter.

16.30 – 17.30 This is our Fannish Life

Rog Peyton and Stan Nichols share a wealth of anecdotes in their personal take on the differences between London and Birmingham fandom and especially what was happening in the 1950s/60s.

18.00 – 19.00 Reel Horrorshow

Steve Green presents a selection of weird and wonderful short movies, culled from his years running the Delta Film Award

19.30 – 20.30 I Can Make You Write

John Meaney leads a item that in his own words is 'guaranteed to be bonkers' that promises exactly what it says on the tin.

21.30 – 22.30 15:1

Our take on the popular TV quiz show.

23.00 – 00.30 Novacon Considered as a Helix of Semi-funny Skits

Ian Sorensen and his few remaining friends look at the history of Novacon and treat it with the sort of scathing contempt you'd expect. There will be fun, songs and a complete absence of veracity. But of course there will be a happy ending: you will be happy it's ended.

Sunday

10.30 – 11.30 Megadeath

Dr Frazer Pearce, also from the School of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Nottingham, will cheer us all up by looking at potential catastrophes that could kill a million plus people, such as asteroid strikes, plague etc., discussing the scientific background behind them.

12.00 – 13.30 Art Auction

Come along and treat yourself to a piece or two of the fantastic artwork that has been on display in the artshow over the weekend. Rog Peyton and Chris Morgan are the auctioneers.

14.00 – 15.00 Badly Drawn Fans

An updated version of the popular item from *Corflu* where Dave Hicks will narrate a slide show of his own and other people's fan art. Help him figure out why the hell he did some of those drawings. Hear how to get work from fan artists without too much violence, advice on your fannish posture and top tips on how to become – and stay - a Big Name Fan by appearing regularly in cartoons.

15.30 – 16.30 Attack of the Sixty Three Inch Woman

Since Joanna Russ's death there seems to be a dramatic increase in voices out there who perceive an apparent lack of women writing and being published in SF. Is this perception correct or flawed? Theresa Derwin leads the debate with Helena Bowles, Ian Whates, Kari and others

17.00 – 18.00 Awards Ceremony

We say a big thank you to all those who made it possible, give out lots of fabulous gifts and prizes, and award the Novas.

19.00 – Late Beer and Food Tasting

But of course it's by no means over yet. Come and sample some Mexican food and interesting beer and soft drinks and treat yourself to another night in the hotel. Entry ticket required, available at the Registration Desk throughout the weekend for a small fee or in exchange for three bottles of your favourite beer.

Dave Lally's Programme

In addition to the highlights above, the Dave Lally Programme will run from 4 p.m. 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.

Sunday Evening Beer Tasting and Food

We continue the tradition of having a winding-down event in the shape of the famous beer-tasting and meal. We will be providing some beer, but rely on you

to bring the more interesting stuff. A minimum of 3 bottles will get you a place at the bar, or buy a badge from registration for £5.

The beer tasting starts at 19.30 in the Churchill Suite. At 20.00 the food will be served, this year with a Mexican theme as chosen by our GoH. The food is by ticket only. These are on sale from registration and cost £10. **YOU MUST BUY YOUR FOOD TICKET BY 11.00 SUNDAY MORNING.**

A selection of soft drinks will be available free to everyone.

Nova Awards

Look in your membership pack for the ballot form and **remember to vote**, the ballot box will be at the Registration Desk. The current rules can be found in the programme book and a copy is also at the Registration Desk.

Voting deadline is midnight Saturday.

Dealers' Room

This is in the Churchill Suite, which is next to the main bar. It will be open from 16.00 – 18.30 Friday, 10.00 – 13.15 and 14.30 – 18.00 Saturday and 10.00 – 16.00 Sunday. No food or drink in the room please (unless you're a dealer!)

Meeting Rooms

All the small meeting rooms are located together downstairs. These will house the Artshow, Dave Lally's programme, secure ops store and a room for smaller programme items. There is lift access to these rooms from hotel reception.

Art Show

This is in Meeting Room 2. It is open from 10.00 – 18.00 Saturday and 10.00 – 11.30 Sunday. No food or drink in the room please.

General Certificate of Science Fiction Education

In your programme book you will find the GCSFE quiz, compiled by Vernon Brown. There's an entry form in your membership pack. So go on have a go, we're sure you'll be surprised at how much you do know.

Novacon Registration

This is in the business office in the main foyer. It will be open:

Friday:	16.00 – 18.30 and 19.30 – 22.00 for N41 registrations only
Saturday:	10.00 – 13.30 and 14.30 – 18.00 for all Novacon business
Sunday:	10.00 – 16.00 for all Novacon business

Operations

We'll probably be hanging out around the business centre in main reception, but there will be a secure ops store in meeting room 6 which will be used to keep any books you have for the auction, Sunday evening beer, coats and bags (at the owner's risk) and various other stuff. If you want to leave anything here, speak to the convention Duty Manager (who will be wearing a subtle red waistcoat). If you have volunteered to be a GOPHER, come and find any committee member and we'll sort you out. There are rewards!

Leisure Facilities

We have full use of the leisure club which has a pool, sauna and gym. Access for disabled guests is through the main club entrance outside, reached from the bar. The leisure club is privately-run.

Please note: the pool runs some adults-only swim sessions, check times with hotel reception.

Badges

The hotel bar and leisure club are open to the public and so there may be non-convention people in the hotel. Please wear your badge at all times, or you will be refused entry to the artshow and dealers' room, as well as being turned away from the con food. This is also a matter of security – we want to know who's who! Don't make us unleash the attack-gerbils.

DIRE WARNINGS

The Park Inn is in the business of selling accommodation, food and drink. Neither the hotel nor the Novacon committee approve of members crashing in rooms or bringing in their own supplies, so don't do it.

Left Luggage

This can be left in the secure Ops store downstairs. Find a committee member to let you in.

RNIB Raffle

As usual we will be running a raffle throughout the convention, with proceeds going to the RNIB Talking Books for the Blind. Someone will wave a book of tickets at you at some point.

Food and Drink

INSIDE

All convention food will be served in the main bar area on the ground floor. As last year the food orders will be taken over the bar and cooked to order. This will mean you wait a bit longer but it's worth it! It may be obvious, but please remain in the bar until you've got your food.

The DOWNSTAIRS BAR will be open as a bar again this year, so please make use of it. Opening times for the sale of drinks is 7pm – 12 midnight Friday and Saturday only, but it will be available as lounge space at other times. It has direct lift access from reception.

Friday: Dinner 18.30 – 22.00. Selection of hot and cold food, such as pizza, burger and chips, baked potato, vegetarian options, also new things like wraps and paninis.

Friday evening ONLY in the restaurant: fixed-price carvery with meat or vegetarian options. £16.95 for 3 courses.

Late night: bacon/sausage/chip butties £2.00

Saturday: Breakfast 7.30 – 10.30 served in the restaurant.
Lunch: 12.30 – 14.30. Selection of hot and cold food as above
Dinner: 18.00 – 22.00
Late night: Butties

Sunday: Breakfast 7.30 – 10.30
Lunch: 12.30 – 14.30
Late night: Butties

The regular bar menu will also be available throughout the weekend. If you want a sit-down meal in the restaurant using the regular hotel menu, can you please reserve a table for Saturday evening as it can get busy.

Snacks such as crisps, nuts, chocolate and baguettes (£1.75) will be available from the bar
10.00 – 23.00.

The Main Bar is the Savoy on the ground floor and is open from 10.30 until we're all tired.

The Downstairs Bar is available for use as lounge area and will also be selling drinks, though not for the extended hours upstairs. You can take food down there once you've got it from the main bar.

OUTSIDE

If you venture outside the hotel (which you won't of course, because the convention is just too much fun) there is pretty well all you could need nearby. The big pub over the road is an illusion. So is the food and real ale it serves. Honest. Keep on that side of the road and there is a bank with a cashpoint, various shops, newsagent and supermarket with basic medicines. If you need an actual pharmacy there is a Boots about half a mile away - ask reception.

If you want to do the tourist bit then apparently there's a local legend about some bloke in green tights; sounds dodgy to me. Besides that there is the famous Olde Trip To Jerusalem Inn, which is the oldest boozier in England, dating back to 1189AD. Yes it is and I don't care what anyone else says. Been there many times, but not since they refurbished it and opened up more long-buried parts. Worth a visit as it's partially built into the cliffs beneath the castle, but it is very popular and can get crowded.

Restaurants

Stand in front of the mirror and repeat: "I will stay in the con, I will stay in the con, I will stay..."

There are, of course, plenty of restaurants in Nottingham but gone are the days when we would painstakingly list a load. Now you all have access to the interweb and can look at a dozen sites rating eateries, so we'll leave it to you to do the work. Or you could just go downtown and wander; I'm sure you'll find somewhere!

Produced by Tony Berry for Novacon 41. Any mistakes are my own, but blame the Greeks.

