

DIVINE

OR

OTHERWISE

THE

1997

EASTERCON

# INTERVENTION



*The Bid*



## The Committee

The committee comprises the wonderful Wincon team from Portsmouth plus assorted friends and relations. To date the members of the committee are:

John Richards (chair and programme), John Bark (publicity), Mike Cheater (operations), Keith Cosslett (treasurer), Andy Croft (tech), Steve Green (publications and programming), Geoff Hill (project management), Heidi Lyshol (guest liaison and programming), Phil Plumbly (secretary) and Pete Wright (publications).

## The Guests

### David Langford

Winner of nine (at the time of writing) Hugo Awards. Reviewer for *White Dwarf* and *The Guardian*. Writer of *Ansible* and the first one to say yes!

Additional guests will be announced.

1. BRIAN ALDISS  
2. Robert Silverberg

## The Programme

The INTERVENTION programme is currently divided into conceptual areas within which we will be looking at different aspects of communication. Here we have some of the subjects we aim to cover.

### Talking To The Stars.

*Do you think that they will think that his arm is permanently stuck in that position?*

An examination and critique of the words and pictures intended to introduce the human race.

*Do we want to be alone?*

Would we welcome contact with extra-terrestrials if it occurred?

### Mass Communications.

*How we carried the news from Ghent to Aix.*

A history of long distance communications. Discussion of how they work and what they did to change society.

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### *The Queen vs. the Internet.*

As the Internet attracts attention from the rest of society can—and should—clashes be avoided?

*Messages from Starfleet: FTL communications from tachyons to sovereignty.*

An illustrated discussion of the mechanisms adopted to provide instantaneous communications in SF.

## **Language, Truth and Logic.**

*Newspeak: The relationship between vocabulary and imagination.*

Was George Orwell right in claiming that if something cannot be spoken then it cannot be thought?

*Nation can't speak peace unto nation. Is communication possible?*

The first major schism of the Klingon speaking people has come over translations of the bible. Is learning to talk to others merely a necessary step in learning to argue with them or is it a sufficient one?

*Are there Universal Truths?*

What constants can be relied on in conversations with the unknown?

*Turing, Voight-Kampf and other tests.*

Is it possible to distinguish between a real person or a machine either in conversation or in the mirror?

*A critical language for comics.*

How can we discuss a medium that relies on the interaction between pictures and words when even the creators cannot agree on where the primacy lies?

## **Speaking In Tongues.**

*International languages: Latin, Pidgin, Esperanto and Klingon.*

A discussion on how languages become international, a review of artificial attempts to build new ones and a consideration of a joke that may yet become one.

*Raising the Dead: Learning ancient languages.*

The methods by which a language can live beyond its native speakers.

*Translation: A threat to native literature.*

The temptation of European authors to become full time translators rather than producers of original works.

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*Translation: Finding alternatives to gibberish.*

A look at the problems of translating works full of invented words.

*Adaptation: Preserving the message beyond the medium.*

Identifying the essence of a story when changing the medium.

*Adaptation: The medium IS the message.*

Discussing the ways by which the strengths of various media can be used to fill out the weaknesses of others.

*Future Slang—inventing a new language.*

How does one produce an idiom that can seem alien yet remain comprehensible?

We intend to fascinate, to educate, to amuse and to engage the imagination. To help us in our endeavour we need scientists, engineers, social historians, people who believe in flying saucers, people who don't believe in flying saucers, actors, writers, translators, adaptors, artists, linguists, philologists and the Plain People of Fandom. If you want to help, please get in touch with us at the address below.

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PO10 7TS  
UK

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**Membership rates:** Supporting £10; Attending £20.

Please send completed membership applications to:

**INTERVENTION, 12 Crowsbury Close, Emsworth, Hants, PO10 7TS, UK**

I enclose £..... for [ ] supporting and [ ] attending memberships of INTERVENTION. Cheques should be made payable to 'Wincon'

My name is.....

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I agree to my details being held on computer for INTERVENTION use only.