

LUNICON

UNICON 14



PROGRAMME BOOK

WELCOME

Welcome to Lunicon! If this is your first convention, then we hope that you will be made to feel welcome and that you will start to understand the idea of 'fandom', which is the group of people around you who regularly attend conventions (fans) and what they do (fanac – fan activity). As a student convention we are trying to be as friendly as possible to the newcomers. If you are a fan, then please try to make others feel welcome. And everybody, relax!

THE BAR

The bar will be open the following times:

Fri. : 6pm – 11pm
Sat. : 11am – 11pm
Sun. : 11am – 3pm, 7pm – 10.30pm

You will be warned before the bar shuts and there will be plenty of cans and bottled drinks available for sale. We regret that there is no real ale, but the permanent barman has recently left, leaving the hall slightly confused. Orange juice should be available cheap.

ROOMS

Rooms are available at £19 pppn and does not include breakfast. Sorry, no doubles. Please return room keys by 10am of your day of departure. A quiet/noisy area system is in operation.

BREAKFAST

Breakfast is 8:30 – 9:30am sharp and costs £2.50

CREDITS

Text by Tara Dowling-Hussey, Jon Foster, Barry Traish. Layout by Barry Traish. Thanks to all the Guests and programme item participants and to you for turning up.

ROGER ZELAZNY

Roger was born in 1937, got interested in fantasy with the Doctor Doolittle stories as a child, discovered science fiction four years later and read everything he could, sold his first story in 1954 (*Mr Fuller's Revolt*, while at High School), his first professional sale in 1962 (*Passion Play*), scooped two nebulas in 1965 and has produced a wealth of material and taken many more awards since. He is Married with three children and lives in New Mexico.

Roger's writing is clear and confident, sometimes exploratory, sometimes playing safe. It is possible to take each of his works individually (counting a series as one entity) but upon comparing works and following his progression many common factors spring out. Roger's books usually have male protagonists, who point of view we often share. They are obvious superior to most men, but they are always unsure as to what situation they are in. The *Amber* series illustrates this perfectly, with its webs of intrigue which confuse throughout. A full bibliography of his books appeared in PR2.

MICHAEL SCOTT ROHAN

Michael Scott Rohan's works include *Run to the Stars*, a Science Fiction novel, *The Winter of the World*, a fantasy trilogy and an introduction to home computing, *First Byte*. He produced, with Allan Scott, a study of the Viking era, *The Hammer and the Cross* and a novel, *The Ice King* (under the pseudonym of Michael Scot). His novel *Chase the Morning* is an intriguing story of magic, pirates and death. He has developed his ideas of Powers and how these affect humankind in his recent sequel to *Chase the Morning* – *The Gates of Noon*.

Michael Scott Rohan was born in 1951 in Edinburgh of a French father and a Scottish mother. He was educated at the Edinburgh Academy and St Edmund's Hall, Oxford. Mike is a publisher of reference books and writes Science Fiction as a hobby. Science Fiction is not his only interest, interests which cover a wide range of subjects from folk and classical music – especially opera and in particular Wagner – to anthropology and palaeontology. He is also a columnist and reviewer for music magazines. He is married to an American as spends as much time in America as he can. Michael Scott Rohan lives in Headingly.

Mike has been attending conventions since the 1970's and is an entertaining speaker. He first came to a Leeds University con as GoH at Lucontinued, and also attended Lucon III. Recently Mike has been in a car accident though fortunately he is now ok.

He is a nice bloke and is very easy to talk to, in fact the paradigm SF fan.

COLIN GREENLAND

Colin Greenland is most celebrated for his intriguing space opera, *Take Back Plenty* which has deservedly won both the BSFA and Arthur C. Clark awards.

Colin was born in Dover in 1954 and educated at Pembroke College, Oxford. His Phd thesis became the critical work *The Entropy Exhibition*, which discusses and analyses Michael Moorcock and the British New Wave in Science Fiction. Michael Moorcock described Colin's *Daybreak on a Different Mountain* as 'an excellent book' and 'The writing is good, the observations intelligent and the tone and imagination individual'.

From 1980 to 1982 Colin was the Arts Council Writer in Residence at the Science Fiction Foundation, North East London Polytechnic.

Colin as well as being a respected author, (*The Hour Of The Thin Ox* Tom Shippey considered to be a potential classic) has also been a active critic. He has regularly written reviews for the *Times Literary Supplement*, the *Sunday Times*, *New Statesman*, *The Face* and *Foundation*. He also co-edited *Interzone: The First Anthology*.

It is pleasing that such a vivid and effective writer should also be such a friendly and approachable man. Colin has been a presence in fandom that has been sorely missed, due to M.E, and we are delighted that he has recovered to be our guest at Lunicon.

His latest work was published in May by Harper-Collins, *Harm's Way*, a Victorian space opera about a little girl called Sophie Farthing.

JACK COHEN

Jack Cohen has recently left his job as a Professor of Reproductive Biology to join the Interdisciplinary Mathematics Research Program at Warwick University. Jack's interests are indeed diverse: he is just finishing a book on why there are laws of Nature with Ian Stewart called *The Collapse of Chaos*, the Friday of the convention he is being filmed for a television show explaining maths to people, with Stephen Hawking and other well known TV scientists and he recently had an article in the Encyclopædia Britannica on imagining aliens.

Aliens are one of the places where fandom intersects with Jack's interests. He has advised various SF authors about the design of their creatures, including Anne McCaffrey on dragons, Larry Niven on *The Legacy of Heorot* and other known universe works and Harry Harrison on *West of Eden*. A rather spectacular list, added to which he is a really friendly guy.

FRIDAY

Time	Main Programme	Alternative Programme
6:00	Opening Ceremony	
7:30	Round with Robin	
9:00	Urban Myths	
10:30	Ninth Pit of Hell Debate	

SATURDAY

Time	Main Programme	Alternative Programme
10:30	Turkey Reading	Colonisation of New Caledonia – Part One
12:00	Pseudo Victorian SF and Steam-Punk	
1:30	Galactic Empires	NSSFA AGM
2:45		Unicon Variations
3:00	The Con Report	Alien Workshop
4:30	As Easy as ABC; Building Kipling's Airship Utopias	
6:00	Guest of Honour: Roger Zelazny	
7:30	The Cabaret	
9:00	Space Battle	
10:30	Ghost Storytelling Session	

SUNDAY

Time	Main Programme	Alternative Programme
10:30	This Immortal	Colonisation of New Caledonia – Part Two
12:00	Victorian SF	
1:30	Guest : Colin Greenland	Cluedo: The Next Generation
3:00	Matt's 7	Victorian Gadgets Workshop
4:30	The Hack's Revenge	
6:00	Closing Ceremony & Business Meeting	



THE PROGRAMME

The programme has been designed to be as interactive as possible. Every item can be participated in by the audience (although obviously, please do not interrupt if someone is reading or giving a set talk). Most items are designed to last for one hour, although they are scheduled every one and a half hours. This break inbetween items allows you to refresh your glass, or the item to overrun if people want it to, and proved very popular at Scone last year. The workshops last three hours each so as to provide time to really achieve something.

FRIDAY

6:00pm Opening Ceremony: Some of the guests are introduced and the con is declared officially open. Come and see what writers look like!

7:30pm Round with Robin: A fun story telling in which everyone takes part, for example: Once upon a time there was a big wolf who like to [BEEP – next person continues] who like playing video games. One day he fell into one and was confronted by some cheap graphics. The big knobbly graphic alien said, [BEEP] “Take me you scrumptious hunk.” [BEEP – enough of that!] Meanwhile, in another part of the machine . . . [With Mavis T. Fairly chairing]

9:00pm Urban Myths: We’ve all heard about the little old lady who dried her dog out in the microwave. That’s a true story – I know someone who knows someone who knows her, or there may be another person in the chain, or perhaps just a couple more? To hear more about this story and others, come along to this little soiree. All anecdotes accepted. [With Ken, Jo, Paul, Maura and Roger Zelazny]

10:30pm The Ninth Pit of Hell Debate: When Judas Iscariot is released from the Ninth Pit of Hell, the position becomes vacant and eyes are cast around for a replacement. Who could be so evil as to deserve this punishment. Various villains will try to show that they are the most evil, but as the rounds progress the audience’s questioning of the foul fiends will narrow them down to just one. Lesser blackhearted baddies will be cast upward to the higher pits. Adolf Hitler, serial killers and the man who writes the NatWest commercials, stand aside, the SF sinners are coming through! [Mavis T. Fairy, Steve Brewster and others]

SATURDAY

10:30am Turkey Reading: The idea is simple enough – somebody reads from the worst ways of putting words together ever thought of. They read until they or you are driven mad, shot in the head or paid to stop. I’ll get my copies of *The Gods Hate Kansas* and *The Lord of the Rings* out now (That will make ’em look up). [Huw Walters is punishment master]

10.30am (Alternative) The Colonisation of New Caledonia Part One: The first of the workshops, this one in two parts. Splitting into small groups and working all together, you have to try to decide how to set up and run the small world of New Caledonia, Earth’s latest colony. Enjoy life in the off world colonies. Start a new life. You have ten years, starting . . . [Ken Walton is your planetary coordinator]

12pm Pseudo-Victorian SF and Steam-Punk: Why has there been a resurgence of interest in the Victorian paradigm in modern SF? Why little gadgets when surely cyberpunk is the way ahead with its speed of light interactions and its proximity to actual technology? This is a chance to see where the Victorian paradigm fits in today. [With Colin Greenland, Marcus Rowland & Mike Birchall]

1:30pm Galactic Empires: So many authors build them, so many authors have them rot away from within or smashed from without. Foundation or Star Wars? The galactic empire is certainly a popular device, but are they really practical? Or do they present less problems that one would think? Go along and give your view. [With Emperor Ken, Lady Jo, Darth Maura and Ambassador Paul]

1:30pm (Alternative) NSSFA AGM: Yes, the acronyms stand for the Annual General Meeting of the National Student Science Fiction Convention. The NSSFA was proposed at MabinogiCon two years ago and exists to try to further links between student SF groups and help start groups where there are none. More exact for the NSSFA will be debated at the meeting. All are welcome for debate, although only delegates from members are entitled to vote.

2:45pm (Alternative) Unicon Variations: Also known as the bid ceremony for next year’s Unicon. So far only one serious bid has made itself known to the committee, which is Bacon (or is that B.A.con or BaCon?) from Cambridge. Please come along and vote, and join whoever wins.

3:00pm The Con Report: Open University Social Studies course module M101 : The Convention. WARNING – This is a very serious item – NOT. [OU Presentation]

3:00pm (Alternative) Alien Workshop: You have three hours, working in groups, to devise a viable alien life form. A briefing, advice and evaluation will be available from our xenobiological expert, Jack Cohen. Prizes may be awarded. [Jack Cohen]

4:30pm As Easy As ABC; Building Kipling's Airship Utopias: There is a wealth of literary treasure that largely goes by unnoticed in daily life. This discussion will look at creating Victorian science fiction settings based upon Kipling's Sf settings and see what results. [Marcus Rowland is prime chrononaut]

6:00pm Guest of Honour Roger Zelazny: Roger does his bit with possibly a talk, reading, interview and almost certainly answering questions from the audience!

7:30pm The Cabaret: Always one of the most popular spots at Lucons, the cabaret will include the School for Villains, the Penguin sketch, a mystery item and whatever else anyone brings along or improvises on the day. Anyone can stand up and do their bit, volunteer now!

9:00pm Space Battle: An SFnal quiz between two mighty space fleets, battling to the last. Each hurls vastly powerful beams of corruscating, incandescent energy at the other by answering fiendish questions in turn, beams and missiles which can only be deflected by the unthinkable force of shields which operate in a similar manner. This war of attrition will continue until one fleet is worn down, unless the rare black-hole powered, planet-sized Mega-Zap missiles are used – risky weapons which could increase the strength of the enemy if all goes wrong. Only the wise will survive. [Intergalactic judge Andrew Adams]

9:00pm (In the Bar) Alien Cocktails: The workshop tradition continues with spirits flowing and bizarrely shaped and coloured bottles everywhere. Discover the true recipe for the Pan-Galactic Gargle Blaster.

10:30pm Ghost Storytelling Session: As the convention approaches midnight, be chilled by the stories related. If you have had a paranormal experience then tell us about it. If you haven't – make one up. [H.P. Lovecraft]

SUNDAY

10:30pm This Immortal: A panel in which immortality should be seen as a football that we are going to kick about and play around a bit with. The idea of immortality is as old as the written word – the oldest known book is the story of Gilgamesh, two-thirds god, one third man, who seeks immortality. Gilgamesh is driven to despair; do all 'mortal immortals' go mad? Many devices offer immortality, come along and we'll try some of them out. [Roger Zelazny, Helen Steele, Barry Traish]

10:30am (Alternative) The Colonisation of New Caledonia Part Two: The workshop concluded.

12:00pm Victorian SF: The Victorian era gave us science fiction in a way that made prior times look only sparsely coloured with it. Jules Verne, H.G. Wells, Bulwer Lytton and a great many others less well known are the shoulders upon which the writers of today stand, although many do not acknowledge the debt and even more do not realise it. Come back to a time when your great grandfather was young . . . [With Mike Birchall]

1:30pm Guest: Colin Greenland: Colin will be reading from his latest novel, *Harm's Way*, and perhaps answering some questions about himself and the world around him.

1:30pm (Alternative) Cluedo: The Next Generation: Ensign Wesley Crusher has vanished, and although many people are relieved, an official investigation must take place. Mr Data concludes that Wesley can have only been murdered, but the whole crew have broken down and confessed! Data will try to find the real killer so that he or she can get the medal and promotion they deserve. Was it Gene Roddenberry in the holodeck with a cliché, or Picard in his cabin with a dilithium crystal? Come and play. [Starring Paul Cooper as Mr Data]

3:00pm Matt's Seven: A new twist on quizzes where there is not always a set answer, but where you can be creative and use what you do know, rather than lose through what you don't. Can you name seven novels by Roger Zelazny? Seven types of ship in Star Wars? Seven Dracula movies? Seven sins? The evil question master has many more than seven questions! [Matt Farr]

3:00pm (Alternative) Victorian Gadget Workshop: Design your own useless gadget, in teams, to try to win the splendiferous prize, to be presented

immediately afterwards (at the closing ceremony). To start you off, here are some (genuine) recent US patents: Combination deer-carass sled and chaise-longue; eyeglass frame with adjustable rearview mirrors; simulated firearm with pivotally mounted whiskey glass; and a fluid operated zip.

4:00pm (Venue to be announced) Mad Hatter's Tea Party: A little tea party with free tea and biscuits. Fancy dress optional.

4:30pm The Hack's Revenge: Hacks are people who write because they are paid money for it, or some similar reason, rather than from a love of writing. Do authors start as hacks or do they become them? This panel will be comprised of a mixture of fans, some of whom are 'hack' writers and some who are not. Neither of them wrote this programme item description! [Jon Foster]

6:00pm The Closing Ceremony and Business Meeting: Where we say thank you to the guests and to everyone who has helped and just turned up and you roast us alive for everything we did wrong. Unicon 15 please take note!

Wandering Panel: The Prisoner Panel: A wandering panel will exist, ready to hijack any other panel that just doesn't get an audience. One person in the audience doesn't count. Some Prisoner episodes will be shown in the video room so no one need feel excluded. [CIA]

VIDEO PROGRAMME

Videos will be shown in the video room around the clock from when the con starts. There will be TV series episodes, films, and cartoons to keep the schedule correct. There will also be at least one reshow slot, where the items that you have voted for will be shown again (presumably because you missed them the first time). Please see the door of the video room for details of what is on and how to vote.

GAMES PROGRAMME

There is no fixed programme for games, but various LRPs and board games will be played throughout the convention. Gamers may be asked to vacate the gaming room after 11pm.

UNICONS

Year	Name	Venue	Guest(s)
1980	Unicon 80	Keele	Harry Harrison
1981	Unicon 2	Keele	John Sladek
1982	Unicon 3	Keele	Richard Cowper
1983	Unicon 4	Essex University	Ian Watson
1984	Oxcon	St. Catherine's, Oxford	Brian Aldiss
1985	Camcon	New Hall, Cambridge	John Christopher
1986	ConSept	Guildford, University of Surrey	Tanith Lee
1987	Connote8	New Hall, Cambridge	Geraldine Harris Diana Wynne Jones
1988	Wincon	King Alfred's, Winchester	Patrick Tilley Geoff Ryman Michael de Larrabetti
1989	uNIcon	Queen's University, Belfast	Harry Harrison Terry Pratchett James White Will Simpson Ian McDonald Iain Thomas
1990	Uniconze	New Hall, Cambridge	Barrington J. Bayley Lionel Fanthorpe Dave Langford Bill Sanderson Ian Watson
1991	MabinogiCon	Neuadd Rathbone, UCNW Bangor	Anne McCaffrey Gael Baudino Stephen Gregory Agnieszka Sylwanowicz
1992	Scone	Clyde Hall, Glasgow	Iain Banks Anne Page
1993	Lunicon	Leeds University	Roger Zelazny Mike Scott Rohan Colin Greenland Jack Cohen

OLD AND NEW

THE UNICON CHARTER

Insofar as it has been deemed necessary to perpetuate the Unicon series of science fiction conventions the following regulations are presented to distinguish these conventions from similar events.

(1) They shall bear the name Unicon and have a consecutive numbering or year suffix as all or part of their title.

(2) They shall be held in residential establishments of higher education, and shall use the accommodation and facilities there provided.

(3) The site of the convention shall be decided at the previous Unicon in a properly conducted business session or, failing this, by the Unicon steering committee.

(a) Bidding session

(i) All potential bidding committees who have made their presence known shall be invited to present their bid for a period not exceeding one half hour, except where only one exists in which case the time limit shall be set by the current Unicon.

(ii) Voting will be carried out by any reasonable means determined by the current Unicon committee.

(b) Steering committee

(i) This shall be responsible for the maintenance and amendment of this charter, the administration of excess funds should no convention win the bidding ceremony, and shall act as arbitrator should disputes concerning Unicon arise.

(ii) Each past and present Unicon committee shall nominate one member of the steering committee.

(iii) The acting chairperson of the steering committee shall be the member nominated by the current Unicon and his functions will include: notifying steering committee members of transferring of excess funds from his convention, notifying all potential convention bids of these regulations, and providing for each member of the steering committee and for both the treasurer and chairperson of the next Unicon an accurate statement of accounts for his convention.

(iv) The voting membership of the steering committee shall be the nominees of the last seven Unicons. A quorum shall consist of four voting members, and decisions shall be taken by a majority of the voting members, whether or not present at the voting meeting. Meetings of the steering committee shall be notified at least one month in advance to all members of the steering committee, whether or not they are voting members. A meeting shall be held at Unicon, and a written undertaking required by clause (7) shall be the notice of this meeting.

(4) The surplus funds from a Unicon convention shall be disposed of as follows:

(a) Where the sum does not exceed £200 the surplus shall be passed within a reasonable time to the convention that wins the bidding ceremony.

(b) Where the sum exceeds £200, 50% or £200 (whichever is the greater) shall be passed on as in 5a and the remainder shall be disposed of as the convention committee sees fit in a manner to benefit fandom, subject to the approval of the steering committee.

(c) Where no convention bid has been successfully made for the coming year the surplus funds shall be passed to the steering committee within a reasonable time.

(5) The convention shall be insured:

(a) Against loss of, or damage to, its property and that for which it is legally responsible, including building, machinery, plant, fixtures and fitting provided by the management of the venue for the purpose of the convention.

(b) Against loss resulting from cancellation, curtailment, postponement or abandonment in whole or in part of the convention, the non-appearance of a principal speaker or failure of the convention to vacate the premises at the termination of its tenancy.

(c) So as to be legally indemnified for all sums which the committee shall be legally liable for arising from bodily injury and property damage to employees and the general public arising out of an occurrence in connection with the convention.

(6) The convention committee shall undertake:

(a) To be liable for any deficit arising from their own convention.

(b) To cover any debts occurring in connection with any past Unicon which no longer holds funds, providing such debts do not exceed the value of the funds passed to them by the previous Unicon or by the steering committee.

(7) The convention committee shall agree to abide by the regulations presented in this document, and shall send a written letter undertaking to this effect (signed at a minimum by the chairman, secretary and treasurer of the convention, or the equivalent posts) to each member of the steering committee. Ambiguities and disputes arising from these regulations shall be settled by the steering committee in light of common sense and with a view to the continuity of the Unicon series.

Members of the steering committee (non-voters bracketed)

Barry Traish
Alastair Wheeler-Reid
Ivan Towlson
Rhodri James
Tommy Ferguson
Mike Cheater
Mike Abbott
(Caroline Mullan)
(Tim Illingworth)
(Hugh Mascetti)

(Alex Stewart)
(Jan Huxley)
(Chrissie Pearson)
(John Fairey)



Highly Schematic Map