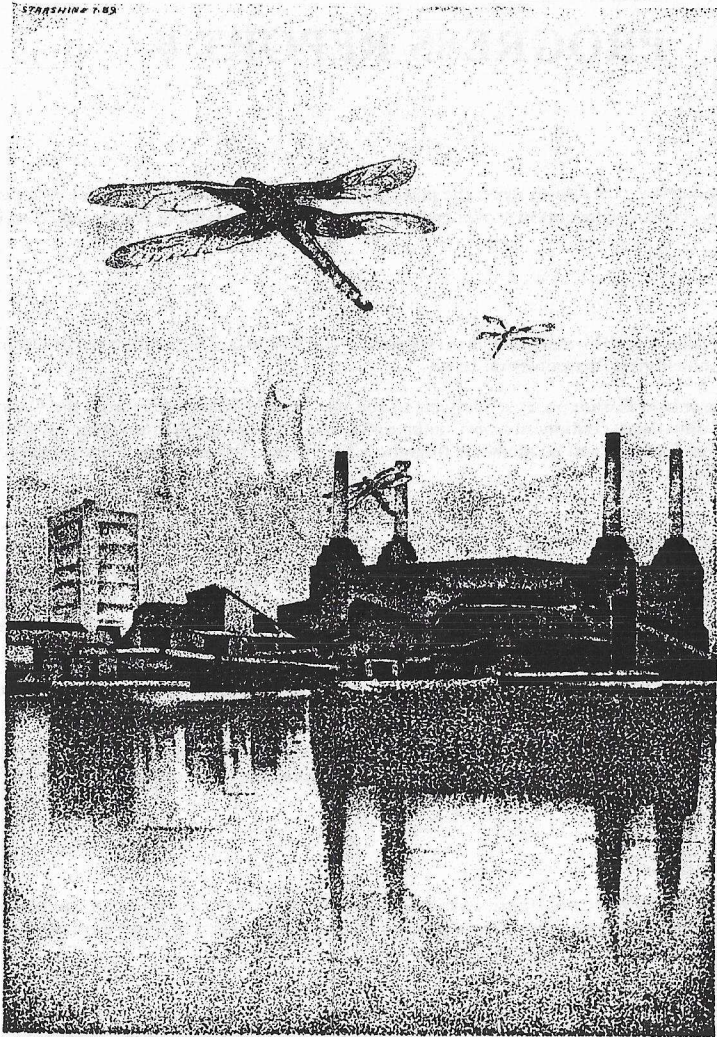


CONTRIVANCE



PR 6

PROGRESS REPORT 6

Just when you thought it was safe to open the post again, another Contrivance publication appears. Rest assured, however, the convention is over and this isn't some device to make you pay all those bills twice.

Membership

The final membership was 1033, including all presupporters and soft toys. 775 people actually attended the convention and enjoyed themselves on Jersey.

As the first off-mainland Eastercon, it is gratifying to see that we had 52 members from the Channel Islands, together with a large contingent from Continental Europe (including 36 from Germany, 18 from Holland and 7 from Finland) and 20 members from the USA. At last, British fandom does seem to be becoming more international.

Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust

Gerald Durrell's JWPT was the convention's official charity, and we have so far raised £1,000 for them raffles, collections and the commissions on the auctions. Contrivance will be making a further donation out of our profits, and no doubt many of our members will continue to support this worthwhile cause.

The money that we have given is being used for the restoration of Round Island near Mauritius, an island whose ecosystem was nearly destroyed by settlers and their livestock. It is a salutary example to whoever meets extraterrestrials first - make them leave their goats inside their flying saucers!

The visit to Jersey Zoo on the Wednesday after the con was extremely successful. About 120 of the discount vouchers were taken on the door, and it was virtually impossible to move for the fannish hordes in the afternoon.

The Eastercon Awards

In the absence of the BSFA awards, these awards were presented by the convention for the pleasure given over the previous two years. There was a good-sized vote, and the presentations were made after the Sunday evening banquet. The winners were:

Long Text
Short Text
Dramatic Presentation
Artwork

The Discworld books (Terry Pratchett)
The Drabble Project (Rob Meades, David Wake & Roger Robinson)
The Conspiracy Fireworks (Armageddon Engineering)
The Discworld covers (Josh Kirby)

Although the awards were intended as a once-off, they were generally well received and the committee is considering whether they might be continued at future Eastercons.

Reviews

And now, as part of Contrivance's on-going campaign to resurrect the con-report as an art-form, a few people's impressions of the convention.

Dave Langford

Ah Contrivance, I well remember that fun-drenched time. Everyone who was anyone was there. The things H.G.Wells got up to amongst costumed female fans cannot be repeated for fear of libel suits, but how we all laughed when good old H.P.Lovecraft ate the Hotel de France out of ice-cream. As Jules Verne quipped to me while furtively spiking Cliff Simak's mint julep with absinthe "*Merde!*"

What else? Cyrano de Bergerac didn't appear much on the programme having spent his time sightseeing around the locations of the TV series they'd named after him. James Blish held everyone fascinated for an hour with his plan to adapt *Finnegans Wake* into a Star Trek movie. "It must have been brilliant," Doc Smith said afterwards, "I couldn't understand a word." Then the whole Fan Room party went roaring upstairs: Bob Heinlein had gone to bed early and we chorused "Spung! Spung! Spung!" outside his room until in crusty but lovable way he started blowing holes through the door with a Lee Enfield rifle -- how we all laughed.

It was Phil Dick who late one night passed me a very strange cigarette and said, "But you're not here."

"Neither are you," was my shrewd repartee.

Borrowing John W.Campbell's future-scanner apparatus, we checked on the forth-coming issue of the fanzine *Conrunner* and found a letter bemoaning the absence of many other named authors.

"It hasn't occurred to some of these fans," said John Wyndham, "that most full-time British SF authors except me and Pratchett are pretty bloody broke and rarely travel far to cons, while the only snag about this wonderful and deservedly praised Jersey venue is that it discourages the cheapskates who usually share a car or pop in just for one night."

"It'll all be the same in a million years," slurred Olaf Stapledon, who was pissed.

We went on and had a great if low-budget time, and hope you did too; but if any more crummy little fan politicians mention the word "boycott" we are going to scream, do you hear me, *scream*.

Meanwhile, I wish I had space to tell you the one about Mary Shelley tried connecting a nine-volt battery to this very tall and very drunk member of the Technical Ops crew, who lurched appallingly erect and gazed at her with watery speculative eyes. Or how George Orwell booked into Room 101 and found that it did indeed contain the worst thing in the world, being the manager of the Brighton Metropole Hotel...

Next time I hope to arrange matters so that my anecdotes will be more reliable (though not much). See you there.

IT JUST PASSED BY - Mike Abbott

Contrivance was one of those conventions where...

The one thing that sticks in my mind about Contrivance...

Every so often, there's a convention that...

What summarised my Contrivance was...

Well, there was a chocolate shop. I remember that, even though I never went into it. And there were some people, and some programme items, and some sleep (though not very much) and some seasickness, and then Rob came along six months later and asked to write down something about Contrivance for him.

And if there's one thing I've learnt about conventions, it's that they're not very conducive to the operation of short-term memory. I (usually) enjoy (most of) them, but a few months after Follycon, I met someone who said how much he'd enjoyed Follycon, especially Terry Pratchett's after-dinner speech. This sort of thing is always music to my ears, except when the item singled out is one that happened at the previous Eastercon, Becon.

So at this time interval you'll have to excuse me if I'm a little vague. Of the things listed above, I can pin down the seasickness as specifically Contrivance (and rather unfairly, really, as everything else was a whole lot better), but the others?

Well, I remember the architecture. Huge, magnificent arched rooms, with bronzed mirrors, ceilings with detailed cornices, and playing cards stuck thirty feet above the floor. That certainly seemed appropriate. And I still have some of the chocolate, bought from the slab, unsullied by filling or decoration. When the time is right, I'll face off against that chocolate. And there were the extra few days at each end of the holiday when a lot of people were hanging around with nothing special to do. That was good too. And I was on the "Linda-Clare and four beards" panel, which I think was a whole lot safer than being in the audience. And I had an individual scavenger hunt. And I heard Steve Davies telling Paul Dormer "I might as well panic with a radio as without one" in tones of purely reasonable explanation. And lots of other really impressive stuff happened, including all the things I missed that other people went to and told me were great. Ha. What should they know.

In this particular case, my problems made worse by the fact that I've already done the con report for Contrivance in advance. OK, so I didn't notice Jerry Cornelius on Jersey, but apart from that? (oh, and by the way, all characters used without the permission of Michael Moorcock, even Steve Davies and Paul Dormer. Sorry.)

The trouble is, that I'm trying to describe a cake by listing its ingredients. Everything that happened to me at Contrivance was part of Contrivance itself, but the total was a separate thing again. As far as I'm concerned, trying to write out what happens at a convention by describing events, especially in any kind of linear sequence, probably a waste of time and is certainly missing the point (though what the hell, I've been wrong before). You'd get a far better idea of what a convention--especially a large and long-lasting one like Contrivance--is really like by just writing down a few memories and trying to convey the pleasurable confusion of it. Even that wouldn't do much good. Conventions are all a state of mind, a way of thinking and feeling. Some day, they may manage to bottle up the sort of thing they are, and sell it as a drink.

As Jerry Cornelius would say:

"Tasty."

Neil Every

It was well over a year and a half ago that I first heard that a Science Fiction convention would be held in Jersey over the Easter weekend of 1989 and it was an event which I knew would be something unique to Jersey. I often consider living in Jersey to be an incredible disadvantage because normally (as far as Science Fiction goes) there is nothing in Jersey except for a solitary Sci-Fi shop nestling in the back streets of St. Helier. I was therefore very excited at the prospect of a Sci-Fi Con in Jersey - I wasn't going to be disappointed either.

I class myself as more of a media related Sci-Fi fan and my favourite Sci-Fi is Doctor Who and so it was with some trepidation that I looked at the programme of events and noted the relatively small amount of media events. Now I realise that my initial fears were completely unfounded because despite the enormous amount of events which were completely new to me, I still found the entire event extremely enjoyable. I think the sheer scale and variety of events is what made Contrivance the success that it was - there was literally something for everyone. The programme was arranged exceptionally well with serious talks (such as 'Preserving the Future' by the Jersey Wildlife Trust) interspersed with the not so serious (such as 'Linda and the Four Beards!'). Before Contrivance (I am ashamed to admit) I had never heard of most of the principal guests (another reason for my initial trepidation). However, the guests proved to be friendly, entertaining and interesting. Contrivance has been good for me because since then I have broadened my reading from 'Genesis of the Daleks' etc. to include 'Dragonsong' etc. (Anne McCaffrey) and 'The Centauri Device' etc. (M. John Harrison) - books I have enjoyed immensely. As well as an impressive guest list from a variety of mediums there was also a good variety of films. Everything from 'Howard the Duck' to 'The Princess Bride'. For me the "highlight" of the event (and I'm sure for many others too!) must have been the Sci-Fi event of 1989, yes, you guessed it - I can only mean 'Moontrap'! All I can say about it is that I know how the person who replaced the 'T' of 'trap' with a 'C' on one of the posters must have felt!

Of course, a large variety of events and a good guest list doesn't make a superb convention - it needs to be tied together by good organisation. Before Contrivance I had only been to one previous convention. This was Panopticon IX arranged by the Doctor Who Appreciation Society and comparing this event with Contrivance, the latter outshines on just about every level. PANopticon started nearly forty five minutes late (a trait which continued with many of the events), the programme kept changing, the Stewards (normally there to help you) were rude to some people and the actual convention booklet consisted of some sixteen poorly produced, photo-copied pages. I think I'd be hard pushed to name any Contrivance event which was more than ten minutes late. All the organisers etc. were extremely helpful and methodical and the convention package included badge, programme booklet, an 80 page programme description (printed on glossy paper and packed with information), maps, guides - in fact just about everything one could possibly need (bar a kitchen sink!). I think the most significant thing about Contrivance was the price. Panopticon cost £29.90 for two days. Contrivance cost £21 for four days... certainly an interesting comparison. Of course, Contrivance didn't have to pay huge copyright fees to the BBC etc. (something which can boost a Doctor Who convention's budget quite considerably) but taking into account the cost of the Hotel de France, its staff, printing of the programmes etc. I still think Contrivance was very good value for money. There certainly wasn't and 'Con' in Contrivance.

Generally, I had a great weekend and the convention was a completely new experience for me. From what I experienced I'd say it was a success. I hope it was enough of a success to warrant a return to Jersey sometime in the future. I think I can speak for all of my friends in Jersey who attended by saying that should Contrivance ever return then we shall certainly be there. Thanks for a great time!

Helen Wake

Allow me to list for you my favourite bits of Contrivance.

The Drabble workshop, where I heard lots of new drabbles, and had my ego massaged by being told by a fellow writer that Rose Brut was their favourite out of the first book.

The co-operative games workshop, where a bunch of extremely friendly people took the whole thing out of my hands and into their own (which is precisely how it should be).

The safer sex workshop, where I found out some things I didn't want to know, about AIDS, and about me. Thanks to Linda Morgan for making it fun as well as instructive.

The poetry workshop, where I rediscovered how little I know about poetry - and how much I like it - and how well science fiction and poetry work together. Thans, Kenneth Bailey, Mike Whittaker, Pete Garrett, Cardinal Cox, and others.

Thing, John Crowley, where I discovered I'm not the only one in the world who's interested in learning the Art of Memory (possibility for a future workshop?).

Actually, that tells you much more about me than about Contrivance, since it's all minority interest stuff (whether it should be or not). As for the mainstream - well, here I picked very carefully, and while I may have missed some goodies, at least I didn't turn couch-potato. Terry Pratchett's speech was excellent. So was Anne McCaffrey's. I discovered how much fun awards ceremonies can be when someone you know and like is up for some of the goodies. Ditto the Masquerade (although the struggle of getting costumes to Jersey seems to have lead to many people giving up on the whole idea).

And the bad news?

The toyboy disco showed the usual problem. Something half decent would be playing. Someone would take it off and try half a dozen tapes to find something else half decent, but faster/slower/heavier. Someone else would take that off, and search desperately for something slower/heavier/faster. I remember one fan room disco (at a Novacon, I think) where someone brought a tape of really excellent music, and would allow nothing else to be played. Bliss, joy, etc, etc. Future organisers of fan-room discos, please note. Invite a strong-minded amateur DJ with good taste in music. (Professional DJs, in case you're wondering, talk to much. And usually have dreadful taste in music to boot.)

The filk-singing came to symbolise for me the essence of a particular con experience. You know the one: fun is being had, somewhere round the next corner, on the floor below, or perhaps the one above, fun is being had by other people - and you can't get there. And when you do get there, suddenly everyone packs up and moves on. Ah, well, what con would be complete without it?

The final word? If there was another con in Jersey, I'd pack my bags, book my seat on the plane (really - it's not that expensive, and soooo easy!) and be off like a shot. And if the same committee is planning any more cons - count me in.

And Now All This...

Would we go back to Jersey? Yes, definitely, but not with another Eastercon (yet?). The result of this is Soupecon, a totally different convention at the Hotel de France. Scheduled for October 1991, it will run one programme stream only, and aims to get about 150-200 people. The committee is Tim Illingworth, Roger Perkins, Gytha North, Richard Rampant, Ben Brown, Karen Naylor, Martin Easterbrook, Steve Bull and Ruth Le Sueur. Details available from 63 Drake Road, Chessington, Surrey KT9 1LQ as usual.

ACCOUNTS SUMMARY

INCOME	
Membership	£14146.50
T-shirt profit	£234.82
Badge Sales	£114.45
Advertising	£949.00
Interest	£129.59
Book Room	£320.00
Art Auction	£142.00
Staff collection	£275.00
Misc	£34.21
TOTAL	£16,345.57
EXPENDITURE	
Bid	£68.30
Publicity	£221.45
Printing	£2637.73
Postage & Stationery	£833.93
Films	£1195.77
Guests	£1563.10
Art Show	£93.45
Fan Room	£150.00
Workshops	£38.80
Drinks	£779.68
Badges	£110.48
Insurance	£330.00
Equipment	£2449.69
Gratuities	£610.00
Prizes	£211.16
Creche	£85.64
Expenses	£414.30
Transport	£1660.78
Miscellaneous	£186.58
Newsletter	£474.55
Hotel facilities	£922.50
Gopher Party	£359.37
Banquet	£252.77
Committee meal	£205.09
Conclusion	£59.00
TOTAL	£15,914.12
PROFIT TO BE DISTRIBUTED	£431.45

Notes:

1. Advertising income to the value of £125 is still outstanding.
2. The costs of printing and distributing this PR are not included.
3. The Committee met in full their own expenses for the convention, and for almost all preparatory visits.
4. Conclusion was a meeting after the con to ascertain what lessons could be learned, and to which the committee of several other cons were invited.
5. The Committee meal, now traditional for a con which has the funds available, was Thai.
6. A final decision on disposal of the surplus funds has not yet been taken, but in principle will be for fannish/conrunning purposes, and/or Jersey Zoo.

FUNDS RAISED FOR JERSEY WILDLIFE PRESERVATION TRUST.

Pre-convention raffles & collections	£182.32
Mah Jong fortune telling	£7.18
Convention raffle	£293.48
Book Auction, commission & donations	£235.25
Programme Book cover original	£110.00
Collection boxes	£39.33
Turkey readings	£135.00
TOTAL	£1,002.56

Contrivance is delighted to have raised so much money for such a worthwhile cause; we understand that it will go towards a project to restore the ecology of a small island off the coast of Madagascar.

We would like to thank you all for contributing so generously, and also to thank our fund raisers for their efforts. You may also be interested to know that about 200 fans visited Jersey Zoo during their stay, thereby making a further contribution.

Contrivance

Membership List - from the Souvenir Book list to the end of Con- trivance.

837a	Martin Ableman	978b	Sebastian Frisch	951a	Richard Middleton
913a	Mark Adams	864a	Nigel Furlong	905a	Robert S Miller
975a	Paul Adams	850a	Kathy Gale	887a	Seb Morris
1037b	Aggro	855a	Joe Gibbons	835a	Chris Mugridge
860a	Gill Alderman	1003a	Anthony Gilbert	829a	Shaun Herman Murrant
859a	John Alderman	845a	John Gilbert	1031a	Carl Paul Murray
884a	John Alexander	925a	Bruce Glassco	841a	Joseph Nicholas
899a	Elisabeth Amy	914k	Mark Gonsalves	838a	Mick Norman
823a	Huseyin F Angay	950a	Alan Gouffini	874a	Simon O'connor
893a	John Annas	873a	Stefan Gough	857k	Rachel Oakley
883f	Emily Avery	942a	Horst Grimm	856a	Ray Oakley
882f	Stan Avery	947a	Oliver Gruter	858k	Robert Oakley
945a	Aileen Banks	958a	Will Handrich	964b	Jonathan Oborn
886a	Julia Bateman	840a	Judith Hanna	966a	Al Palmer
853a	Deborah Beale	881a	Evyvan Hartman	992a	Jill Palmer
1025b	Rupert T Bear	894a	David Hartwell	1041a	Ronnie Palmer
1004b	Winston Bear	895f	Patricia Hartwell	1040a	Ian Parker
1000a	Ian Bellamy	872a	Marcus Horniman	861a	Harry Payne
867a	Michele Benjamin	901a	Simon Hicks	959a	Wanda Pease
1007a	Jancella Bishop	885a	Craig Hilton	817a	Leena Peltonen
989a	B A Blackburn	816a	Juhani Hinkkanen	843a	Joan Percy-Davis
1018a	Gavin Booth	814a	Armin Hofmann	1021b	Jim Pig
987a	Aaron Bowey	1029a	Clive Holloway	1026a	Jacques Post
985a	Simon Bradshaw	879k	Leo Horsfield	997a	Steven Milo Prosterman
907a	Alan Braggins	878a	Mary Horsfield	969a	Spencer Pryor
844a	Emily Louise Brooks	877a	Michael Horsfield	982a	Bill Ray
932b	Bruce The Worried Koala	880k	Simon Horsfield	892a	Dave Roberts
927a	Colin Brush	976a	Ian Houston	1009a	Sylvia Robertson
890a	Brian Burgess	974a	Martin Howell	918a	Deb Rohan
865a	Ian Cairns	983a	Chris Hughes	917a	Mike Scott Rohan
981b	Siobhan Casey	922a	Richard Graeme Humphries	916a	Nigel Rowe
944a	Sheila Cataroche	1017a	Tom Hunter	888a	Anne Rundle
839a	Vanessa Chan	819a	Peter Irving	1020a	J Samuel
1010a	Edward Chick	827a	Eeva Jaeger	995a	Stuart Santos
986a	Dave Clements	912a	Stephen Jeffery	941a	Denis Scheck
906a	Gillian Collins	832a	Stephen Jones	920a	Elizabeth Shaw
891a	Graham Connor	836a	Dick Jude	919a	Norman Shorrocks
869a	Dennis Cooper	930a	Molle Kanmert	896a	Johanna Simisalo
847a	G. Cowie	928a	Michael Kempster	921k	Dennis Skinner
1028a	Janette Cowie	915k	John Kilgour	1015a	C.R. Slous
1036a	Janette Cowie	960a	David Kinnaman	1001k	Alfie Smith
1012a	Simon Crick	929a	Jutta Klumpp	852a	Chris Smith
946a	James Crook	972a	Michael Kowalski	831a	Lisa Smith
849a	John Crudgington	970a	Richard Kubler	851a	Lick Smith
871a	David J Curry	818b	Kus-Kus	820b	Nuke Smythe
889a	Phillip D'Orleans	963b	M Le Chameau	984a	Simon Spero
939a	Andrea D'Ulivo-rogers	923a	Alan R Le Couteur	968b	Squiggle
910a	Miguel Da Silva	962a	Kevin Lewis	977a	Gavin Standen
868a	Hermi Dauker	938a	Vena Lidbetter	955f	Doreen Stannard
1027a	Andrew Davey	998k	Micky Lightsey	956k	Nicola Stannard
1033a	Andrew Davey	979a	Sheila Lightsey	957k	Olivia Stannard
909a	Bobby Davey	908a	C Livingstone	954a	Tim Stannard
825a	Fiona Davy	854b	Llewellyn	815a	Nicole Steck
824a	John Davy	993a	Mark Loane	900a	Kevin Stuckey
846a	Martyn Dawe	1022a	Craig Lockley	842a	Lesley Swan
848a	Julia De Mario	925a	Martin Lodewijk	1030a	Andrea Swinsco
948a	Roger Dearnaley	1034a	Susan Loughlin	1019b	T.D.
822a	Christopher J Denman	903a	Gary Loveridge	826a	Eeva-Liisa Tenhunen
934a	Mark Dickinson	953a	J Lucas	1008a	Bernie Thompson
1002a	Isla Donaldson	937a	Friend Of K Macfarlane	965b	Tigger
994a	Mark Drabble	936a	Mrs K Macfarlane	1016b	Edward Ursine
952a	Susan Drazin	988a	Tadgh Macfarlishgh	870a	Ari Veintie
967b	Edward	1011a	John Mainprize	1014a	Richard Vine
996a	Joanne Edwards	828a	Robert Malos	834a	Wendell Wagner Jnr
1039a	J Egge	897a	Hannu Manttari	933a	Alistair Waller
898a	Clair Elliott	1038a	Danielle Mason	1023a	Richard Walsh
949a	Lynne Elson	902a	Sue Mason	991a	Steve Walters
1005a	Ahrvid Engholm	990b	Blue Max	924k	Susan Weston
904a	Jon Evans	833a	Paul J McAuley	943a	Cherry Wilder
935a	Richard Evans	863a	Jennifer McGowan	1006a	Colin Williams
866a	Neil Every	931a	Kathleen McHale	821a	Jean Wilson
1024a	Johan-Martijn Flaton	980a	M McManus	830a	Mary Worthington
926a	Peter Fleissner	862a	Paul McNelis	971a	Alison Wrench
876a	Ian Flower	940a	Laurence Mee	1035a	Alison Wrench
911a	Vicki Lee France	973a	Kenny Meechan	961a	Sam Youd
875a	John Fraser	1032a	Don McIa	999b	Zoe
		1013a	Rudolf Mewes		