

EASTERCON '77

The 28th Easter Science Fiction Convention

8th - 11th April 1977 at the De Vere Hotel, Coventry

Guest of Honour: John Bush

PROGRESS REPORT 4

Our final progress report and in many ways the most important as it ties up all the loose ends - we hope! If you are staying at the De Vere you should have already received your confirmation from the hotel. If not then you should contact the hotel immediately - phone number is Coventry (0203) 51851 - ask for the Head Receptionist, Wendy Mason.

How to get there

Included with this PR you will find a printed information sheet - a publication of the Coventry Information Centre. In it you will find two maps - one showing the main routes leading into the city and one of the city centre. The De Vere hotel is in Fairfax Street next to Coventry Cathedral (approx $2\frac{1}{2}$ " down on the map and $2\frac{1}{4}$ " in from the left).

By train: To get by foot from the station to the hotel, it is quickest to follow the footpath indicated by a dotted line on the map. This crosses the motorway interchange by a system of subways and bridges, and goes up just to the right of the large letter 'M' on the map. Another subway takes you under Greyfriars Road, then you proceed straight ahead and up Hertford Street which is part of the central pedestrian precinct. You will emerge into a small pedestrian plaza, with the Post Office (letter 'H') on your right, a cinema on your left and the National Westminster Bank straight ahead. Bear to the right of the NatWest and you should emerge into Broadgate. Walk up the right side of Broadgate, and turn right along another footpath (the dotted line just above the library). This will take you between the old and new cathedrals and into Priory Street. Turn left, walk down to Cathedral Square and you are in sight of the Hotel.

By Bus: The main bus station is opposite Cathedral Square on which the hotel is situated. You merely have to cross the road.

By Car: Like many large cities there are a number of one-way streets. They are clearly marked on the map. Once you reach the ringway, follow the road signs to "The Cathedral". There is a car park next to the hotel.

Where to eat

The De Vere has two restaurants - their Three Spires restaurant is on the first floor and offers an excellent A-La-Carte menu. The hotel breakfast room - the Terrance Room - on the ground floor serves meals and snacks and is very reasonably priced.

Outside the hotel, Coventry offers a number of eating places to cater for most tastes - a Wimpey bar literally just round the corner plus French, Chinese, Indian and Greek restaurants - all listed in the information sheet enclosed.

On your arrival

If you are staying at the De Vere, book in at reception on your arrival. You will be given your room number and key by the hotel staff. Also in the reception area there will be the Convention Registration Desk. All convention attendees must register here. At the Desk you will be given your badge (which must be worn at all times), programme book and banquet tickets. Attending membership is an additional £2.00, which many of you have already paid - those who haven't paid should pay at the desk on arrival. Banquet tickets will almost certainly be all sold by the start of the convention but we will have a waiting list system in case of any cancellations. If you've provisionally ordered tickets but not yet paid, we suggest you send your money in immediately - otherwise we may have to let your tickets go.

When you've registered and been given your convention literature, you may proceed to your room on the upper floors. It is important that you wear your convention badge when walking around the hotel - it helps the hotel management (and us!) to know who belongs and who needs ejecting. It is particularly important when buying drinks outside normal bar hours - the staff have instructions to refuse anyone not wearing their badge. The registration desk will open at mid-day on Friday and 10.00am on Saturday and Sunday. Please note that cheques will only be accepted if accompanied by a banker's card. The Official Programme will commence at 2.30pm on Friday. The Book Room, the Art Show and the Fan Room will almost certainly be open before this to cater to the needs of those arriving Thursday evening or Friday morning.

If you cannot find anything during the weekend, or if you're not sure on any point - ask a committee member. They will be the ones wearing blue badges as distinct from the yellow ones.

Art awards

A reminder that Ken Slater is again putting up a £10 prize for the best illustration from the DUNE series by Frank Herbert. It can be in any medium. On arrival at the hotel, take your entry to the Art Room and state that it is an entry for this prize.

The Ken McIntyre Memorial Award will be presented at the banquet. This award is for the best illustration to appear in a fanzine during the period Jan 1st to Dec 31st 1976. Artists and editors please note that the original and the reproduction must be submitted together. Again, please state which award it is being entered for when giving it in to the Art Room.

Auctions

As usual there will be a number of auctions scattered throughout the programme. Again, as usual, we are appealing for the donation of material - or on the scarcer items we will sell for you, taking the usual 10% commission, if sold. If you have material to be sold in the book auction, please hand the items to the Registration Desk. The Art Auction will be held on Sunday afternoon - all material put up for sale in this auction will have been on display in the Art Room during the weekend. Bidding sheets will be posted next to each item in the Art Room, so that you may start the bidding and get most of the preliminary bidding over, to save time at the Auction itself.

The Fan Room

With the expansion of conventions has come the growth of the Fan Room. This began as a place in which new fans could be made welcome. This year the designers of the Fan Room are ambitious. In preceding years it has been a small room decorated perhaps with random photos of past conventions. Some fans wanted more, so this year we asked Greg Pickersgill and Simone Walsh to organise and run it. They agreed and came back with six pages of closely typed ideas, all worthy of following up. The converted bedroom we used at SEACON 75 was too small to do Greg's ideas justice so this year it will be held in the Fairfax suite which is large enough to accommodate the full range of their ideas; it has a stage, screen and ample seating space. It may be outside the main hotel entrance (a secondary block approx 15 yards away) but the Fan Room promises to be worth several visits - it may be the only place where you will find a committee member!

Fancy Dress

Saturday night (11.00pm) is the Fancy Dress Parade. To help this run smoothly will entrants please submit their names and details of their costume to a committee member or to the Registration Desk by 6.30pm on Saturday. We are expecting a big turnout this year - for big prizes. Probable categories for prizes will be Most Beautiful, Most Grotesque, Most Authentic, Most Humorous, Best Children's Outfit and Special Award (for any costume not falling into the other categories). There will also be a Grand Award for Best Costume of the Convention.

Special offer

The cover of the Convention Programme Book is a detailed illustration by Brian Lewis. We have had this printed on Tee-shirts of various colours in small, medium and large sizes. Price is £2.00 including post and packing or £1.75 at the convention. We have not had too many done so to avoid disappointment we suggest you order in advance for collection at the convention. That way, if we have a large number of orders there may be time to get extra shirts printed. All orders to Dave Upton. Make an ideal souvenir of the con or present for someone who cannot attend.

Members

Being a list of those people who have registered since PR3.

353 Rob Carter	372 John Newman	391 S Kumar
354 Edgar S Belka	373 Joan Newman	392 Peter Dixon
355 Brian Parker	374 Dave Holmes	393 Det Veasey
356 James White	375 Thomas Tessier	394 Nick Lowe
357 Peter Ellis	376 Julie Davis	395 Martin Hatfield
358 " "	377 Elaine Mathews	396 Mike Skelding
359 George Jones	378 Helen Brown	397 Paneli Roberts
360 Ivan Griggs	379 G Kemball-Cook	398 Annie Mullins
361 Geoff Rippington	380 Andrew Rawling	399 Richie Smith
362 Andy Firth	381 Jackie Smith	400 Hartley Patterson
363 Pamela Firth	382 Alison Leaver	401 D G Thomas
364 John Halliwell	383 Alison Lowe	402 Kevin Morris
365 Phil Winkley	384 David Wingrove	403 Alan Prest
366 Nigel Yates	385 Billy Hall	404 Pat Lennon
367 Ian Trish	386 Yvonne Heather	405 Christine Jennings
368 Anne McCaffrey	387 Don Malcolm	406 Paul Wharrier
369 Tod Johnson	388 " "	407 Kathy Knight
370 Peter R Weston	389 " "	408 Ron Bounds
371 Alan S Dorey	390 Noel Chidwick	409 Bobbi Armbruster

410 Marge Rogers	424 P M Lawrence	438 P Worrall
411 Dave Shaffer	425 D A Hill	439 Greg Johnson
412 Roger Sims	426 Michael Hill	440 Mr Putty
413 Pat Sims	427 M A Thorpe	441 Lisa Conesa
414 Gerald Bishop	428 Mark Woodward	442 Jim Lush
415 Robert Harper	429 A J Boyd-Newton	443 Lenise Cartwright
416 Ake Jonsson	430 Richard Seals	444 James Danly
417 James Goddard	431 Chris Hargrave	445 J Robinson
418 Shaun Cooper	432 K E Barnes	446 Ian Robinson
419 Hugh Herdon	433 Andrea Boicell	447 Josh Kirby
420 Patri Pugliese	434 " "	448 Jackie Wright
421 L Sutherland	435 Sheila Bush	449 Beth Hallam
422 L P Proctor	436 Richard Evans	450 Tim Shackleton
423 Janet Sacks	437 Ralph Jones	

The Committee

Chairman: Pauline E Duncate, 4 Lindswoth Court, Donnyhill Hall Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham B30 3QS

Treasurer: Laurence B Miller, 19 Peartree Court, Bishop Asbury Crescent, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 6UL

Registration Secretary: Dave Unton, 49a Moor Street, Brierley Hill, West Midlands, DY5 3SP

Programme Book & Progress Reports: Rog Peyton, 131 Gillhurst Road, Harborne, Birmingham B17 8PG

Advertising: Mike (Big Oz) Brown, 606 Stratford Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham 11

In addition to the above 5, the following people are helping out by organising specific parts of the convention. They are:

Art Show: Marsha Jones, 25 Mount Way, Bebbington Hall Park, Mirral, Merseyside, L63 5RA

Fan Room: Simone Walsh and Greg Pickersgill, 7A Lawrence Road, South Ealing, London W5

WANTED FOR THE FAN ROOM - Anyone who can provide a duplicator for the weekend, please contact Greg Pickersgill urgently! Phone at Home in evenings & weekend on (01) 568 8174 or at work on (01) 727 3022 Ext 38.