

ILLITERATE

Issue 1

Friday

newsletter@eastercon2017.uk

Innominate: the 68th British National Science Fiction Convention

14-17 April 2017

WELCOME TO INNOMINATE!

We'd like to welcome everyone to Innominate!

Please take a look at your Read Me, where you'll find lots of useful information about the convention that will help you to have a great time this weekend.

Eastercons are run by volunteers, and it's not too late to help out with the weekend: if you've got some spare time, please head along to the Gopher Hole in Sussex and they'll put you to work.

—Steve Cooper

DOCENT TOURS

New to Eastercon? Confused by the layout of the hotel? Want to learn more about how it works? Why not come along to one of our three Docent Tours, all of which will be fully accessible. You can sign up for the tours at Registration.

The tours will be held on:

- Friday at 4pm (Programme focus);
- Saturday at 11:30am (for general Eastercon knowledge); and
- Saturday at 2:30pm (Dealers' Room focus).

AROUND AND ABOUT

The cash machine in the hotel lobby charges £1.99 for withdrawals, but there are free machines at Resort World, which is about ten minutes walk away around the lake. Resort World also has several restaurants, including Nandos, Pizza Express, Patisserie Valerie and many others, and a Holland & Barrett outlet store with a big range of cheap snacks like nuts and dried fruit. If you're after bottled water, Martin's newsagents (in the NEC, on the right-hand wall) sells 1.5L bottles, as well as other drinks and snacks.

—Edwin Hayward

ART TOURS

This year, there are five docent tours of the art show that you can sign up for at Registration:

- *Art Tour with Chris Moore*, a general art tour (Saturday at 10am)
- *Brave New Material World with Sarah Haddock*, which focusses on different materials in the art show (Saturday at 1pm)
- *Art Exhibit Tour with Fangorn*, which focusses on interesting techniques and

features (Saturday at 2:30pm)

- *Weird Art Tour with Robin Stevenson*, which looks at pieces in the art show inspired by or related to weird or surreal art (Saturday at 4pm)
- *Judith Clute's Art Work with John Clute*, which is exclusively about our Guest of Honour's work (Sunday at 10am)

Dawn Abigail will be holding poetry readings next to her pieces in the art show on Saturday at 11:30am.

OTHER SIGN-UPS

At Registration, You can put your name down for Saturday's Kaffeeklatsches and Literary Beers now, and for Sunday's from Saturday afternoon.

You can also sign up for Giulia De Cesare's *Winter Stars Beadwork Workshop* and Geoff Ryman's *SFF Criticism Mini-Masterclass*, both on Sunday, from Saturday afternoon. Sadly, Roz Kaveney's Saturday workshop has been cancelled.

If you'd like to sign up for the *Metal Clay Crafting Workshop*, please go to the London Metal Clay stall in the Dealers' Room.

ART SHOW

The Art Show will be open until 7pm tonight, with the Art Show Reception happening from 8pm to midnight.

On Saturday, it will be open from 9am to 8pm, and on Sunday from 9am to 3pm, after which it will close for the auction. You can collect your purchased art from 6pm to 9pm, and artist pickup will run from 9pm to 11pm and then from 9am to noon on Monday; all artwork must be collected by noon on Monday.

There will be space for young artists (ages 3 to 15) to contribute up to two pieces each to the Art Show. Works can be brought from home or created on-site with materials available in the Art Show.

We are also looking for members aged 6 to 15, who enjoy artwork and would like to form part of a panel to judge the work of our contributing artists: please speak to the Art Show team.

YOUR NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOU!

Please let us know if you have anything exciting, informative or just plain scurrilous for inclusion in the newsletter. You can email us on newsletter@eastercon2017.uk, or you can scribble illegibly on a piece of paper and leave it in the box at Ops.

MANCUNICON SOUVENIRS

If you were a member of last year's Eastercon, in Manchester, please head along to the Mancunicon table in the Dealers' Room and collect your copy of the convention Souvenir Book, which is hot off the presses this weekend.

A brown shoulder bag was left at Mancunicon: if it's yours, please go to the table to claim it.

—Dave Lally

PARKING

If you aren't staying in the hotel, remember that you can get a discounted £9 parking ticket from Ops

ANDROMEDA MEMORIES

If you go to the Porcupine Books table in the Dealers' Room, you'll see a box of DVDs featuring video filmed at the opening of the Andromeda book shop. It's full of familiar fannish faces, and being sold (minimum £1 donation) to raise money in honour of Dave Holmes (his children are planning a memorial plaque in his local pub).

I-SPY AT THE EASTERCON

At your first (or second, ish) Eastercon? Play *I-Spy At The Eastercon*, which you can collect from Registration or the Follycon dealers' table. Spot things around the convention, then head to the Follycon table to claim your special I-Spy badge!

BUT DO YOU NEED YOUR NEWSLETTER?

The increasing use of social media, software like the marvellous Grenadine, and smartphones means that more and more convention goers get their news far more quickly than the convention newsletter can provide it.

On the other hand, not everyone has access to that technology, and even people who do may prefer not to use it at a convention: for them, the newsletter is an important source of convention announcements, information about programme changes, and recommendations of restaurants to frequent or avoid.

We'd like to know what you think: is there still a place for paper newsletters at modern conventions, or should they go the way of the grocer's bicycle delivery service? [*Are we sure that's the best analogy, given that we're ordering Deliveroo for dinner this evening?*—Ed] Please get in touch and let us know what you think!

CONRUNNER CORNER

If you are running a convention function and you need to order anything from the hotel, please do not go to the hotel direct: this will cost us more money! Order via Vanessa May, Hotel Liaison, and she'll sort it out for you. Contact Ops with your request and they will pass it on.

INNUMERATE

Issue 2

Saturday Afternoon

newsletter@eastercon2017.uk

Innominate: the 68th British National Science Fiction Convention

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WE ARE OPEN

Thanks to Dr Emma King, the opening ceremony went with a bang. Also some sudden light, the odd fizz and a lasting miasma of smoke. Dr King rightly judged that fans are as interested in blowing sh*t up as the average eight year-old, and promptly did so, starting with a jelly baby and working up to a paint tin full of flour. Starting the con with a diversion both entertaining and educational went down well, and the front few rows at least will never forget the distinctive smell of immolated gherkin.

—*Jaine Fenn*

BREAKFAST TIME

We have had some questions about the times for breakfast. The piece of paper included with your hotel keycard states the times are Sat-Sun 7am - 11am, Mon-Fri 6:30am - 10am. However, we are informed by the hotel that breakfast on Monday will actually be 7am to 11am since it's Easter.

EGGCELLENT!

The hotel has generously donated one of the decorated Easter eggs in the magnificent display in the

lobby to the fan funds for auction. If you wish to sample this creation from the hotel's pastry chef, come along and bid at the *Fan Fund Auction* on Sunday at 1pm in Earls.

—*Kylie Ding*

SHAMELESS PLUG

Having a good time? Join Follycon, next year's Eastercon in Harrogate. Our table is at the back of the Dealers' Room, concealed behind the vast display of Colin Harris's art collection.

P*SSSED OFF?

Got a complaint? A gripe? Just fed up? There is a daily feedback session at which you can chat with the organisers of this convention, future Eastercons and other conventions. If we can fix it, we will. If not at this convention, then next year. The Sunday session is at 9:30am in Churchill, the Monday session is at 11:30am in Salisbury. Of course, if you have a serious problem that needs fixing immediately, contact Ops or any member of convention staff.

VOTE — USE IT OR LOSE IT!

Democracy. It's not just for Christmas! On Sunday at 11:30am you can vote for the 2019 Eastercon. Come along to the Kings Suite and participate. You can vote for one of the existing bids, or you can bid yourself. If you do want to bid, please contact Steve Davies via Ops or the newsletter before 10am on Sunday.

IPHONE, YOU PHONE

The hotel seems to have some mobile phone blackspots. We currently suspect that either Tech have brought a jammer along or else a leyline runs through Ops, but we're open to suggestions. If anyone can provide a map of signal strength around the hotel, I'm sure we can arrange the traditional prize for a job well done...

MONORAIL! MONORAIL! MONORAIL!

If you want a nano-adventure, you can get to the airport by walking via the NEC to the station and then taking the free, automated monorail. [*Monorail. Monorail!* —*Ed*]

The airport has more food options, including an All Bar One, Frankie & Benny's and an M&S Food.

—*Edwin Hayward*

VOTE (PART 2)

Vote early, vote often and vote in Finland: site selection for the 2019 Worldcon is taking place in Helsinki in August. If you want to send a mail-in ballot, you can talk to the Dublin bid in the Dealers' Room who will arrange to carry ballots for those who have paid the site selection fee.

2001: THE SFACTOR

2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Arthur C Clarke, one of the UK's greatest science fiction authors. To commemorate this, NewCon Press and the Arthur C Clarke Award are collaborating to produce a very special anthology: *2001: An Odyssey In Words*.

The book will feature original stories from some of the biggest names in genre fiction, including past winners of the Arthur C Clarke Award, as well as one story that will be chosen by competition.

Members of Innominate were asked to submit a short science fiction story of exactly 2001 words and a shortlist of three stories was selected from the entrants by Ian Whates, proprietor of NewCon Press, and Tom

Hunter, Director of the Arthur C Clarke Award.

On Saturday at 2:30pm, come along to Churchill to hear the final three stories, after which you can help choose the winner, to be announced during the *BSEA Award Ceremony* on Saturday at 5:30pm.

The successful author will have their story published in the anthology, as well as receiving a generous cash prize of 2001 pence!

DUCK ATTACK!

The convention was rescued from avian invasion yesterday by the quick thinking action of James Bacon, a man born to be a Worldcon Chair [*thanks for the groats, James*]. James leaped upon the feathered invader of the Dealers' Room, wrestling it to the ground and escorting it to its new nest on Guantanamo Lake.

Democracy salutes you, James! We see a great future for you with United Airlines!

PROGRAMME CHANGES

Doctor Who will be finishing at 8:10pm on Saturday evening, so we've moved a few programme items to give you a chance to watch the ending.

Shoreline of Infinity's Event Horizon is now at 9pm.

Anton Marks and Joanne Harris will now be doing

their author readings at 8:30pm.

Saturday Night is Satellite Night has been moved to 9:30pm.

LARGE LUMPS OF METAL

Free to a ~~good~~ ~~bad~~ any home: the newsletter racks, which are otherwise going to go to the metal recycling, if they're very lucky, and landfill if they're not.

FOOD, FOOD, FOOD!

For those who fancy a variety of fannish food, there are full details of the daily menus on offer in the fan lounge on <http://eastercon2017.uk/fan-bar-and-fan-food> right below the offerings of the real ale bar.

The newsletter team went out to Resort World to eat last night. It's about a 10 minute stroll round the lake (in either direction) if you're able-bodied and wearing sensible shoes. It took us a bit longer. There are a number of chain eateries including Nando's, TGI Friday's, GBK, Las Iguanas and others, plus various bars. We ended up at the Robata Bar and Grill. The food was good, mostly Eastern fusion and pretty expensive (no surprise there!) We have a review up on TripAdvisor, but service was extremely slow. We welcome reviews from anyone else who ate out on that side of the lake.

INARTICULATE

Issue 3

Late Saturday

newsletter@eastercon2017.uk

Innominate: the 68th British National Science Fiction Convention

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BSFA AWARDS

Best Novel: *Europe in Winter*, Dave Hutchinson

Best Non-Fiction: *100 African Writers of SFF*, Geoff Ryman

Best Shorter Fiction: 'Liberty Bird', by Jaine Fenn

Best Artwork: Cover of 'Central Station' by Sarah Anne Langton.

Congratulations to all!

HAVING FUN THIS WEEKEND?

Join next year's Eastercon, Follycon. From tomorrow morning the Follycon team will be down in Registration taking your memberships for next year's con. Join before 30 April for the special Early Bird rate.

The winning 2019 bid will take over the Follycon tables in the Dealers' Room. Join early! But join Follycon first.

WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE WAR MUM?

If anyone is looking for a copy of Rob Hansen's BSFA-shortlisted history of UK fandom... ask Dave Langford, who has a couple of spares.



It's Live Action Hungry Hungry Hippos. Of course it is. If you fancy more of this sort of thing, join Lazlar Lyricon III in the Dealers' Room.

GANGWAY!

Those wishing to spectate at the Fannish Olympics event Tech Ops Sprint need to position themselves along the track between Millers and hotel reception; at random times, people weighted with varying amounts of electronic gear may be observed to shoot past at the speed of... a very fast anxious person.

MEMBERSHIP FIGURES

Registration tells us that there are now 930 members at this con. That's a lot of you.

THE BREEZE OF LAUGHTER

It was the year when they finally innominated the Eastercon. On April 14th, the world's great powers came closer to nuclear war than ever before, all because of an obscure island named Cooper Poo. By the time international affairs returned to their normal level, some wits were calling it the most belated April Fool's joke in history. I happen to know all the details about what happened, but I have no idea how to recount them in a manner that will make sense to most readers. *[Quite right—Ed]*

SO WHAT'S WITH PROGRAMME ITEMS ON MUSICALS ANYWAY?

The BSFA hosts an annual lecture at Eastercon by an academic working in an arts or humanities area, as a complement to the George Hay lecture. This year it was the turn of Dr Sarah Whitfield, senior lecturer in musical theatre, talking about the phenomenon that is the musical Hamilton to an appreciative audience. Her lecture set Hamilton in the context of the material that had inspired it, both from hip-hop and musical theatre, and went on to cover the ways in which Hamilton is both revolutionary as a piece of theatre but conservative in the tale it tells about the founding of America. Luckily Dr Whitfield only seemed slightly discombobulated when the YouTube clips she used to illustrate her points became enthusiastic audience singalongs.

— Alison Scott

A SPIKY FAREWELL

Brian Ameringen wants everyone to know that this is the last Eastercon where Porcupine Books will be trading. The internet and catalogue businesses will carry on, so if you love Brian's books, make sure you're on his lists.

MORE TOPPINGS!

The line for Pizza Express in Resort World looks horrendous at times but a special offer may leaven the wait: www.pizzaexpress.com/birmingham-resorts-world/offers
—Edwin Hayward

LIFE ON OTHER EASTERCONS

NASA recently announced that the Cassini probe has discovered evidence of chemical reactions on Enceladus, increasing the possibility that there is life in the oceans there. In the bar last night, some bloke called Dave Clements said that “This discovery does not mean that life exists on Enceladus, but it is a step on the way to that result”, but what would he know about it?

A REMINDER ABOUT WORKSHOPS

A few workshops have sign-up sheets at registration, but for most workshops you can just turn up and join in. If in doubt, check with the workshop organiser.

The Metal Clay Crafting Workshop has only a few spaces left: sign up now before they all go! Speak to Helen in the Dealers' Room for further information - her table is the sparkly silver one.

THE ANSWER

Apparently the number to dial for room service food at the Hilton is...
...42.

So, it may not be the answer to the ultimate question of life, the universe and everything, but it is, at least, an answer to the question of “what shall we do for lunch?”
—David Brider

WE HAVE FEEDBACK!

We were inundated with letters of support about the newsletter. “The newsletter rocks!”, “I use social media but I still like the newsletter”, “it forms a mini souvenir”, and “I used to wonder who Ed was”. [No, really? —Ed.]

WHAT WAS THAT YOU WERE SAYING?

We have hearing loops in both Earls and Kings. Both are in the front half of the room. In Kings it's the right-hand wedge; in Earls it's the left half. People with hearing aids are encouraged to use these areas and let Tech Ops know if there are any problems with them.

HOLD THE FRONT PAGE

For the first time in the 68-year history of Eastercon newsletters, the Gopher Hole reports that it is not desperate for volunteers.

INACCURATE

Issue 4

Sunday

newsletter@eastercon2017.uk

Innominate: the 68th British National Science Fiction Convention

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GROATY

The con seems to have done a really convincing job of making this year's new groat (Gopher Reward Token) design harder to counterfeit. And they're accepted in a very wide range of outlets! Well done chaps.



INTANGIBLE

The earlier issues of the newsletter are now online at <http://eastercon2017.uk/publications>. Sorry it's taken so long; we were navigating Steve Cooper's handy 17-step guide to editing things on the website.

PETER WESTON MEMORIAL

It would be difficult to overstate Peter Weston's influence in fandom. He was the chair of the 1979 UK Worldcon, Seacon '79. His fanzine *Speculation* set the bar for what a critical journal of

SF should look like, and later, his fanzine *Relapse* did the same for fan history. As a co-founder of the Birmingham SF Group he was instrumental in starting Novacon, our second convention series—join Novacon 47 in the Dealers' Room. And he was the man who made the Hugo Award rockets.

There's a chance to remember Peter and swap stories at 4pm today in Churchill.

BIDDING SESSION

There were two bids for the 2019 Eastercon: Confusion, chaired by Richard Stephenson and Ytterbium chaired by Judi Hodgkin. The voting was 5 votes for Confusion, 132 for Ytterbium, 1 for Hold Over and no registered abstentions.

Ytterbium will be at the Park Inn at Heathrow from 19-22 April 2019. Their Guests of Honour are Frances Hardinge, Sydney Padua, John Scalzi and DC. They are at the former Follycon table in the Dealers' Room, but would prefer you to join online at registration.ytterbium.org.uk.

OVERHEARD IN THE BREAKFAST QUEUE

Q. What is the sausage of the month?

A. Small

LATE NIGHT FOOD

They're doing bacon butties and other late-night snacks in the fan bar at about 11:30pm, if you're peckish after a hard evening of drinking.

ANOTHER LL3 PLUG

The Lazlar Lyricon 3 Committee and members flashmobbed the pyjama disco at midnight, dancing to the Disaster Area track "It's only the end of the world again" (the B-side of the 1980s TV theme tune), wearing dressing gowns and wielding towels in Arthur Dent cosplay.

For more silliness, join them from June 9 – 11 in Stoke-on-Trent for LL3. (They have a fan table in the dealers room, or visit lazlarlyricon3.com for more info...)

LOST AND FOUND

Remember that if you have lost, or found, something around the con then you should speak to Ops: they have a few items of property waiting to be claimed.

FAKE NEWS # 1

The piece about the Monorail in issue 2 prompted a mini-adventure. However, imagine my surprise to find that it runs on two rails hauled by a cable. Surely [*Don't call me Shirley—Ed*] that makes it a cable car? It is automatic, though, so still fairly cool.

—Red

FAKE NEWS #2

Tech deny accusations that they are running a mobile phone jammer: “If it was us, we would be asking people to stomp up beer, food or groats to restore the service” said an anonymous spokesperson lurking in the shadows while dressed in black hi-viz.

SUNDAY CONCERT RECITAL

Coming over from Paris especially for this performance we are excited to welcome harpist Pauline Haas and one of the world's leading ondes Martenot players, Thomas Bloch. They have been touring with music from the films of David Lynch and are here today to present music from film and television scores including *Being Human*, *Harry Potter* and *The Fifth Element* [*When did JKR publish Harry Potter and the Fifth Element?—Ed*]. We are particularly pleased to have the opportunity to witness the world premiere of music that Thomas has

arranged and recorded, with David Villeneuve, for *Blade Runner 2049*. We hope you will come along to Kings at 8:30pm this evening to listen and enjoy. Afterwards there will be a chance to meet the musicians.

ART SHOW AWARDS

In the Children's Category:

1. Most Beautiful—Lorelei
2. Best Interpretation of a Cartoon Character—Rosie Joint
3. Most Innovative Interpretation of Alien Vegetation—Tessa Joint
- 3: Best Impressionism—Danny
4. Best 3-D Interpretation of Plant Life—Wren
5. Best Expressionism—Barnaby

Runners-Up:

- The Jackson Pollock Interpretation Award—Minerva
- Most Interesting Planet Design—Alex
- Best Interpretive Engineering—Simon
- Best Use of Colour—Elizabeth

The top five places will need to see Robbie to choose their extra award.

In the Adult Category (in no particular order):

- Best Ink—*Siblings*—Dominika
- Best Oil—*The Green Door*—Margaret Walty
- Best Related Images—*The War of the Worlds*—Fangorn

- Best Innovation: Jewelry—*Malaktavvus*—Freda Warrington
- Best 3-D Fabric—Patch—Sarah Haddock
- Best New Artist—*Infinity*³—Cuil
- Best 3-D—*Witch*—Margaret Walty

KEEPING COOL

The hotel has very aggressive air conditioning; remember to keep yourself well hydrated, especially if you're drinking alcohol, and remember that there is water in the Fan Bar.

PROGRAMME CHANGE

GX Todd's Literary Beer (5pm today) has been cancelled.

HALL COSTUMES

Remember that today is Hall Costume day. You received some tokens in your registration pack that you can give to whoever you think has the best costume. The best costumes will be recognised at the Closing Ceremony on Monday.

NO ROOM AT THE INN

If there are no seats left in a programme item, please do not try to stand at the back. You will be asked to leave.

PRESS GANG

The Royal Manticoran and Grayson Space Navies are recruiting all weekend in the Dealers' Room and around the con. Come and join up and see the known universe with honour!

INCHOATE

Issue 5

Sunday evening

newsletter@eastercon2017.uk

Innominate: the 68th British National Science Fiction Convention

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ARE WE HAVING FUN YET?

Follycon, next year's Eastercon, would like to know what you really enjoyed at Innominate, what you'd like to see more of next year, and also what things you think should be done differently or entirely avoided. You can let them know what you think at 11:30am tomorrow in Salisbury.

LONCON SOUVENIRS

Please help yourself to copies of the full colour Loncon 3 Artist Showcase from the freebie table in the Dealers' Room. Colin Harris really doesn't want to take them home again: he needs the space back for his art collection!

THANK YOU, TECH

At last night's disco, the Tech crew very kindly and accessibly turned off the strobe lights when a member with a seizure disorder wanted to go in for a dance: she thanks you all.

BIRTHDAY GIRL

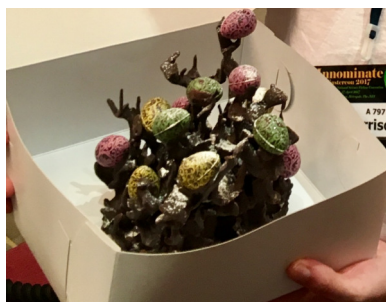
Jackie Burns is celebrating her birthday today: pop into the Dealers' Room and buy some stuff while you wish her a great day.

FAN FUNDERY

The Fan Fund auction raised £1100, of which £900 will be split between TAFF and GUFF and £200 will go to a Lazlar Lyricon 3 travel fund. Thank you to everyone who donated items to the auction, and to everyone who paid good money to take them away again.

Special mentions go to David Haddock, who paid £180 for an original Hitch Hiker's Guide towel, and Niall Harrison, who bid £28 for privilege of ~~nicking~~ selecting an Easter egg from the table in the hotel lobby before bargaining himself up to paying £30 in the end.

Early bets were on Niall choosing the one with mini eggs on, but he eventually astounded pundits by choosing a rather egg-like number on the basis that "it looked like more chocolate." *[It looks more like an alien tree from a pulp SF cover to me—Ed.]*



IN MEMORIAM

We're sad to report that long-time fan Waldemar Kuming passed away on 5 April aged 92.

Waldemar was a prominent figure in German fandom, serving as president of the SFCD (Science Fiction Club of Germany) in the 1960s. He also edited the *Munich Round Up* fanzine for more than fifty years. For many years he was a regular visitor at national and international SF conventions.

In 2005, he was awarded the Big Heart Award. He donated his tape collection of convention recordings (starting in 1959 and including the 1965 London Worldcon) to the SFCD.

He will be much missed by European fandom.

FANNISH RECYCLING

All of the newsletter racks have now found new homes: thank you to the people who're going to take them away to their new homes, and please come to collect them from our office tomorrow afternoon.

SATURDAY NIGHT/ SUNDAY MORNING

The con's Saturday night festivities were centred round the traditional BSFA disco. Events went off with much sound and light and (in the case of your roving reporter) a glorious and unexpected accolade. In addition to the BSFA Awards detailed in the previous issue, Tom Hunter and Ian Whates announced that Allen Stroud will have his 2001-word story included in the upcoming Arthur C Clarke centenary anthology, *2001: An Odyssey In Words*, due out in December 2017. They presented him with twenty quid plus a penny, allowing him to buy a pint for himself and a half for a friend. After a brief media diversion, people donned a wide array of nightwear to dance the night away in, which may have saved some time later.

—Jaine Fenn

RADIO GAMES

The tech crew for *BoyzWest-ZoneLife* are using the same radio frequency as us, even though we were here first.

In the confusion, it appears that Steve Cooper has become an idol to thousands of screaming middle-aged women, all of whom are planning on attending tomorrow afternoon's Closing Ceremony so that they can throw their knickers at the stage.

JAMES BACON'S NEW BIRD

In a follow-up to issue 2's story about the duck invasion of the Dealers' Room, we now have photographic evidence of James Bacon escorting the unclothed young lady in question out of the convention facilities. Thanks to Danie Ware for the photo.



SPEND YOUR GROATS

Remember that some dealers accept groats. If you're wondering what to do with your spares, plenty of people in the Dealers' Room are ready to help you to get rid of them. You can also spend them at the Real Ale bar and in the Fan Lounge, although not at the main hotel bar.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

Ever wondered what the Venus de Milo was doing with her arms? Satellite 6 to the rescue: go to their table in the Dealers' Room and have your picture taken with the 'Venus de Glasgow' to fill in the missing limbs. Wearing the traffic cone is optional. *[No, it isnae!—McEd.]*

This issue was produced by Flick, with help from Jan van 't Ent, Steve Davies and Mike Scott. That there *Boyzlife* gang is holed up in the hills above town. Let's get a posse together and take them out.

DEALERS' ROOM

There's still time to head to the Dealers' Room and pick up a bargain or two: some of the dealers will be offering discounts today, until the room closes at 2pm.

LEY LINE DENIAL

Ops have investigated extensively, and can confirm that there is no ley line running through their office. They point out that there have been mysterious beeping noises coming from the Tech store all weekend, and that Tech issued their denial of responsibility for the mobile phone jamming suspiciously quickly, almost as though they knew about it before it was printed....

MERMAIDS OUT

Please note that the hotel does not allow mermaids in the swimming pool.

Let us hope that no angry sirens will emerge demanding access.

WISDOM AND WIT

The con-goers are now divided. There are those who experienced *Pat Cadigan Explains It All For You*, aka The Enlightened Ones, and everyone else. Amongst the gems Ms Cadigan bestowed upon the assembled acolytes was the observation that "if you're breathing it ain't too late" and the reason she was still among us: "Heaven won't have me and Hell's frightened I'll take over." Then there was the salutary tale of the lost vaginal sponge, with physical demonstration. No one present will forget that in a hurry.

—*Jaine Fenn*

MIDNIGHT AT THE LOST AND FOUND

If you've mislaid anything around the convention, there's a good chance that it will be in Ops: please head over there and check with them before you panic.

CAR PARKING TICKETS

Remember that people who aren't staying in the hotel can get discounted tickets from Ops, which will be staffed until 6pm this evening. After that, you might be able to find someone in the bar.

GET YOUR BOOKS

Copies of the Barcelona Eurocon Souvenir Book are available free from the NewCon Press table in the Dealers' Room. It's got very pretty pictures and is well worth a read.

Remember that members of Mancunicon can still collect copies of that convention's Souvenir Book, and that there are also copies of the Loncon Artist Showcase, amongst other things, on the freebie table for anyone who would like to help themselves.

HELSINKI-BOUND?

Worldcon 75, which will be held in Helsinki from 9–13 August this year, reports strange happenings on the demographic front: they currently have fifty attending members from China, but only forty-five from Ireland.

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR

Next year, we'll all be at Follycon in Harrogate. Remember to join the convention before 30 April, when the prices will go up. You can find the Follycon team in the hotel lobby (or the bar), or sign up at follycon.org.uk.

LAST NIGHT'S CONCERT

In between the various harmonious pieces performed by Thomas Bloch on what might be termed pre-electronic instruments and Pauline Haas on classical harp, there were some explanations about the ondes created by Martenot just after the first world war (with a sound reminiscent of signals to be heard on early days radio), as well as the Cristal Baschet of the fifties (acoustics from metal and glass rods with plexiglass amplifiers as well as a large metal sheet), and the beautiful glass harmonica of the eighteenth century (a turning row of tuned glass cups). I'm sure you can find all that on the internet if you're interested, but I'm also sure you need a virtuoso performer like Thomas Bloch to be able to enjoy the music as we did last night, varying from Chant d'Atalyante (film) to Laura Palmer's Theme (*Twin Peaks*), La lyre d'Ys, Fantasy on themes of Donizetti's Lucia di Lammermoor.

-Jan van't Ent



Thomas Bloch on glass harmonica and Pauline Haas on harp. The ondes Martenot can be seen between them.

*Thomas Bloch on cristal Baschet
(Photos by Jan van't Ent)*



This issue was produced by Flick, with help from Jan van 't Ent and Mike Scott. Fillo by Sue Mason. Ed is dead. Please insert your own joke here in his memory.