

Read Me!

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	10am Pete Weston	10 am Biomimetics
	11am Religion	11am Art Auction
	12am Book Auction	12.30pm Not The Hugos
	1.30pm Nick Pope	1.30pm Small Press
	2.30pm What Disease shall we cure today?	2.30pm Dave Hardy
	3.30pm Ian Watson	3.30pm Being GoH
	4.30pm Centre or Edge of Power?	4.30pm Awards Ceremony
	5.30pm Firefly	
	6.30pm McMasters of the Universe	7pm Beer Tasting & Finnish Food
7pm Opening Ceremony	7.30pm Tony Keen's Radio Play	
7.30pm H G Wells	8.30pm UFOs Again	
8pm Immanion Party		
9pm Concussion/E:D:E:N	9.30pm Worldcon 12 Step Recovery	
9.30pm Room 101	10.30pm Fan Fund Auction	
10.30pm The Annotated Trout	11.30pm Novacon Disco	

Join Interaction this weekend

The Programme

by Yvonne Rowse

[Note: At time of writing, we don't expect any major changes to the programme. Last minute amendments will be announced at the opening ceremony and/or widely publicised both via notices and by the tried and tested method of a man shouting in the bar. More details in programme book.]

Friday

7.00 Opening Ceremony

In which the committee introduce Ian Watson, Guest of Honour, read any important notices and escape as soon as possible.

7.30 Ian Watson

Ian introduces us to H G Wells

8.00 Publisher's Party

Immanion Books, publisher of Ian Watson's most recent book, Mockymen, provide the wine for this party

9.00 Concussion/E:D:E:N

Concussion, the 2006 Eastercon in Glasgow inform us of their plans followed by E:D:E:N, a short Italian film.

E:D:E:N [Italy, 2004]: Fresh from its UK premiere at the Festival of Fantastic Films, this 14-minute SF thriller is a powerful calling card from directors Fabio Guaglione & Fabio Resinaro,

Also - **30-Second Bunnies Theatre**: We're delighted to have several of the American animator Jennifer Shiman's acclaimed remakes of SF and horror classics, re-enacted with bunnies.

Titles and times will be posted outside the main hall. (SG)

9.30 Room 101

Steve Green quizzes Ian Watson about the things he hates most and decides which should be sent to Room 101.

10.30 The Annotated Trout

Long, long ago, in a Glasgow far, far away fans made films. Not videos: films. Now preserved on DVD we present a rare glimpse of fans making complete fools of themselves. Novacon presents three short movies with explanations and apologies by Ian Sorensen. You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll want to buy the DVD and smash it.

Saturday

10.00 Peter Weston, Author

Peter invites you to get up bright and early for his talk about his new book, *With Stars in My Eyes: My Adventures in British Fandom*.

11.00 Religion

A look at religion suggested by Ian Watson. Is it, as he suggests, a specialised psychopathology and do the benefits outweigh the drawbacks? Ian Watson, Mike Siddall, Ian McDonald and Pauline Morgan.

12.00 Book Auction

With our celebrated auctioneers, Chris Morgan and Rog Peyton.

1.30 Nick Pope

Nick Pope used to head the UK's UFO project for the MoD. Why does the MOD have a UFO project? What does it do and what are the most mysterious cases to have been investigated?

2.30 What Disease Shall We Cure Today?

W makes a disease 'sexy' to drug companies/governments etc and asks what are the dangers of neglecting the diseases of the poor. Gwyneth Jones, Julian Headlong, Mike Siddall and Charlie Stross.

3.30 Ian Watson, Guest of Honour

Paul Billinger interviews our Guest of Honour.

4.30 Centre or Edge of Power?

Where's the drama most intense? Is it better for characters to be at the heart of things or eking out an existence on the periphery? Ian McDonald, Charlie Stross, Jon Courtney Grimwood, Andy Sawyer and Dave Hicks.

5.30 Firefly

Margaret Austin, Martin Easterbrook and Tony Berry talk about the best SF series ever.

6.30 McMasters of the Universe

Julia Daly, Julian Headlong and Yvonne Rowse choose their favourite three characters and ask would we have a better social life if Miles Vorkosigan didn't keep dragging us off into a book.

7.30 On the Town with the League of Extraordinary Gentlemen

A radio play for the stage by Tony Keen
Presented by the Turkmenbashi Players

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8.30 UFOs Again

Nick Pope, Ian Watson and Simon Bradshaw debate the UFO question.

9.30 Worldcon - Will 12 Step Recovery work?

Ian Sorensen tries to persuade our intrepid Worldcon representatives to accept that Recovery using his Twelve Step Program is possible. Claire Brialety, Mark Plummer, Alison Scott and Pat McMurray contend that Worldcon is a valuable fannish activity.

10.30 Fan Fund Auction

An Opportunity to take home things that if they didn't exist there'd probably be no need to invent them, and all the more fun for it.

11.30 Novacon Disco

Sunday

10.00 Science Presentation

With Julian Vincent, Professor of Biomimetics at Bath University. The presentation will include some biological mechanisms which are being considered for biomimetic robots for space exploration.

11.00 Art Auction

A chance to take home some of the work you've admired over the weekend.

12.30 Not the Hugos

They've read everything. (Although Julian no longer manages a book a day since he finally bought a TV) Pete Weston and Julian Headlong ask who should have won the Hugos.

1.30 Small Press - Joy of Debt

Is running your own imprint only for lottery winners? Is there more freedom for writers and editors? Rog Peyton, Martin Tudor, Gabriel Strange and Ian Watson share their experiences of the small press movement.

2.30 David A Hardy - Art in Space

Earlier this year, Dave completely revamped this, with many new paintings from his book with Sir Patrick, FUTURES: 50 YEARS IN SPACE. The talk covers the evolution and changes in space art since 1874, with many SF allusions too, and some surprises. . .

3.30 Being GoH

Ian Watson, Jon Courtney Grimwood, Ian McDonald and Gwyneth Jones advise Eve Harvey, next year's Eastercon Guest of Honour, about the fun and pitfalls she can expect.

4.30 Awards Ceremony

In which awards are presented, the raffle is drawn, the Nova Awards presented and the convention is officially closed (until next year), except for...

7.00 Beer Tasting and Finnish Food

The convention winds down with our Guest of Honour's choice of national cuisine and the usual vast range of beers, ales, pop and - um - beverages. Don't forget to buy your food tickets and Beer Badges at Registration!

Dave Lally's Programme

In addition to the highlights above the Dave Lally Programme will run from 4pm on Friday until Sunday afternoon in the Dudley Room (straight down the corridor from Hotel reception, first syndicate room on your left after the stairs); see the flip chart outside for details of what Dave will have on offer.

Food and Drink

Breakfast

Breakfast will be served in the Saddle Room Restaurant (next to the bar) from 8am until 10.30am on Saturday and Sunday, and 7am until 9.30am on Monday.

Lounge (No 10) Bar

Will be open from 10.30am each day and cash and GRTs (Gopher Reward Tokens) will be accepted in payment for drinks throughout the weekend.

Also throughout the weekend Soup & Roll for £1.50 and a selection of filled baguettes (salad & filling) at £2 each will be available from the bar.

Pots of Tea and mugs of Coffee will also be available from the bar throughout the weekend for £1.25 per serving, chocolate bars will also be on sale.

The Hotel have laid on a supply of Black Sheep Best Bitter (3.8% abv) at the special price of £2.15 per pint. In addition the Hotel have arranged a supply of draught Addlestones Cider especially for the con at £2.35 per pint.

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In addition to the £2.15 per pint price for the Black Sheep, special con prices have been arranged with the Hotel for the following: Worthington and Carling £2.15 per pint; Grolsch, Caffreys and Murphys at £2.35 per pint; 10oz glasses of lemonade or coke at 75p each; orange juice and lemonade at £1.50 per pint

Convention Menu

Evening meals will be served in the Saddle Room Restaurant; Lunch time menus in the No 10 Lounge Bar on Saturday from 12.00-14.00, with a limited version throughout Sunday afternoon.

But please note that Sunday Lunch will be available in the Saddle Room Restaurant -- full Roast Carvery at just £6.50 per head.

Friday

From the Saddle Room Restaurant 6pm-8.00pm

Choice of Steak Pie, Vegetarian Curry, Rice/New Potatoes, Carrots, Beans, Salad Bar, Ham & Turkey Platter - £6.00 per person (for one plate & visit to servery) £1.50 extra for dessert (from the dessert "trolley")

From the Saddle Room Restaurant 10.00-11pm

Chilli & Rice £3.50 per person.

From Servery in No 10 Bar Midnight

Bacon, Sausage or Chip rolls/baps/sandwiches £1.50 each

Saturday

From the No 10 Lounge Bar 12.00-2.00pm

Selection of filled baguettes with Salad £2 each Soup & Roll £1.50

Jacket Potatoes & Fillings £2.00 Salad Bar £2.00

From the Saddle Room Restaurant 6pm-8pm

Meat Lasagne / Vegetable Cannelonni / Fries / Peas/sweetcorn .

Salad Bar / Turkey & Beef Platter (for one plate & visit to servery)

£1.50 extra for dessert (from the dessert "trolley")

Or From the Saddle Room Restaurant 6pm-8pm

Salmon Steak £7.50 Rump Steak £8.50 Fillet Steak £9.50

All steaks served with chips, mushrooms and a grilled tomato.

From the Saddle Room Restaurant 10pm-11pm

Curry & Rice £3.50

From Servery in No 10 Bar Midnight

Bacon, Sausage or Chip rolls/baps/sandwiches £1.50 each

Sunday

From the Saddle Room Restaurant 12.00-15.00pm

Roast Carvery Selection / Hot Vegetarian Option

(NB: one course £6.50 per head)

From the No 10 Lounge Bar All afternoon

Selection of filled baguettes with Salad £2 each

Soup & Roll £1.50

(In the King Charles Suite) 7.30pm

Finnish Food will be served in the King Charles Suite but tickets (@ £8.00 per head) must be purchased in advance from the Novacon Registration

Hatch before 4pm on Sunday:

Meat Dishes

Cabbage Rolls

Meatballs

Potato Dumplings

Black Pudding

Vegetarian Dishes

Caraway Cabbage

Savoury Pancakes

Carrot Casserole

Creamy Mushrooms

From Servery in No 10 Bar Midnight

Bacon, Sausage or Chip rolls/baps/sandwiches £1.50 each

General Information

Novacon Registration Hatch

The Novacon Registration Hatch will be open:

Friday: 4pm-6.45pm and 7.30pm-10pm for N33 Registrations ONLY.

Saturday: 10am-3.15pm and 4.30pm-8pm for all Novacon business.

Sunday: 10am-4.15pm for all Novacon business.

From Saturday morning onwards the hatch will be selling: Novacon 34 full memberships at £40 and day memberships at £10 Friday, £20 Saturday and £15 Sunday; a variety of Novacon merchandise and publications from previous Novacons (£2 per set for Specials and Programme Books and a few Novacon 25 T-Shirts illustrated by David A. Hardy for just £10 each!); BEER BADGES for the Beer Tasting (£5.00 per person or your 3 bottles of beer); tickets for the Finnish Food at £8 (on sale until 4pm Sunday); memberships to Novacon 35 (just £30.00 at Novacon 34, rising to £33.00 after the con); raffle tickets in aid of the RNIB's Books for the Blind Project.

Dealers' Room

This is in the King Charles Suite and will be open from 4pm until 6.45pm on Friday, 10am until 3.15pm & 4.30pm until 6pm Saturday and 10am until 4pm on Sunday. Times are subject to change.

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Art Show

In the Sedgley and Brierley Rooms (turn right at Hotel Reception and keep walking they're on your left). Next door in the Netherton, you will find our CD ROM artshow, open from 10am until 3.15pm & 4.30pm until 6pm on Saturday and on Sunday from Sunday from 10am until noon.

Novacon Beer Tasting

As usual at such events we will be running the latest in a long series of Novacon Beer Tastings at the same time as our Finnish Food. This will be using the ever-popular BYOB (bring your own beer) format.

This year the organisers of **Nippon 2007** the 65th Worldcon (to be held in Yokohama, Japan in 2007) have donated a selection of Japanese beers to get the ball rolling, and as usual Novacon will have Sarah Hughes Dark Ruby Mild on draught as well as a few other interesting bottles - the rest is up to you!

To partake of the *beer*, you need to bring at least *three* bottles of your favourite British or foreign beer to the convention and check them in at the Novacon Registration Hatch when you arrive. In return you'll receive a Technicolor "*Beer Badge*" which will entitle you to drink the beer at the Tasting on Sunday. Alternatively, you can also take part by buying a "*Beer Badge*" for £5.00 from the Novacon Registration Hatch.

All Novacon members are welcome to attend the Tasting. The convention will supply an assortment of non-alcoholic drinks at the Tasting, which will be free to everyone, but only those with "Beer Badges" will be entitled to drink the beer and only those with "Finnish Food Tickets" will be able to partake of that culinary delight.

The Beer Tasting will start at 7pm on Sunday in the King Charles Suite. (Finnish Food will be served from 7.30pm only to those people who have purchased tickets at £8.00 per head, see elsewhere for details.) *[Please remember, although we have come to an arrangement with the Quality Hotel regarding the Beer Tasting, this does not extend to you bringing in your own supplies of drink elsewhere during the con. The Hotel can and will charge corkage to people smuggling food or drink into the hotel!]*

Finnish Food

The Finnish Food will be served in the King Charles Suite on Sunday night from 7.30pm, but tickets (£8.00 per head) must be purchased in advance from the Novacon Hatch before 4pm on the Sunday of the con. (In addition, from midnight the hotel will be selling a late night snack of bacon, sausage or chip baps/rolls, @ £1.50 each, to help soak up the beer!)

Gophers

If you *have* volunteered to be a gopher or if you *wish* to volunteer please report to Cat Coast or Chris Murphy in the Ops Room (Hatherton, up the stairs, which are down the corridor from Hotel reception).

R.N.I.B. Raffle

If you wish to purchase tickets for the annual raffle in aid of RNIB's Books for the Blind Project, Anne Woodford will be selling them around the con, but tickets will also be available from the Novacon Registration Hatch -- Saturday onwards. In a change from established tradition, prizes will *not* be given out as the draw is made at the Award Ceremony. Instead prizes will be available for collection from a table set up in the Oliver Cromwell suite *after* the ceremony and winning numbers will be posted on the flip chart near the Novacon Registration Hatch.

We have a wide variety of prizes, which will be listed on the flip chart near the Novacon Registration Hatch from Saturday evening onwards.

Operations

As we are sure you are aware Novacon, like most conventions in Britain, is run by volunteers and we can't have too many of them! So if you are willing to help out at the convention -- anything from moving chairs to helping with tech ops or working on the programme, please contact Cat Coast or Chris Murphy, in the Ops Room.

Operations will be in the Hatherton Room, like last year we shall be operating a fascist 'tidy' Ops Room designated areas for stuff to be stored and no non-essential furniture (or people). However, you will still be able to leave coats and bags in Ops on request and at *your own risk*.

No Smoking

Please refrain from smoking in the Programme & Dealers Rooms, Art Show, and in other designated areas. Please note that the only *smoking* area of the Bar is to the left of the Main Entrance, facing Reception.

Dire Warnings

Please remember that the Quality Hotel is in the business of selling accommodation, drink and food for profit. Neither the management of the Quality Hotel nor the Novacon committee will approve of people "crashing" in rooms they haven't paid for, and/or smuggling food/drink into the hotel. The Novacon committee will obviously support the hotel in any dispute with members of Novacon caught "crashing" and/or "smuggling".

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Badges

As we have (again) failed to fill the hotel there will be non-convention guests in the Hotel. It is therefore essential that you wear your con badge AT ALL TIMES! If you do not you may be refused service in the con bars and food from the con menu. You WILL be challenged by our own security staff and prevented from entering function spaces and Hotel Staff may challenge anyone not wearing a badge.

Duplicate Room Keys

We have made arrangements with the Hotel so that if you are sharing a room and require a key each you should be able to get one this year. (Unfortunately if you are in one of the 30 executive suites you cannot have a key each as they have different locks to policy, with the other rooms in the Hotel.)

However, if you require a key each you should have notified the Hotel of this on arrival. You may not be able to change your mind later because the Hotel will have programmed 100 rooms to accept duplicate key sets before we arrive. This is a time-consuming process and there are a limited number of these duplicate key sets available - the Hotel does not normally use them and is buying them in especially for Novacon.

If you do have a key each please don't lose them! If you lose your key two new keys will be need to be issued immediately as your sharer's key won't work after you've used your new key! As there are limited quantities of these duplicate keys available you may find that if you've lost your key the Hotel will be forced to reprogram the lock on your room to take their standard single key system again.

If you do not have a key each you can still easily gain access to your room by either tracking down your sharer or by asking Hotel Reception to let you in with a master, but please don't get them doing this all the time. The hotel will require you to produce your keycard as proof that it is your room, so please ensure you carry it.

The Parents Co-Operative

The Children's Play Room is situated in the Ashmore Room (down the corridor past Hotel receptions, all the way past the Art Show Rooms, on the corner). Please address all queries to Richard Standage or Helena Bowles.

Check In & Out

Check-in time is from 2pm and check-out by 11am on the day of departure. (Bedrooms will be cleaned between 10am and 3pm).

Left Luggage

Luggage can be left in the Hatherton Room (upstairs).

Cashpoints/Banks

In addition to the machine in the Hotel the nearest are:

Woolwich cashpoint in Spar (24 hour shop) which also offers a cashback facility on purchases, Wolverhampton Road, Willenhall.

Abbey National/Link, Park Street, Walsall.

Lloyds/TSB, New Road, Willenhall (opposite J D Wetherspoons).

Lloyds/TSB, Park Street, Walsall.

HSBC, New Road, Willenhall (opposite J D Wetherspoons).

HSBC, St. Paul's Square (facing the steps from the Bus Station).

Halifax, Bridge Street, Walsall.

National Westminster, Park Street, Walsall.

Nationwide/Link, Bridge Street, Walsall.

Petrol Station

Next to Spar on Wolverhampton Road, Willenhall (drive away from Junction 10 towards Willenhall, a few minutes later you'll see it on your right between Car Showrooms and Spar).

Post Office

Darwall Street in Walsall, near the Bus station.

Pharmacy

Chemist on Queen Elizabeth Avenue, Bentley.

Boots the Chemist, Park Street, Walsall.

Plane/Bus/Train

Flight information: 0121-767-5511.

Local Bus/Rail: Centro Hotline on 0121-200-2700.

Rail National enquiries: 08457-484950.

Taxis

A1 Rosehill, Willenhall, 01902-606090 or 633337

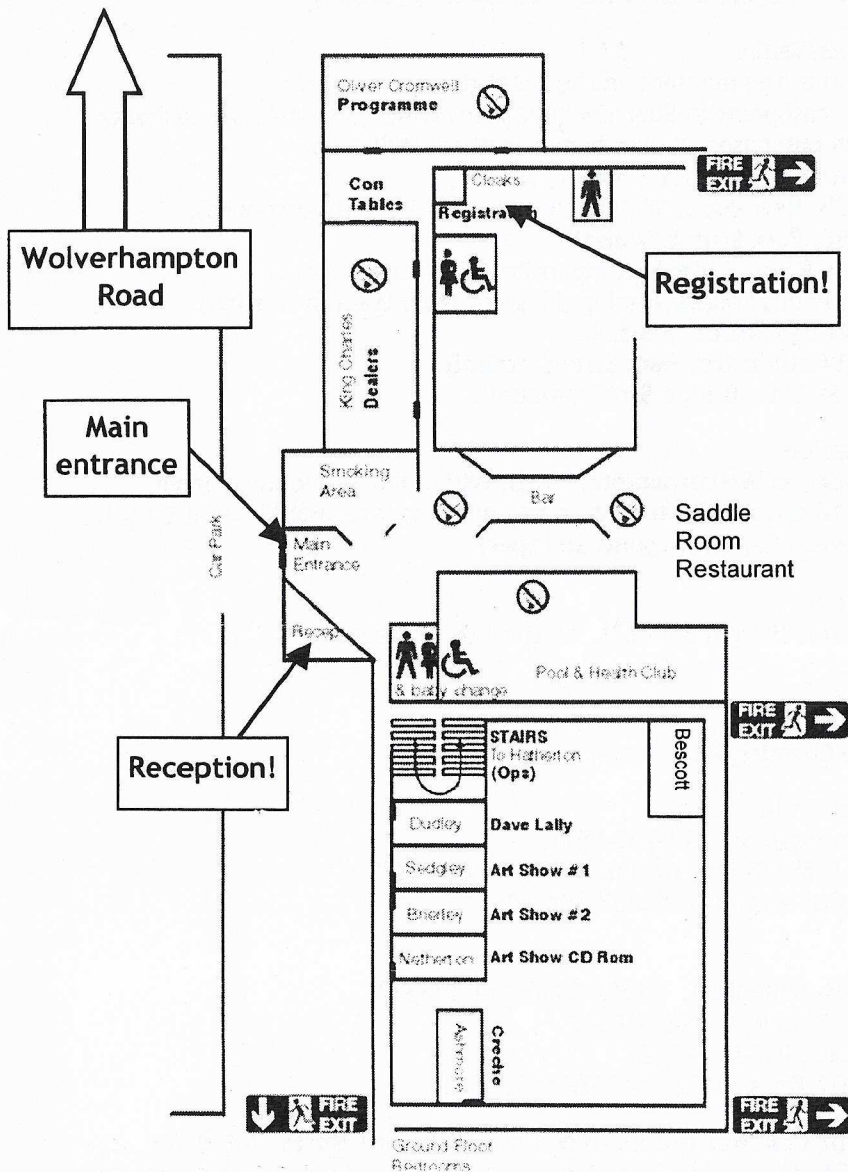
AJK Cars, Walsall, 01922-640630

Bentley Cars, 01902-711121

Walsall TOA Taxis, 01922-642020 or 723623

[This publication was produced by Dave Hicks and Martin Tudor for Novacon 34, on behalf of the Birmingham Science Fiction Group (all rights revert to contributors on publication) Many thanks to everyone who has contributed, and a big thank you to Ottakers of Park Street, Walsall for supplying carrier bags to the convention.]

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