

# THE LITTLE BOOK OF **Contemplation**

Secrets of

**Relaxed  
Enjoyment  
And  
Drinking  
Made  
Easy**



**Non serus conventionem fugias**

it's not too late to back out!

*Quidquid latine dictum sit, altum sonatur*

Whatever is said in Latin sounds profound

This Book belongs to \_\_\_\_\_

**April 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> 2007 – Chester, UK**

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## **Contact Information**

**Crowne Plaza**, Trinity Street, Chester CH1 2BD. 0870 442 1081

**Express by Holiday Inn**, The Race Course, CH1 2LY. 0870 990 4065

If you need to talk to a member of the committee, you can text our mobiles (we'll have them switched off in programme items, so most of these matters you should go to Ops in the Ashton Room first, see map at back of this ReadMe)

General Problems: Fran: 07759 012057 / Chris: 07769 903675

Membership related: Steve 07808 827278

Hotel/Site: Hayley 07989 135218

## **Letters from the co-chairs**

### ***Chris O'Shea (The Magician)***

I've been going to Eastercons for mumbledy mumble years, and while I've missed a couple of Glasgow ones early on (due to being a poor student and living in London), this is my 21<sup>st</sup> Eastercon. When Convoy announced at the end of October that, due to lack of memberships, they couldn't continue, they made sure that there would be time for something to be sorted out at Novacon. A number of people started planning replacement events, and somehow I ended up standing at the front of the room telling Peter Weston and a full room that, yes, I would run a replacement Eastercon (if people wanted me to). I still can't believe the positive response and the number of volunteers that came forward, including the person who has either kept me sane, or at least stopped me cracking up entirely; Fran Dowd, my co-chair. If I was the person who said it could be done, she is the one that made sure that it was not only done, but done well! Thank you Fran.

### ***Fran Dowd (The Sofa)***

Last year was my 10th Eastercon, and the first one I've ever been to where I wasn't running it, or busy planning the next one or two. It was a wonderful rest, and I revelled in semi-retirement. Then I went to Novacon. I wrote in my LiveJournal when I got back - "Went away to Novacon for a nice quiet weekend, second convention in a row with nothing to do except have fun. Brain could obviously not engage with this concept and am now co-chair of Eastercon 2007. Oh well." I have to fess up that before Novacon I was promoting the "Let's just not have an Eastercon, the world won't fall apart!" argument. But having seen how eager everyone was, and watching Chris step up to the plates so bravely, I offered to help at whatever level, and here we are. I'm really proud of everyone, to have pulled off two to three year's work in this short time was an amazing achievement. Chris and I have managed to not kill each other, which is A Good Thing In Co-Chairs, and, although I'm sure he'll be embarrassed, I want to remind everyone that it's his birthday on Easter Sunday, and he drinks Diet Coke. You can buy him Diet Cokes all through the weekend though, and remind him to have a sit-down or a swim periodically. He, more than anyone, deserves to have a really great time.

**Tibi diem natalem felicem!**

**The little book of contemplation:** Worry when the time comes - most worries are future based. They revolve around things that, in most cases, will never happen. Concentrate on the present and the future will take care of itself.

## Thanks

There are so many people to thank that it's hard to know where to start ... but the obvious place to start is with those brave souls who stood up at Easter 2006 and put forward a bid for 2007. We're sure they would have run an excellent Eastercon and we hope some or all of them will put up a bid again in the next few years.

So thank you to the Convoy committee: Tim Kirk, Roger Burton-West, Chris Bell, Sue Edwards, David Devereux and Harry Payne. The Convoy committee would also like to thank: Omega, Judith Clute, John Richards, Meg Broadribb, Mary and Bill Burns, Marion and Richard van der Voort, and Kari.

We asked them if they had anything else they wanted to say and the reply was "We are all mad, and thank you for running with it!"

Thanks Tim & team... it *does* take a certain madness to want to run conventions, so it's a case of "Yes, you do have to be mad to work here, but at least you're in excellent company!"

And thank you to the Contemplation Committee and staff: Fran Dowd and Chris O'Shea (yes, we're thanking ourselves, or rather each other!), John Dowd, Vince Docherty, Hayley Nuiserre, Steve Lawson and Harry Payne; and there's a long list of staff, volunteers, advisors etc. and we're bound to forget people, but we can fix that in the PostCon Souvenir Book! So if we have left you out here, please email the convention address and tell us, we really REALLY want to say thank you to you all.

With that said, thank you to Steve Cooper, Serena Culfeather and John Wilson. Clare Goodall, Mark Young, John Stewart, Chris Croughton, Colin Tuckley, Martin Hoare and Andrew Armstrong. John Harold, Robbie Bourget and Dave Tompkins. Eddie Cochrane. Roger Robinson. Peter Harrow, John Richards, Kari Maund and Marcus Streets. Omega, Simon Russell, Henry Proctor, Paul Allwood, Alice Lawson, Peter Weston, Mike Scott, Paul & Judie von der Fecht, Tim and MEG Broadribb and so many others (please send email to [contemplation@con.org](mailto:contemplation@con.org) if we've forgotten you!) plus of course everyone on programme, all the gophers, tech helpers, ops people etc. And all of the volunteers we didn't even get a chance to use pre-con, your offers of help kept us going and confident we could do this. Thank you.

### Conlige suspectos simpier habitos

One of the things that impressed (we hope) was that at Novacon, as soon as you selected us to run this Eastercon, we had the website (including credit card booking) up and running, and for providing the servers, the background code, the credit card processing etc. we can't thank Richard and Judith Proctor enough (Richard for all the tech wrangling, Judith for the payment processing). If you want to thank them, join Orbital in 2008 and Redemption in 2009!

And of course the most thanks must go to you for trusting us to put on an enjoyable event and for joining. We really REALLY couldn't have done it without you (admittedly there would have been no reason to do it if you hadn't joined ... so when it comes down to it, it's all **your** fault!)

And another huge thanks to Paragon 2 and Concussion who both donated money to help us get up and running (and to help pay the hotel deposit). This sort of thing really helps when you're getting started, and, if we can keep to budget, we intend to continue with this "pass-along".

And for some of the quotes and such in this ReadMe, Paul Wilson (who wrote the original “The Little Book of Calm”), Michael Kelly who wrote the scandalously funny webpage “The Joy of Calm” (<http://www.michaelkelly.fsnet.co.uk>) and gave permission for us to quote or steal bits, the writers of Black Books (if I remember to use The Little Book of Calm misquote they created!) and Henry Beard for “Lingua Latina occasionibus omnibus” (who didn't give permission but I recommend you go out and buy many of his books, such as *Miss Piggy's Guide to Life*.)

**The little book of contemplation:** Control only what you can control. Be rigorous in differentiating between what is achievable and what is a waste of time. Then devote your energies only to those tasks you can achieve (pass on the others to someone else).

The thanks go on ...

The Science Fiction Foundation for providing the George Hay Memorial Lecture. A highlight of every Eastercon that has had one, and we're looking forward to this year's lecture, though when we were told what it was about, we could barely believe our eyes or ears ...

“**The Japanese Shop**” is sponsoring the item *Going Japanese* (Monday noon) and has provided the bags for the Convention and a significant amount of Japanese Chocolate for consumption in the course of this item. The Japanese Shop in Chester is at 10 Watergate Street, Chester CH1 2LA (just down the road from the Hotel) and caters for all things concerning Japanese Culture. Opening hours are normally 9:00 – 17:30 Monday to Saturday and 11:00 – 17:00 Sunday, and it is well worth a visit.

“**The Hat Company**” is sponsoring the Easter Bonnet Competition and has provided vouchers in the sum of £15.00 for the winner. The Hat Company Shop in Chester is situated at Northgate Street Chester (almost opposite the Town Hall) and contains a massive selection of Men and Womens hats in a vast number of styles and colours, including top hats and bowlers (as modelled by certain members of the committee and senior staff at this convention!). Opening hours are normally 9:00 – 17:00 Monday to Saturday and 11:00 to 17:00 Sunday. Excellent for the Hat loving fan.

“**Chester Zoo**” is a charitable organisation working in the area of rare species conservation. They are also a damned fine Zoo. Their Curator of Lower Vertebrates, Kevin Buley is giving a talk on the Komodo Dragons at the Zoo, and they also operate one of the monorails featured in the item “One Track Mind”. If Members feel like attending the Zoo or just being charitable and sponsoring animals or making donations, the Zoo's address is: Chester Zoo, Caughall Road, Upton, Chester, CH2 1LH. It is located on the outskirts of Chester and is easily accessible. Opening Hours over Easter: The Zoo opens at 10:00 each day and closes at 18:00 (Last admission is 17:00) The monorail and waterbus close at 17:45.

**The little book of contemplation:** Do Tai Chi. This soothing brand of herbal tea is available at most health shops.

### So what's with all this Latin stuff then?

Chester is rich with Roman history, and here's your chance to immerse yourself in it. Translations of all these phrases will be put up on the website after the convention, but in the meantime, perhaps you can come up with your own profound or profane translations and either give them to the newsletter or send them in to the con email address for use in the post-con souvenir book!

## Food and Drink Times

All times and prices here are as we believe them to be two weeks before the convention, of course a lot of things can change in two weeks! We'll put updates in the Newsletter if there are substantial updates.

**The little book of contemplation:** Today's word is Deliquesce, meaning to turn to liquid. Consider the convention, consider the bar, have you deliquesced today?

Breakfast times are for the Crowne Plaza, Silks Restaurant. If you're in a different hotel, ask them.

Breakfast 06:00-10:00 Weekdays (Thursday, Friday, Monday, Tuesday)  
07:00-11:00 Saturday and Sunday.  
Lunch 12:00-14:00  
Evening 17:00-19:00

The lunch and evening menu is a special £6.95 menu, changing for each session (so Lunch and Dinner will be different! There will be one meat, one fish and one vegetarian option and we've impressed by the menu they offered us. However we've asked for a few changes so can't publish the final menu here, but here is a sample day)

### Lunch:

Course Ground Beef Lasagne  
Smoked Haddock with Parsley Sauce  
Brie & Berry Tart (v)  
served with a selection of potatoes and vegetables

### Dinner:

Roast Beef with Yorkshire Pudding  
Supreme of Salmon with Hollandaise Sauce  
Butternut Squash & Ginger Bake (v)  
served with a selection of potatoes and vegetables

**The little book of contemplation:** Be a windmill. Wave your arms around like the sails of a beautiful big windmill. Isn't that fun? Now run down the street like that blowing raspberries at people. Now take your pants off. Mental hospitals are very relaxing places.

## Meals at other times (bar food)

There will also be food served in the con bar (Chester Suite) and The Silks Bar during the day (11:00-17:00), which will vary from day to day.

- Sandwiches/Baps/Baguettes @ £3.95 each (Ham & Mustard, Cheese & Pickle, Egg Mayo, Tuna & Sweetcorn)
- Hot Beef or Pork Baps @ £4.50 each
- Fruit Salad Boxes @ £4.95 each
- Pasties, Pies, Pizza and Burgers @ £2.95 - £5.95 each
- Salad Bar @ £4.95
- Jacket Potatoes with choice of filling (Cheese, Mixed Bean Chilli, Minced Beef Chilli, Tuna & Sweetcorn, Baked Beans) We didn't get a price on this in time for publication.
- A Plate of Finger Food @ £5.95 which is a mixture of Wings of Fire (spicy chicken wings), Mini Quiche, Vegetable Satay, Vegetable Tempura, Sausage Rolls, Seafood Dim Sum

Crisps & Peanuts @ £1    Chocolate bars @ £1    Nutrigrain bars @ 50p

## Between 11pm and 1am the following will be available:

Bacon Baps, Sausage Baps (with veggie option) @ £2.00 each

### Drinks:

Real Ale @ £2.90/pint. Real Ale (Bass on draught, plus various bottled beers) will be available in both the Chester/con and Silks bars. Pints of Cordial @ £1. However all other drinks (including diet Coke, wine and spirits) will be at the standard hotel prices. We're sorry about this, we tried getting it cheaper but were told it was the same deal Concussion got last year and since they are in the same group, we're getting the same deal.

**The little book of contemplation:** Lick a bald person's head. Licking scalps is nature's way of releasing natural endorphins.

### Bar Times:

The con bar (Chester Suite) should be open until 2:30am if you're drinking enough ... after that the main hotel bar (Silks) will remain open. After 2:30am all drinks will need to be charged to a room, no cash will be taken.

**Scisne ubi pocillum coffeae apud hanc locum possum capere?**

### Art show, dealers etc. times

#### Dealers Room Opening Hours

- Friday 16:00 (ish) - 18:00
- Saturday 10:00 - 18:00
- Sunday 10:00 - 18:00
- Monday 10:00 - 15:00

Dealer setup/access: all day Friday and from 9:00 Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

**Haecine taberna munusculorum unica est?**

#### Art Show Opening Hours

- Friday 13:00 - 18:00
- Friday 19:30 - 20:30 for launch party
- Saturday 10:00 - 18:00
- Sunday 10:00 - 12:00 (closing two hours before auction)

**Cum Musis deditus non sim, nosco quod amo**

### Art Auction

All artwork must be collected on the Sunday after the Auction from the Malpas room from 17:00 (earlier if the auction ends earlier).

### Hotel Check-In and Check-Out times

Crowne Plaza, check-in from 2pm, check-out by 12noon.

Express by Holiday Inn, check-in from 2pm, check out by 11am.

**The little book of contemplation:** Wear a big grin. A smile a day keeps the electro-shocks away! Smiling can help you through any stressful situation. When your boss calls you a cretin, grin. On crowded public transport, smile manically at the people around you until your cheeks start to hurt. They'll feel so friendly they'll move up to give you lots of room!

## **Awards, Competitions and Fan funds**

### **BSFA Awards**

As a member of Contemplation you are entitled to vote in the Novel, Short Fiction and Artwork categories of the British Science Fiction Association (BSFA) Awards. Voting will close at 6pm Saturday afternoon in time for the awards which will be presented in a ceremony at 21:00 on Saturday evening. Please leave your completed ballot forms in the box on Registration.

**Eheu, litteras istas reperire non possum**

### **Doc Weir**

You'll find a Doc Weir voting form in your membership pack, with the list of previous winners. This is your chance to say "thank you" to someone who works behind the scenes but whose contribution makes a difference to Fandom. The voting form also has a paragraph on who Doc Weir was, an essential part of your fannish history so even if you don't vote, take the time to read the first paragraph.

Fandom needs volunteers. Conventions, clubs, fanzines - they all require an extensive workforce, people who do "stuff" for no financial reward. Some people have a high-profile role but there are many who don't, whose involvement goes almost unnoticed and may even be taken for granted. In some respects, the ideal Doc Weir Award candidate is the sort of person who doesn't immediately spring to mind but makes perfect sense if somebody else suggests them.

**The little book of contemplation:** Waggle your ears. It's impossible to be unhappy whilst wagging your ears. If you can't do it, get someone else to do it for you!

### **LFF/JETS**

The LFF is the League of Fan Funds, a group of people who co-ordinate fund raising to, in particular, financially assist fans to travel long distances and maintain personal contact with far-flung members of our fannish family. There are fan funds for sending people across the Atlantic (TAFF US/Canada<->UK/Europe), down to or up from Australia (GUFF UK/Europe <-> Australia) plus other fan funds not co-ordinated by the LFF such as from the US/Canada to Australia (DUFF), and for sending Filkers to other countries/conventions (not a joke!) such as The Flying Filk Fund and Interfilk. This year there's a special fan fund (JETS) administered by the LFF to send a European fan to the Japanese Worldcon in Yokohama. Several of the candidates are at this convention and voting closes next week, so it's your last chance to help. The LFF will have an auction for the general fan funds on Sunday at 10pm but the best way to help the JETS candidates is to vote (a vote costs a minimum of £3 but you can donate more. If you vote more than once, only your last vote counts but all the money is put into the fund). Whoever wins gets the voting money (every penny of it, except for PayPal fees if you paid via PayPal) plus at least £1,000 from Interaction to help towards the cost of the Worldcon trip. Each nominee has posted at £20 bond and confirmed that if they win, they will go to Japan (emergencies excepted) and write a trip report about what they did and who they met etc. Just about all of them have said they'll do a live blog of their trip as well, isn't technology wonderful!

Completed forms can be handed to the LFF (who have a table somewhere around the con, probably in the Dealers Room; or after the LFF auction), handed to any candidate or posted to the address on the voting form.

**Visne scire quot credam? Credo missiones turrium  
flamnearum statum caeli mutavisse.**

### **Easter Bonnet Parade**

There will be an Easter Bonnet Parade and judging at 10:00 on Sunday morning, there are no limitations on design other than the general convention and hotel policies on weapons, explosives, and general public health and safety. There will be prizes, including vouchers from The Hat Company shop in Chester who are kindly sponsoring this event.

**Ubi possum potiri petasi similis isti?**

### **Hall Costume Day**

Sunday is Hall Costume Day. You should have found three voting tokens in your membership pack. On Sunday, you can give one or more of your tokens to people whose costume you deem worthy of recognition, and there will be prizes for maximum numbers of tokens collected. So if you really like a costume, you can give all three tokens to that person, or you can divide them up between two or three people as you prefer. No need to register your costume or show up at a particular time, just wear it around the convention. Please observe the Weapons Policy, though. If you receive one or more Hall Costume tokens, write your name and membership number on them (so we know who to give the prize to!) and hand them in to Ops by noon Monday so we have time to count them before the closing ceremony.

**The little book of contemplation:** Make a date to argue. If you have a disagreement with someone, don't have it out there and then. Arrange to meet later to discuss it when you're both in a calmer frame of mind. Get there early and be waiting for them with a baseball bat.

### **X-Factor**

Bring along the worst profession writing you can find (usually reserved for "turkey readings") and our panel of judges will listen to your rendition of it (from "render" meaning either to cover in plaster or to tear into pieces) and vote which ones should go through.

**Aliquid ardet**

### **Paper Doll Masquerade**

It's probably not too late to nip into town to one of the stationery or fabric shops and put together an entry for either the general or "adult-themes" Paper Doll Masquerade. There may be prizes! Don't forget you can dress up several dolls if you want to do, say, the entire Pirates of the Caribbean cast, or a paper version of Avenue Q!

**The little book of contemplation:** Who you really are is inside you, however who other people think you are is on the outside, so wear your badge or go outside

### **Monster Easter Egg Hunt Competition**

Peter Harrow has produced a series of twelve monstrous eggs in celebration of EasterCon which are on display in the Artshow. Three have been donated to Contemplation for you lucky people to win, in an egg related competition.

### **Rules**

Each of the twelve multiple choice questions will be on display in a public part of the Hotel, you have to find them and answer the questions on the form supplied and return the completed answer sheet to Registration before 12.00 pm on Sunday. Winners will be drawn from the correct (or most nearly correct) entries submitted by 6.00 pm on the Sunday.

The first place winner will have first pick of the twelve monstrous eggs to take home with them. The second place winner will have second pick of one of the remaining eleven, and the third place winner will have third pick of one of the remaining ten.

Note: This competition is not suitable for Vegans, since they are real eggs (well, I guess you don't have to eat them!)... or Vogons, as these eggs are beautiful but fragile and so not really aligned with Vagon aesthetics.

**The little book of contemplation:** Choose your company carefully. It sounds harsh, but avoid people who are good-looking or successful or naturally happy, as they can be very depressing to be around. Hang out with glowering wretches like yourself instead. Make friends with people uglier than you, if there is anyone, which there probably isn't.

## **Policies**

### **Weapons Policy**

No weapons, or replicas or facsimiles of weapons, will be allowed to be carried at the convention; nor will any other object the committee deems to be dangerous. Hall costumes are not exempt. If you are intending to use a weapon (or a facsimile) as part of a programme item, you should bring it to Ops on arrival at the convention.

**Prospect tibi – ut Gallia, tu quoque in tres partes deivideris**

**The little book of contemplation:** Think of something positive. Make a list of ten people who have achieved something with their lives. Now imagine them all on a mini-bus going over a cliff. Imagine their screams as they lie mangled in the burning wreckage. Grin. Waggle your ears.

### **Mobile Phones**

When at a programme item mobile phones should be switched off or silent. If you do have to take a call, take it outside the function room.

**The little book of contemplation:** Add a drop of lavender to your bath, and soon you'll soak yourself calm

**Barbari! In hoc curru nulla arca sonorum adsit!**

### **Food and drink**

No food will be allowed in any of the function rooms. Drinks are allowed in all function rooms except the dealers room and art show. Only dealers are allowed to have food and drink in the dealers room.

**The little book of contemplation:** When you're feeling under pressure, do something different. Roll up your sleeves, or eat an orange

**Nulla mensa sine impensa**

### **Video Policy**

You may video what you like, unless a programme participant objects. Please use your common sense, be considerate, and do not post your videos on the Internet for all the world to see unless you have permission from everybody in them. Press may only film individuals who grant their permission in advance, and they will have been required to obtain Press badges etc. from Registration. There will be some programme items where flash photography would be a

real pain for everybody else, like a play or a big-screen presentation. Again, please use your common sense.

**The little book of contemplation:** Property is theft, property is freedom, for lost property go to ops.

**The little book of contemplation:** Steal someone's pen. Rather than harbouring grudges or engaging in stressful confrontations, get back at annoying bosses or workmates by stealing something belonging to them or hiding rotting food in their desk.

### Hotel No-Nos

Please don't let people crash in your room, or bring food or drink from outside into the hotel. If the hotel finds out you are doing these things, the committee will not support you.

If the hotel asks you to do something that seems silly, like putting shoes on, please don't argue with the staff. Tell us instead so we can establish if it's hotel policy and, if so, publish it in the newsletter. After a certain time in the evening, the hotel will close their cash tills and only guests will be allowed to purchase food and drink (but we're sure you'll find someone who is a guest who will go to the bar for you!)

**The little book of contemplation:** Eliminate the negative. As much as possible try and use positive words, such as 'Yes', 'Oui', 'Javoll', etc. Avoid negative words like 'No', 'Non', 'Nein', etc. If you absolutely have to use negative words, be vibrant and upbeat about them. If your boss asks you if you've completed a project you should have finished three days ago and you haven't, cheerfully tell him, "Good Christ, no!" and grin. Then steal his pen.

### Smoking

Due to the new legislation, Contemplation will be the last smoking Eastercon! Smoking is permitted in the Crowne Plaza in designated bedrooms and in the smoking lounge, which will be clearly signed.

There will be no smoking anywhere else, which includes the function rooms, hotel corridors, staircases, lifts, con bar areas, or the restaurant. In fact, nowhere else inside aside from specifically marked bedrooms and the Smoking Lounge (marked on the map at the back of this ReadMe).

The Express by Holiday Inn is a completely non-smoking hotel.

**The little book of contemplation:** Smoke like a chimney. Smoking is relaxing, and it gives you something to do with your hands. Otherwise, they'd be fidgeting around and people might notice how gnarled and ugly they are.

### Sticking stuff on walls

For a pleasant change the hotel has said anything can be stuck up just about anywhere (within reason and be sensible!) but only using white tack (no sellotape, no nails, no thumbtacks, no glue guns, no cans of strong spray glue borrowed from The Blues Brothers, no arc welders etc.).

**Si hoc signum legere potes, operis boni in rebus  
Latinis alacribus et fructuosis potiri potes!**

**The little book of contemplation:** Time is an illusion, so is free-will. All times in this book are therefore both fictional and nothing you could change anyway ... still, check the newsletter for programme updates.

## Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2007

| Time  | Charles<br>(Kings 1)                                 | Edward<br>(Kings 2)                     | Roodee                                               | Christleton                                                                        | My Items |  |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|--|
| 14:30 | Panellists and Moderators -<br>how does it all work? |                                         | Beginner's<br>Guide to<br>Eastercon                  |                                                                                    |          |  |
| 15:00 |                                                      |                                         |                                                      |                                                                                    |          |  |
| 15:30 | Opening                                              |                                         |                                                      |                                                                                    |          |  |
| 16:00 |                                                      |                                         |                                                      |                                                                                    |          |  |
| 16:30 |                                                      |                                         |                                                      |                                                                                    |          |  |
| 17:00 | Greek Theatre                                        |                                         | Climate<br>change - fans<br>and carbon<br>footprints | Trailer Park                                                                       |          |  |
| 17:30 |                                                      |                                         |                                                      |                                                                                    |          |  |
| 18:00 |                                                      |                                         |                                                      |                                                                                    |          |  |
| 18:30 | Not The<br>Oscars                                    | What makes a<br>good book<br>review?    | Play<br>Rehearsal (1)                                | Bug's Taff Trip                                                                    |          |  |
| 19:00 |                                                      |                                         |                                                      |                                                                                    |          |  |
| 19:30 |                                                      |                                         |                                                      |                                                                                    |          |  |
| 20:00 | The Great<br>Clomping Foot<br>of Nerdism             | Superscience<br>in the<br>Victorian era | Conrunning<br>101                                    |                                                                                    |          |  |
| 20:30 |                                                      |                                         |                                                      |                                                                                    |          |  |
| 21:00 | Pub Quiz                                             | Continuity of<br>Identity               | Artetechs                                            | Gytha North<br>Memorial<br>Drunken<br>Rabble Pick<br>Play or Pass<br>Filking Event |          |  |
| 21:30 |                                                      |                                         |                                                      |                                                                                    |          |  |
| 22:00 | Life on Mars -<br>wtf?                               | Current SF – a<br>Fireside Chat         | X-Factor SF                                          | Web 2.0                                                                            |          |  |
| 22:30 |                                                      |                                         |                                                      |                                                                                    |          |  |
| 23:00 |                                                      |                                         | I'm Sorry I<br>Haven't an<br>SF-ing Clue             |                                                                                    |          |  |
| 23:30 |                                                      |                                         |                                                      |                                                                                    |          |  |

### Additional Programme Items:

Friday 19:30-20:30 Malpas/Art Show **Book Launch - Anne Sudworth**

### My Items

This is a column where you can put in your meal plans, gopher shifts, scheduled medication or just arranging to meet someone in the bar ... build your own programme stream!

**The little book of contemplation:** Visualize success. If there is something you want to make happen, visualize it happening. For example, if you want to ask someone out on a date, visualize yourself asking them. Visualize them saying yes. Visualize the date being a great success. Visualize them coming back to your place and taking their clothes off. Visualize them lying on your bed in an attitude of erotic abandon. Now barricade the door. This is much safer than really asking them out. They would have just laughed at you anyway.

## Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2007

| Time  | Charles (K1)                                          | Edward (K2)                               | Roodee                      | Christleton                     | My Items |  |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|--|
| 09:00 |                                                       |                                           | Morning Feedback            | Kids TV                         |          |  |
| 09:30 |                                                       |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 10:00 | What Does This Knob Do?                               | Climate Change - planning our environment | GMTV                        |                                 |          |  |
| 10:30 |                                                       |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 11:00 | Space Inge Heyer                                      | These Are Not the Tits You're Looking For | Flash Fiction Workshop 1    | Video Block (1)                 |          |  |
| 11:30 |                                                       |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 12:00 | Eastercon Identity                                    | BSFA Awards Taster                        | Play Rehearsal (2)          |                                 |          |  |
| 12:30 |                                                       |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 13:00 |                                                       |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 13:30 |                                                       |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 14:00 | George Hay Lecture: The Braintrix                     |                                           | LJ isn't just a blog        |                                 |          |  |
| 14:30 |                                                       |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 15:00 | Universal Donor                                       |                                           | Komodo Dragons              | An Inconvenient Truth           |          |  |
| 15:30 |                                                       |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 16:00 | Un-American Futures                                   |                                           | Belly Dancing Workshop      | Urban Exploring                 |          |  |
| 16:30 |                                                       |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 17:00 |                                                       |                                           | Battle of the Butlers       |                                 |          |  |
| 17:30 |                                                       |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 18:00 | Dr Who Starts at 18:55, arrive early for a good seat! |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 18:30 |                                                       |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 19:00 |                                                       |                                           | Transitional Comics         | Mine Your Own Business          |          |  |
| 19:30 |                                                       |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 20:00 |                                                       |                                           | Teledu Challenge            |                                 |          |  |
| 20:30 |                                                       |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 21:00 | BSFA Awards                                           |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 21:30 |                                                       |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 22:00 | karaoke Disco (until 1am)                             |                                           | bad people bad sex bad wolf | Filking Time until at least 1am |          |  |
| 22:30 |                                                       |                                           | First Fumblings             |                                 |          |  |
| 23:00 |                                                       |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 23:30 |                                                       |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |

### Additional Programme Items:

Saturday 08:45-10:00 **Shooting Chester** -meet in hotel reception at 8:45am ready to go (coat, camera, batteries etc.)

Saturday 22:00-00:00 **Blake's 7 Wobblevision** –meet in the con bar (Chester Suite)

**The little book of contemplation:** Pretend it's Saturday. There, that wasn't so hard was it?

# **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2007**

| Time  | Charles (K1)                          | Edward (K2)                   | Roodee                                 | Christleton                           | My Items |  |  |
|-------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|--|--|
| 09:00 | Songs of Praise                       |                               | Morning Feedback                       | Kids TV                               |          |  |  |
| 09:30 |                                       |                               |                                        |                                       |          |  |  |
| 10:00 | Fireworks                             |                               | Easter Bonnet Parade                   | The Archers listen-in and panel       |          |  |  |
| 10:30 |                                       |                               |                                        |                                       |          |  |  |
| 11:00 | Is UK SF publishing overly masculine? |                               | Local fan groups                       |                                       |          |  |  |
| 11:30 |                                       |                               |                                        |                                       |          |  |  |
| 12:00 | Bid Session                           |                               | Play Rehearsal (3)                     | Video Block (2)                       |          |  |  |
| 12:30 |                                       |                               |                                        |                                       |          |  |  |
| 13:00 |                                       |                               | Library Cataloguing                    |                                       |          |  |  |
| 13:30 |                                       |                               |                                        |                                       |          |  |  |
| 14:00 | George Hay spinoff                    | Art Auction                   | Adamist or Edenist?                    |                                       |          |  |  |
| 14:30 |                                       |                               |                                        |                                       |          |  |  |
| 15:00 |                                       |                               |                                        |                                       |          |  |  |
| 15:30 | Post-BSFA awards discussion           |                               | But That's Not SF!                     |                                       |          |  |  |
| 16:00 |                                       |                               |                                        |                                       |          |  |  |
| 16:30 |                                       |                               |                                        |                                       |          |  |  |
| 17:00 | Military - reality vs fiction         | Artetypes                     | Paper Doll Masquerade                  |                                       |          |  |  |
| 17:30 |                                       |                               |                                        |                                       |          |  |  |
| 18:00 |                                       |                               |                                        |                                       |          |  |  |
| 18:30 | Play Setup                            | Not the Clarke Awards         | What would you like to see at Orbital? | Battlestar Galactica Season 3 summary |          |  |  |
| 19:00 |                                       |                               |                                        |                                       |          |  |  |
| 19:30 |                                       |                               |                                        |                                       |          |  |  |
| 20:00 |                                       |                               | Politics and Ethics in Ankh-Morpork    | Borrowed Worlds                       |          |  |  |
| 20:30 |                                       |                               |                                        |                                       |          |  |  |
| 21:00 | Inveigle                              |                               |                                        |                                       |          |  |  |
| 21:30 |                                       |                               |                                        |                                       |          |  |  |
| 22:00 | League of Fan Funds Auction           |                               | Hey Dude, Where's My Ice Age?          | Obscene Filk Workshop                 |          |  |  |
| 22:30 |                                       |                               |                                        |                                       |          |  |  |
| 23:00 |                                       |                               | The BC Intermission Games              | Filking Time                          |          |  |  |
| 23:30 |                                       |                               |                                        |                                       |          |  |  |
| 00:00 |                                       | Paper Doll Masquerade (Adult) |                                        |                                       |          |  |  |
| 00:30 |                                       |                               |                                        |                                       |          |  |  |

## **Additional Programme Items:**

Sunday 13:00-15:00 **Outside** Walking Roman Chester

**The little book of contemplation:** Pretend it's Saturday. Go to the bid session and ask LX2009 where George Hay is.

## Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2007

| Time  | Charles (K1)                                                 | Edward (K2)                                 | Roodee                     | Christleton                       | My Items |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 09:00 |                                                              |                                             | Flash Fiction Workshop 2   | Kid's TV (3)                      |          |
| 09:30 |                                                              |                                             |                            |                                   |          |
| 10:00 | Everything You Can Expect At A Weekend SCA Event In One Hour | Professionals in Publishing                 | Eastercon Forum            | Kids TV (4)                       |          |
| 10:30 |                                                              |                                             |                            |                                   |          |
| 11:00 | Human Factors                                                | Children's literature                       | Other Kinds of Conventions | Video Block (3)                   |          |
| 11:30 | in Space Travel                                              |                                             |                            |                                   |          |
| 12:00 |                                                              | Politics and Ethics in Battlestar Galactica |                            |                                   |          |
| 12:30 | Going Japanese                                               |                                             |                            |                                   |          |
| 13:00 | Monorails:                                                   | Glorifying Terrorism                        | If the Swan had sunk       |                                   |          |
| 13:30 | A One Track Mind                                             |                                             |                            |                                   |          |
| 14:00 |                                                              |                                             |                            |                                   |          |
| 14:30 |                                                              | Why I Want to Gafiate                       | Healthier Fans             | Scriptwriter's Skills - Structure |          |
| 15:00 |                                                              |                                             |                            |                                   |          |
| 15:30 |                                                              |                                             |                            |                                   |          |
| 16:00 | Closing Ceremony and Awards                                  |                                             |                            |                                   |          |
| 16:30 | Feedback to Future Eastercons                                |                                             |                            |                                   |          |
| 17:00 |                                                              |                                             |                            |                                   |          |
| 17:30 |                                                              |                                             |                            |                                   |          |
| 18:00 |                                                              |                                             |                            |                                   |          |
| 18:30 |                                                              |                                             |                            |                                   |          |
| 19:00 | DeadDog Party                                                |                                             |                            | Once More With Feeling singalong  |          |
| 19:30 |                                                              |                                             |                            |                                   |          |
| 20:00 |                                                              |                                             |                            | High School Musical singalong     |          |
| 20:30 |                                                              |                                             |                            |                                   |          |
| 21:00 |                                                              |                                             |                            |                                   |          |
| 21:30 |                                                              |                                             |                            |                                   |          |
| 22:00 |                                                              |                                             |                            |                                   |          |
| 22:30 |                                                              |                                             |                            |                                   |          |
| 23:00 |                                                              |                                             |                            |                                   |          |
| 23:30 |                                                              |                                             |                            |                                   |          |

**Scilicet scio quid sit hodiernus dies!  
Modo ei non possum meminisse verbum Anglicum**

**The little book of contemplation:** Pretend it's Saturday. Then realise the con is over and it's time to go home. Crying can be very relaxing.  
Think of how much you've spent on drink and hotel ... see how much more relaxed you feel now!

### **Panellists and Moderators - how does it all work?**

*Kings Fri 14:30 - 15:30*

A guide to being a panellist or a moderator, especially if you're new to this sort of thing. Explains the difference between the roles, and what Green Room's for.

*John Richards, Fran Dowd*

### **Beginner's Guide to Eastercon**

*Roodee Fri 14:30 - 15:30*

New to this sort of thing? Come along and talk to some Eastercon attenders old and new about what you can expect.

*John Coxon, Flick, The Magician*

### **Opening**

*Kings Fri 15:30 - 16:30*

Stand up on stage and say welcome to the con.

Accepted wisdom is that this gives those who are not familiar with things a chance to identify the committee and thus know who to avoid and to whom to suck up. Swiftly followed by some mixer games.

*Fran Dowd, Jess, Official Cuddly Toy, Steve, Chris, Jim de Liscard, The Magician, Meike, Hayley, John Dowd*

### **Greek Theatre**

*Charles I Fri 17:00 - 18:30*

Tony Keen repeats his audience participation introduction to the conventions of Greek drama. Only this time the bits from Comedy will be Funny.

*Tony Keen*

### **Climate change - fans and carbon footprints**

*Roodee Fri 17:00 - 18:30*

What can we do as a community do to reduce our carbon footprint? Should we consider offsetting funds to match air travel for the fan funds, for example? Or are we just kowtowing to the latest puritan fad?

*Pat McMurray, Judith Proctor, Dave Clements, Charles Stross*

### **Trailer Park**

*Christleton Fri 17:00 - 18:30*

A collection of trailers for films, TV, games, software, music - whatever we can find that's going to be aimed at you in the next year.

*John Richards, Hayley*

### **Not The Oscars**

*Charles I Fri 18:30 - 20:00*

The Oscars list this year isn't big on SF - what should have been in there?

*Dave Hicks, Nick Gibbins, Zara Baxter, Andrew Ducker, Lilian Edwards*

### **What makes a good book review?**

*Edward I Fri 18:30 - 20:00*

What makes a good book review? Do you read book reviews? Do you take any notice of them? Do writers and publishers take notice of them? Do they serve the reader, the industry, or no one at all? Do you give a flying squid?

*Paul Raven a.k.a. Armchair Anarchist, Jon Courtenay Grimwood, Niall Harrison, Penny Hill, John Jarrold*

### **Play Rehearsal (1)**

*Roodee Fri 18:30 - 20:00*

*David Wake*

### **Bug's Taff Trip**

*Christleton Fri 18:30 - 20:00*

Bug presents a slideshow report of her TAFF trip last year.

*Bridget Bradshaw*

### **Book Launch - Anne Sudworth**

*Malpas Fri 19:30 - 20:30*

The Art Show officially opens with Anne Sudworth's book launch.

*Anne Sudworth*

### **The Great Clomping Foot of Nerdism**

*Charles I Fri 20:00 - 21:00*

M John Harrison sparked debate with his statement that "Every moment of a science fiction story must represent the triumph of writing over worldbuilding", that "...worldbuilding is not technically necessary. It is the great clomping foot of nerdism. It is the attempt to exhaustively survey a place that isn't there. A good writer would never try to do that, even with a place that is there."

*Tanya Brown, Richard Morgan, Graham Sleight, Farah, John Richards*

### **Superscience in the Victorian era**

*Edward I Fri 20:00 - 21:00*

How did contemporary SF handle the explosion in science and technology in the 19th century, and how has it been portrayed since?

*Nikkums, Marcus Rowland, Dave Lally, SMS*

### **Conrunning 101**

*Roodee Fri 20:00 - 21:00*

Want to get into conrunning? Don't know where to start?

*Martin Hoare, Chris, Simon Bradshaw, Hayley, Mad Elf*

### **Pub Quiz**

*Charles I Fri 21:00 - 22:00*

Get your teams together!

*Marcus Streets*

**The little book of contemplation:** Who wrote the book of love? Dr. Alex Comfort or possibly William H. Masters & Virginia E. Johnson. Reading is life's greatest joy .... Apparently.

### **Continuity of Identity**

*Edward I Fri 21:00 - 22:00*

Questions about continuity of identity have long intrigued philosophers and psychologists, but they have a habit of cropping up in SF too. Is The Doctor still the same Doctor after a regeneration? Is an uploaded mind the same person as its flesh-and-blood predecessor, or just a really good copy? And is a Star Fleet transporter room more like a bus depot – or an execution chamber?

*Colin Gavaghan, Richard Morgan, Chris Beckett, Fran Dowd, Charles Stross*

### **Artetechs**

*Roodee Fri 21:00 - 22:00*

Technology has changed the way we interact with Art. Some changes are obvious (CGI film effects, opera surtitles, Ipods) some we hardly notice (theatre sound and lighting, comic strips). The panel discusses the impact of technology on art in the real world and speculates on possible art forms of the future.

*Clare Goodall, Steve Davies, Colin Fine, Dave Clements*

### **Gytha North Memorial Drunken Rabble Pick Play or Pass Filking Event**

*Christleton Fri 21:00 - 22:00*

Gytha North was a multi-talented and inspirational fan, who sadly passed away since the last Eastercon. Please drop in and join in a rousing chorus to her memory.

### **Life on Mars - wtf?**

*Charles I Fri 22:00 - 23:00*

Series Two is ending, and there will definitely be a resolution. But what will it be? and more importantly, when will they show it? (10/4/07 9pm BBC2!)

*Simon Bradshaw, DC, Wendy Bradley, Lilian Edwards*

### **Current SF - a Fireside Chat**

*Edward I Fri 22:00 - 23:00*

Paul Cornell, author and scriptwriter, chats with Dave Bradley, editor of SFX, about the current world of SF.

*Dave Bradley, Paul Cornell*

### **X-Factor SF**

*Roodee Fri 22:00 - 23:00*

Got a piece of sf or fantasy writing you think has the X-Factor? bring it along and read a few lines for our judges to criticise. The audience will vote on the finalists ...

*Nick Mills, Vincent Docherty, Alice Lawson, Tanya Brown*

### **Web 2.0**

*Christleton Fri 22:00 - 23:00*

Is this just the latest in a series of buzzwords, and just as meaningless? Or is it actually an important change in the way in which we are going to use the Internet in the future? This session looks at the phenomena of Web 2.0 and cuts to the heart of the matter, with an overview and suggestions of resources you can use to actively change the way in which you use the Internet. Forever.

*Phil Bradley*

### **I'm Sorry I Haven't an SF-ing Clue**

*Roodee Fri 23:00 - 00:00*

The fannish version of the Radio 4 panel game.

*Dougs, Ian Sorensen, Flick, Tony Keen, Mike Scott, Simon Bradshaw*

**The little book of contemplation:** Pretend it is Saturday. There, you can again hope that Jenson Button might get a podium finish in Malaysia.

### **Shooting Chester**

*Outside Sat 08:45 - 10:00*

Anyone who wants to come 'Shooting Chester' with Sue Jones, should please be at the main hotel entrance at 8:45 am sharp, with their cameras charged and loaded.

"Not quite sure where we'll go -- probably up to the cathedral and back if fine and into the market hall if wet. Return to the hotel by ten. Non-photographic hangers-on are welcome provided they don't get bored. 'Interesting picture' stuff rather than tourist snaps. Also, if you want to go INTO the cathedral, please note that there is an admission fee.

*Sue Jones*

### **Morning Feedback**

*Roodee Sat 09:00 - 10:00*

Anything going wrong for you? If it's something the hotel, Ops or Registration can't handle, come and tell us.

*The Magician, Fran Dowd*

### **Kids TV**

*Christleton Sat 09:00 - 11:00*

for details of all video programme, please see the separate guide in your pack

### **What Does This Knob Do?**

*Charles I Sat 10:00 - 11:00*

What Does This Knob Do? How to run a sounddesk.

*Nolley, Clare Goodall*

### **Climate Change - planning our environment**

*Edward I Sat 10:00 - 11:00*

Can we design our living environment to reduce the effects of climate change? and should we try?

*Peter Harrow, Peter Westhead, Nikkums, Judith Proctor, John Dallman*

### **GMTV**

*Roodee Sat 10:00 - 11:00*

read the best bits out of today's papers, discuss the programme for the day, yesterday's restaurant and shopping finds - generally get yourself geared up to face the day

*John Richards*

**The little book of contemplation:** Who put the bomb in the bomb bah bomb bah bomb?  
Barry Mann and Gerry Goffin. Does that help?

### Space - Inge Heyer

*Charles 1 Sat 11:00 - 12:00*

Inge spoke at Novacon 2001, and at Worldcon 2005, on the Hubble.

*Inge Heyer*

### These Are Not the Tits You're Looking For

*Edward 1 Sat 11:00 - 12:00*

A follow-on item from Concussion last year, discussing fandom as a safe space for any sex or gender, what to do about inappropriate behaviour.

*Simon Bradshaw, Claire Brialey, James, Liz Batly, Fran Dowd*

### Flash Fiction Workshop 1

*Roozee Sat 11:00 - 12:00*

This workshop won't tell you how to write, what to write, or anything at all about writing. It'll just get you to do it. No experience required, just bring a pen and some paper (or a laptop if you really must, but we can't be responsible for providing power for everyone).

*Kate Bodley*

### Video Block (1)

*Christleton Sat 11:00 - 14:00*

For details of all video programme, please see the separate guide in your pack

### Eastercon Identity

*Charles 1 Sat 12:00 - 13:30*

Over the last couple of years there's been a lot of discussion about what Eastercon is and should be. A moderated discussion where everyone can contribute.

*Judith Proctor, Peter, James, Vincent Docherty, Greg Pickersgill*

### BSFA Awards Taster

*Edward 1 Sat 12:00 - 13:30*

Readings by the authors (or their chosen readers), from the BSFA novels shortlist. Just in case you haven't got around to reading them all yet.

*Liz Williams, Jo Fletcher, GOLLANCZ, Jon Courtenay Grimwood, Ian Snell, Farah*

### Play Rehearsal (2)

*Roozee Sat 12:00 - 13:30*

*David Wake*

**The little book of contemplation:** Life is a cabaret, we're not having a cabaret ... get a life

### George Hay Lecture: The Braintrix

*Kings Sat 14:00 - 15:00*

by Dr Guillaume Thierry. "I will demonstrate that what we take for "reality" is nothing other than an illusion constructed by our brain. Based on a series of visual illusions, considerations on animal perception and review of patients with brain lesions, I will show how the world in which we live is a mental representation which can be deceived and distorted. The immediate philosophical and fictional consequences of this scientific fact will be considered in closing."

*Dr Guillaume Thierry, Simon Bradshaw*

### LJ isn't just a blog

*Roozee Sat 14:00 - 15:00*

How do you use LJ - is it a diary, or is it now standing in for emails, phone calls, is it the first thing you think of to get in touch with an individual or a group? With personal emails so often caught in spam filters, is this method now more reliable? If you haven't got one - why not?

*Max, Lillian Edwards, James*

### Universal Donor

*Kings Sat 15:00 - 16:30*

Is it time for science fiction to stop bleeding? Other genres - fantasy, technothriller, historical - have been recently reinvigorated by taking a science-fictional approach: the New Weird in fantasy, the recent work of (e.g.) Greg Bear, the resurgence of alternate history and time travel. Authors identified with SF have 'bled' towards the mainstream or other genres. Science fiction has become the default multimedia landscape. Is SF making a blood donation - or bleeding to death?

*Paul Cornell, Ian Watson, Jo Fletcher, GOLLANCZ, Freda Warrington, Graham Sleight*

### Komodo Dragons

*Roozee Sat 15:00 - 16:30*

Kevin Buley, Curator of Lower Vertebrates & Invertebrates, on Komodo Dragons, the recent hatchings and conservation at Chester Zoo generally.

*Peter Harrow, Kevin Buley*

### An Inconvenient Truth

*Christleton Sat 15:00 - 16:30*

Film showing: Former Vice President Al Gore presents a compelling look at the state of global warming in the fascinating and startling documentary

**AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH.**

*Fran Dowd*

### Un-American Futures

*Kings Sat 16:30 - 18:00*

SF has traditionally had a white western bias, in literature and in the fanbase. That's changing rapidly. British SF has been described as "the most dynamic movement in global science fiction of the past decade and arguably one of the most important forces in world culture during that period" - why us and not the Americans?

*Jon Courtenay Grimwood, Ian McDonald, Charles Stross, John Richards, Conor Kostick*

### Belly Dancing Workshop

*Roozee Sat 16:30 - 18:00*

Anyone welcome, male or female, no audience, you come, you dance, wear loose comfortable clothing, hippy skirts are groovy and scarves for round your hips, but t-shirt and jeans will do at a pinch.

*Sue Mason*

**The little book of contemplation:** If someone tells you to get a life, it's impolite to take theirs ... but very efficient

### Urban Exploring

*Christleton Sat 16:30 - 18:00*

What is 'urban exploring'? It's the art of spending time in abandoned buildings, be they industrial, commercial, medical, military, educational – in fact, any building that isn't being used any longer. This programme item will look at how you go about it, where to do, what to do and what not to do and so on, with some photographs of Phil and Jill's explorations – including an insane asylum.

*Jill Bradley, Phil Bradley*

### Battle of the Butlers

*Roodee Sat 18:00 - 19:00*

The great butlers, gentlemen's gentlemen, valets - the balloon is overloaded, who will be first to dive to their doom? And last to remain?

*Fran Dowd, Malcolm Davies, Michael Abbott, KEN SHINN, Peter Harrow, Steve*

### Dr Who

*Kings Sat 18:55 - 19:40*

Don't be late, it starts at five to seven!

*The Magician*

### Transitional Comics

*Roodee Sat 20:00 - 21:00*

The panel looks at the changing face of graphic novels, and argues the case for their current favourites.

*James, Richard Morgan, Michael Abbott, Tony Keen*

### Mine Your Own Business

*Christleton Sat 20:00 - 22:00*

Film - Mine Your Own Business: A Documentary

About the Dark Side of Environmentalism, produced by filmmakers Phelim McAleer and Ann McElhinney, which investigates controversial proposed mining projects in impoverished villages. Their main focus in the film is the village of Rosia Montana in Romania. There, McAleer and McElhinney interview western environmentalists who oppose the project as well as the local people that are in favour of the project. The movie portrays western environmentalists as wealthy elites who are working counter to the interests of the local people

*Fran Dowd*

### BSFA Awards

*Kings Sat 21:00 - 22:00*

Presentation of the BSFA Awards.

*John Jarrold, Liz Williams, Jon Courtenay Grimwood, Ian McDonald, Ian Snell*

### Teledu Challenge

*Roodee Sat 21:00 - 22:00*

The Bible, vomit, great works of art, SF and sex. All these and many more are subjects in the Teledu Challenge, an exercise in Creative Stupidity. Take part,

et fast, think sideways and you may just win the Teledu Crown!

*Jim de Liscard, Chris, Meike, Jess*

### Karaoke Disco

*Kings Sat 22:00 - 01:00*

Celebrate the end of Life on Mars with a retro 70s karaoke disco

### bad people bad sex bad wolf

*Roodee Sat 22:00 - 23:00*

Torchwood billed itself as "adult", was it? what actually made it so? Why is Stargate on at 8 pm and Battlestar Galactica at 9? What does "adult" really mean?

*Kari, Penny Hill, John Richards, Dougs, Deborah J. Miller*

### Filking Time

*Christleton Sat 22:00 - 01:00*

Bring your instruments and voices for informal filking.

### Blake's 7 Wobblevision

*Meet in Con Bar - Sat 22:00 - 00:00*

There will be a Blake's 7 Wobblevision event, meet in the convention bar.

*Steve Rogerson*

### First Fumblings

*Roodee Sat 23:00 - 00:00*

What is this slash stuff anyway?

*Dougs, Serena Culfether, Fran Dowd, Elanor*

**The little book of contemplation:** Have a divine mission. Feeling you have a divine mission to punish wrongdoers or lead the world towards the light is beneficial for your self-esteem. And if you let other people know about it, they will be more careful of your feelings. Practise muttering something like this: 'I am Jehu son of Nimshi, appointed by Elijah to slay all sons of Baal.'

### Songs of Praise

*Kings Sun 09:00 - 10:00*

If you'd rather stay in the con than go to church, or just feel nostalgic for primary school assemblies, come and join in. Musicians and lead singers especially welcome.

*Dougs*

### Morning Feedback

*Roodee Sun 09:00 - 10:00*

Anything going wrong for you? If it's something the hotel, Ops or Registration can't handle, come and tell us.

*Fran Dowd, The Magician*

### Kids TV

*Christleton Sun 09:00 - 10:00*

For details of all video programme, please see the separate guide in your pack

### Fireworks

*Kings Sun 10:00 - 11:00*

Not the real thing, but as close as we could get! Martin Hoare covers the basic types of fireworks and what they do, dipping a toe in the water about chemistry and construction and how to put together and fire a display without blowing up Griff Rhys Jones (as seen on BBC2).

*Martin Hoare*

### **Easter Bonnet Parade**

*Roodee Sun 10:00 - 11:00*

Bring along your Easter Bonnets, prizes for the best - there are no limitations on design other than the general convention and hotel policies on weapons, explosives, and general public health and safety. There will be prizes, including vouchers from The Hat Company shop in Chester who are kindly sponsoring this event.  
*SMS, Margaret Austin, Alice Lawson*

### **Archers - listen-in and panel**

*Christleton Sun 10:00 - 12:00*

Listen to the Archers omnibus edition, and discuss ...  
*Peter Harrow*

### **Is UK SF publishing overly masculine?**

*Kings Sun 11:00 - 12:00*

"I hear that a number of women writers have felt that the atmosphere in the UK is very hard science, hard men at present -- not that all the editors of male or whatever, but that the culture seems to be for quite macho type books." True?

*Graham Sleight, Jaine Fenn, Jo Fletcher, GOLLAN CZ, Liz Williams, Gareth L. Powell, John Richards*

### **Local fan groups**

*Roodee Sun 11:00 - 12:00*

Do you run or want to start a local fan group? Some people who already do so talk about their experiences and swap ideas.

*Mark Young, DC, Fran Dowd, 1/2r*

### **Bid Session**

*Kings Sun 12:00 - 13:30*

Your chance to elect the Eastercon for 2009.

*Sieve, John Dowd, Alice Lawson, Judith Proctor, James, Peter Harrow, John Richards*

**The little book of contemplation:** Take time to think of others less fortunate than you ... ok, that didn't take long did it?

### **Play Rehearsal (3)**

*Roodee Sun 12:00 - 13:00*

*David Wake*

### **Video Block (2)**

*Christleton Sun 12:00 - 18:30*

for details of all video programme, please see the separate guide in your pack

### **Library Cataloguing**

*Roodee Sun 13:00 - 14:00*

Library Thing, Delicious Library, specialist software, what else is out there to help you?

*Rae Streets, Hayley, Nick Mills, Fran Dowd*

### **Walking Roman Chester**

*Outside Sun 13:00 - 15:00*

In a moment of seriousness, Tony Keen leads a walk around the sites of Roman Chester. Numbers limited to 25, you can sign up at Registration.

*Tony Keen*

### **George Hay spinoff**

*Charles 1 Sun 14:00 - 15:30*

A discussion of the issues raised in the George Hay lecture yesterday, and how they relate to SF

*Simon Bradshaw*

### **Art Auction**

*Edward 1 Sun 14:00 - 17:00*

Now that you've seen what's on offer in the Art Show, this is your opportunity to fight for it! If you want to know how the Auction works, please go and talk to the Art Show staff who will explain the process.

*John Harold*

### **Adamist or Edenist?**

*Roodee 1 Sun 14:00 - 15:30*

Biotech vs nanotech as applied to humans -- is there a difference? How have different writers, from Bruce Sterling to Justina Robson to Peter Hamilton to Peter Watts, explored the difference? Where is the line, and which side of it would you be on?

*Peter Harrow, Paul Raven a.k.a. Armchair Anarchist, Nikkums, Richard Morgan*

### **Post-BSFA awards discussion**

*Charles 1 Sun 15:30 - 17:00*

The panel look at the results of yesterday's vote.

*Liz Batty, Chris Hill, Martin McGrath, Kari*

### **But That's Not SF!**

*Roodee Sun 15:30 - 17:00*

What's SF really? What's not SF that we think we should claim?

*dave lally, Julia Daly, John Richards, Phil Nansen, John Dallman*

### **Military - reality vs fiction**

*Charles 1 Sun 17:00 - 18:30*

Digicams and email bring modern soldiers' views of war right onto our computer screens. How do their experiences compare with SF's depictions of future conflict?

*Martin Easterbrook, Richard Morgan, Simon Bradshaw, Charles Stross*

### **Artetypes**

*Edward 1 Sun 17:00 - 18:30*

There are many conventional images of artists (in whatever medium they work). For example, there is the iconoclast, the rebel, the self-absorbed and so on. To what extent are these archetypes reflected in SF and fantasy? Are there different archetypes that are unique to these genres?

*Deirdre Counihan, Michael Abbott, Paul Dormer, Peter Wareham*

### **Paper Doll Masquerade**

*Roo Dee Sun 17:00 - 18:30*

In your PR there was a paper doll for you to dress, in whatever way took your fancy. Here's your opportunity to show off your work, and to be judged by your peers. *Flick, Alice Lawson, Sue Mason, James Steel*

### **Play Setup**

*Charles I Sun 18:30 - 20:00*

*David Wake*

### **Not the Clarke Awards**

*Edward I Sun 18:30 - 20:00*

A discussion of the 2006 Clarke shortlist. *Caroline Mullan, Claire Briailey, Tony Cullen, Iain Emsley, Farah*

### **What would you like to see at Orbital?**

*Roo Dee Sun 18:30 - 20:00*

Come along with programme suggestions for next year's Eastercon.

*Steve Rogerson, Mark Young*

### **Battlestar Galactica Season 3 summary**

*Christleton Sun 18:30 - 20:00*

If you've been diddled by Virgin, and want to be informed for the Politics and Ethics in Battlestar Galactica panel tomorrow, why not come along for an overview of Season 3?

*John Richards*

### **Politics and Ethics in Ankh-Morpork**

*Roo Dee Sun 20:00 - 21:00*

How does Ankh-Morpork actually work? Is there anything we should adopt from it? What would it really be like to live there? Are there any bits of it that, however amusing, are deeply unacceptable?

*Farah, Andrew Ducker, Peter Harrow, Abi Brown, John Richards*

### **Borrowed Worlds**

*Christleton Sun 20:00 - 21:00*

Some writers develop their own worlds. Marcus Rowland prefers to find the ones he likes and borrow them, using copyright-expired sources and parodies of current events as the inspiration for his role-playing games. He'll be talking about Forgotten Futures, Diana: Warrior Princess, and The Original Flatland Role Playing Game, and possibly brain-storming some ideas for some or all of these games.

*Marcus Rowland*

### **Inveigle**

*Kings Sun 21:00 - 22:00*

An SF play by David Wake

*David Wake, Peter Harrow*

### **League of Fan Funds Auction**

*Kings Sun 22:00 - 00:00*

After the play, it's the Triumphant Return of the Fan Funds Auction. Your intrepid auctioneers present a

wide variety of rare and marvellous objects culled from attics around the globe. But will this see the last of 1/2r's mutton chops? Bring stuff! Buy stuff! Marvel at weird late-night antics! Sorry, we don't have Obi-Wan Kenobi's cloak...

*Alison Scott, Flick, Bridget Bradshaw, Claire Briailey, 1/2r*

### **Hey Dude, Where's My Ice Age?**

*Roo Dee Sun 22:00 - 23:00*

Social and scientific predictors have been warning us of a coming catastrophe for all of history - in the late nineteenth century it was gridlock and nine metres of horseshit in the street, not so long ago it was the coming Ice Age. Why should we believe them this time round?

*Fran Dowd, Dave Clements, Nikkums, Stephen Cooper, Vincent Docherty*

### **Obscene Filk Workshop**

*Christleton Sun 22:00 - 23:00*

Obscene filking - a chance to sing and write those filk songs that happily plumb the depths of depravity and perversion.

*Dougs, Judith Proctor*

### **The BC Intermission Games**

*Roo Dee Sun 23:00 - 00:00*

Beyond Cyberdrome put their own bizarre spin on a few of your favourite Radio 4 comedy games.

*SMS*

### **Filking Time**

*Christleton Sun 23:00 - 01:00*

Bring your instruments and voices for informal filking.

### **Paper Doll Masquerade (Adult)**

*Roo Dee Mon 00:00 - 01:00*

In your PR there was a paper doll for you to dress, in whatever way took your fancy. Here's your opportunity to show off your work, and to be judged by your peers. This one is for those of you who have chosen a slightly more \*ahem\* theme.

*Flick, Alice Lawson, Sue Mason, Ian Watson*

**The little book of contemplation:** Remain on the lookout for things that make you laugh - and, if you see nothing worth laughing at, pretend you see it. Then laugh.

Women have been doing that to your jokes for years.

### **Flash Fiction Workshop 2**

*Roo Dee Mon 09:00 - 10:00*

Feedback and discussion on the writing we did in workshop 1. The format will depend on numbers and interest. Please bring your work from the first session.

*Kate Bodley*

### **Kid's TV (3)**

*Christleton Mon 09:00 - 10:00*

for details of all video programme, please see the separate guide in your pack

## Everything You Can Expect At A Weekend SCA Event In One Hour

*Charles 1 Mon 10:00 - 11:00*

Costumes, fencing, armour, music, dancing, sweetmeats and general merriment  
*Nikkums, Gonz*

## Professionals in Publishing

*Edward 1 Mon 10:00 - 11:00*

What exactly is an agent, and editor, a publisher and how can they help you?

*John Richards, Roy Gray, Christian Dunn, Deirdre Counihan, Jo Fletcher, GOLLANCZ*

## Eastercon Forum

*Roodee Mon 10:00 - 11:00*

This year's discussion is: Customers Or Members?

*Mark Young, James, Dave Tally, Simon Bradshaw, Fran Dowd, Peter Harrow, The Magician, Farah*

## Kids TV (4)

*Christleton Mon 10:00 - 11:00*

for details of all video programme, please see the separate guide in your pack

## Human Factors in Space Travel

*Charles 1 Mon 11:00 - 12:00*

Dr Sarita Robinson, lecturer in Psychology, explores the human side of space exploration, covering everything from spaceship design to the practical issues surrounding sex in space.

*Sarita, The Magician*

**The little book of contemplation:** Pretend you are a goldfish. Open and close your mouth. Have to have things repeated to you every 4 seconds. Waggle your ears.

## Children's literature

*Edward 1 Mon 11:00 - 12:00*

Our panel discusses the nature of children's literature - why are some classics are no longer considered "suitable"? What do children today want, and what do parents want for them?

*Caroline Mullan, Elizabeth Wein, Conor Kostick, Paul Cornell, Alison Scott, Marianne Cain*

## Other Kinds of Conventions

*Roodee Mon 11:00 - 12:00*

Eastercon is only one kind of convention, there are all sorts of other events going on out there.

*Chris, Elanor, James, Hayley*

## Video Block (3)

*Christleton Mon 11:00 - 13:00*

For details of all video programme, please see the separate guide in your pack

## Going Japanese

*Charles 1 Mon 12:00 - 13:00*

Are you planning on going to the Worldcon in Japan? Because it's a Worldcon, or because it's in Japan? Come along and share what you know about Japan:

culture, language, food, travel recommendations ... goodies for this item sponsored by The Japanese Shop in Chester

*Peter Harrow, Carolina, Pat McMurray, Vincent Docherty*

## Politics and Ethics in Battlestar Galactica

*Edward 1 Mon 12:00 - 13:00*

Spoiler Alert - this discussion will be wide-ranging, and may well cover episodes of Season 3 you might not have seen on Sky, even if you can get Sky any more, who knows.

*Paul Cornell, Phil Nansen, Simon Bradshaw, John Richards*

## Monorails - A One Track Mind

*Charles 1 Mon 13:00 - 14:30*

A presentation on monorails by an enthusiast. (If you're looking for something to do after the con, you can ride the one at Chester Zoo.)

*Feòrag NicBhrìde*

## Glorifying Terrorism

*Edward 1 Mon 13:00 - 14:30*

"Glorifying Terrorism" is a recently published anthology of sf short stories written in protest of the Terrorism Act. The editor, a few of the contributors, and interested parties discuss the influences and ideas behind the project.

*Charles Stross, Kari, Ian McDonald, Farah*

## If the Swan had sunk

*Roodee Mon 13:00 - 14:30*

What would the world be like if Shakespeare had not existed? Peter and Gwen give an outline of the career of William Shakespeare, and discuss how different the world might have been if his works had never written.

*Peter Wareham, Gwen Funnell*

## Why I Want to Gafiate

*Edward 1 Mon 14:30 - 16:00*

People leave fandom, or stop coming to conventions, all the time. Why? We talk all the time about getting in new fans, why can't we keep the old ones?

*John Richards, Pat McMurray, Greg Pickersgill*

## Healthier Fans

*Roodee Mon 14:30 - 16:00*

Why are so many of us overweight, or diabetic? Many of us also have food intolerances or minor disabilities. What are we doing about it? How can we help each other?

*Bridget Bradshaw, The Magician, Fran Dowd*

## Scriptwriter's Skills - Structure

*Christleton Mon 14:30 - 16:00*

David Wake leads a course on structure in your scripts, with examples.

*David Wake*

## Closing Ceremony and Awards

*Charles 1 Mon 16:00 - 16:30*

## Contemplation – Eastercon 2007 - Chester

Time to say an official bye-bye ... various awards will be presented, including Philosque and the Doc Weir. Steve, The Magician, Fran Dowd, John Dowd, Hayley, Eira, SMS, Official Cuddly Toy

### Feedback to Future Eastercons

Charles 1 Mon 16:30 - 17:30

Orbital is the Eastercon for 2008, and by now we also have an Eastercon for 2009 (we hope ...). Following the Closing Ceremony, representatives from future Eastercons will take the stage for you to give them constructive feedback and contribute to their planning. Peter Harrow, James, Judith Proctor

### DeadDog Party

Charles 1 Mon 19:00 - 00:00

Come along and celebrate!  
The Magician

### Once More With Feeling singalong

Christleton Mon 19:00 - 20:00

<blank>

Fran Dowd

### High School Musical singalong

Christleton Mon 20:00 - 22:00

this could get ugly ...

Hayley

**The little book of contemplation:** Consider contemplation. Think about considering contemplation. Meditate on the concept of thinking about considering contemplation. Ponder on the ineffability of meditating on the concept of thinking about contemplation. Now breathe ... see, sometimes it's fun to breathe. Now think about ineffability ... what does it mean (no, really, I've no idea, something about the inability to "F"?)

## Media Programme

There is a separate guide detailing what is showing in the various video slots. Ask at Registration if you don't have one in your membership pack.

**The little book of contemplation:** Talk with a soft voice. A really sinister one like Donald Pleasance's. Stare intently at people's jugular veins or the place where their ears join onto their heads..You'll be surprised by the increased respect you get.

### Vidistine nuper imagines moventes bonas?

## Inveigle

David B Wake is a serious playwright. When designing the posters for his play 'Inveigle' to be performed at this year's Eastercon, instead of putting 'A Play By David Wake', Dave has been tempted to put on it 'A Serious Play By David Wake'. But there is one big problem – he suspects that no-one would believe him – rather like Bob Shaw promising a 'serious' scientific talk. That's why I'm writing this rather than him. On seeing in the programme a dramatic piece by Dave, no doubt people will be expecting can-can dancing monoliths, interactive video inserts, dangerous alien stilts, bad puns, more homage than Simon Pegg and a guest appearance by Captain Tartan.

Dave has been threatening to do a serious dramatic work for a convention since the euphoria and near nervous collapse that followed the performance of 'Captain Tartan Saves The World ...Again' back in 1999. The original thought was to perhaps do an adaptation of a short story or something starting from a point in literary SF (I recall the original idea was to perhaps dramatise one or more of Bob Shaw's slow glass stories).

Since then though, he and his 'Reconvene Rubber Tree Company' (Rubber Tree / Repertory geddit! - seriously, some regular cast members didn't get this until years later) have produced and performed 20:01 (a complete retelling of both 2001 and 2010 complete with aforementioned dancing monoliths), Tartan:Restrung (a comedic homage to the Matrix films/Blade Runner/Total Recall and Philip K Dick in general), as well as an audience participation Richard III (in honour of convention guest Jasper Fford). So no wonder there is a certain, shall we say, audience expectation.

Well I'm afraid that 'Inveigle' is a little different, and Dave has finally delivered on his promise of going serious. Nor is it an adaptation, it is a completely original piece. There is adult content – so parental guidance is strongly advised. There are no elaborate props, silly costumes, bad puns or homage to media SF. Dave Wake is a serious playwright. In the past, at least for convention audiences, this has meant seriously funny. Now it's time to explore what other emotions and reactions can be drawn from an audience – prepare to be Inveigled.

Mark Slater

**Sane, paululum linguae Latinae dico ... lingua speciem involutam  
praebet, set sat cito eam comprehendes. Atque memento, nulli adsunt  
Romanorum qui locutionem tuam corrigant!**

**The little book of contemplation:** Add a dab of lavender to milk. Leave town with an orange, and pretend you're laughing at it.

### ***Things to do before you go home***

- Join the 2009 Eastercon
- Join the 2008 Eastercon, Orbital
- Join Redemption '09
- Vote for JETS
- Vote for GUFF
- Join Discworld Convention 2008, Year of the Teledu, Satellite One, Confounding Tales!, Novacon, and dozens of other upcoming conventions.
- Thank the committees of Convoy and Contemplation (go on, you know you want to!)
- Start planning your Eastercon 2010 bid.
- Stop planning your UK Worldcon in any year bid :-)

**The little book of contemplation:** Sometimes life is too busy and you just need to stop and relax ... here's some blank space to stare at.

**Crowne Plaza**  
Trinity Street, Chester  
Cheshire CH1 2BD  
0870 442 1081

**Kings Suite**  
Main Programme

**Charles I**

**Edward I**

**Malpas**  
Art Show

**Christleton**  
Media Pgm

**Health Club**

**Registration**  
Newsletter

**Chester Suite**  
Con Bar

**Rothsay**

**Dealers Room**

**Prince of Wales Suite**  
Cornwall

**Smoking Lounge**

**Green Room**  
Stairs down to reception  
Lift  
Entrance to car park

**Gaming**

**Roodee**  
More Programme

**Farndon**  
**Burton**  
**Ashton**

**Restaurant**  
**Bar**

**You Are Here**

**Ops**

## 24

## Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2007

| Time  | Charles (K1)                                          | Edward (K2)                               | Roodee                      | Christleton                     | My Items |  |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|--|
| 09:00 |                                                       |                                           | Morning Feedback            | Kids TV                         |          |  |
| 09:30 |                                                       |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 10:00 | What Does This Knob Do?                               | Climate Change - planning our environment | GMTV                        |                                 |          |  |
| 10:30 |                                                       |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 11:00 | Space Inge Heyer                                      | These Are Not the Tits You're Looking For | Flash Fiction Workshop 1    | Video Block (1)                 |          |  |
| 11:30 |                                                       |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 12:00 | Eastercon Identity                                    | BSFA Awards Taster                        | Play Rehearsal (2)          |                                 |          |  |
| 12:30 |                                                       |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 13:00 |                                                       |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 13:30 |                                                       |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 14:00 | George Hay Lecture: The Braintrix                     |                                           | LJ isn't just a blog        |                                 |          |  |
| 14:30 |                                                       |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 15:00 | Universal Donor                                       |                                           | Komodo Dragons              | An Inconvenient Truth           |          |  |
| 15:30 |                                                       |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 16:00 |                                                       |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 16:30 | Un-American Futures                                   |                                           | Belly Dancing Workshop      | Urban Exploring                 |          |  |
| 17:00 |                                                       |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 17:30 |                                                       |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 18:00 |                                                       |                                           | Battle of the Butlers       |                                 |          |  |
| 18:30 |                                                       |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 19:00 | Dr Who Starts at 18:55, arrive early for a good seat! |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 19:30 |                                                       |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 20:00 |                                                       |                                           | Transitional Comics         | Mine Your Own Business          |          |  |
| 20:30 |                                                       |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 21:00 | BSFA Awards                                           |                                           | Teledu Challenge            |                                 |          |  |
| 21:30 |                                                       |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 22:00 | karaoke Disco (until 1am)                             |                                           | bad people bad sex bad wolf | Filking Time until at least 1am |          |  |
| 22:30 |                                                       |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |
| 23:00 |                                                       |                                           | First Fumblings             |                                 |          |  |
| 23:30 |                                                       |                                           |                             |                                 |          |  |

### Additional Programme Items:

Saturday 08:45-10:00 **Shooting Chester** -meet in hotel reception at 8:45am ready to go (coat, camera, batteries etc.)

Saturday 22:00-00:00 **Blake's 7 Wobblevision** –meet in the con bar (Chester Suite)

**The little book of contemplation:** Pretend it's Saturday. There, that wasn't so hard was it?

And for some of the quotes and such in this ReadMe, Paul Wilson (who wrote the original “The Little Book of Calm”), Michael Kelly who wrote the scandalously funny webpage “The Joy of Calm” (<http://www.michaelkelly.fsnet.co.uk>) and gave permission for us to quote or steal bits, the writers of Black Books (if I remember to use The Little Book of Calm misquote they created!) and Henry Beard for “Lingua Latina occasionibus omnibus” (who didn’t give permission but I recommend you go out and buy many of his books, such as *Miss Piggy’s Guide to Life*.)

**The little book of contemplation:** Control only what you can control. Be rigorous in differentiating between what is achievable and what is a waste of time. Then devote your energies only to those tasks you can achieve (pass on the others to someone else).

The thanks go on ...

The Science Fiction Foundation for providing the George Hay Memorial Lecture. A highlight of every Eastercon that has had one, and we’re looking forward to this year’s lecture, though when we were told what it was about, we could barely believe our eyes or ears ...

“**The Japanese Shop**” is sponsoring the item *Going Japanese* (Monday noon) and has provided the bags for the Convention and a significant amount of Japanese Chocolate for consumption in the course of this item. The Japanese Shop in Chester is at 10 Watergate Street, Chester CH1 2LA (just down the road from the Hotel) and caters for all things concerning Japanese Culture. Opening hours are normally 9:00 – 17:30 Monday to Saturday and 11:00 – 17:00 Sunday, and it is well worth a visit.

“**The Hat Company**” is sponsoring the Easter Bonnet Competition and has provided vouchers in the sum of £15.00 for the winner. The Hat Company Shop in Chester is situated at Northgate Street Chester (almost opposite the Town Hall) and contains a massive selection of Men and Womens hats in a vast number of styles and colours, including top hats and bowlers (as modelled by certain members of the committee and senior staff at this convention!). Opening hours are normally 9:00 – 17:00 Monday to Saturday and 11:00 to 17:00 Sunday. Excellent for the Hat loving fan.

“**Chester Zoo**” is a charitable organisation working in the area of rare species conservation. They are also a damned fine Zoo. Their Curator of Lower Vertebrates, Kevin Buley is giving a talk on the Komodo Dragons at the Zoo, and they also operate one of the monorails featured in the item “One Track Mind”. If Members feel like attending the Zoo or just being charitable and sponsoring animals or making donations, the Zoo’s address is: Chester Zoo, Caughall Road, Upton, Chester, CH2 1LH. It is located on the outskirts of Chester and is easily accessible. Opening Hours over Easter: The Zoo opens at 10:00 each day and closes at 18:00 (Last admission is 17:00) The monorail and waterbus close at 17:45.

**The little book of contemplation:** Do Tai Chi. This soothing brand of herbal tea is available at most health shops.

### So what’s with all this Latin stuff then?

Chester is rich with Roman history, and here’s your chance to immerse yourself in it. Translations of all these phrases will be put up on the website after the convention, but in the meantime, perhaps you can come up with your own profound or profane translations and either give them to the newsletter or send them in to the con email address for use in the post-con souvenir book!

real pain for everybody else, like a play or a big-screen presentation. Again, please use your common sense.

**The little book of contemplation:** Property is theft, property is freedom, for lost property go to ops.

**The little book of contemplation:** Steal someone's pen. Rather than harbouring grudges or engaging in stressful confrontations, get back at annoying bosses or workmates by stealing something belonging to them or hiding rotting food in their desk.

### Hotel No-Nos

Please don't let people crash in your room, or bring food or drink from outside into the hotel. If the hotel finds out you are doing these things, the committee will not support you.

If the hotel asks you to do something that seems silly, like putting shoes on, please don't argue with the staff. Tell us instead so we can establish if it's hotel policy and, if so, publish it in the newsletter. After a certain time in the evening, the hotel will close their cash tills and only guests will be allowed to purchase food and drink (but we're sure you'll find someone who is a guest who will go to the bar for you!)

**The little book of contemplation:** Eliminate the negative. As much as possible try and use positive words, such as 'Yes', 'Oui', 'Javoll', etc. Avoid negative words like 'No', 'Non', 'Nein', etc. If you absolutely have to use negative words, be vibrant and upbeat about them. If your boss asks you if you've completed a project you should have finished three days ago and you haven't, cheerfully tell him, "Good Christ, no!" and grin. Then steal his pen.

### Smoking

Due to the new legislation, Contemplation will be the last smoking Eastercon! Smoking is permitted in the Crowne Plaza in designated bedrooms and in the smoking lounge, which will be clearly signed.

There will be no smoking anywhere else, which includes the function rooms, hotel corridors, staircases, lifts, con bar areas, or the restaurant. In fact, nowhere else inside aside from specifically marked bedrooms and the Smoking Lounge (marked on the map at the back of this ReadMe).

The Express by Holiday Inn is a completely non-smoking hotel.

**The little book of contemplation:** Smoke like a chimney. Smoking is relaxing, and it gives you something to do with your hands. Otherwise, they'd be fidgeting around and people might notice how gnarled and ugly they are.

### Sticking stuff on walls

For a pleasant change the hotel has said anything can be stuck up just about anywhere (within reason and be sensible!) but only using white tack (no sellotape, no nails, no thumbtacks, no glue guns, no cans of strong spray glue borrowed from The Blues Brothers, no arc welders etc.).

**Si hoc signum legere potes, operis boni in rebus  
Latinis alacribus et fructuosis potiri potes!**

**The little book of contemplation:** Time is an illusion, so is free-will. All times in this book are therefore both fictional and nothing you could change anyway ... still, check the newsletter for programme updates.

### Drinks:

Real Ale @ £2.90/pint. Real Ale (Bass on draught, plus various bottled beers) will be available in both the Chester/con and Silks bars. Pints of Cordial @ £1. However all other drinks (including diet Coke, wine and spirits) will be at the standard hotel prices. We're sorry about this, we tried getting it cheaper but were told it was the same deal. Concussion got last year and since they are in the same group, we're getting the same deal.

**The little book of contemplation:** Lick a bald person's head. Licking scalps is nature's way of releasing natural endorphins.

### Bar Times:

The con bar (Chester Suite) should be open until 2:30am if you're drinking enough ... after that the main hotel bar (Silks) will remain open. After 2:30am all drinks will need to be charged to a room, no cash will be taken.

**Scisne ubi pocillum coffeae apud hanc locum possum capere?**

### Art show, dealers etc. times

#### Dealers Room Opening Hours

- Friday 16:00 (ish) - 18:00
- Saturday 10:00 - 18:00
- Sunday 10:00 - 18:00
- Monday 10:00 - 15:00

Dealer setup/access: all day Friday and from 9:00 Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

**Haecine taberna munusculorum unica est?**

#### Art Show Opening Hours

- Friday 13:00 - 18:00
- Friday 19:30 - 20:30 for launch party
- Saturday 10:00 - 18:00
- Sunday 10:00 - 12:00 (closing two hours before auction)

**Cum Musis deditus non sim, nosco quod amo**

### Art Auction

All artwork must be collected on the Sunday after the Auction from the Malpas room from 17:00 (earlier if the auction ends earlier).

### Hotel Check-In and Check-Out times

Crowne Plaza, check-in from 2pm, check-out by 12noon.

Express by Holiday Inn, check-in from 2pm, check out by 11am.

**The little book of contemplation:** Wear a big grin. A smile a day keeps the electro-shocks away! Smiling can help you through any stressful situation. When your boss calls you a cretin, grin. On crowded public transport, smile manically at the people around you until your cheeks start to hurt. They'll feel so friendly they'll move up to give you lots of room!

**Visne scire quot credam? Credo missiones turrium  
flammeorum statum caeli mutavisse.**

### **Easter Bonnet Parade**

There will be an Easter Bonnet Parade and judging at 10:00 on Sunday morning, there are no limitations on design other than the general convention and hotel policies on weapons, explosives, and general public health and safety. There will be prizes, including vouchers from The Hat Company shop in Chester who are kindly sponsoring this event.

**Ubi possum potiri petasi similis isti?**

### **Hall Costume Day**

Sunday is Hall Costume Day. You should have found three voting tokens in your membership pack. On Sunday, you can give one or more of your tokens to people whose costume you deem worthy of recognition, and there will be prizes for maximum numbers of tokens collected. So if you really like a costume, you can give all three tokens to that person, or you can divide them up between two or three people as you prefer. No need to register your costume or show up at a particular time, just wear it around the convention. Please observe the Weapons Policy, though. If you receive one or more Hall Costume tokens, write your name and membership number on them (so we know who to give the prize to!) and hand them in to Ops by noon Monday so we have time to count them before the closing ceremony.

**The little book of contemplation:** Make a date to argue. If you have a disagreement with someone, don't have it out there and then. Arrange to meet later to discuss it when you're both in a calmer frame of mind. Get there early and be waiting for them with a baseball bat.

### **X-Factor**

Bring along the worst profession writing you can find (usually reserved for "turkey readings") and our panel of judges will listen to your rendition of it (from "render" meaning either to cover in plaster or to tear into pieces) and vote which ones should go through.

**Aliquid ardet**

### **Paper Doll Masquerade**

It's probably not too late to nip into town to one of the stationery or fabric shops and put together an entry for either the general or "adult-themes" Paper Doll Masquerade. There may be prizes! Don't forget you can dress up several dolls if you want to do, say, the entire Pirates of the Caribbean cast, or a paper version of Avenue Q!

**The little book of contemplation:** Who you really are is inside you, however who other people think you are is on the outside, so wear your badge or go outside

### **Monster Easter Egg Hunt Competition**

Peter Harrow has produced a series of twelve monstrous eggs in celebration of EasterCon which are on display in the Artshow. Three have been donated to Contemplation for you lucky people to win, in an egg related competition.

### **Rules**

Each of the twelve multiple choice questions will be on display in a public part of the Hotel, you have to find them and answer the questions on the form supplied and return the completed answer sheet to Registration before 12.00 pm on Sunday. Winners will be drawn from the correct (or most nearly correct) entries submitted by 6.00 pm on the Sunday.