

INNUMERATE

Issue 2

Saturday Afternoon

newsletter@eastercon2017.uk

Innominate: the 68th British National Science Fiction Convention

14-17 April 2017

WE ARE OPEN

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

—*Jaine Fenn*

BREAKFAST TIME

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

EGGCELLENT!

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

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

—*Kylie Ding*

SHAMELESS PLUG

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

P*SSSED OFF?

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

VOTE — USE IT OR LOSE IT!

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

IPHONE, YOU PHONE

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

MONORAIL! MONORAIL! MONORAIL!

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

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

—Edwin Hayward

VOTE (PART 2)

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

2001: THE SFACTOR

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

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

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

Hunter, Director of the Arthur C Clarke Award.

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

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

DUCK ATTACK!

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

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

PROGRAMME CHANGES

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

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

Anton Marks and Joanne Harris will now be doing

their author readings at 8:30pm.

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

LARGE LUMPS OF METAL

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

FOOD, FOOD, FOOD!

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

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