



ISSUE 1 - FRIDAY AFTERNOON - THE NEWSLETTER OF ORBITAL, THE 2008 EASTERCON

## Panic Stations!

This first newsletter comes to you from Shakespeare (our office, sadly, not the bard himself), where it was thrown together in an amusingly short amount of time by Abi and Jan. Disorganisation reigned for a while, but as Jan pointed out at least by Monday we'll know what we should have done.

This is all being written to the dulcet tones of Hazel O'Connor, which I suspect will be much to the disapproval of anyone who walks in here and Jan when he comes back from registration.

## A note from Erhard

Erhard Leder is still in hospital after a traffic accident in September, but he sends his greetings and best wishes to everyone and hopes to see you all next Eastercon.

## Programme Changes

There are the usual swathe of last-minute programme changes as follows.

- All the programme items in Aintree and Kempton have **swapped round**. This shouldn't be too difficult to work out, as they're right next to each other!
- On **Judging a Book by Its Cover** (today at 16:00), Alex Ingram will be replacing Pete Young.
- The video programme in Forsyth now includes the Hugo nominated *Doctor Who* episode *Blink* at 18:00 today.
- **The Tai Chi sessions** at 10:00 on Saturday, Sunday and Monday will now be in George and not Elizabeth.
- On **What's the Point of Fannish Awards** (Saturday at 17:00), Mark Plummer will be replacing Pete Young.
- **The Scandinavian Party** will be at 21:00 on Saturday in Newbury Two.
- **A Sensation of Vertigo** at 22:00 Saturday will include Mike Carey.
- *Scream* (18) will be at midnight instead of at 23:00 on Saturday in Forsyth.
- The Easter service at 9am on Sunday will be in Elizabeth and not in George.
- There is an extra panel at 16:00 Sunday in Victoria/Edward: **The Work of**

## OVERHEARD

I may have only been here for two hours, but that's already been enough time for someone who hasn't seen me since I was fourteen to come over and say "Oh, Abi! I've not seen you in years! Is your dad coming? I know your mum is."

"My mother?" I shriek, horrified at the thought. "I bloody hope not!"

"I saw her on the membership list - isn't she called Tanya?"

Brown is quite a common surname. Oh, that's such a terrifying thought - just as much for Tanya as for me, I suspect...

---

**If you would like something included in the newsletter**, either bring it to Shakespeare, (follow the room round to the back to find us!), which you will find on your map (it's on the third floor), or email it to **persephonehazard at googlemail dot com**. You can give it to one of us in the bar if you like, but we don't promise not to lose it.

---

## PEOPLE WHO ARE ON THE NEWSLETTER TEAM

**Jan van't Ent** very kindly did all the setup in the newsletter office, because I wasn't here yet. He's very experienced in running at-con newsletters which is handy, because at least one of us needs to know what we're doing. I am **Persephone Hazard** or Abi, Chief Organisatrix, and I haven't got the foggiest idea what's going on but I'm sure I'll pick it up! **John Coxon** did exactly what I told him to.

**Arthur C. Clarke.** This panel will include Edward James, with more panellists to be announced.

- **The kimono fitting workshop** scheduled for 19:00 on Sunday has been dropped but if you really want to do something, see Flick.
- **Death of UK Physics** at 20:00 Sunday will now include Phil Lucas.
- **Chaos Costuming** and **Chaos Robotics** have swapped rooms. Robotics is now in Kempton and Costuming is in Cheltenham.

## Green Room

The Green Room should be open daily from 09:30 until shortly after the 22:00 hour items start. If you're on one of the items starting at 23:00 hours or midnight, please would you drop by earlier in the day and claim your drink then or the means to get it yourself later?

-Sue Edwards

## The Video Programme in Forsyth

We will be showing two programmes in tribute to the late Arthur C. Clarke: the mid-1980s "This is Your Life" programme and the 1997 "The Man Who Foresaw The Future". Times TBC.

## For all sharing photographers

If you are uploading pictures/videos to Flickr, YouTube or some other public site, please include the tag "orbital2008" (no spaces, no quotemarks) to make it easy for other convention members to find.

-The Magician

## After It's Over

Don't forget there are lots of SF cons happening after this one (for example, next weekend in Dublin: P-Con V). Details of a large number of forthcoming cons – from all over Europe – are on display in the Royal Foyer outside the Edwardian Lounge (en route to the Real Ale bar). We've also put the obituaries done for Arthur C. Clarke from The Times, The Daily Telegraph and The Guardian up on display.

- Dave Lally

## ZZ9 Plural Z Alpha

The Official Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy Appreciation Society will be holding an impromptu Beeblebears' Picnic on Saturday the 22nd at 12:30. Meet in con bar at 12:30, all cuddly toys welcome. Neither the beeblebear nor the picnic are compulsory for attendance!

- Carrie Gillespie

There are plenty more of us, but as of half one on Friday they're not here yet...

### **STOP PRESS!**

- The bar staff **should** give change for groats.

- We have stickers at reception for those who are here at their first SF con or Eastercon.

- Unlike all the other bars in the hotel, the Polo Bar is **not** serving drinks at con prices.

- More gophers are needed! Please report to Ops if you'd like to volunteer.

- The signup sheets for workshops with limited capacity are in the County Foyer.

- If you find a blue sash, please return it Ops.