

INARTICULATE

Issue 3

Late Saturday

newsletter@eastercon2017.uk

Innominate: the 68th British National Science Fiction Convention

14-17 April 2017

BSFA AWARDS

Best Novel: *Europe in Winter*, Dave Hutchinson

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

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

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

Congratulations to all!

HAVING FUN THIS WEEKEND?

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

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

WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE WAR MUM?

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



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

GANGWAY!

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

MEMBERSHIP FIGURES

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

THE BREEZE OF LAUGHTER

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

SO WHAT'S WITH PROGRAMME ITEMS ON MUSICALS ANYWAY?

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

— Alison Scott

A SPIKY FAREWELL

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

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

—Edwin Hayward

LIFE ON OTHER EASTERCONS

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

A REMINDER ABOUT WORKSHOPS

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

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

THE ANSWER

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

...42.

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

—David Brider

WE HAVE FEEDBACK!

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

WHAT WAS THAT YOU WERE SAYING?

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

HOLD THE FRONT PAGE

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