



Opening Ceremony

“Isn’t it majestic?” said Follycon chair Alison Scott as she opened the opening ceremony, before introducing everyone. The audience ignored her request not to clap (“Or we will run out of time,” said Alice.) We didn’t. Entertainment was provided by Michael Abbott leaping up and down pointing out where everything was on the map. And we were warned that the pocket programme was a week out of date, so use the app, the same app that told Alice the opening ceremony was about to start just as it finished.

And all the guests have turned up, as well as two people who mistakenly booked lunch this weekend, so ignore them.

Welcome from the Chair

Following my welcome in the Souvenir Book, my welcome in the Read Me (which you should all read by the way), and my welcome speech at the opening ceremony, I realised I hadn’t had sufficient chance to expound in depth on my thoughts at the beginning of this august occasion so I thought I would take this opportunity... *[that’s enough welcomes from the Chair - Ed.]*

Fire alarm

The fire alarm is a siren. It isn’t due to be tested during Follycon. If it goes off, gather on the West Terrace.

Restaurant booking

Harrogate boasts many different styles of restaurant: there are Italians on Albert

Street; and Indian, Chinese and Thai on Cheltenham Parade. However, they get very busy, especially on Saturday evening. Booking is strongly advised. And please remember to send in your restaurant reviews!

Larger print available

Large print versions of the Programme Book and Read Me are available at Info Desk.

Grenadine issues

If anyone is having problems with Grenadine, make sure you have the most up-to-date version of the app, and restart the phone (power off and then on again) after updating.

Apologies

We’re sorry some people found they couldn’t get a hot meal after 8 pm yesterday. We have an evening buffet

(mains and sides) served from 5-8 but we also have burgers and jackets available 12-10, and the hotel has assured us that they can also do choices off their bar menu and room service. For all hot food please go to the ballroom, which also has a handy tea and coffee station for caffeine-deprived people on the run.

Breakfast vouchers

There aren't any! We decided not to use them in the end. Also, if you don't manage to get up for 11 am you can still get a breakfast bap by quoting your room number and saying that you didn't make it to breakfast

Access announcement

People who need assistance getting to Carriages Suite (Dealers Room and Art Show) please go to hotel reception where they will summon a ~~horse and carriage~~ golf buggy and driver. To arrange your return trip, contact the Radio Operator in Carriages.

Win a Guest of Honour!

We expect the kaffeeklatsches with our GoH to be very popular so are running lotteries for interested members. Sign up at the info desk at least two hours before each item; programme supremos will then randomly pick 12 winners and two reserves and provide their names for the info desk.

Sense, Sensibility and the Sublime

If anyone coming to the Heinlein talk has a visual impairment or other issue that makes reading projected slides difficult, please email farah.sf@gmail.com before

Saturday and request them.

Critical Masterclasses

On Saturday we will discuss "The New Atlantis" by Ursula Le Guin
www.lightspeedmagazine.com/fiction/the-new-atlantis/

On Sunday we will discuss "The Moon Over Red Trees" by Aliette de Bodard
www.beneath-ceaseless-skies.com/stories/the-moon-over-red-trees/

You must read the relevant story in advance if you want to attend one of the classes. Sign up at the Info Desk.

Art Show Grand Opening

7-9 pm. Come along and meet the artists. All welcome.

There's been a mur-durr!

In honour of Agatha Christie, who was found in Harrogate following her mysterious disappearance in 1926, Satellite 6 present a fannish murder mystery.

Follycon Chair Alison has been horribly murdered in a room at the Majestic. Suspicion has fallen on five members of her Committee. It is believed that one of the following was the murder weapon:

- i. A lanyard from Registration
- ii. A laminator from Ops
- iii. The Doc Weir Award
- iv. Poisoned wine from Green Room
- v. A copy of the Encyclopaedia of Science Fiction

Collect the clues to work out which committee member was in which room with which weapon and solve the crime! Hand in your answer to the Satellite 6 Con Table by 3 pm on Monday. A winner will be chosen at random from correct entries received.

Clue 1: For Michael and Phil, one had the wine and the other was in room 5.

The Daily Drabble

We challenge readers to enlighten us with your pseudoScience, presented in the form of a drabble (a story of exactly 100 words, excluding title). Some of the best received will appear in these pages.

To begin, an example from the Satellite 6 Chair

Insights into the genetic structure of *Clangers*

To date, studies on the exo-alien *Clangers* have largely been undertaken by SCT (Sitting Close to the Telly) spectroscopy. We report that coupling the spectrometer to established optical systems creates the novel hyphenated spectroscopic technique, SCT-MG (Sitting Close to the Telly - with a Magnifying Glass). This offers enhanced observations of Clangers allowing resolution of genetic structure to the molecular level. SCT-MG indicates that Clanger genetic structure is based on side-substituted bio-polymers, specifically, terminal (omega) substituted poly-octyl-olefins (ω -ool). Initial observations suggest that this bio-polymer (ply) can form in one (single ply- ω -ool) or two (double ply- ω -ool) strands, analogous to terrestrial DNA/RNA.

Michael Davidson

newsletter@follycon.org.uk
Drop-off box at Info Desk