



Waggle Dance

Issue 1: Friday afternoon

newsletter@mancunicon.org.uk

Welcome

Hello and welcome to Mancunicon, the 67th Eastercon. I hope that you'll have a great time over the weekend, in the company of our four outstanding Guests of Honour: Aliette de Bodard, David L Clements, Ian McDonald, and Sarah Pinborough.

Please make sure to look through your copy of the Read Me, and remember that this convention is entirely run by volunteers: if you can spare some time, come along to the Gopher Hole and see if you can help us out.

The password for the convention wifi is guest2016
—Pat McMurray, Chair

(Semi-)Serious Lectures

The 2016 BSFA Lecture will be given by Rachel Dickinson of Manchester Metropolitan University. She will speak on *Crafting the Future: Ruskin, Textiles and Visions of Futures Past* at 11:30am on Saturday, in Deansgate 3.

The 2016 Hay Lecture will be given by Colin Wright, who will speak on *The Mathematics of Juggling* at 1pm on Saturday, also in Deansgate 3.

Food and Drink News

Lunch service run from noon to 2pm, rather than as listed in the Read Me. There are vegetarian burgers and sausages available if you ask, as well as GF and DF breakfast options.

The convention food is being served (at the same prices) in the ground floor bar, as well as the Real Ale bar.

We have a tonne and a half of Real Ale and half a tonne of Real Cider to get through this weekend, arranged by Martin Hoare. He's prepared a list of the beers available, with tasting notes, and you can find copies of this in the Real Ale bar, as well as at mancunicon.org.uk/beer-list.

The hotel has also created a pop-up American Craft Beer Bar, in the ground floor bar area. They've done it just for us, so go and give them a try!

Car Parking

If you've got your car booked into the NCP car park and would like to leave for a side visit before the end of your booking, just say you're "with the sci fi convention" at the exit and they'll raise the barrier for you.

Door Problems

We're really sorry to report that the accessible door to the hotel lobby isn't working. If you can't use the revolving door, please go around to the restaurant and call 0161 870 1787 to let them know you need assistance. We've been promised that the restaurant staff will be looking out for people needing help: if the system isn't working, please let Ops know.

Art Show

You'll find the Art Show on the first floor, next to the main programme rooms. If you come along this evening at 7:30pm, you can be there with the artists for the official launch of the Show.

Free wine! Make sure to come along!

Tomorrow, the *Meet the Artists* session will run from 2-4pm, although the artists will drop in and out as their other commitments dictate.

Tech Questions

If you have a question for the tech crew, please don't interrupt the people in black hi-viz. Instead, look out for the Valkyries in their lovely purple hi-viz.

Pharmacy Check

Google maps is wrong about the nearest chemist: it's actually Cameolord, at 7 Oxford Street. (The nearest one is just an office.)

Dealer News

Remember that there are two Dealers' Rooms this year: one, which also contains the Art Show, next to the main programme rooms and the other around the corner by the fan tables.

All dealers will accept groats.

Speaking of dealers, there is a limited supply of the fabulous Mancunicon t-shirts, designed by Alison Scott, available for £12. You'll find them on Judi Hodgkin's table, which is by the entrance to the Art Show.

Cloth Yourself!

Tomorrow morning's *Life Drawing of a Costumer* workshop would appreciate your help: if anyone would like to volunteer to be a costumed life model, please go to Green Room at 9:45am tomorrow. The workshop runs until noon.

Critical Criticism...

The Science Fiction Foundation will be running two mini-Masterclasses in SF Criticism. At 7pm on Sunday in Room 10, Kari Sperring will lead a discussion of Liz Williams' *The Banquet of the Lords of Light*. At 11.30am on

Monday in Room 10, Andrew M Butler will lead a discussion of Charlotte Perkins Gilman's *If I Were a Man*. Places are limited to ten for each session: please sign up in Ops from noon on the previous day.

...and Writerly Workshops

The Manchester Speculative Fiction writing group will be holding a writers' workshop at 10am on Saturday in Room 10. This item will be open to those who have submitted work in advance, to existing members of the MSFG and to interested members who were unable to submit but would still like to meet the group.

Pool Rules

Please remember that under-16s are only allowed in the hotel swimming pool when in the company of an over-18, who can be responsible for up to two under-16s at any time.

The pool will be open from 8am to 8pm on Friday and Monday, and from 6am to 10pm on other days. Remember that there are non-convention guests staying in the hotel this weekend!

From Twitter

Every time I see @Mancunicon my brain changes it to mancunicorn and now I need someone with artistic skills to draw one ;)

—@pipsytip

[Happy to oblige!—Sue Mason]

Programme Changes

The programme item at 5:30pm on Friday, listed as *African SF and Fantasy*, has been re-titled *The Light African Fantastic*. It will feature Geoff Ryman (m), Ayodele Arigbabu, Tendai Huchu and Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi.

Aaaand... Run Around!

At the request of the tech gods, the programme items taking place in Deansgates 2 and 3 on Saturday between 11:30am and 3:30pm have all been swapped.

This means that Deansgate 2 will now feature *A Feminist Fantasy Canon* (11:30am), *Balancing the Creative Life* (1pm) and *A Tribute to Tanith Lee* (2:30pm).

Deansgate 3, on the other hand, will be delighting you with *Crafting the Future: Ruskin, Textiles and Visions of Futures Past* (the BSFA Lecture) (11:30am), *The Mathematics of Juggling* (the Hay Lecture) (1pm) and a *Cooking Demonstration with Aliette de Bodard* (2:30pm).

