

Hotel

After a nationwide search for a suitable hotel, we've settled on the Crowne Plaza, Chester. The hotel is in the centre of Chester only a minute from the main shopping area. The city itself is in the west of England just a short drive from the border with North Wales.

The hotel has 160 rooms, all of which are to be used for members of Contemplation. The base room rate is £85/night for a standard twin/double and the hotel has agreed to make 10 of these rooms available as singles for the reduced cost of £75/night. The more luxurious Executive rooms are available at £105/night and some of these rooms are suitable for families with children. If you wish to book a single or a family room, you will need to contact the hotel by phone rather than through the website.

Room bookings for Contemplation will be handled by the hotel directly with the option either to book online or by telephone. You will be able to book your room from February 1st at 5pm through the hotlink on the convention website (see overleaf) or by calling 01244 899988, stating that the booking is for Contemplation with group reference 'con'. All bookings require a deposit of one night's charge with a minimum stay of 3 nights. Room booking will close on March 11th.

Since bookings are going direct to the hotel, we are not able to find room sharers for you, and you will need to do this for yourself. Whoever books the room needs to specify who they are sharing with (either at the time of booking or later). Only one of the sharers should book and pay the deposit, but the bill will be divided as normal.

The best that we will be able to do if we receive a sharing request from you is to post it on the Eastercon Yahoo group bounce or the Eastercon2007 Livejournal (links to both are on the convention website). A member list will be published on the website shortly to enable you to find others who are attending.

If you need any further help with your hotel booking, please contact Hayley at niuserre@gmail.com or on 01298 213344.

Special Guest

We're pleased to announce that Convoy Guest Sharyn November will be joining us as our Special Guest. Sharyn is an American editor resident in America, Senior Editor for Viking Children's Books and Puffin Books, and Editorial Director of Firebird Books, which is a mainly paperback (reprint) imprint publishing fantasy and science fiction for teenagers and adults. Her many authors include Laurie Halse Anderson, John Barnes, T.C. Boyle, Charles de Lint, Nina Kiriki Hoffman, Carol Emshwiller, Pamela Dean, Diana Wynne Jones, Graham Joyce, Sara Ryan, Sharon Shinn, and the editorial team of Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling.

She has edited two anthologies for Firebird: FIREBIRDS, called "the best fantasy anthology of 2003" by The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror (17th edition), and the just-published FIREBIRDS RISING. She was named a World Fantasy Award Finalist (Professional Category)

NOVAcon
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Bentley, nr. Walsall
2-4 November 2007
GoH: Charles Stross

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in both 2004 and 2005 — in 2004 specifically for Firebird, in 2005 for editing.

Her personal website is at www.sharyn.org, and the Firebird website is at www.firebirdbooks.com.

Memberships

Memberships now stand at over 250, and are steadily climbing. We're starting a sweepstake amongst ourselves — as we don't fit into any standard curve we have no idea how many people will finally join. We will accept memberships up until 22 March — that's 2 weeks before the con. After that, you will have to pay on the door, and it will cost you more.

For planning purposes we're looking at 500 — if there's someone you know is coming who hasn't joined yet, please give them a nudge. It's closer than you think! You can also buy gift memberships for others through the website.

Programme

There was a site visit to the hotel in January, swiftly followed by a programming planning weekend. Even as this newsletter is being folded, in another room of the house post-it notes are being scribbled on and pins stuck in boards. We'll be making a stream of announcements about the programme as soon



REDEMPTION '07

23 – 25 February 2007

Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley, Leics, UK

The Multimedia Science Fiction Convention



This will be a fannish event concentrating on activities that let people join in rather than just sit in an audience and listen. Events will include workshops, panels, debates, games, masquerade, drinking and so on. For more information, write with SAE to: Lesley McIntee, 26 Kings Meadow View, Wetherby LS22 7FX, UK. All profits to charity.

<http://www.smof.com/redemption>

as we can — you may have seen some already on the internet.

The main thing you need to know is that there is a serious lack of small programming space in the hotel. We have therefore decided not to host Chaos Workshops, either for robots or costume. Given the heavy reliance that both Cyberdrome and the Masquerade place on these workshops, we have also, reluctantly, decided not to go ahead with either of these events. We are working on some smaller-scale events, one of which will be an Easter Bonnet Parade and Competition. If you have been working on an 007 robot, please let us know about it.

Contact us

By post:

c/o Steve Lawson, 379 Myrtle Road,
Sheffield, S2 3HQ

By email:

contemplation@con.org

Web Site:

<http://contemplation.conventions.org.uk/>

Dealers' Room

This is the Prince of Wales Suite, a room 45ft by 40ft., which can accommodate 43 tables. Although the room has seven (yes, seven) doors, the recent site visit confirmed that only four (or at a pinch two) doors need to be kept unobstructed.

Tables are 6ft x 2ft 6in and the maximum bookable by any dealer (initially), is three tables. Prices are: One table — £25; two tables — £60; three tables — £100. Invoices will be made out for full payment at the convention.

I know that several potential dealers have indicated that they are interested in taking tables, but as of now NO confirmed bookings have been made, only “expressions of interest”. I will contact those of you who have expressed an interest, but to be on the safe side please let me know NOW what your booking will be. My e-mail address is beccon@dial.pipex.com, and *please* put the word “Eastercon” in the subject line to beat my spam filters, which don't like “dealers”. Only when you have a confirmation from me in writing or by email will you know that your booking is confirmed.

- Roger Robinson