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## Friday Programme

### **What Is Fandom That Thou Art Mindful Of It? 14: 00 Giffard**

Is any attempt to define a group really a statement of elitism? Are fans now better defined by their differences than the similarities? What are we doing here anyway?

### **The Terribly Splendid And Worthwhile Opening Ceremony 15: 00 Lido/ Auditorium**

The committee introduce the guests and welcome you to Helicon 2.

### **Easy Fusion - Here we go Again 16: 00 Lido/ Auditorium**

The original Cold Fusion story broke at Contrivance, and now, 13 years on, the journal Science is prepared to publish articles that fusion is possible with desktop equipment. John Bray, Steve Rothman and Simon Bradshaw discuss the topic and the broader issue of how such speculative but important work should be handled.

### **Looking Behind: Items Of Interest In The Year Since Paragon 16: 00 Giffard**

What has marked the last twelve months or so in the world of SF, Science and the related media?

### **Jersey Explored. 16: 00 Plemont**

This is your opportunity to hear a brief history of Jersey and take a short walk to St Helier where Geraint Jennings, from the Societé Jersaise, will lead us in a stroll about the statuary and buildings. Alternative history hounds may find themselves surprised at the amount of turning points one small island has had. This event leaves you in a "target rich" environment for an evening meal or visit to local hostelry!

### **GoH: Peter Weston 17: 00 Lido/ Auditorium**

### **Alternative History: An Overview 18: 00 Lido/ Auditorium**

Alternate History is almost as blurred a genre as SF as a whole. Even if we accept that, in order to qualify, a work has to be set in a world where history has diverted from our own at a particular point. To what extent are the effects of this diversion required to impact on the story?

### **Is Nit- Picking A Legitimate Critical Technique In SF? 18: 00**

Aren't you fed up with apologists for films with witless plots, terrible dialog and lousy acting but with tons of special effects? In a genre based on extrapolation, to what extent does the artist have to show his workings out in the margins?

### **Has the Buffy Backlash Started? 18: 00 Plemont**

Has Buffy started to lose its appeal or do all long- running series inevitably suffer from over-high expectations and occasional stagnation? Or, on the other hand, is Buffy as good as ever? (No spoilers will be allowed i. e. up to end of last BBC2 series.)

### **Writers Workshop 18: 00 Rozel**

Liz Holliday will run four two- hour sessions over the con for those wishing to explore the writing abilities. Please sign- up at registration as numbers are limited.

### **The Right Stuff 19: 00 Giffard**

An exploration of SF of the Fifties, including stories you really must read, focusing on the early Hugo Awards and more recent retro- Hugos.

### **Creation Myths 19: 00 Plemont**

We turn our attention to the stories told of how the world began. From Genesis to Kipling's "Just So Stories" with all stops between. If you enjoy it, look out for Tale Of the End Of Days

on Monday,

**Alternative History: Choosing A Point Of Departure 20: 00 Lido/ Auditorium**

This is a discussion of how to identify those times in History where a serious difference could have been made. The choice faced by the story teller is whether to choose a spectacular jumping off point or a more subtle but potentially more effective one.

**An Alternate History of Fandom 20: 00 Giffard**

Suppose that Scientific Romance could have been established as a genre in Southern England at the start of the 20th century. The first World Con held in Portsmouth with Guest of Honour Jules Verne over on the ferry for the weekend? How different could SF have actually turned out.

**Shifting The Paradigm: How Science Changes 21: 00 Giffard**

We can often see the effects of a change in the way that we look at things altering our interpretation of what we see. We often have no change in method or improvement in measurement through which to explain these differences. So where does the change come from? Scientists?

**Beethoven's Slippery When Wet: What could have been 21: 00 Plemont**

One consistent area in which films and TV suffer from a failure in imagination is when using music in SF. Buck Rogers took disco into the 25th Century. Star Trek goes the other way and refuses to allow anything post the 1950s to survive. Since music is an essentially abstract form, is there any way that we can sensibly speculate on its development?

**Fan Room 101: Brian Stableford 21: 00 Golden Room**

Our guest gets to choose a number of things that he would rather spend the rest of his life without and then has to convince a presenter and the audience that they should be sent permanently to Fan Room 101.

**United Fan Fund Auction 22: 00 Golden Room**

**Giffard Fannish Readings 23: 00 Golden Room**



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## Saturday Programme

### Points of Departure: The Reformation 10: 00 Lido/ Auditorium

If the Civil War is the twist of choice for US Alternate Histories, then the Reformation and religious upheavals of the Tudor period serves for the UK. Does the continuation of the Roman Church in Britain mean the suppression of science?

### Gripe Session 10: 00 Plemont

Let the committee know of any problems you may have.

### Why Tech is Fun? 11: 00 Lido/ Auditorium

Why do tech people do it? They seem to have fun and so now they would like to share that with you. Come and get an insight into the world of lights, sound and expensive equipment.

### If We Knew Then What We Know Now: Futures That Are Past 11: 00 Giffard

What is the value of SF which has been overtaken by events? For example, do stories set on a Moonbase seem quaint in world where Apollo 13 is sold as Science Fiction rather than as dramatised historical reality?

### Kaffeeklatsch: Brian Stableford 11: 00 Rozel

Coffee with our Guest of Honour, Brian Stableford. Numbers are limited so please sign up at registration desk.

### Points of Departure: The American Civil War 12: 00 Lido/ Auditorium

This is the big turning point in American history - if you don't count the Revolutionary war. This item will examine the actual Civil War, identify what events could have brought about a difference and what the effects might have been. Eddie Cochrane, Harry Turtledove and Peter Weston.

### Sex Drives in SF and Fantasy 12: 00 Giffard

If men are the ones who think about sex every 14 seconds, how come so much fan fiction pornography is written by women? What is the target audience for SF & Fantasy these days - has the demographic moved from spotty male adolescents to spotty female adolescents? Mike Allum chairs a discussion with Farah Mendlesohn and Judith Proctor on the driving forces behind media and literate SF & Fantasy.

### Short Fiction Readings 12: 00 Plemont

### Kaffeeklatsch: TBA 12: 00 Rozel

Coffee with one of your favourite authors. Numbers are limited so please sign up at registration desk.

### George Hay Memorial Lecture - Alastair Reynolds 13: 00 Lido/ Auditorium

Presented in association with The Science Fiction Foundation. Alastair Reynolds gives a lecture on his work in advanced methods of detecting astronomical events.

### Fandom: 40s - 50s 13: 00 Giffard

What was fandom doing in the 40s and 50s?

### Writers Workshop 13: 00 Rozel

See [Friday](#) for details.

### Customs, Traditions And Silly Games. 13: 00 Golden Room

The truth behind Pork Pie racing, The Astral league and all those things that bore the pants off people talking to anyone whose been in Fandom five years longer than they have. Some of

them are fun you know.

**Evaluating Sources 14: 00 Lido/ Auditorium**

Historians, lawyers, journalists, detectives and systems analysts all make a living by going through the stories presented by different witnesses. Dialectic reasoning may be common in all these situations but what are the similarities and differences. What counts as evidence for these people? How can reliability be assessed?

**Through Poverty To The Stars! Desperation at the root of progress 14: 00 Giffard**

Has technology benefited more from a need to do something with available resources rather than a decision to throw money at a problem until it goes away? Is low cunning and survival instincts more useful than deep pockets?

**Tobes and O'Shea Blush for TAFF 14: 00 Golden Room**

Sue Mason does her best to embarrass Chris O'Shea and Tobes Valois as a fund raiser for TAFF.

**GoH: Harry Turtledove 15: 00 Lido/ Auditorium**

Tanya Brown Interviews our Guest of Honour.

**Book Auction 16: 00 Giffard**

**Fanzines Which Shaped The Age 16: 00 Golden Room**

Now that production equipment is in the hands of so many individuals where are the definitive magazines for our age? Is the fanzine itself an outdated form overshadowed by its past?

**Space Launches 17: 00 Lido/ Auditorium**

Gerry Webb shows some of his home movies of Space Launches.

**Things To Do With Chocolate. 17: 00 Plemont**

Recipes and advertisements for Andrew's chocolate shop.

**Kaffeeklatsch TBA 17: 00 Rozel**

Coffee with an author to be announced. Numbers are limited so please sign up at registration desk.

**Assumptions, McGuffins & Dei Ex Machina 18: 00 Giffard**

An examination on the use of info- dumps and plot coupons. Which are legitimate and which down right sneaky? Is it worse to have your hero come up with just the right gadget out of thin air or to have him briefed on every bit of equipment he will need on his mission in the order in which he will use it?

**Insufficiently Advanced Science (is Indistinguishable from magic) 18: 00 Plemont**

Has technological advance made it more difficult for us to invent interesting alternatives. When we know one way to do things, does this inhibit us from looking for a different one?

**Fan Room 101: Harry Turtledove 18: 00 Golden Room**

Harry Turtledove tells us what he hates.

**The Starlight Room: Helicon Banquet 20: 00 Lido/ Auditorium**

The Starlight is the setting for the now traditional Jersey Banquet. This is a ticket- only event. Please see Registration for details.

**Fannish Readings 23: 00 Golden Room**



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## Sunday Programme

### **Gripe Session 10: 00 Plemont**

### **Bid For Eastercon 2004 11: 00 Lido/ Auditorium**

It's your Eastercon, have a say in where we all gather in 2004.

### **Can A Subtle Story Survive A Big Budget? 11: 00 Giffard**

A film costs more to produce than a novel. The audience required for financial survival of the production company is, therefore, much larger and the ability to survive, even one flop, much less. So the pressures on those involved to ensure that the maximum number of people understand and appreciate the story tend to ride roughshod over the desire for subtlety. The panel discuss. Brian Stableford, John Bark, Liz Counihan and Ian Watson.

### **Kaffeeklatsch: TBA 11: 00 Rozel**

Numbers are limited so please sign up at registration desk.

### **If This Goes On: The Inventing of Political Fiction 12: 00 Giffard**

One criticism of future SF is its failure of imagination in coming up with new models for societies. Can we be truly inventive when thinking about future world and alien politics?

### **Guitars Before Breakfast: The Growth Of Filking 12: 00 Plemont**

Where did Filking originate and where is it going? A discussion on the popularity and development of Filking.

### **Kaffeeklatsch: Harry Turtledove 12: 00 Rozel**

Coffee with our Guest of Honour, Harry Turtledove. Numbers are limited so please sign up at registration desk.

### **Choosing The Best Of Fannish Writing. 12: 00 Golden Room**

What is good fannish writing and how do we judge it? The panel discuss.

### **Beyond Cyberdrome 13: 00 Lido/ Auditorium**

The ever popular Beyond Cyberdrome is back with a vengeance. Not for the faint- hearted.

### **The Technobabble Quiz 13: 00 Giffard**

### **Kaffeeklatsch: TBA 13: 00 Rozel**

Numbers are limited so please sign up at registration desk.

### **Art Auction 14: 00 Giffard**

### **Do we want to be taken seriously? 14: 00 Plemont**

What good would it do the genre if it were received into the arms of the serious critics? Isn't it the maverick reputation of the genre what keeps it active and exciting?

### **Kaffeeklatsch: Peter Weston 14: 00 Rozel**

Coffee with our Guest of Honour, Peter Weston. Numbers are limited so please sign up at registration desk.

### **Checking Universal Constants. Build Your Own Reality 15: 00 Plemont**

Greg Bear in Eon and Eternity provides his dimension travelling cast with devices by which they can determine the rules of physics where they happen to find themselves. Would one be able to lift the power supply let alone carry the kit? How much of the locality would you need

to reduce to its component atoms to get a sensible reading?

### **Writers Workshop 15: 00 Rozel Sunday**

See [Friday](#) for details.

### **GoH: Brian Stableford 16: 00 Lido/ Auditorium**

### **Future History: Cut and Shut Sagas 17: 00 Giffard**

Why do some authors feel the need make a common future history for a lot of their stories, like the way Asimov combined his Robot and Foundation series? Do we feel more respect for Lois McMaster Bujold for including "quaddies" from Falling Free in the Vorkosigan stories? The panel, including Michael Scott Rohan and Liz Counihan discuss.

### **The Rise Of Media Fandom (And The Decline Of Everything Else) 17: 00 Plemont**

Why do media events seem to be getting bigger and bigger whilst more "mainstream" conventions are struggling for numbers and locations? Does one have an effect on the other? Can both survive?

### **The Consumers Guide To Superfluous Technology 18: 00 Giffard**

A trawl through the marvellous toys available or soon to be available for the individual who wants to carry a publishing firm in their pocket.

### **Peake Poems 18: 00 Plemont**

Colin Fine performs a selection of Mervyn Peake's poems. This will include both serious and nonsense pieces, and culminate in his long mystical narrative poem "The Rhyme of the Flying Bomb".

### **Should Scientists write Science Fiction? 19: 00 Plemont**

China Miéville, Alastair Reynolds, Charlie Stross and Simon Bradshaw. Does being a scientist make you a better SF writer? Or a worse one? Do SF writers need to know about science, and what should scientists learn about SF - especially if they want to write it?

### **The Helicon Masquerade 20: 00 Lido/ Auditorium**

### **BSFA Awards 21: 00 Lido/ Auditorium**

### **Masquerade Awards 22: 00 Lido/ Auditorium**

### **Fan Room 101: Peter Weston 22: 00 Golden Room**

Do you know what Peter Weston doesn't like? Come along and he'll tell you again!

### **Fannish Readings 23: 00 Golden Room**



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## Monday Programme

### **What Do You Want Next Year Then? 10: 00 Plemont**

The Seacon committee tell you what they have planned and invite you to let them know what you want to see at the next Eastercon in Hinckley.

### **Bored Mindless In Utopia 11: 00 Lido/ Auditorium**

Utopias simply aren't as much fun as Dystopias. Can it be that the pursuit of happiness is more to our taste than its achievement or simply that paradise does not come in one size fits all? Martin Easterbrook, Brian Stableford, Michael Scott Rohan and others.

### **Kaffeeklatsch: TBA 11: 00 Rozel**

Numbers are limited so please sign up at registration desk.

### **Future History: Shaping The Universe 12: 00 Lido/ Auditorium**

Space is big... So what restrictions do we have to put on it if we are to have adventures there? Jump gates, Wormholes and Gravity waves have been pressed into service. Is this enough? What more do we need to turn a cosmology into a drama? Dave O'Neill, John Bray and others.

### **Not The Clarke Award 12: 00 Giffard**

A discussion of the short list for this year's awards. Farah Mendlesohn and Charles Stross.

### **Writers Workshop 12: 00 Rozel**

See [Friday](#) for details.

### **Who mourns for the Master: The Classics and Classic SF 13: 00 Plemont**

Tony Keen

### **If I Ruled The Universe. 14: 00 Lido/ Auditorium**

The current ruler of the universe is still in residence at 57 Gladys Avenue although he might require new batteries. Since we have returned to the place of his investiture, we may as well give others the chance to seize the crown. Vince Docherty attempts to control their egos.

### **Bead Workshop 14: 00 Rozel**

Giulia De Cesare invites you to learn the basics in beads and simple jewellery. Please check at registration for details.

### **Tales Of The End Of Days 15: 00 Giffard**

Myths and legends of the end of the world. From Ragnarok and Revelations to Childhood's End, Sister item to Creation Myths on [Friday](#).

### **Kaffeeklatsch: TBA 15: 00 Rozel**

Numbers are limited so please sign up at registration desk.

### **SF Local Groups: where are they and what do they do? 15: 00 Golden Room**

A round up of the SF groups giving representatives a chance to present a brief run down of who and what and where and where and why and how. Bridget Wilkinson, Andrew Wilson, Alice Lawson, Cheryl Morgan and Del Cotter

### **Monday When It All Changed: Defining Moments And Their 16: 00 Lido/ Auditorium**

We have looked at various defining moments in history throughout this convention. But how often can you really point to a single event and say if that hadn't happened the world would be

different. We ask our guests of honour to discuss and speculate on the major events in history that could be described as defining moments. Brian Stableford, Harry Turtledove and Peter Weston.

**Is That All There Is?: The Closing Ceremony 17: 00 Lido/ Auditorium**

Say goodbye and farewell to Helicon 2. A nice way to round it all off.

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