

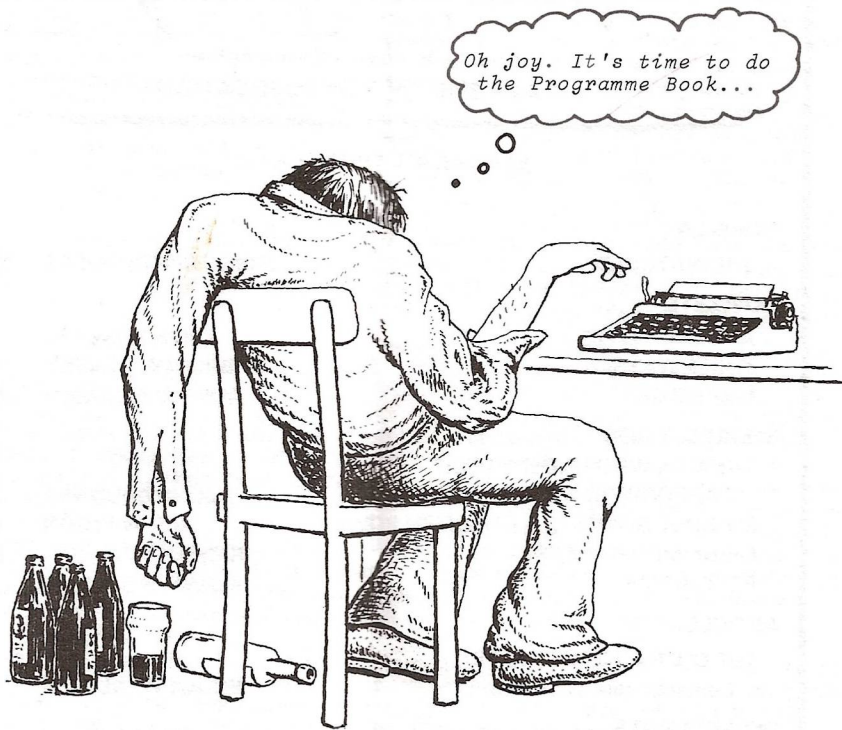
Skycon

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29th British Easter Science Fiction
Convention: 24th to 27th March 1978

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Guest of Honour
ROBERT SHECKLEY



Progress Report 4

Reproduced below is the table of contents for an extraordinary Special All-British issue of F&SF: eight stunning new stories from England's best writers, plus an article on the contemporary British sf scene by Brian Aldiss. Watch for the April issue, on sale during the month of March.

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Cover by David Hardy (see page 29)

Skycon

Twenty-Ninth British Easter Science Fiction Convention: 24th to 27th March, 1978

Address for all correspondence---

SKYCON, 5 ASTON CLOSE, PANGBOURNE, BERKSHIRE, RG8 7LG, U.K.

Telephone number (emergency, evenings only): 07357-2875

This is our final Progress Report, and Skycon itself is but scant weeks away. Be assured that the Committee is vaguely aware of this. Chairman Kevin Smith (A.C.A.) is furiously counting money; Dave Langford is explaining to various advertisers that it would have been better to send their copy in *before* we printed the programme book; Martin and Liese Hoare have vanished in the snowstorm of bookings which began to fall on the "final cutoff" date of 31st January and has continued ever since; Dermot Dobson is wandering about Oxford with a hopeful look and a cardboard box, seeking auction material; Keith Oborn is tracking electronic games machines ("With Rod & Gun Across The Home Counties"); and Stan Eling is cogitating in Birmingham. Our very subcommittees have been galvanised into fresh apathy: Ian Maule is rumoured to have a fannish programme and John and Eve Harvey a film programme, while Marsha Jones has kindly offered to set up the Art Room yet again.

SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP of Skycon (entitles you to all literature): £2.00
FULL MEMBERSHIP (entitles you to attend): £4.50 -- £2.50 for supporters
WARNING! Registration for non-members at Skycon itself will cost £5.00.
(But a reduction will be available for those attending on one day only)

HOTEL BOOKING

This seems to have caused a little confusion, with people sending in deposit cheques for so many different amounts as to cause wide-spread boggling in the computer. Since some rooms should still be available when this PR goes out, please note that the deposit for a room is £6 per night (£3 per night if you intend to share) and the deposit cheque should be made payable to The Heathrow Hotel. At this late date we can make no promises about room availability; we simply advise any stragglers to book instantly and hope for the best. Deposit cheques received will be returned should the hotel be fully booked.

Most of you will find a booking confirmation with this PR, in the shape of yet another print-out. Successful booking means that on your arrival at the hotel you have only to pay the balance of the total room charge of £13.80 per night plus VAT. The Heathrow representative informs us that Skycon members wishing to stay on at the hotel---during the week following the convention---may do so at the same cheap rate, provided they have booked in for at least one night of Skycon itself.

(A note for overseas members. We do not include Value Added Tax in our quoted hotel rates since the tax rate can be altered instantly by EM Government. The present rate is 8%. VAT is not charged on other convention costs.)

WHAT TO DO UNTIL THE BARMAN COMES

On arrival, there are two vital things to do. First, if you are staying at the Heathrow Hotel, check in at the reception desk---there will be a special check-in for Skycon members---pay off the balance of your hotel bill, and collect your room key. NB: *both* persons sharing a room *must* check in with the hotel.

The Skycon Registration Desk will also be set up in the foyer, and *all* convention attendees must register here. The balance owing for attending membership must be paid (£2.50 for supporting members; £5.00 for non-members). You will then be given your Convention Book and Programme, Convention Badge and Banquet ticket (if you've paid for one) or tickets (if you've paid for several). *Banquet tickets must be paid for in advance since we have to confirm numbers to the hotel 48 hours ahead of time.* Please wear your badge all the time you are on public display, so that we know you belong and so that you can buy drinks from the Convention bar. The hotel staff have instructions to ignore anyone without a badge. Wear your badge; *be* somebody!

The registration desks will open at noon on Friday. The fandom room, book room, art show and bar will open at various times during the Friday morning and afternoon. The main programme will begin in the Con Hall at 2.30pm.

ADVERTISING

The Convention Programme Book is about to go to press, and we can no longer accept advertisements for inclusion therein (except as previously booked). It is even more difficult for us to offer more display space in the final Progress Report, since this is it.

However, one or three indefatigable people have asked whether publicity leaflets supplied by themselves may be distributed along with the Programme Book. We are quite prepared to do this, provided that the leaflets are not larger than A5 size (approx 8¼" x 6"; larger sheets must be supplied folded to size) and are delivered by March 10th 1978 to *Dave Langford, 22 Northumberland Avenue, Reading, Berks, RG2 7PW, UK.* It is recommended that you provide 700 leaflets. The charge for distribution is the same as for a single page of Programme Book advertisement: £19.00 (fan rate £13.00). Both programme books and leaflets will be posted to non-attending members of Skycon.

In addition, firms wishing to put up advertising posters or small display stalls etc. can be accommodated at a nominal charge of £25.00.

FILMS

Thanks to the noble and untiring efforts of our films subcommittee, John and Eve Harvey, we have a great programme of films booked. Among the titles confirmed are *Rollerball*, *Silent Running*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Phantom of the Paradise*, *Barbarella*, *Charly* and *Tom and Jerry*.

It may even be that the film distributors will deliver some of them on time.

BSFA

THE BRITISH SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION LTD

Were you aware that there is an organisation in Britain whose sole function is to promote and advertise science fiction activities; a body comprised of writers, publishers and readers of sf?

Did you also know that the same organisation regularly produces:

A critical journal, *Vector*, to which most leading sf authors have recently contributed including: Harlan Ellison, Ursula Le Guin, Robert Silverberg, Ian Watson, J.G. Ballard.

A newsletter, *Matrix*, with letters, informal articles, news, chat and consumer reviews

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An sf enquiry service to help in answering queries on science fiction and such related interests as tracking down books, authors, stories, artists, magazines and so forth

If you are interested, then you can obtain further information, and application forms from the Membership Secretary, Dave Cobbledick

245 Rosalind Street,
Ashington,
Northumberland,
NE63 9AZ

Membership of the BSFA costs only £5.00 per year. Isn't it worth it for all the BSFA's services? As a science fiction reader you will find membership enjoyable and worthwhile. Why not write off to Dave right away?

For a sample BSFA mailing, containing *Vector*, *Matrix*, etc, send £1.00 (deductable from cost of membership if you join).

AWARDS

Several awards will be presented at the Skycon banquet on Sunday evening. Some of these presentations will depend on judging or voting at the convention itself...

The Doc Weir Award is a wide-open popularity award; ballots will be available at the Registration Desk and fuller details in the Programme Book. Any Skycon member can cast a vote.

The Ken McIntyre Memorial Award is awarded by a select committee to the artist judged to have produced the best fanzine illustration printed in the previous year---in this case Jan 1st to Dec 31st 1977. Artists and editors take heed! Both the original and the reproduction must be submitted when entering for this award, to be displayed with other entries at the Skycon Art Show.

The Delta Film Award is voted by the audience at the Delta Film Show, at Skycon, for the best amateur SF/fantasy film shown. We haven't yet heard from the organisers...

The Art Show Awards will appear for the first time at Skycon. Marsha Jones has suggested that the award categories be SF, Fantasy, Humorous and Astronomical. Ballot forms will be provided at the Art Show so that every Skycon member can vote on these awards... We hope that this will encourage artists to display fine work, even if they don't want it to be auctioned.

Other people and organisations wishing to present awards at the end of the banquet should notify us as far in advance as possible.

AUCTIONS

Auction material is still wanted, and will be right up to the time the auction starts.

Bring your rare first editions to the book auction; the convention takes a mere ten per cent of the proceeds. Or, if you're feeling generous, donate your old unwanted books to the convention so that we can take a moderate one hundred per cent of the proceeds.

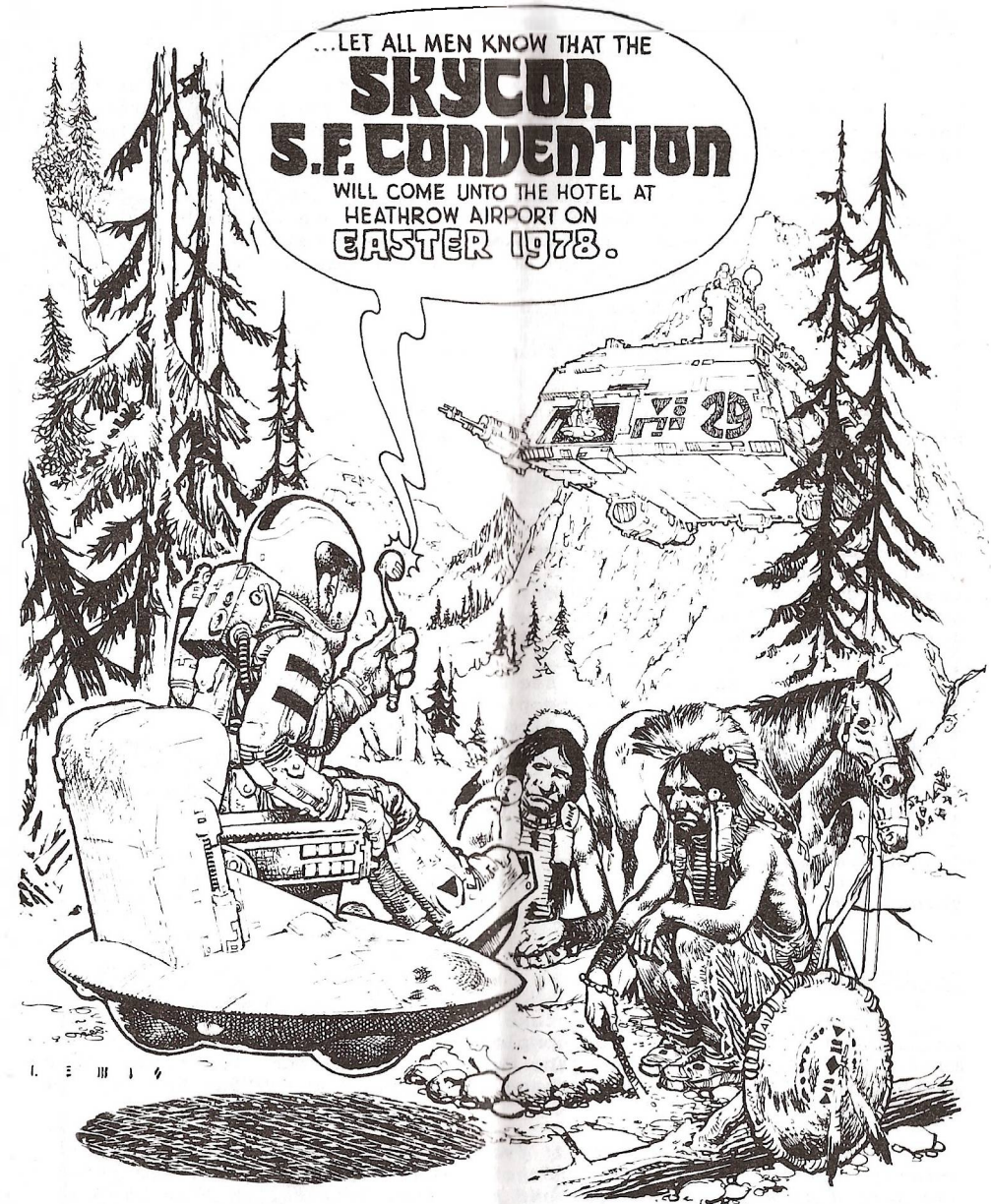
Artists exhibiting in the art show can arrange for their works to be auctioned on the same terms. The original artwork for the Skycon Programme Book will be among the items auctioned (it's a fine piece of work by Brian Lewis).

Donations will also be gratefully accepted for the TAFF and GUFF auctions. TAFF and GUFF are funds intending to bring an American fan and an Australian fan (respectively) to the World Convention here in 1979. Worthy causes, both of them.

All auction material should be handed in at the registration desk or to a committee member, such as huge Dermot Dobson.

OUR ARTISTS

The front cover is by D.WEST, depicting with ease the feelings of a committee: our poster (opposite) is by BRIAN LEWIS. Thanks to both!



SO COME, MAKE WELCOME TO THE SCRIBES, PICTURE MAKERS, STORYSELLERS & ALL... FOR MORE WORDS MAKE SIGNALS TO **SKYCON** 5 ASTON CLOSE, PANGBOURNE, BERKS. RG 8 - 7LG.

TRAVEL

BY CAR:

From anywhere in the country all you have to do is intercept the M4 or the A4, and turn in the appropriate direction towards Heathrow. The Heathrow Hotel is right by the main North entrance to the airport, as shown by the maps on the back page of this PR.

The hotel is right alongside the M4 (Bath Road), separated from it only by a grass verge and a low fence, over both of which the feeblest members of this committee can walk with ease. A sign saying "The Heathrow Hotel Welcomes Skycon" will provide the final clue.

Really, it couldn't be simpler.

Free car parking space surrounds the hotel.

BY RAIL:

The London Underground's Piccadilly line now has a sparkling new bit going right to Heathrow. On emerging from the tube at Heathrow Central, take the travolator (or moving pavement, as we call it in the trade) to Terminal One. There are then two alternatives. One is a fifteen minute walk through the main airport entrance tunnel to the Heathrow Hotel, making sure that you use the tunnel for pedestrians and cyclists, and not the four-lane motorway tunnel for other traffic. The other alternative is the hotel's own courtesy bus, which runs from the travolator exit to the hotel every twenty minutes or so. This bus is operated by the Heathrow jointly with another hotel and is clearly marked on the side HEATHROW/SKYLINE. Get off at the Heathrow.

Coming this way, you will see a large sign saying "Welcome to Britain". This is to reassure people who suspect the Piccadilly Line of having taken them to Puerto Rico by mistake.

It's not really by rail, but a Rail-Air Link coach runs from Reading General station to each of the three terminals at the airport in turn. The cost at present is £2.20 single, £3.60 return.

BY AIR TO HEATHROW AIRPORT:

The Heathrow Hotel's courtesy bus, mentioned above, calls at all three terminals.

THE BANQUET

As noted above, this will take place on Sunday night, 26th March; we moved it from Saturday for complex and inarguable reasons. The time is 7.30pm for 8pm; the place, the Heathrow's Ballroom; the toastmaster is that incredibly suave and urbane raconteur, Rog Peyton; the menu is as follows...

Crème printanière (cream of fresh vegetable soup with fresh cream); Suprême de volaille maréchal (breast of chicken shallow fried and served with asparagus tops and artichoke bottoms), pommes au four (baked potatoes in jacket, served with sour cream and chives), petits poids flamands (battered garden peas and diced carrots); Soufflé glacé au Grand Marnier (iced soufflé flavoured with Grand Marnier); coffee.

The price is £6 per person including VAT and service charge; wine is not included. Payment in advance is required; payments already made should be acknowledged on the ubiquitous computer sheet enclosed.

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- 4 **Oil-Seeker** by MICHAEL ELDER
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- 5 **Martian Inca** by IAN WATSON
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- 12 **Lincoln Hunters** by WILSON TUCKER
(Published at £3.95)
- 13 **Wonderworlds** by WILLIAM F NOLAN
(Published at £4.50)

To: Science Fiction Book Club,
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I would like to join the Science Fiction Book Club for a six month membership (one book a month) and will thereafter give one month's notice if I wish to resign. I claim the five introductory books indicated at only 10p each (plus 60p total carriage).

PLEASE SEND INTRODUCTORY BOOKS NOW.

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Please allow 21 days for delivery.

Mr/Mrs/Miss _____

Address _____

Signature _____

(or if under 18, signature of Parent/Guardian)

Science Fiction Book Club, Brunel House, Forde Road, Newton Abbot, Devon
Reg in England No 813916

SEND NO MONEY with this coupon

POST TODAY

FANCY DRESS

There is still over a month before the con, which is plenty of time to get a fancy dress costume ready. There are several categories for which prizes will be given... Our list shows the main ones, but it is not necessarily exhaustive and is liable to change at less than a moment's notice. The originality and splendour of your costume may force an entirely new category into being at the very last minute.

So that we have a little warning of the numbers, can you tell us when you check in at the registration desk if you intend to enter this utterly magnificent competition? Thanks.

NEW MEMBERS OF SKYCON

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 309 Mike Scott Rohan | 336 Sonya Porter | 370 Joan Langeveld |
| 308 Deborah H. Rohan | 337 Paul Begg | 371 Martin Mounsey |
| 309 Rob Holdstock | 338 Judy Crowther | 372 Patrick Place |
| 305 Beth Hallam | 339 Ian Watson | 373 Al Fitzpatrick |
| 306 Ann Locker | 340 John Hunt | 374 Duane Harwood |
| 307 David Todd | 341 Nick Webb | 375 Martin Hatfield |
| 308 Allen Boyd-Newton | 342 Robin Hill | 376 Chris Umpleby |
| 309 E. Nightingale | 343 John Mitchell | 377 Lester Harrington |
| 310 Janet Hunt | 344 George Bondar | 378 D.I. Lischka |
| 311 Michael Sinclair | 345 G. Sutherland | 379 Trevor Briggs |
| 312 Oliver King | 346 Paul Ellis | 380 (Friend of above) |
| 313 George Hay | 347 Judy Mortimore | 381 Hugh Creswell |
| 314 M.D. Hutchinsan | 348 Tuija Farmer | 382 Paul Lyne |
| 315 J. Stewart | 349 Jim Lush | 383 Paul Fraser |
| 316 Peter Wareham | 350 | 384 H. Coates |
| 317 Paul Wharrier | 351 (Friends of
Jim Lush) | 385 Pam Baddely |
| 318 Nile Lawe | 352 | 386 David E. Bridges |
| 319 Jenny Rigby | 353 Peter Roberts | 387 Jacki Smith |
| 320 Brian Burgess | 354 Richard Claughton | 388 John C. Kerr |
| 321 Garry Kilworth | 355 Margaret Wallbank | 389 Helen McCarthy |
| 322 Annette Kilworth | 356 Charles Partington | 390 Barbara Kitson |
| 323 David Strahan | 357 Harry Nadler | 391 Peter Tyers |
| 324 P.J. Hanmore | 358 Marie Nadler | 392 Roger Robinson |
| 325 Ken Mann | 359 Ashley Watkins | 393 Chris Lewis |
| 326 Gerald Pollinger | 360 (Friend of above) | 394 Immo Huneke |
| 327 Graham Andrews | 361 Rob Whitaker | 395 Lesley Ward |
| 328 David Garnett | 362 Kevin Williams | 396 Anna Lieff |
| 329 Tony Richards | 363 Susan Williams | 397 Sue Weil |
| 330 Louise Richards | 364 Jean Maudsley | 398 John Williams |
| 331 Karel Thole | 365 Betty McLean | 399 John Claxton |
| 332 Paul Barnett | 366 Simon Pouard | 400 R.I. Gilbert |
| 333 S.N. Walker | 367 Tina Anghelatos | 401 A.R. Stephens |
| 334 Helen Walker | 368 Roy Marcus | 402 Stuart Andrews |
| 335 Bob Shaw | 369 Colin Langeveld | 403 Susan Winn |

This list is complete to 4th February 1978.

This is positively our last Progress Report. From now, you're on your own---we hope to see you at Skycon. Good luck!

+++++

BEST COSTUME

GILLIEST COSTUME

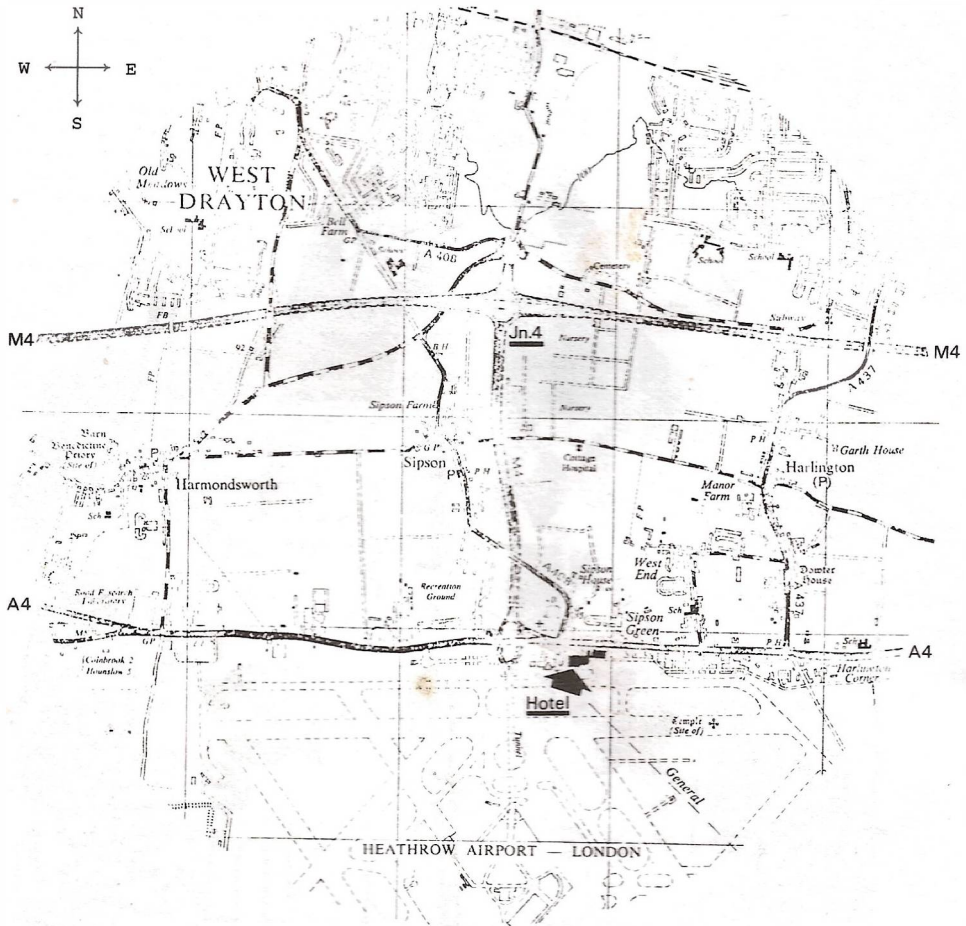
BEST GROUP

LEAST COSTUME

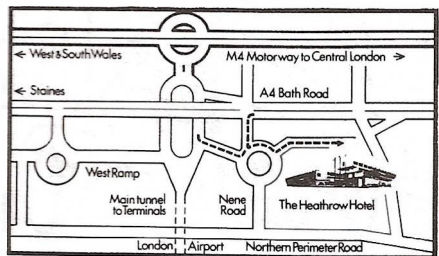
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Here are two maps of Heathrow and environs. The one above is highly accurate and confusing; the diagram to the right is full of clarity but very (how shall we put it?) diagrammatic. In both cases the M4 exit shown is Junction 4, from which the Heathrow is clearly signposted. If you take the wrong turning at the end of the motorway spur, and thus find yourself in the tunnel to the Terminals, you should return via the same tunnel (and the road labelled West Ramp on our diagram) to the A4, and thus circuitously back to the correct route.



IMPORTANT: The hotel is signed "The Heathrow Hotel"; it is on Heathrow Airport (albeit at the very edge); it is the *only* hotel on the airport. The free car park---with space for 600 cars---is right next to the hotel.