

EASTERCON

YTTERBIUM

2019



Floorplan of the Hotel

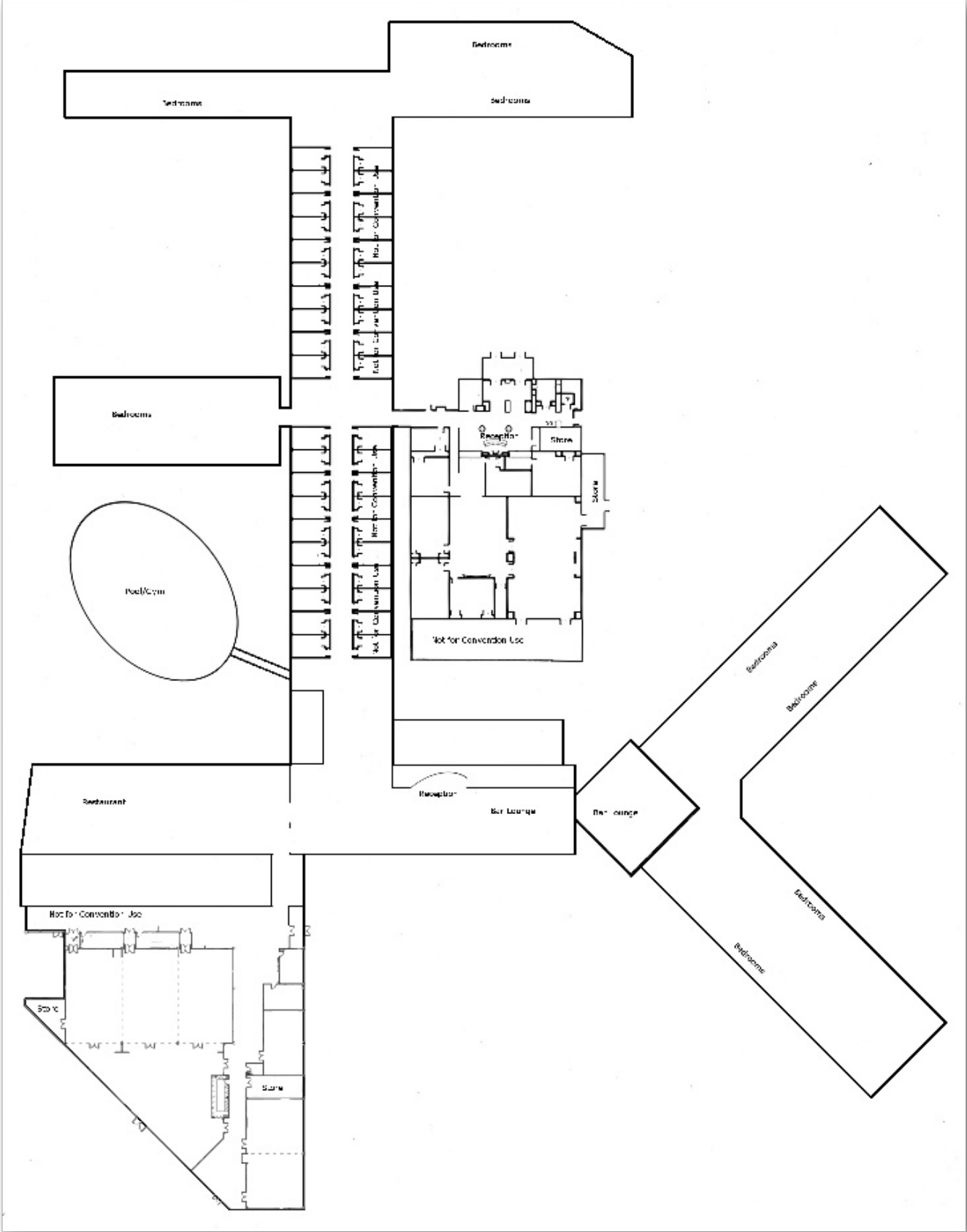


Table of Contents:

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Plan of the Hotel | Inside Cover |
| Guests of Honour | 4 |
| Membership Rates and Rises | 6 |
| Committee | 7 |
| The Venue | 9 |

Postal Address for correspondence:

C/- Sarah Shemilt
44 Tovy House
Avondale Square
LONDON, SE1 5EY

Guests of Honour

Frances Hardinge

Frances Hardinge was brought up in a sequence of small, sinister English villages, and spent a number of formative years living in a Gothic-looking, mouse-infested hilltop house in Kent. She studied English Language and Literature at Oxford, fell in love with the city's crazed archaic beauty, and lived there for many years. Whilst working full time as a technical author for a software company she started writing her first children's novel, ***Fly by Night***, and was with difficulty persuaded by a good friend to submit the manuscript to Macmillan.



She has now written eight books for children and young adults, including ***Cuckoo Song***, which won the Robert Holdstock award for Best Fantasy Novel at the British Fantasy Awards, and ***The Lie Tree***, which won the Costa Book of the Year 2015. Her most recent book is ***A Skinful of Shadows***.

Frances is seldom seen without her hat and is addicted to volcanoes.

Sydney Padua



Sydney Padua is a cartoonist and visual effects artist. Her cult webcomic, ***The Thrilling Adventures of Lovelace and Babbage*** is now a best-selling graphic novel and combines extensive research with alternate universe comic book escapes; imagine Babbage's 1840s mechanical computer finally completed and used to build runaway economic models, defeat spelling errors and, of course, fight crime!

Sydney's 3D animations revealing how the Analytical Machine might have looked and operated are some of the first visualisations ever created of that extraordinary machine. Featured in *Wired* and *The Economist*, Sydney has also spoken at Microsoft, Google, the BBC and the Computer History Museum.

John Scalzi

Writer, blogger, New York Times bestselling author and former president of the Science Fiction

and Fantasy Writers of America, **John Scalzi** is possibly best known for his Hugo-nominated and award-winning *Old Man's War* series but there's much more to discover.

With a degree in Philosophy from the University of Chicago, Scalzi has been writing professionally since 1990. Inspired by his early love of mystery and science fiction, he knew he would write a novel one day, but a flip of a coin quite literally chose which genre he would choose. His early experience as a film critic had a strong influence on much of his writing and he later became Creative Consultant for the TV series *Stargate: Universe*.



In 1999, Scalzi's first novel, *Agent to the Stars*, was published on his website asking for donations if readers enjoyed it. His second novel, *Old Man's War*, was published by Tor in 2005, promptly gaining him a Hugo Award nomination for Best Novel in 2006. The same year, he also received the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer of 2005 and in 2013 gained a Best Novel Hugo Award for *Redshirts*.

A keen and long-term blogger, he also writes non-fiction on a range of diverse topics from astronomy to video games and bacon-wrapped cats. Writing from Whatever, his blog, has earned Scalzi two additional Hugos, for Fan Writing and Best Related Work. Scalzi's advice to budding authors amounts to "sit down and do it!"

In May 2015, Tor Books announced a book deal with Scalzi spanning ten years and thirteen books and the first of this contract, *The Collapsing Empire*, was published in March 2017. There's a lot still to come....



DC

Left to themselves their favoured description would be "Mostly harmless," but we needed a bit more than that, so we prised it out of them...

DC is a familiar face at cons, often found in Ops or helping elsewhere, fueled largely by coffee and the occasional whisky. Maybe two. They've been avid consumers of SFF for as long as they can remember. Before they could read, TV was a regular source of SFF -- including Dr. Who in his original incarnation. Once able to read, nothing could hold them back, and they devoured any SFnal books which came their way, and they recall well the excitement of graduating from the children's section of the local library to the adult,

which had a whole new range of books to go through.

Books were where DC first heard about cons: authors such as Asimov and Harry Harrison would refer to them in forewords and the like, and it was probably Harrison who first mentioned

Eastercon - there were cons in Britain! (Getting information pre-Web was not always easy.) In the late Seventies, they discovered the Glasgow fan group, the Friends of Kilgore Trout, and finally got their first chance to go to a con, probably an Albacon, and loved it! It wasn't their last...

In the Eighties, though, pressures of work (in the acute end of things in the NHS) forced gaffiation for a while. When things eased off, they started to get back into fandom, initially through media cons, later on (after another, health-related interruption) getting back to Eastercons and local cons. The 2005 Worldcon, Interaction, was a superb experience, and a time when they made lasting friendships. It also spurred DC and other Glasgow fans to reboot Trout (now the Resurgence of Trout) and start working towards having Glasgow-based cons again. DC chaired the first Satellite con in 2007, and has been very satisfied to see the ball kept rolling by excellent successors. (N.B. DC insists we remind you Satellite 6 is in May this year and will be brilliant.)

Like many fellow convention-goers, DC is often in the wrong (right?) place at the wrong (right?) time. That was how they most recently ended up involved in running of Mancunicon in 2016. That was a bit of pressure (a last-minute bid with less than 52 weeks from formation until the con) but a lot of fun too.

In general terms these days, DC is slightly bemused that fifty years on they are still watching new episodes of Doctor Who, is convinced that in decades to come people will look back at this period as the golden age of science fiction -- such skilled authors, such a spread of ideas and viewpoints! They're usually to be found nursing either coffee or a good whisky, chatting with old and new friends -- and cons can be a great place to meet new friends.

Membership Rises and Rates

| | Now to 30th April 2018 | 1st May to 13 November 2018 | 14th November 2018 to 31st March 2019 | 1st April until the Convention |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Adult Attending | £60.00 | £70.00 | £80.00 | £90.00 |
| Adult Supporting | £20.00 | £20.00 | £20.00 | £20.00 |
| Adult (Low Income) | £30.00 | £30.00 | £30.00 | £30.00 |
| Child (5-17) | £25.00 | £25.00 | £25.00 | £25.00 |
| Infant (0-4) | Free (but must be registered) | Free (but must be registered) | Free (but must be registered) | Free (but must be registered) |
| Apocryphal | £2.00 | £2.00 | £2.00 | £2.00 |

Committee and Contact Points:



Judi Hodgkin enquiries@ytterbium.org.uk

Judi was Treasurer of Concussion in 2006 as well as hands on for other aspects of the convention. She has been involved in fandom since her childhood in Australia where some early Swancons might not have happened if her family hadn't provided the venue.



Sarah Shemilt treasurer@ytterbium.org.uk and membership@ytterbium.org.uk

Sarah's first experience of conventions was over at The Witching Hour in 2005 where she was Deputy Chair of Accounting & Legal. After that, the bug had bitten and in 2009, Sarah attended their first Eastercon, which they have attended ever since (broken ankle or not). They are normally to be found in Ops being "polite yet assertive", however they were talked by Judi into being Treasurer for Dysprosium and now Ytterbium. In their civilian life Sarah can be found wrangling in project management, and being a disability and LGBT* activist.



Paul Taylor webmaster@ytterbium.org.uk

Paul grew up with television series such as Doctor Who, Star Trek, U.F.O. and Blake's Seven. But, as a child, he was captivated from the beginning by books. When he had read all of his own, he discovered science fiction by raiding his father's bookshelves, and poetry by raiding his mother's. Both offered new worlds of surprise and delight, as they still do today. It took Paul rather longer to discover fandom and conventions, but he immediately decided to get involved, and has since worked with many of the recent Eastercons, and, with Dublin 2019, is now on his third Worldcon committee.



Hunting Osprey hotel@ytterbium.org.uk

Drawn into convention going via the Dr Who fandom in 2004, Sarah's first Eastercon was Odyssey in 2010 She's attended all the Eastercons and Redemptions since and having made the mistake of committing an act of competency in a public place at Odyssey she's been incarcerated in ops for almost every convention since! For Ytterbium she's again escaped the Ops gravity well to again take on the role of Hotel Liaison. When not table top war gaming, lost in a book or living in the Current Middle Ages with the SCA she's usually to be found doing her theoretical day job of Software QA for a major commodity trading firm. This is still much less fun than any of the other stuff but does pay the bills.



Farah Mendlesohn programme@ytterbium.org.uk

Farah Mendlesohn has worked on conferences and conventions for twenty years. She was head of Programme for Anticipation, the Montreal World Science Fiction Convention, and chaired Concussion in 2006. She was co-editor of the BSFA and Hugo Award winning Cambridge Companion to Science Fiction and its sequel, the Cambridge Companion to Fantasy, with her partner Edward James. She has received Hugo nominations for many of her books, and recently won the World Fantasy Award with Michael M. Levy for An Introduction to Children's Fantasy Literature. Her current book is a complete change of direction, looking at children's literature about the English Civil War, which meant that she was particularly excited to read Guest of Honour Frances Hardinge's newest book, A Skinful of Shadows.



John Harold logistics@ytterbium.org.uk

John Harold, has been working in Conventions for 30 odd years, some of them very odd, after he walked up to the desk at Conspiracy and said. "Can I help?" Has since done most things except chair a con and run green room. As far as Japan and lots of other places between. Theoretically retired from a life of industry and now a Sensory needs learning coach. Still learning and hopefully teaching where he can, at cons and in college. Collect art, edged weapons, books and knowledge. Oh, and lost cats. Makes for an interesting house.



Serena Culfeather guests@ytterbium.org.uk

When she discovered conventions in 2005 she well and truly found her clan. She's worked on Press Liaison, Art Shows and Guest Liaison all of which have allowed her to meet and work with some wonderful people. This year she's added Dealers to the list – so far, so good! She keeps busy with crafts of all sorts, reading and writing and her favourite thing is a quiet moment with a piece of paper and pencil; one day she'll be a real artist. She dowses and is generally considered odd which she has learned is probably a good thing. A Mad Cat lady since her early days with added rabbits for further chaos she have a deep love of all creatures great and small. In her remaining spare time she has a full time job in Quality and Compliance and her own little laboratory with a plasmaspectrometer.



Judith Lewis communications@ytterbium.org.uk

Judith Lewis used to be evil. In her past she has: 'borrowed' a member badge to attend a con, slept 6 in a 2-person room, and lost more than one Progress Report in her house in addition to various online infractions of propriety. Since then she has reformed her evil ways and volunteered for numerous conventions as well as running some small ones plus cleaning up her evil spammy ways (mostly). She is an expert in online marketing according to other people however she doesn't think that of herself. It was because she sat sadly bemoaning the lack of bids after the bidding session at Eastercon 2013 that landed her in a comms role and since other people seemed to think she had valuable skills (and she didn't move fast enough) she was tasked with promoting Dysprosium far and wide, including online and offline channels. She is hoping to assemble a crack comms team who will tackle assembling content before and during the convention, editing it, laying it out and printing plus of course advertising the convention far and wide and promoting the heck out of it ;-)

She would like to encourage all budding writers who are better than she and her mass spam content creation to consider submitting content for the various progress reports as well as the newsletter on the weekend. She thinks that given the large number of expected newbies to the area that pre-created pub and restaurant reviews will be vital, as well as hopefully party announcements so get writing everyone!

**Other important email addresses:
accessibility@ytterbium.org.uk
volunteers@ytterbium.org.uk
creche@ytterbium.org.uk**

The Venue: The Park Inn, Heathrow.

The hotel is the same as we used for Dysprosium and they are very keen to have us back. It forms the third of the holy trinity of larger hotels on the Heathrow ring road. It will feel familiar to fans as it is just up the road from our old favourite, its cousin, the Radisson Edwardian Blu. They thought we were wonderful at Dysprosium and were disappointed to hear that it was going to take four years to get us back!

Facilities:

- Free Wi-fi
- Swimming pool and gym
- Hotel restaurant/carvery + Costa Coffee in the lounge.
- Shuttle to the airport (where you can also pick up the Underground)

Room Rates:

£77 Single Occupancy

£87 Double Occupancy

Upgrade to Business Room per room per night - price TBD

Upgrade to Suite per room per night - price TBD

All prices include Breakfast and VAT

Convention room rates will apply from Thursday to Monday night.

Getting There:

Address: Park Inn, Bath Road, Heathrow, UB7 ODU

Distance to airport: 1.6km (Taxi fare is approximately £12 for a black cab; there is no pedestrian access from the Heathrow terminal).

Distance to train station: 1km

By underground (Piccadilly Line): The nearest Underground station is Heathrow Terminal 1-3, and catch Hotel Hoppa H2. Alternatively go to Heathrow Central Bus Station and take Red public bus 110, 105, 140, 285. Say you are going to the Park Inn on Bath Road and travel is free.

By car: From the London A4: follow signposts for terminals 1, 2, and 3. At the traffic light where signs indicate a left turn from the airport, turn right and take the first left into the hotel entrance.

From the M25: Follow signs for M4 Heathrow terminals 1, 2, and 3. Take the exit 4 for Heathrow Terminals 1, 2, and 3 and go up Spur Road toward Heathrow Airport. Turn left at the A4 London sign and left again. The hotel is directly ahead of you.

Parking is available but managed by Parking Eye and is not free. Make sure you register at the reception desk. During the convention (Friday to Monday), parking will be charged at £5 per day. Overflow parking is available in the NCP to the rear of the hotel, and we are currently trying to negotiate a better rate than £28 per day..

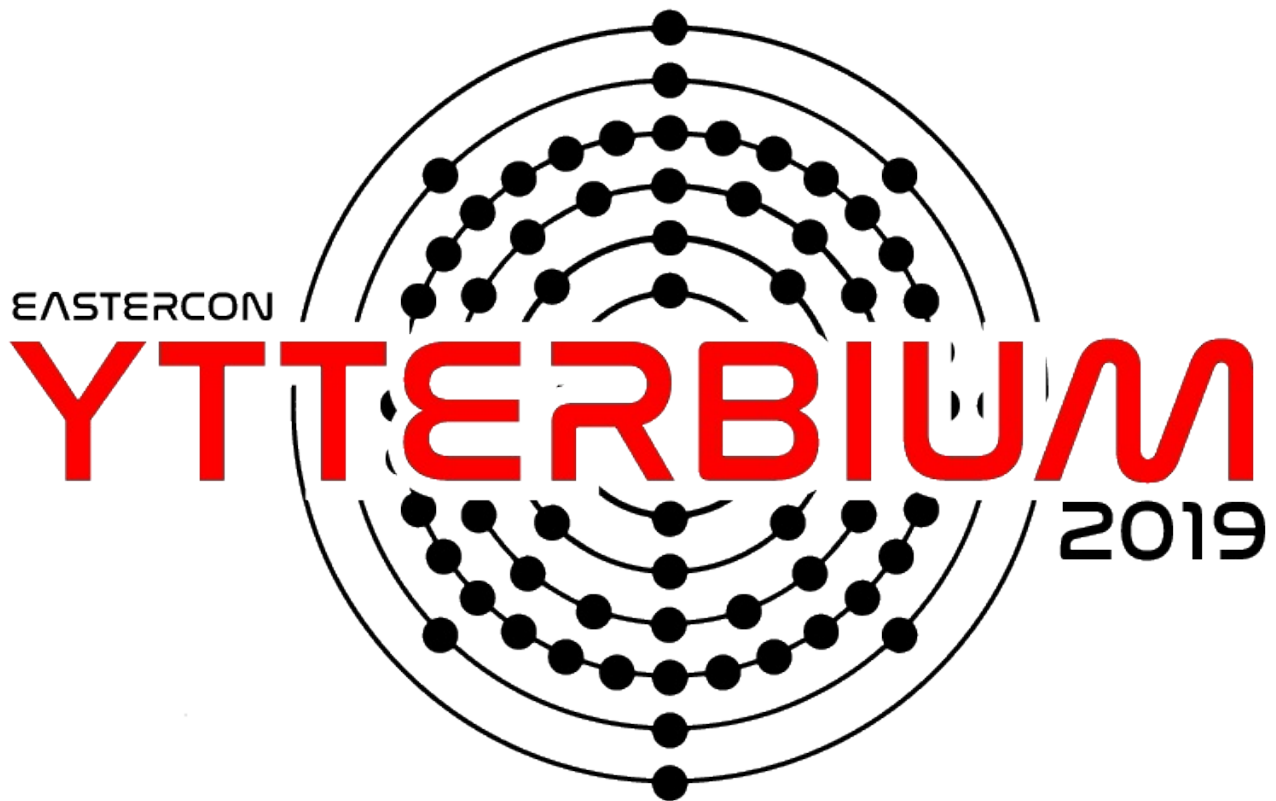
Catering in the hotel:

There is a restaurant, a lounge bar, and convention food available on site. Vegetarian and vegan choices will be available. Prices and options are still to be determined.

Please let us know if you have particular dietary requirements.

Creche:

Interested in a creche? Please let us know how many kids you'd be looking to place in a creche and how old they are so we can gauge interest and pre-warn the creche company. Email creche@ytterbium.org.uk



Ytterbium, the 70th British National Science Fiction Convention (Eastercon)

**The Park Inn, Heathrow
Bath Road, UB7 0DU**

**Guests of Honour:
Francis Hardinge
Sydney Padua
John Scalzi
DC**

19th to 22nd April 2019

