

THE SENTINEL 4

Friday Afternoon 2 April 2010

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CAR PARKING AT THE RADISSON

If you want the special £5 deal you have to buy your ticket from the concierge at reception. If you pay into the ticket machine it will charge the full rate.

LIGHTS ON!

If you have a green VW Van, R230 YHK, you have left your lights on.

MIKE CAREY SIGNING

Mike Carey will be signing at the Astral Gypsy table in the Dealers' Room at 4 pm Saturday.

BONUS AUTHOR ACTION

As well as stocking quality Pagan artifacts, GoH Liz Williams' stall in the dealers' room will be hosting impromptu book signings throughout the con. Authors likely to be found lurking may include (but are not limited to) Liz herself, Kari Sperring, Chaz 'Daniel Fox' Brenchley, and Jaine 'J N' Fenn.

Special offer! Free dodgy snax available with every book sold (while stocks last).

WHITE TACK GOOD, BLU-TACK BAD

When sticking up flyers and posters around the hotel please use white tack, not Blu-Tack.

BLATANT PLUGS FROM DAVE LALLY

(Blatant plug No1)

There is quite a large extensive display of fliers/posters for future Cons (worldwide) situated just outside the ladies (that's on the stairway down from 3rd floor Atrium to Ground Floor). So if you have enjoyed Odyssey 2010, go to another Con soon!

(Blatant plug No2)

Here in the London area next weekend (or have you reached SF saturation point—what with Corflu/World Horror etc already over)?

Next Fri/Sat/Sun there is a Free London Prisoner locations tour. We also cover one scene from The Avengers (colour Rigg series).

Details are on the Con display above (or go to www.theunmutual.co.uk/events). BCNU

ROOM 42

Videos are being shown in Room 42. Running order is listed outside the room.

FOUND PROPERTY

If Tony Thorne MBE can come to Ops (Room 32), they have something of value for him.

FAN FUNDERY

Things you can do at the Cold Tonnage Books table in the Dealers' Room.

(1) Vote for GUFF (the Going Under Fan Fund), which you can also do via <http://pcwww.liv.ac.uk/~lister/guff> and Paypal, provided you do so before 23:59 BST on Monday—or see Ang Rosin in the bar when the Dealers' Room is closed.

(2) Buy a membership for Aussiecon Four, the Worldcon in Melbourne this year (2-6 September), which you can also do via Paypal and www.aussiecon4.org.au—attending membership currently £140 or €165.

(3) Donate contributions to the fan fund auction, which will be held at 9:30 pm on Saturday.

(4) Buy books, which you can also do via www.coldtonnage.com or many other friendly booksellers in the Dealers' Room.



The Dealers' Room, that great bastion of commerce & free trade, well-deserving of your browsing & of course some of the contents of your wallet! With merchandise ranging from books for every taste, games, crafts, jewellery, clothes & assorted designs of T-shirts to, of course, Beeblebears.

THE OTHER ART DISPLAY

When you are wandering the maze of twisty passages, take a look at the art on the walls: the hotel has a nice selection of framed art on the walls, textiles, drawings and more.

Caroline Mullan.

EASTERCON OVERVIEW

The convention is going strong this fine Friday afternoon. It is your past, as you read this, but it is our present as we write this. So as your roving reporter, I am here to tell you what you all have been doing today or what you should have been doing, if you had had the time, the inclination, the insanity, or the strange friends to drag you to any of these items. We're sure you went to even better panels, but you should have told us about them if you wanted to have them reviewed in *The Sentinel*, instead of waiting for us to pop by and spend our time on rather more random other sessions.

We can happily report there was much random chaos going on in the Hitchhiker Games at 4 pm today, where towel origami took off like a speedy jet, and the crew went out to get bags of extra towels from the hotel to satisfy popular demand by those who didn't bring their own DON'T PANIC towel. How can you even leave home without it?!



Towel Fu at the Hitchhiker Games.

The well-advertised *Naming Pluto* showing was well-attended at 3 pm, in the small video room 42, aptly named, seeing the above paragraph! The TV screen was not formatted properly to the 16x9 format, which may be something for Tech to take a look at for the next showing on Sunday at 11 am. It's a short, sweet little programme that is well worth watching and at the 13 minute running time, it's well worth watching it at the right aspect ratio. If it doesn't clash with your fannish priorities, catching the second viewing is highly recommended by this reporter.

Earlier today attendees were still pouring into the building by the truckload, and the parking lot is overstuffed with fannish cars. We can't exactly see on the outside of the car that they are fannish, but it stands to reason that when prodded

Steampunk has done wonders for the dress sense of the British male. @CherylMorgan

some of them will be saying things like, 'by your command', 'where's your towel?', or even 'DON'T PANIC!' Personally I'd love to see some Torino stripes or even a Confederate flag on the top of an orange car, but that's just the media fan in me. Things like that may just get a chuckle out of most of the serious SF attendees at best, or the shaking of the head, and moving on to the Animatronics—Artificial Intelligence panel, which was run at 12 pm.

On the subject of fringe things, there is definitely some random knitting going on at this convention, apparently a need that can't be suppressed, as witnessed by the Stitch'n'Bitch session in Henley's Drawing room on Sunday at 1 pm and the Sock Knitting workshop at 7 pm, also on Sunday. There are quite a few sessions involving knitting, including the early morning craft sessions every day, with a dead serious session on the knitted alien race, the Clangers on Monday at 3 pm! So if you didn't take knitting seriously now (or your friend who knits and you're baffled as to what s/he likes about it), that should drive the point home.

From rumours around the convention this reporter estimated the attendance at the *Doctor Who* Easter Special showing Saturday night will be over 90% of the convention. Let's hope the main hall can provide good seating and video for this mammoth event. Going by the murmurs in the hallways, there is already grumbling about *Doctor Who* clashing with the buffet dinner. The verdict on the empty stomach is unanimous: *Doctor Who* wins, hands down, so expect the buffet to be poorly attended until *Doctor Who* is over.

The Main Hall is looking good, still as oblong as it ever was, which chased media conventions away in the past (sorry, Radisson! History is fact, deal with it). Perhaps this superlative Eastercon can make the Main Hall work for its panels and showings. I talked to Tech and they say the sound, even in the far back of the auditorium, is as good as it gets. To my untrained, fannish ears, it sounds g-o-o-d! Much better than the media cons I attended. Those with poor eyesight might want to get in early and sit at the front, because the hall is very long. If your sight is good, you might want to sit more towards the back if you want to avoid feeling overcrowded. You see, there's a right spot for everyone!
Ilana Grune