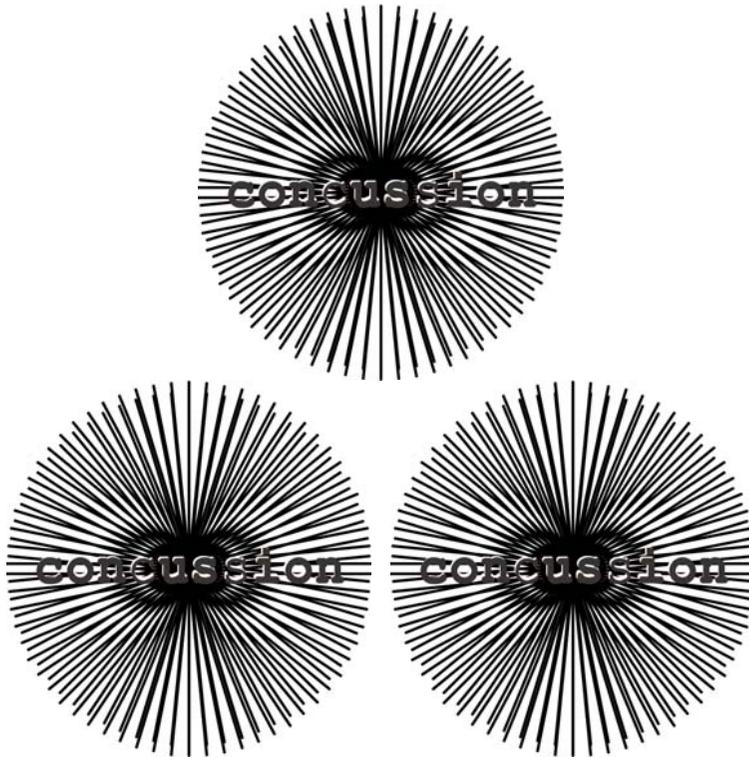


Concussion
14-17 April 2006
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Glasgow
 (formerly known as Moat House Hotel)



PR3 - November 2005

57th Annual British National Science Fiction Convention

**Guests of Honour M. John Harrison, Elizabeth Hand,
 Justina Robson, Brian Froud and Ian Sorensen**

plus Special Guests

Dan Abnett, Marc Gascoigne, Mat Irvine, Dee Parker and Johanna Sinisalo

Concussion

Concussion is the 57th Annual British National Science Fiction Convention. It will be held on April 14-17 2006 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Glasgow.

Contact Details

Postal: 23 Ranelagh Road, Bruce Grove, London N17 6XY, UK
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 News Feed: <http://www.livejournal.com/community/eastercon2006>
 Mailing List: <http://www.eastercon2006.org/contacts.php>

Committee

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Membership Rates	to 30 Nov 05	1 Dec 05 and on the door
Attending	£50	£55
Supporting	£25	£27.50
Concessions	£25	£27.50
Junior (12-18)	£15	£15
Child (5-11)	£5	£5
Infant (0-4)	free	free

Thanks to Colin Odell for the Concussion logo artwork.

This Progress Report was published by the Concussion Committee and printed by digitalcopyservices at Anglia Ruskin University.

The convention publications are available in electronic format & **large print**.



Gearing Up

- a chair's welcome by Farah Mendlesohn

The contract is signed, we've studied the layout of the hotel, membership is rising and we are beginning to feel that we have a convention.

Because of Worldcon the convention committee had a slow start, but as planned we have been back at work since the beginning of September. Taking a look at the site plan has been interesting: we are very keen to see greater integration of some events into the convention and we have an excellent room for the Art Gallery (prospective exhibitors should contact Judi Hodgkin) and for the dealers room (contact me). We very much need volunteers in the technical department, and also to help as gophers and at registration. Volunteers will be paid in groats (currency to be spent within the convention). Contact Noel for details or see the website for the volunteer form.

Simon Bradshaw has begun planning the programme and will be in touch with many of you in the near future. Programme items to be planned cover science, literature, politics, art, movie, tv and book discussions. We aim to match the quality and diversity of programme achieved by Worldcon this year, although arguably with the bonus that you'll be able to see more than ten per cent of it without having to clone yourself! As it is we've wrung the maximum number of rooms out of the space and intend to use the smallest of the spaces for book groups, readings and author chats (known as *kaffeeklatches* in the US). So far over twenty authors have signed up and publishers are beginning to join. See <http://www.eastercon2006.org/authors.php> for a regularly updated list. James Bacon will be organising Cyberdrome (the theme is *Pirates!*) and there will be more details on the site shortly.

In the last PR we announced our cohort of special day guests. In October we were able to confirm our final guest; Dee Parker, Senior Lecturer in Contour Design at the University of Leicester. Dee has agreed to be one of the judges in the Masquerade, along with our Guest of Honour Brian Froud, another of our special guests, Mat Irvine, and an as yet to be appointed Costumer.

NEWS FLASH: Moat House renamed to Crowne Plaza as of November 2005

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Special Guest – Dee Parker

- Farah Mendlesohn's cups overfloweth

I first heard Dee Parker, Senior Lecturer in Contour Design at the University of Leicester, on Woman's Hour in 2004, talking cheerily about "upthrust" and "separation", "tension" and "architecture", "materials engineering" and "drag". With a vocabulary like that, how could we resist?

Dee Parker is, of course, an expert in what the rest of us call bra and corsetry design. We very much look forward to her talk and hope she will join us in a discussion of the plausibility of some of the more pneumatic visions in the art gallery, and the right way to construct a bra for zero gravity.



Programme

- Simon Bradshaw has a little list

The programme is now taking shape, with the major events (Guest of Honour talks, award ceremony, Masquerade and so on) nailed into place. In between go talks, panels, readings and everything else that makes up an Eastercon programme; we're now working on developing a rich and varied mix of such items to live up to the standard set by Interaction.

Talking of Worldcon, those of you who were there will remember that the programme ran with two ninety-minute slots in the afternoon. Many items worked well in a longer slot, and we'll be building on this; as well as two long slots in the afternoon (2-5pm) we'll run two in the evening (8-11pm). Other items will be an hour, and we'll be starting with at least one item from 9-10am for the early risers - we hear that there are some out there!

Our final ingredient will be the most important: programme participants. We're keen to involve a wide range of attendees, so this is your chance to get involved. If you're interested in taking part, go to the Concussion web page and fill in our participation form, return the form enclosed with this PR, or email or write to the convention via our contact addresses. Please note that we can't guarantee a place on the programme, but we'll certainly look at each and every suggestion and offer to help out.



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>



Hotel News * Moat House renamed Crowne Plaza*

- room booking information

We have some news on the hotel front: our main hotel, the Moat House, was rebranded in November 2005 as the Glasgow Crowne Plaza. Don't worry - this is not a change of site, and does not affect bookings of function space or bedrooms.

We will be using three hotels for Concourse, namely the Crowne Plaza, City Inn and Campanile. These three hotels are situated very close together (about 400m across a quiet car park) on the Clydeside, adjacent to the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC). There are regular buses and cabs into Glasgow.

The main hotel will be the Crowne Plaza, where we have reserved 200 bedrooms plus all of the function space. The City Inn and Campanile will be used to provide additional bedroom space to ensure that we can accommodate everyone on site.

Our room rates are all for Bed and Breakfast. Please note, they are per room, not per occupant. We are asking people to contact the hotels directly to book rooms.

If you have any questions, or want to find room sharers, contact us at the convention address or hotels@eastercon2006.org. Otherwise, contact the hotel directly to book and make arrangements for any special requirements (cot, disabled access, diet etc). If you are having trouble with hotel booking, in particular with issues like disabled access, please contact us. Concussion is registered with Electrical Eggs and we want to do our best to ensure equal access for all.

Glasgow ~~Moat House~~ Crowne Plaza £65 single; £80 twin/double per room. Wi-fi in bedrooms and public areas, and coin operated internet access on the Mezzanine. There are restaurants and bars, and a gym with a swimming pool. There are some rooms adapted for people with wheelchairs/mobility difficulties. The Crowne Plaza will have some guest rooms available in which smoking is permitted. Smokers are advised to ask for one, because Scotland's new anti-smoking legislation will prevent you from smoking in most other places.

Phone: 0870 443 1693

Address: Congress Road, Glasgow G3 8QT

To get the discounted convention rate, bookings must be via phone or email to the events staff, NOT the web site or front desk. Our contact at reservations is Kerry Menzies; quote code "EAS130405". Phone bookings are available 9am to 5.30pm, or members can email Kerry with queries or booking requests.

Email: systems.Glasgow@moathousehotels.com
Internet: www.moathouse.com

For now, the discount rates are available for at least a day either side of the convention, subject to availability. For bookings made later, only the convention dates may be available at the discount rate.

City Inn Glasgow £63 single; £76 twin/double

The City Inn is a more quiet hotel. It has wi-fi in public areas, an in house restaurant and bar, and six wheelchair adapted rooms.

Phone: 0141 2401002 Post: Finnieston Quay, Glasgow G3 8HN
Internet: www.cityinn.com/glasgow/ Email: glasgow.reservations@cityinn.com
Please quote code "SciFi06" to get the convention rate.

Campanile Hotel £55 single; £61 twin/double

This has dial up connections and a restaurant. It is similar in style to the Quality Inn Walsall (venue for Novacon). There are two wheelchair adapted rooms.

Phone: 0141 287 7700 Post: 10 Tunnel Street, Glasgow G3 8HL
Web: <http://www.campanile.com> Email: glasgow@campanile-hotels.com
Please quote code "SciFi06" to get the convention rate.



**Guests of Honour M. John Harrison, (clockwise from top left)
Elizabeth Hand, Justina Robson, Brian Froud and Ian Sorensen**

plus Special Guests Marc Gascoigne, Dan Abnett, Mat Irvine, Johanna Sinisalo and Dee Parker (centre)



Concussion at Interaction

- Worldcon roundup

We at Concussion are in the interesting position of using a site which has just held a Worldcon. This has given us a great opportunity to look at how the Moat House coped with an influx of fans, and how best to use the space. At Worldcon the Moat House was used primarily for the Fan programme, and it proved to be a most congenial place; we hope to maintain the relaxed ambience while cramming a load more sf programming into the available space.

We are not using the SECC at Concussion; we are holding all programming in the Moat House. As an 800-1000 person convention we do not need the sort of space the SECC provides. Our logistics staff have been investigating the layout of rooms available in the Moat House and assigning them to programme, gaming, workshops, dealers rooms etc in a way we hope will minimise any noise disturbance between items. We have a cunning plan... in fact, we have several...

The Moat House was delighted with the way Worldcon went. The food and drink was popular (especially the late-night bacon butties!) and they will endeavour to keep a good selection available.

The Fan programme (which was held in the Moat House) arranged for a real ale bar to be set up in the foyer bar; this was a great success, and the beer made several converts among the hotel staff! The con not only drank the real ale bar dry, it drank the brewery dry – after several restockings during the weekend they ran out of beer! We are negotiating with them to return, and possibly brew us a special Concussion ale...

Several of our guests attended Interaction – we hope you took the opportunity to get to know them! **Ian Sorensen** staged the latest production of the 'Reductio Ad Absurdum' theatre company - *Lucas Back In Anger* - an epic humorous re-imagining of the *Star Wars* hexology. **Elizabeth Hand** was kept busy on panels about the art of reviewing, the British landscape, and slipstreaming genre boundaries, as well as giving a reading and hosting a kaffeeklatsch. **Justina Robson's** new novel *Living Next-Door to the God of Love* in just published. She appeared on a diverse range of items which explore SF's human heart. **Dan Abnett** discussed comic writing and production on a number of panels, and **Marc Gascoigne** of Games Workshop's The Black Library, joined Elizabeth Hand in talking about tie in novels. **Johanna Sinisalo** attended; her award-winning novel *Not Before Sundown* (released in the US as *Troll: A Love Story*) was discussed by the James Tiptree Jr. Book Group, and the Finnish fans held some excellent parties!

If you have any comments or suggestions on how we could improve Concussion based on your experience at Worldcon, we would be happy to hear from you.



Whither Eastercon?

-The Bid Session

One of the most important things you can do to help the Eastercon continue is to run one. Each Eastercon holds a Bidding Session, where groups of people who wish to run the Eastercon two years hence put forward their plans to a vote by members. However, no bids came forward at Eastercon 2005. This was largely due to fans putting their time and energy into the Glasgow Worldcon; we hope you have all been revitalised and filled with drive to run a most excellent Eastercon!

Concussion will be holding a dual Bidding Session - for Eastercon 2007 and Eastercon 2008. We would be delighted to hear from any groups that plan to bid for either of these years – please get in touch with us at the convention address.

Eastercon 2007: Free Plug for bids!

Convoy proposes that the 2007 Eastercon be held at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool.

The committee began to form in the closing hours of Paragon II, when various people including Tim Kirk were lamenting the lack of bids for the 2007 Eastercon.

Coincidentally, the Adelphi had actively approached one of these fans, asking to host an Eastercon again. Some very successful conventions have been held at the Adelphi, which has function and gathering space ideally suited to an Eastercon, so it looks like we've got us a Convoy.

Convoy will make its formal bid at Concussion. <http://convoy.org.uk/>

Newsflash: Eastercon 2008 bid

<http://www.orbital2008.org/>



Getting Involved

-Ask not what Eastercon can do for you, but what you can do for Eastercon

Eastercons have a lot of activities, and are run at every level by volunteers. To coordinate these efforts we have enclosed a Programme and Volunteer Questionnaire with this Progress Report, and would be grateful if you could complete and return it. Please note if you would like us to contact you with more information about exhibiting in the Art show or Dealers Room.

If you are new to conventions, volunteering can be a good way to make friends, or to try an activity new to you. Ever wanted to be a roving reporter for a daily con newsletter? Learn to set up microphones and lights? Help in the Green Room, where programme participants meet and prepare for their panels? The opportunities are varied, and can be very rewarding! Volunteers are recompensed with “groats” – Gopher Reward Tokens – which can be exchanged for goods and services throughout the con. “Gopher” is the umbrella term for volunteer con helpers – so named because they “go for” this, and “go for” that...



The Membership List

- New members since Easter 2005

The following is a list of people who have joined between Easter and October 2005 – including during the Glasgow Worldcon, helped to swell our membership beyond 500 people. Welcome! If you think you should be on this list but cannot see your name, please contact the committee.

The names in the listing are badge names, but ordered alphabetically by surname for the most part. This is to help those of our members who have badge names that are not unique to find themselves in this list – it should be a lot easier than sorting people alphabetically by “Steve”. Please let us know if any corrections should be made to your badge name.

The three-digit number is your membership number, and the letter code denotes what type of membership you have.

A: Attending – S: Supporting – C: Concessionary – O: Other
J: Junior (12-18) – K: Child (5-11) – I: Infant (0-4)

343 C Russell Aitken	378 A Chaz Brenchley	409 A Pam Fremon
502 I Elizabeth Atkin-Wright	338 A Paul Campbell	495 C Karen Furlong
501 A Katharine Atkin-Wright	421 A Bridet Chee	494 A Nigel Furlong
500 A Toby Atkin-Wright	467 A Dale	493 A Sabine Furlong
512 A Sandy Auden	435 A Christine	359 S Mike Gallagher
335 A James Bacon	436 A Michael Davidson	511 A Elizabeth Gatland
405 A Chris Baker	340 A Huw Davies	360 A Gary Gibson
471 A Henry Balen	426 A Malcolm Davies	383 C Lorraine Govan
499 A Jennie Barnsley	456 A Simon Dearn	446 A Morag
473 A Andrew Barton	466 A Alligator Descartes	406 C Izzy Hanson
474 A Kate Soley Barton	443 A Gillian Dickson	351 A John Harold
392 A Zara Baxter	445 K Ketary Dickson	515 A Peter Harrow
497 A Roy Bayfield	444 J Kethry Dickson	431 A Susie Haynes
416 A Graham Bell	447 A ElsieWK Donald	448 A Martin
419 A Raj	367 A Allison Ewing	366 A Alasdair Hepburn
455 A Stefanie Bierwerth	368 K Calum Ewing-Hepburn	381 J Leah Heywood
429 A Kent Bloom	369 K Fergus Ewing-Hepburn	382 J Matthew Heywood
332 A Simon Bostock	483 A Nuala	380 A Vincent Heywood
352 A Robbie Bourget	396 I Kieran Fee	379 A Wendrie Heywood
408 A Sean Brady	395 I Logan Fee	370 A Irma HirsJarvi
433 A Michael Braithwaite	509 A Alison Freebairn	488 A Alex Holden

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 407 A Martin Holmes | 422 K Kieran Meenan | 472 A Renee Sieber |
| 413 A FOFP | 420 A Mark Meenan | 437 A Howard Singerman |
| 506 A Nick Honeywell | 372 A Geneva Melzack | 434 A Ken Slater |
| 342 A Andrew Hook | 410 J Chloe | 364 A Graham Sleight |
| 375 A Graham J Horsman | 411 A Sara | 479 A Carolyn Sleith |
| 480 A Talmyre | 349 A Ray Miller | 452 A Smitty |
| 504 A Ben Hourahine | 432 A Steve Milligan | 440 A DES |
| 478 A Aandi Inston | 510 S Cati Monti | 334 A Christine Sneddon |
| 417 A Judith Jackson | 428 A Mary Morman | 333 C Dr. Squi |
| 418 J Lynn Jackson | 348 A Carol Morton | 425 A Kate Solomon |
| 491 A Rhodri James | 347 A Tony Morton | 384 A Ian Stockdale |
| 341 A John Jarrold | 404 C Donald Munao | 503 S Elin B. Stokstad |
| 470 C Ila Khan | 339 A John Murnin | 430 A James Strong |
| 468 A Naveed | 363 A Colin Murray | 374 C LOR |
| 507 A Jane | 477 A Sal Nicholson | 424 A Jernaugh Morat Gurgeh |
| 354 A Matthias Kunkel | 387 C Brian Nisbet | 496 A Emma Taylor |
| 441 A Karin Lagesen | 401 A Dave O'Neil | 513 A Martin Taylor |
| 454 A Peter Lavery | 490 A Paul Paolini | 462 A Alison Tomkinson |
| 385 A Ruth Leibig | 362 A Arwel Parry | 465 I Debora Tomkinson |
| 492 A Daniel Livingstone | 399 A David Peak | 461 A Neil Tomkinson |
| 487 A Mike Llewellyn | 400 A Susan Peak | 463 J Root |
| 450 A Marisa | 398 S Captain Lucy | 464 K Stephanie Tomkinson |
| 482 J Johanna Look | 388 A Last Best Hope | 361 A Lisa Tuttle |
| 481 A Katharina Look | 412 A Ceri Pritchard | 336 S Simone Van Zyl |
| 451 A Karin Lundwall | 356 A Aletia Ray | 459 A Nico Veenkamp |
| 439 A Helen MacNeil | 357 A Ariane | 505 A Sarah Vernon |
| 438 A Justin MacNeil | 355 A Bill | 449 A Nick |
| 371 A Ann Marjory Mair | 358 A Tiny II | 427 A Lucy |
| 514 A Chris Malme | 442 A Mr. Evil | 486 A Freda Warrington |
| 373 A Eckh. D Marwitz | 516 A Mark Robson | 475 A Robert Watt |
| 337 S Sue Mason | 485 A Ingo Rohlfs | 457 A Hitch |
| 386 A Angus McAlister | 344 A Howard Rosenblum | 414 A Colin Wightman |
| 390 A David McCusker | 345 A June Rosenblum | 415 A Sarah Wightman |
| 460 A Mary Frances | 346 K Michelle Rosenblum | 365 A Jennifer Wilkinson |
| 403 C David McKenzie | 453 A Yvonne Rowse | 458 A Peter Wilkinson |
| 402 A Jobob | 397 A Simon Russell | 391 A Matthew Woodcraft |
| 394 A Kksryllyan | 350 A Geoff Ryman | 377 A Shana Worthen |
| 484 A Emily McLeay | 508 A Ian Sales | 393 C Anna Linnea Zettervall |
| 423 K Kathryn Meenan | 469 A Lesley Scott | 353 A Matthins Zimmermann |



Concussion Sudoku

- Bridget's Brain Bruiser

There are nine different characters used in this Sudoku puzzle. To solve it, simply place letters in the empty cells so that each row, column and 3x3 block contains all the different letters. (This means no letter can appear twice in any row, column or 3x3 block.) "E" and "e" are two different letters. Good luck!

			n			o	a	r
				a	c		e	t
	o			c			E	
		s	t			c		
		t				r		a
	c			n	t			s
	t	e	s					
	E	n			a	e		



Notes