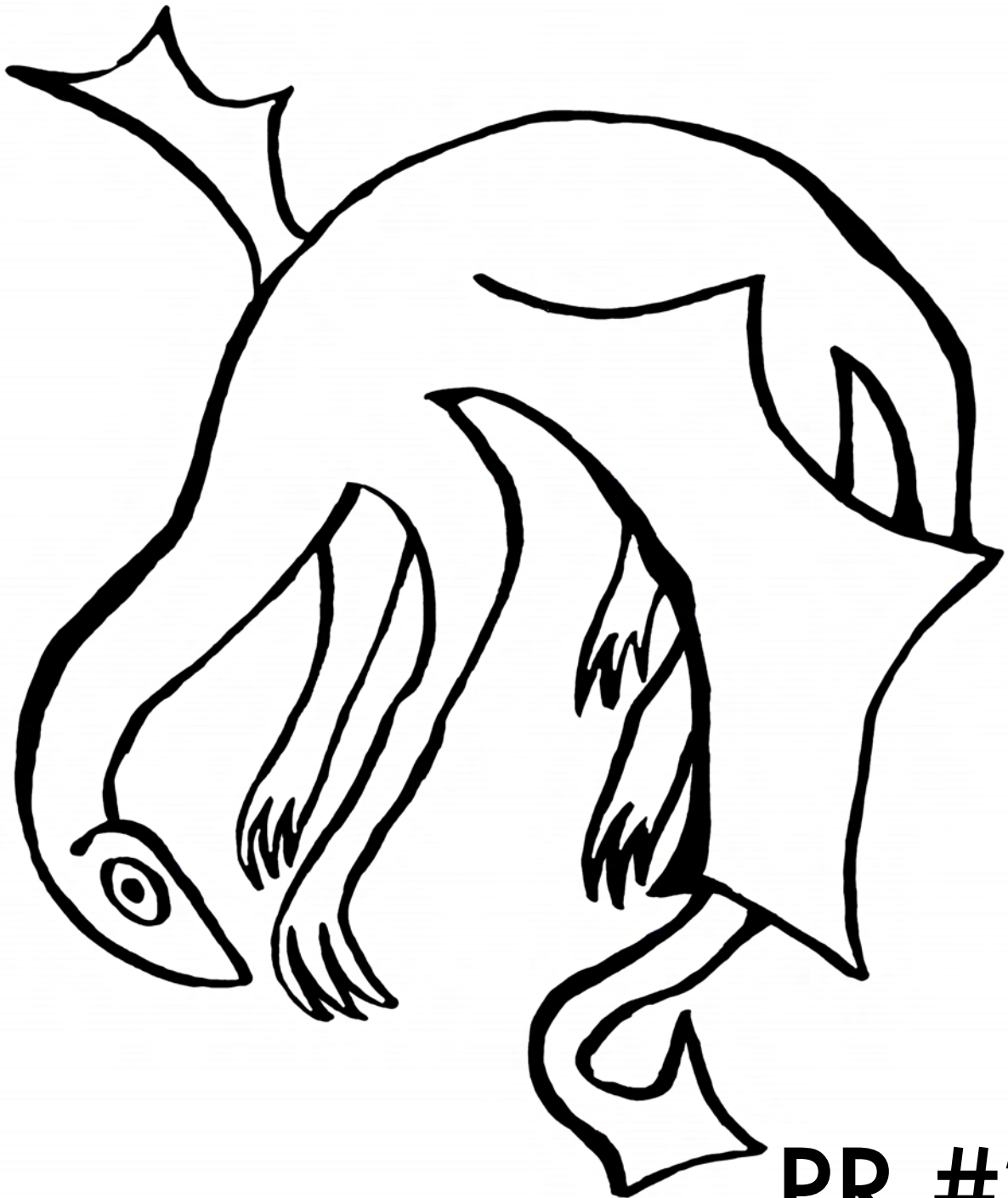


# NOVACON

44



PR #3



Park Inn Hotel

Nottingham

**14-16 November 2014**

## Guest of Honour: Kari Sperring Science Guest: John Gribbin

### Membership Rates

In advance - Adults: £45 / 13-16 years: £12 / 12 years and under: free.

On-the-Door - £50 for the weekend. Day rates: Friday - £10, Saturday - £25, Sunday - £15

### Hotel Rooms

Double or Twin: £45 pppn / Single: £63 pppn / Children under 5 years: free.

Children 5-13 years: £5 pppn (ages at the date of the convention)

### Contact Details

See the website at <http://www.novacon.org.uk/> for more information.

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### PR #3 Art Credits

Cover illo by the Right Honourable Clarrie Maguire, MP. The awesome Novacon 44 logo was created by the legendary Chrissie Harper ([halloween.jill@gmail.com](mailto:halloween.jill@gmail.com)). Fillo on page 6 by Sue Mason.

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## **The Last PR...**

Novacon's nearly here so this is the last PR. We've decided to forgo the planned experiments in radical fan-writing and focus on what's important, so here's some details about how to get to the convention hotel and what you might expect to find on Friday night. See you in the bar!

- Doug & Christina

## **Third Time Lucky**

Seeing as I've already chaired Novacon twice before, writing this introduction should be a doddle by now, but to partially quote the legendary Francis Urquhart, "You might very well think that..."

In actuality, it becomes increasingly difficult to come up with anything Novacon regulars haven't heard a dozen times before, or which won't already have been made explicit to those less familiar with the UK's longest-running regional sf convention. The hotel staff members are gearing up to offer us their usual warm welcome; our schedule is 95% confirmed; the programme book and limited-edition souvenir chapbook (with cover artwork by the esteemed Dave Hardy) will be off to the printers shortly. We are also delighted to announce an appearance on Saturday evening by the band Crimson Clocks, a particular pleasure for me given I introduced live music to this event during my very first stint in the chair, way back in 1984.

Two news items deserve mention: you can now vote for the 2014 Nova Awards online, via the Novacon 44 website (see details and list of eligible fanzines later this issue). Voting is also open to any non-member resident of the UK or Eire, so please feel free to spread the word, especially if you have a fanzine in contention.

The second is a more sombre duty. As many of you will already be aware, Graham Joyce, our guest of honour in 1994, passed away in September. One of the nicest guys ever to prop up a Novacon bar, Graham was a worthy winner of numerous awards for his novels and short fiction, as well as the recipient of a PhD at Nottingham Trent University. On a personal level, he also produced a deliciously wicked column for my and Martin Tudor's fanzine *Critical Wave*. Our sincere sympathies are extended to Suzanne, Ella and Joseph, and to all his many friends.

Finally, we are eager to commemorate two somewhat larger gatherings earlier this year: the London Worldcon and the Dublin Eurocon. If you have any photographs from either, please forward them to [necronaut13@gmail.com](mailto:necronaut13@gmail.com) with "Novacon 44" in the subject header. This showcase can only work with your assistance, so please support it if you can.

And with that, I wish you all a safe journey to Nottingham. Druids have Stonehenge, music fans have Glastonbury, we have Novacon -- and I know darned well which I prefer.

- Steve Green, Chair

## **Friday Night's Programme**

Friday evening at Novacon is by turns a chance to catch up with old friends, make new ones and ease yourself into our single-stream programme. The emphasis is on laidback fun, and our opening items reflect that.

### **19:30: Opening Ceremony**

Your opportunity to get acquainted with our guest of honour, Kari Sperring, and our special science guest, John Gribbin, as well as the rabble who organised this event. There'll be a few twists this year, so why not drag yourself away from the bar (with a refilled glass, of course) and join us as we launch the good ship Novacon 44?

### **20:30: Room 101**

Our guest of honour, Kari Sperring, names and shames those objects, individuals and social trends she desires hurled into the Cosmic Abyss. Provided he's back from rehab in time, Steve Green gets to act as Judge Judy and executioner. Let's hope Kari doesn't make a convincing case for Novacon's annihilation, else this will be a very brief weekend indeed.

### **22:00: Congoing On a Shoestring**

It's been a busy year for British and Irish fans: a Worldcon in London, a Eurocon in Dublin, a clearly unmissable weekend in Nottingham. But in a time of austerity, how can we stretch our purses, wallets and credit cards accordingly? Theatrically swerving their backs upon payday loans, Bellis, Theresa Derwin, Jaine Fenn and Mark Plummer offer their experienced advice (but please do us a favour and don't act upon most of it until well after you get home).

## **And more about Saturday evening's special guests : Crimson Clocks**

We have a special treat in store for Saturday night, live music from Crimson Clocks, an unusual and exciting band, steeped in the mythology of SF, fantasy and steampunk.

Here in their own words, is a taste of what you might expect:

Who are Crimson Clocks? Who indeed!

We are crimson-blooded

We are crimson in tooth and claw

We disdain (pah!) all attempts to neatly categorise us. We play music, and we spin stories. What more do you need to know?

Lugubrious lyrics sung sadistically over trouser trembling bass beats and relentless drums in the deep, all washed down with lashings of vivacious violin and orpheic oboe...

Linzi – our singist and main lyricist, is also an authist of steampunk/ science fiction novels, writing as LM Cooke. Are you sitting comfortably, as the storm rages without? Then prepare for a 'Penny Dreadful' set to music. Don't be scared, little one...

Jo – our violinist and oboist is classically trained; she wields the violin like a vorpal blade, and spits melody from the oboe like poisoned darts – look away if you dare

Colin – our bassist was found under the sea in the deepest of the singing caverns of Aldebaran; the deep bass notes seeped into his bones, and will seep into yours when you hear him play

Steve – our drummer was stolen by clockwork monkeys as a small child; they raised him and taught him only the language of the drum. The drums are his first language. Listen to the rhythm and you will understand.

Crimson Clocks set out to deliver something other than the usual fodder of tributes, covers and average rock. We are definitely not your average 'rock' band! Our style encompasses so much more than rock – reggae, Latin, jazz, soul-stealing and something... intangible.

Our songs are almost exclusively original, covering diverse topics from evil geniuses to demon instruments, from Norse/ Celtic mythology to chocolate... and of course, we are always accompanied by the mysterious fifth member of the band, code-named 'T'...

Watch the Clocks at [www.CrimsonClocks.com](http://www.CrimsonClocks.com)

Bemuse your ears at <https://crimsonclocks.bandcamp.com/> or <https://soundcloud.com/crimsonclocks>



## **The Hotel Bit**

The time draws near, so a final few words about what to expect regarding the hotel. As usual, on the Friday evening only, there will be a fixed-price carvery in the restaurant as well as the con food ordered at the bar. This is to ease congestion as hundreds of fans pour in, desperate for refreshment (possible exaggeration) and to help out the kitchen staff. The hot con food is cooked to order so be prepared to wait a little longer. The restaurant will also have its usual menu available during the con.

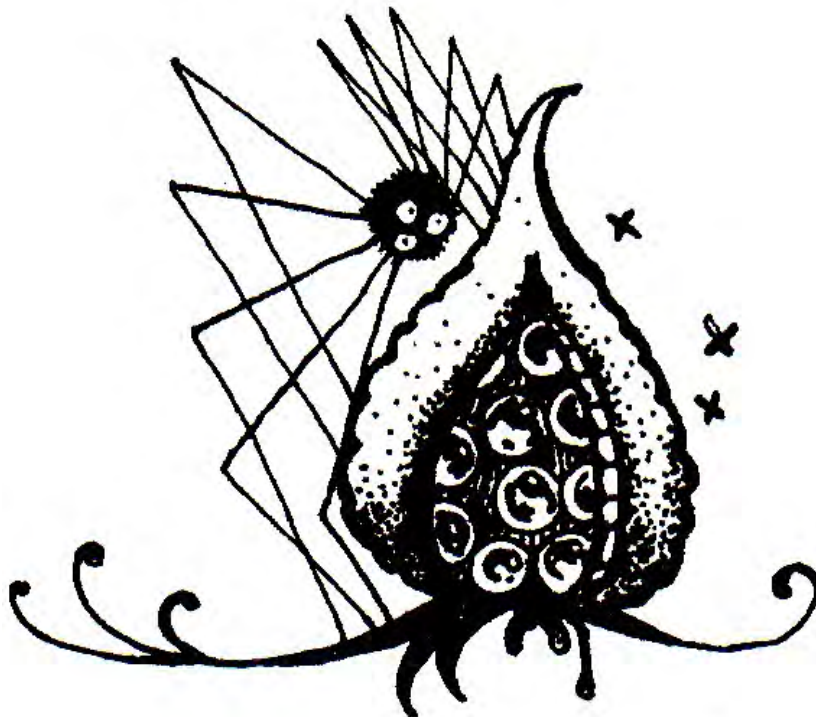
The downstairs bar will also be open on Friday evening serving bottled drinks. This bar will act as an overflow and is available as lounge space throughout the weekend. Any book launches usually take place here, as well as the book auction on Saturday night.

Our Guest Of Honour, Kari Sperring, has suggested food with a Mediterranean flavour for the Sunday evening beer tasting, so expect a little Greek and Turkish with maybe more veggie dishes than usual. You can get into the beer tasting by bringing at least 3 bottles of interesting beer and leaving them with us, or by buying a ticket at registration, but for the food you **MUST** buy a ticket in advance before noon on Sunday. Prices to be announced.

Remember if you are arriving at the hotel later than 4pm on Friday please ring the hotel direct to guarantee your room. The number is 0115 935 9988.

Make sure you register your car upon arrival otherwise the ANPR will get you.

- Tony Berry



## How to get there

The convention takes place at:

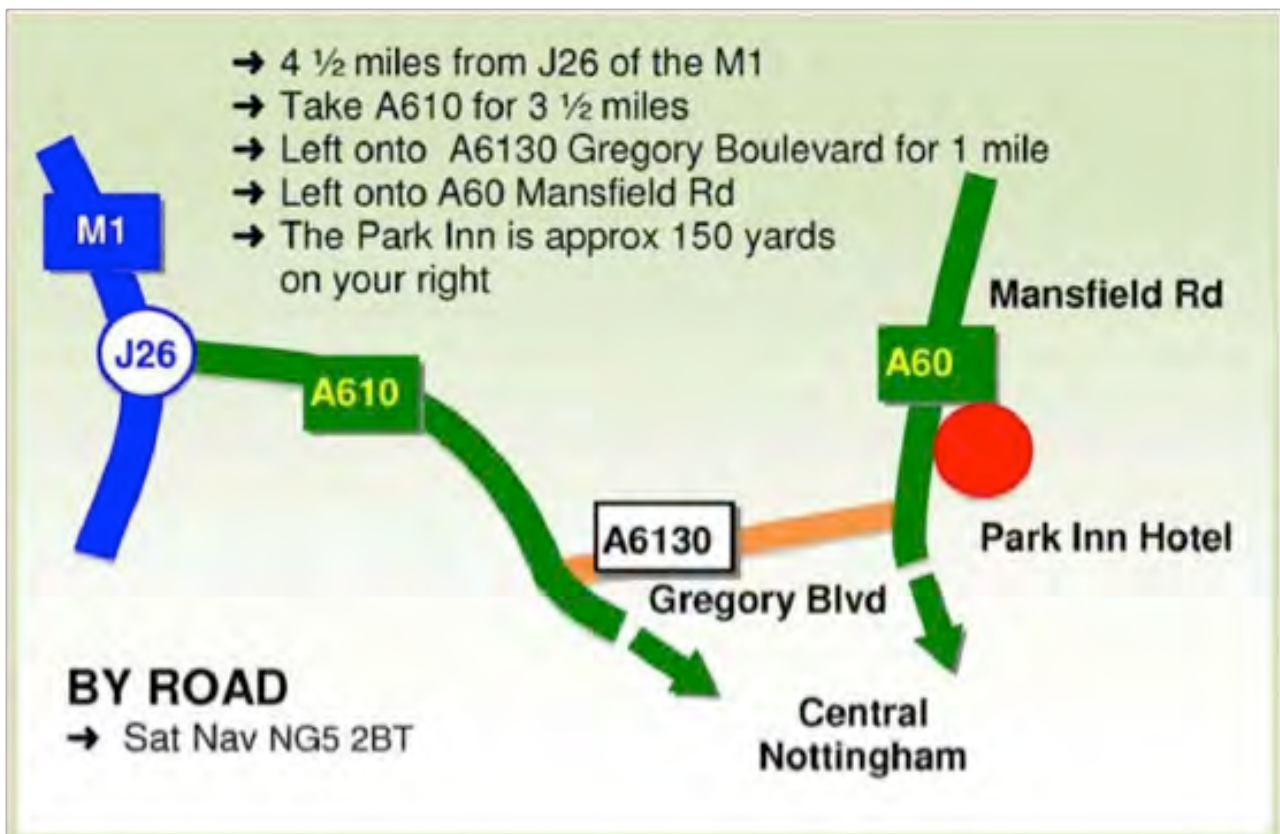
**The Park Inn Hotel, Mansfield Road, Nottingham, NG5 2BT**

<http://www.parkinn.co.uk/hotel-nottingham/location>

**CAR USERS** will need to leave the M1 at Junction 26 (if you're not using the M1 then your route is left as an exercise for the reader). You might think, if you're coming from the south, that you'll have a better chance with a lower-numbered junction, but trust me, you'll want to stay on the motorway until J26.

Take the A610 towards Nottingham. Stick with it until after you've slalomed across the ring road and then gone past a Tesco Express on your right, then at the next traffic lights turn left into the poorly-signposted A6130 Gregory Boulevard.

At the end of Gregory Boulevard, you'll find two roundabouts in succession. Turn left at the second, onto the A60, and the hotel is 150 yards along on the right.



As we said on the previous page, if you've put a vehicle in the hotel car park, be sure to register it with the hotel when you arrive, to avoid being sent a large and unexpected penalty charge after the convention. Reception staff will be happy to show you what you need to do.

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT USERS** are likely to arrive in Nottingham at either the rail station or Broadmarsh bus station.

If there's two or more of you, you're probably better taking a cab from there to the hotel. It's almost certain to be less than a tenner between you. Heck, you're on holiday, you might want to take a cab even if you're travelling on your own.

If you're a hardier soul, or if you prefer to spend your cab money on beer, you may want to make your way on foot to the bus stops (20 minutes, mostly uphill).

### **TO FIND THE BUS STOPS:**

The railway station has two exits. If you go out of the side exit you arrive onto Station Street; turn left and then right onto Carrington Street. If you go out of the main entrance you are already on Carrington Street, where you turn right. Go over the canal; walk past the entrance to Broadmarsh Bus Station. (Of course, if you started at the bus station you're already here.)

Walk up to Collin Street and cross at the Pelican crossing. Walk straight through the shopping centre and emerge into a shopping precinct called Lister Gate. Keep walking up the hill and you should emerge into the Old Market Square. Keep going, either up Market Street or Queen Street, and you'll find yourself on Upper Parliament Street, where you can turn right to find Lower Parliament Street. The bus stops you need will be on the left, near Age UK and Spar. Find a bus from one of the stops in "P" zone: you'll need the Lime Line (numbers 56, 58 or 59) or the Purple Line (numbers 87, 88 or 89). The bus takes about 7 minutes, it will cost you £1.70 (£1 for students and children), and you'll need the exact change.

Once you've been on the bus heading out of Nottingham for a few minutes (about 2 miles), look out on the left and you'll see a cemetery while going down a hill. The bus will cross a large roundabout with flowerbeds; you need the very next stop, which is called Clarendon College. Get off here.

There's a Pelican crossing 20 yards further along the road, and the Park Inn Hotel will be clearly in view another 80 yards further away.

If you go past a pub called The Grosvenor, you've gone too far. Get off the bus at the earliest opportunity and walk back.

Adventurous fans (it says here) may wish to take the tram from the stations to the bus stops. From the railway station the trams are signposted; from the bus station, exit left into Carrington Street, cross the canal bridge and turn left into Station Street. The lifts to the tram terminus are about 50 yards down on the left. Get on a tram and a conductor will sell you a combined tram-and-bus day ticket, and (unlike on the buses) they can change smaller notes. Get off the tram at the Royal Centre and cross the road to walk past the Theatre Royal towards Lower Parliament Street and the bus stops.

Novacon regular **Gary Wilkinson** adds: "Okay, while I think of it... one thing that drives me mad about all the previous PR#3s is none of them tell you the easiest way to get to the hotel from the station:

Get on the tram... get off at the 'forest' stop, it's a main one so it's easy (and gets a announcement) walk along Gregory Boulevard alongside the park - it's all on the flat and about 10mins walk. Just have to negotiate the double roundabout at the end and turn left and the hotel is just on the right."



## 2014 Nova Awards: Update

We are now just one month away from the announcement of this year's Nova Awards for achievement in fanzines. If you're resident in the UK or Eire, all you need do is read six eligible titles – most of which are available online at eFanzines.com – and fill out the electronic ballot form we launched at the Novacon 44 website in October. You needn't even be a member of the convention, so why not suggest to your friends that they take part?

Here's the current 'longlist' of known eligible fanzines:

Ansible #314-325 (Dave Langford)  
Banana Wings #54-56 (Claire Brialey, Mark Plummer)  
The Banksonian #20 (David Haddock)  
Beam #7 (Nic Farey & Jim Mowatt)  
Brum Group News #504 -515 (Carol Goodwin, for the Birmingham Science Fiction Group)  
Curt Phillips for TAFF (Claire Brialey, Randy Byers)  
Data Dump #186-198 (Steve Sneyd)  
Drink Tank - various undated issues 2013-14 (James Bacon, Chris Garcia, Vanessa Applegate)  
Eat that Duck #5 (Ron Gemmell)  
Exhibition Hall #26 (James Bacon, Chris Garcia, Ariane Wolfe)  
The FFix #33 (Steve Green)  
Griff #6, #7 (Ian Milsted)  
Head! #12 (Doug Bell, Christina Lake)  
Inca #10 (Rob Jackson)  
Jiant #1, 2 (Sandra Bond)  
Journey Planet #16, 17, 18 (James Bacon, Chris Garcia)  
A Meara for Observers #17 (Mike Meara)  
Nowhere Fan #2 (Christina Lake)  
The Pigeon Post #1-13 (Flick, Ang Roisin, Zara Baxter for Loncon 3)  
Pips #10.5 (Jim Mowatt)  
Procrastinations #13 (John Coxon)  
Raucous Caucus #3 (Pat Charnock)  
Refraction #1 (Gary S. Wilkinson)  
Relapse Supplement: The sage of Nuneaton (Peter Weston)  
!Shoes #6 (Yvonne Rowse)  
TAFFtastic #1-3 (Jim Mowatt, Jacq Monahan)  
TAFFWorld #1 (Jim Mowatt)  
A Tale from the White Hart (Ron Gemmell)  
Vibrator #2.0.1-2.0.7 (Graham Charnock)

If you produce a fanzine yourself (the full rules regarding eligibility are available on the Novacon website), please spread the word among your readers that electronic voting closes on **31 October** (paper ballots will still be available at the convention). Personal campaigning is not only allowed, but positively encouraged.

On which note I shall start the campaign here and now to get *Head!* its third Nova (#threeNovasandaHugo #ThisNeverHappens). But as mentioned previously, other fanzines are available (see PRs 1 and 2)

- Christina

## **Novacon 44 Members as at 9 October 2014**

1	Kari Sperring	30	Mark Plummer	59	Calvin Ternent
2	Phil Nanson	31	Barbara-Jane	60	Steve Davies
3	John Gribbin	32	Markus Thierstein	61	Giulia De Cesare
4	Jo Walton	33	Caroline Mullan	62	Jim Walker
5	Jaine Fenn	34	Brian Ameringen	63	Tim Stannard
6	Dave Weddell	35	Emjay Ameringen	64	Pat Brown
7	Steve Green	36	Dave Hicks	65	Vernon Brown
8	Doug Bell	37	Penny Hicks	66	Sue Jones
9	Tony Berry	38	Cat Coast	67	Alan Bellingham
10	Theresa Derwin	39	Martin Smart	68	Colette Reap
11	Christina Lake	40	Melica Smith	69	Simon Dearn
12	Steve Lawson	41	Pauline Morgan	70	Paul Dormer
13	Alice Lawson	42	Chris Morgan	71	Margaret Austin
14	John Edwards	43	James Odell	72	Martin Easterbrook
15	Julia Daly	44	Roger Robinson	73	William Armitage
16	Douglas Spencer	45	Mike Scott	74	Gary S Wilkinson
17	Tony Rogers	46	Flick	75	Mali Perera
18	Harpal Singh	47	David Cochrane	76	Alan Webb
19	Tim Kirk	48	Anne Woodford	77	Gerry Webb
20	Peter Wareham	49	Alan Woodford	78	Harry Payne
21	Gwen Funnell	50	Michael Abbott	79	Hal Payne
22	Sue Edwards	51	Anne Wilson	80	Jodie Payne
23	Julian Headlong	52	Andrew Patton	81	Omega
24	Steve Dunn	53	Austin Benson	82	Adrian Snowdon
25	Dave Tompkins	54	Caro Wilson	83	John Harvey
26	Ron Gemmell	55	Robert Smith	84	Eve Harvey
27	Chris Bell	56	Neil Summerfield	85	Niall Gordon
28	½r	57	George Ternent	86	David Thomas
29	Claire Brialey	58	Linda Ternent	87	Margaret Croad

88	Neil Tomkinson	117	Dave Lally	146	Rhodri James
89	Alison Tomkinson	118	Charles Partington	147	Tobes Valois
90	Jamie Scott	119	Charlotte Bulmer	148	Mary Gribbin
91	Michael Davidson	120	Jacey Bedford	149	Rog Peyton
92	Christine Davidson	121	Peter Coleborn	150	Laura Wheatly
93	Peter Mabey	122	Jan Edwards	151	Anders Headenlund
94	Roger Earnshaw	123	Alex Storer	152	Alice Headenlund
95	Dave Hardy	124	David Breslin	153	Angela Goodfellow
96	Chris Stocks	125	Kate Solomon	154	Richard Stephenson
97	Steve Rogerson	126	Malcolm Davies	155	Susan Watson
98	Dave Langford	127	Ian Warner	156	Joseph Andrew Jenk
99	David Carlile	128	Chris Nuttall	157	Janet Jenkins
100	Pete Randall	129	Aisha Nuttall	158	Stuart Jenkins
101	Marcus Rowland	130	Peter Ellis	159	Tommy Wareing
102	Martin Hoare	131	Janet Edwards	160	Nick Larter
103	Heloise Tudor	132	Yvonne Rowse	161	John Dowd
104	Anders Bellis	133	Sally Rowse	162	Fran Dowd
105	Luke Smith	134	Ian Sorensen	163	Gary Andrews
106	Tony Keen	135	Terry Jackman	164	Ian Maughan
107	Kate Keen	136	Stan Nicholls	165	Vron McIntyre
108	Greg Pickersgill	137	Anne Nicholls	166	Mike Meara
109	Catherine Pickersgill	138	Peter Buck	167	Pat Meara
110	John Mottershead	139	Alison Buck	168	Robert Day
111	Morag O'Neill	140	Deirdre Montanaro	169	Cathy Easthope
112	Tim Broadribb	141	Sue Mason	170	Vanessa May
113	MEG	142	Paul Taylor	171	Steph Tomkinson
114	Peter Wilkinson	143	Steve Mowbray	172	Debbi Tomkinson
115	Stephen Cooper	144	Bridget Bradshaw	173	Sanem Ozdural
116	Bridget Wilkinson	145	Rob Jackson		

