

THE PIGEON POST

Issue 3: Friday morning

newsletter@loncon3.org

@Loncon3

#PigeonPost

Loncon Needs You!

Loncon is entirely run by volunteers and we need your help to make it a great convention. Volunteering is also an excellent way to make new friends. Sign up at the Volunteer Desk at the back of the Fan Village

Iron Throne

Loncon 3 chair Steve Cooper demonstrates his natural affinity for the Iron Throne. Get your photo taken in the fan village, today and tomorrow only!



The Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony began with veteran convention actor Ian Sorensen telling us we were starting a new term at Hugowarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Hugowarts dormitories have been disguised as budget hotels, and there's a giant squid in the dock.

Chairs Steve Cooper and Alice Lawson oversaw our GoHs' Sorting Hat ceremony (via

propellor beanie). Each Guest's talents saw them assigned to one of three houses of writerly wizardry: Orwell, Shelley or Mitchison. A new fourth house, Banks, was created and we held a silent tribute to Iain M Banks.

A slideshow detailing how the Hugo Award bases were manufactured was followed by the chairs telling us that wizards and muggles – sorry, fans – could get along if we all sang the same song. This turned out to be 'Downtown' with appropriate lyrics, and we were invited to join in with 'Loncon'.

—Jessica Yates

Thursday night party report

The Tolkien Society's party had queues which were buzzing with talk of pork pies. When I later returned, I was met by some news which bought tears to my beer-addled eyes; the pies were all gone! But they still had some mead, so I gratefully tasted a tot. I'd have gladly had food, but my lateness meant we'd have to put up with what they'd still got. The party put on by the New Zealand team (I've supported their bid for some years) gave me wine and meringue with some fruit and some cream, so I'm giving their party three cheers. In Kansas they gave me some barbecue pork, with impressive selections of sauce. In DC I found an old friend from New York, so we talked the back legs off a horse. There were nuts. There were Oreos. Fig Newtons too. They had Somerset Cider in pins. Is Taunton American?

Golly, who knew? But it's time to move on to the Finns. The Finns had some fizz that was flavoured with tar. They had bear-and-cream-cheese onna bun. They had liquor from liquorice served at their bar, so their party gave me the most fun. See, the Finns know that fans like to chomp on weird tuck and to sip on an eccentric drinkie so I hope that their bid has the best of good luck and that Worldcon can come to Helsinki.

—Doug S

Entering the Masquerade?

You **must** register at the Masquerade Desk in Exhibits near the Costume Display by **5.30pm on Friday**, including entrants who have pre-registered online.

No Seat, No Entry

The programme rooms are getting overcrowded: if you can't find a seat *on a chair*, please don't try to squeeze in. Programme items cannot continue if the fire limit of the room has been exceeded.

Fan Village Highlights

In the Library this afternoon, we have book launches from Twelfth Planet (Kaleidoscope) (1:30pm-2:30pm), Rebellion (One Night in Sixes) (3pm-4pm) and NewCon Press (4:30pm-5:30pm).

Jomsborg and CUSFS are having a reunion party in South Gallery room 19 from 6pm: please go along if you're an alumnus.

Sign-up Sheets

You can sign up for Kafeeklatches or Literary Beers at the Information Desk. Sign-up sheets are available at 9:30am the day before (morning slots) or 2pm (afternoon slots).

For those of you using your printed Pocket Programme, you should note that we incorrectly said the Literary Beers would be in the Library. In the inimitable words of our programme chief, we can now confirm that the Literary Beers will be In The Fecking Bar. Obviously.

Autographing Policy

You can get a maximum of three items signed before you have to go to the back of the queue. Please ask the signings staff — not the author — in advance whether personalised autographs or selfies are allowed.

Vegan Picnic

The Loncon Vegan Meetup group is holding a picnic at 6pm today, in Royal Victoria Square (west of ExCeL on the dockside): please come along, and bring suitable food to share. You might also find veganloncon.co.uk useful.

Overheard in the Committee Meeting

Can you keep an eye on the TARDIS? The last time we had one it disappeared....

Jo Walton, Hugo Award Winning Novelist, speaks:

Your first Worldcon?

Worldcons are big, that's the terror and the glory of them. They are a gathering of the tribes. And they're about conversation. The program isn't like a theatre programme, it's like a computer program. It's what the convention is running. A good program comes out of the conversation in fandom before the con and spills out of program rooms during the con, and feeds back into the wider conversation afterwards.

If you don't know anyone yet it's possible to be lonely in the middle of everything because it seems as if everyone else knows each other. And to a large extent that's true. At Worldcons these days I don't have time to hang out with all the cool people I already know and only see once a year. That doesn't mean I don't want to meet new people, but it does make it harder.

The advice people normally give new fans is to volunteer. This will introduce you to people, it will give you something to do, and it helps the con. This is all a good idea, especially for able-bodied people.

I also recommend kafeeklatches, or literary beers. These are small group meetings with a writer, artist, or editor. You have to sign up in advance -- see pocket program. Look for people whose work you like. You'll get to spend an hour with a writer, and you'll get to meet and talk to another nine people who share your tastes. Then afterwards you will know them, and they'll know you, and can introduce you to more people.

Steve Jackson at Loncon

Steve Jackson is appearing at Loncon on three programme items. You can see him today at noon on *The Future of Boardgames* or head to *Playtesting Boardgames* at 7pm. On Saturday at 10am he'll be talking about *Getting Kickstarted in Games*.

Programme Updates

Kim Newman's signing has been moved to 3pm today.

New item: *Colonisation of Space 1* on Friday at 1:30pm in Capital 14 with Rachel Armstrong and Mark Hempell.

Audio Guide to Displays

To download the displays audioguide go to loncon3.org/displays_guide.php and click on the link. The audio files will play on any standard mp3 player or mp3 capable phone. If you get stuck come along to the Exhibits help desk!

Membership stats

At the end of yesterday, Loncon 3 had 10,376 total registrations and 5,250 warm bodies, made up of:

	Full Memberships				Day Memberships			Exhibits passes		Warm Bodies
	Adult	YA	Child	Infant	Adult	YA	Child	Hall	Dealer	
Thursday	4,206	347	155	43	157	57	10	N/A	275	5,250

Guest of Honour, Guest and Comp memberships are included in Adult. There were also some walk-in members, but we don't have the numbers yet.

This issue was produced by Zara Baxter, with help from Jan van 't Ent and Flick. Masthead by Jeanne Gomoll. Now that everything's up and running, we can all chill out: happy Relaxation Day, everyone!.