

THE (10.5th) FORTNIGHTLY FIX



Rumours Of My Demise...

Three science fiction conventions over five weekends: no wonder, to channel Danny Glover in the *Lethal Weapon* movies, I occasionally feel I'm getting too old for this *[deleted]*. Well, you get the general idea.

Meanwhile, thanks to the patchy wifi / broadband available at the latter two events, our most generous eFanzines host, Bill Burns, was unable to upload the tenth edition of *The FFix* until a couple of days ago. Hence this quick fill-in before a 'normal' issue next week.

As previously mentioned, my thoughts on Corflu have already been nabbed by Nic Farey for his fanzine *Beam*, whilst my notes on Microcon are still up for grabs. My photographs of these two events have also been in limbo for several weeks, since I managed to leave my camera at the Corflu hotel in Winchester (an apposite point to express my huge thanks to Sandra Bond for taking care of my bag and to Steven Cain & Alison Scott for transporting it to Heathrow).

My views on Odyssey 2010 are still percolating, but one suggestion I've already made to Nik Whitehead (chair of the next Eastercon) is to work with 90-minute programme slots, rather than (as this year) hammer an item into a 60-minute slot and cut into its successor should the first overrun. This would certainly have helped avoid the odd situation of a major speaker (Dr Ben Goldacre) being effectively yanked off with a shepherd's crook partway through a really entertaining and informative presentation. On at least one occasion elsewhere, I saw an item wound up at one minute before the hour, which offered no chance whatsoever for the next to begin on time. To Nik's credit, she'll be raising this with her committee.

Wow. I got through all that with nary a single comment upon the new Doctor. (For the record, I caught "The Eleventh Hour" in my hotel room and rather enjoyed it. I watched it again a couple of days later and appreciated it even more, which is definitely a good sign.)

Down the Loccol

- Ian Williams: "Good luck in your election. Are the LibDems likely to be in control or is it a Labour fief like Sunderland? I mentioned in my blog recently that I vote Tory in the local elections because I want a decent size opposition to keep the Labour councillors on their toes, otherwise it's Labour for me in the general election and thankfully we have a Labour candidate who is not only local but she also used to be a GMB organiser. Ironically my own political stance these days is probably very similar to that of Joseph Nicholas's and I feel he was probably right to take me to task on my stance on MPs degrees of corruption."

In my town, it's a two-horse race between our LibDem MP and the Tory challenger, and recent boundary changes mean re-election would technically be a LibDem gain.

- I also heard from: HM Revenue & Customs; Silver H Silver; Nic Farey (“Who are all these other bozos writing for *The FFix?*”); Joel Lane (“*FFar* kinell!”); Felicity Walker; Jeff Suter; Jim Young (“Dude, you certainly have me beat. I do one or two articles a year for fanzines nowadays, if I’m lucky! And you’ve got an ATom illo! Wow. When I was publishing fanzines, I always wanted an ATom illo, but never managed to get one.”); Joseph T Major; Guy Lillian III; Kim Huett (asking to be removed from my mailing list -- “I would prefer to not be reminded that there are new issues of something I’ve found quite unpleasant to read” -- although he declined to explain further; any suggestions?).

Congratulations to DUFF winner John Hertz, GUFF winner James Shields, Doc Weir Award winner Alice Lawson and all of those on my mailing list who’ve just been nominated for a Hugo Award. (Footnote: writing for four of the six ‘best fanzine’ nominees is obviously no gateway to a ‘best fanwriter’ nomination, darn it, though I’m chuffed *The FFix* has carried work by two of the five ‘best artist’ nominees (I’m working on a third)).

The news that *Moon* made the shortlist gave me an ear-to-ear smile. Those who can vote, please consider supporting a *real* science fiction movie.

Finally, sadly, my best wishes to the friends and family of Marina Holroyd. I have no words at this point, though others may offer. If you wish, offer them here.

This has been the second in an occasional series of fill-in editions of *The Fortnightly Fix*, dated 10 April 2010. Released by Steve Green, who can be reached via stevegreen@livejournal.com. Illustration on page one courtesy of Pete Lyon. My usual thanks to Bill Burns for hosting this publication at efanzines.com. A Gutter Press publication. Keep watching the skies.