

THE SALMON OF KNOWLEDGE


Issue 4 – Friday afternoon

Lost in Translation



I'd like to apologise for the incorrectly-translated welcome message in yesterday's newsletter.

We've contacted a different member of the translation team, who tells us that what we meant to say was:

A-mach à oifis: tha mi a-nis aig an Worldcon agus air falbh bhon phost-d agam.

Ma tha feum agad air rudeigin sam bith eile ag eadar-theangachadh, feuch gum faic thu mi aig a' cho-chruinneachadh.

Theatrical Events

Today's theatrical events are:

Girl Genius: Wicklow 2A, 4pm

Have you ever wanted to act in a radio play? This is your chance as the cast of this radio play will be picked from the audience!

ConEIRE: Wicklow 2A, 5pm

Continuing the fannish theme of the plays in this convention, the committee of ConEIRE have a bit of a problem with their Big Name Guests...

Dr Krell & The Carnyx of Terror: Second Stage, 6pm

Octocon members of a certain vintage remember Roger Gregg and Crazy Dog Audio Theatre. Now, they are back with a brand new play, complete with live sound effects, music, and top voice talent, including Phil Proctor of Rugrats fame!

This Evening's Parties

This evening from 8pm on the CCD second floor you can join:

- **DC in 2021** in ECOCEM
- **China 2023** in Wicklow 1
- **Nice 2023** in Wicklow 2

The **Japan Party** will be in Wicklow 3 from 9pm.

No One Expects...

Want to learn about next year's Worldcon and also about the groups bidding for future years? Come to the Future Worldcons Q&A, also known as the Fannish Inquisition on Friday, 16 August at 4pm in Wicklow Hall 1. Information from Worldcon bids and next year's Worldcon is on dublin2019.com; search for "future worldcons" to find it.

More Model Rockets

The judging of the model spaceship competition has been delayed until 11:30am on Sunday, to give more time for people to enter. To enter, take your models to the tables in the back left corner of the Exhibits Hall. Special consideration will be given to models made from recycled materials, and all entrants will receive a special ribbon.

Art Show Update

Art Show has sold over €2,000 of art so far.

Please remember that if you want to buy anything at all (including prints) you need to come to the Art Show desk and get a bidder number.

SF and the Big C

There will be a cancer survivors' meet-up on Saturday at 1pm, on the left of the level 3 foyer in the CCD.

Come along to share your stories of cancer treatment and recovery, and how it affects your ability to volunteer.

Community Art

The Community Drawing Wall in Point Square Warehouse 1 currently features five dragons, three cats, three aliens, a princess and a rocket. Why not go along and add something of your own?

Lost? Confused?

Do you feel as if you still haven't really explored the convention? Meet up at the Info Desk at 11am on Saturday to join the guided tour and find out what you're missing.

Chat Channels

Liam Proven has created public chat channels for the convention on WhatsApp (bit.ly/Dwc2019wag) and Telegram (bit.ly/Dwc2019tgg). He recommends that you mute notifications as they are likely to be busy.

We're assured that this will be useful information to the people who know what it means.

Fan Fundery

The original typewritten manuscript of James White's *Code Blue – Emergency*, complete with handwritten corrections and notes will be up for grabs at the Fan Fund Auction at 4pm on Saturday in Wicklow Hall 2B. Also in the auction will be *A Sense of Wonder*, as well as much, much more! Bid early, bid often. All proceeds go to the Fan Funds, which raise money to send fans to conventions in other countries.



Friday Feedback

The committee thanks everyone who came to today's feedback session. Some of the main points raised were:

- Inclusivity: the Events team will review the use of phrases such as "Ladies and Gentlemen" in scripts.
- Sign-ups and wristband collection: we did it the way we did to keep things fair and to stop entry to the big events from becoming chaotic. If you have Access needs that are exacerbated by the system, please ask the Access Desk for assistance. You can always check with the sign-up desk to ask if there are still slots available, even if the sheets are not visible.
- Queues: the situation has improved but we're keeping an eye on it for ways we can make it better, particularly by removing the need to queue outdoors.
- Streaming of big events: the masquerade and Hugo ceremony will be streamed to Martin's Bar. The Hugo ceremony will also be streamed to Second Stage (with sound). Closed-captioning wasn't working last night but it will be fixed for future events.
- Room capacities: we will try to add capacities to the room descriptions in Grenadine.
- Newsletter availability: we're doing our best to keep the newsletter distribution points stocked, but remember that you can also read each issue on the website at dublin2019.com/at-con-newsletter.
- Morning coffee: we'll see if we can get the CCD to serve coffee from 9am. Remember that there's a Starbucks just outside the Point.

The next feedback session is on Saturday at 11am, in Liffey Room 1.

Meet-Up Mix-Up

The Larry Niven fan meet-up in Martin's Bar will be at 6pm this evening, not 9pm as listed in issue 3.



The Children of Lir

Fadó Fadó in Eireann lived a King named Lir, his wife, Aoibh, and his four children, Fionnuala, Aodh, Fiachra and Conn. The family were happy together and the children filled the halls of their castle with laughter, merriment and song. When the twins (Fiachra and Conn) were little more than a year old, their mother tragically died. Though devastated at the loss of his wife, Lir realised the children needed a mother, and as was the custom in Ireland at the time, married his wife's sister Aoife.

Aoife tried to fit in with Lir and his family but slowly grew jealous of the affection the king showed his children. She wanted his attention for herself and herself alone. She knew that she could not kill the children, for they were still her family, and to kill them would bring a curse upon her. Instead she formed a plan.

When the hottest day of the year came, she invited the children to join her on a trip to a nearby lake. Once the children had taken to the waters, Aoife placed a spell upon them, transforming them into swans. She cursed them to spend 300 hundred years on Lake Derravaragh, three hundred years on the Straits of Moyle and a final three hundred years on the Isle of Inish Glora. The curse would only be broken when a new religion replaced that of the Tuatha Dé Dannan.

While Aoife was indeed a powerful witch, she could not rob the children of their voices, and Fionnuala's mournful singing drew their father to the lake. He had been searching for them for some time when he heard her. She told him what had occurred and Lir drew on his wrath to banish Aoife, condemning her to be a demon of the air forever more.

Lir took up residence by the side of the lake, and remained there for the rest of his life so that he could comfort and be comforted by his children. The Tuatha Dé Dannan are long lived, and Lir was with them until the end of the 300 years at Derravaragh. Compelled by the curse they flew to the Straits of Moyle where they suffered intense hardship. The storms that wracked the straits separated them often. The cold and rain bit into them, and there was only treacherous rocks to shelter on, but they were unable to leave until the 300 years were done, and the curse once again compelled them.

Their final 300 years were spent in comparative safety on the Isle of Inish Glora. Their singing drew attention over the years, with people travelling distances to hear them. Over time, their stories were heard and memorised by filidh from across the land. But they were to remain in swan form until a new religion replaced their own.

At the end of the 300 years they were free to travel wherever they wanted. They chose to go home, to see their father. However, upon arriving at their father's castle they saw only ruins. Their father and clan had been gone for many years and no-one had told them. In their mourning they sang out, attracting the attention of a holy man, Mochaomhóg. He invited them to live near him, and upon hearing the sound of his church bell, Fionnuala agreed. This was the new religion. Mochaomhóg told the swans of his faith, and they agreed to be baptised. Once the water fell across them, their feathers disappeared, leaving four elderly people. They lived the rest of their short lives in quiet contemplation. This was the fate of the Children of Lir.

—Fionnuala Murphy

This newsletter was produced by Flick, with art by Teddy Harvia and Sue Mason and help from Beth NicAonghais, Jan van 't Ent, Steve Davies and Diarmuid Fanning. Ferrero SpA, the manufacturer of Nutella and Ferrero Rocher, uses 25% of the global supply of hazelnuts. You can email us at newsletter@dublin2019.com.