



THE NAVEL

OH MY GOD IT'S FULL OF FLUFF

COLOPHON

OK, here we are in issue 2 and you seem to have got the hang of sending us stuff. Remember, email things to locs@plokta.com or text or picture message to **XXXXXX XXXXXX**. You can also hand us things on a memory stick or drop bits of paper into the box in the ops room. Key ways that don't work – telling us things without writing them down.

Issue 2; far too late on Friday. Mostly by Alison Scott and Steve Davies, with moral support from Steven, Sue, Jan, Erik, and Square Bear.

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THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT NAVELS

NUMBER 2

According to the ancient Greeks, Zeus sent out two eagles to fly across the world to meet at its center, the 'navel' of the world. Omphaloses used to denote this point were erected in several areas surrounding the Mediterranean Sea, the most famous of those was at the oracle in Delphi. But what we want to know is: What colour was its belly button lint?

Looking for a Good Time?

Gopher Hunt

Looking for an interesting pastime for the weekend? The ops room is looking for enthusiastic and unskilled volunteers for a range of interesting positions, including security for various rooms, helping out on program items, and all sorts of odd jobs. Gophering is a great way to meet people and have fun. You might even get a GROAT or two which can be exchanged for food and drink in the hotel. Pick your times and work areas by signing up at the Gopher Hole. Look for DC the Gopher Mum; if he's not there, apply at Ops.

Looking for a Good Fit?

Structural Engineering

Generously proportioned fans of the female persuasion will want to know that there's a new Chester branch of Bravissimo, the brilliant bra shop that only sells bras in sensible sizes. It's at 17-19 Watergate Row South and they're bound to have something lacy to fit. No, not you, Erik.

Looking for a Good Cuppa?

TWP Tea Party

Women and unusually convincing cross-dressers are welcome at the TWP tea party, Sunday, 2pm, room 335. A chance to show off your purchases from Bravissimo or other Chester emporia. Please bring your own cups.

Looking for Light Entertainment?

Music Review

Michael Abbott tells us that Ed Alleyne-Johnson of New Model Army and the Purple Electric Violin Concerto was busking in Watergate Street this afternoon. Wikipedia tells us that he's often found busking in Chester city centre. So that would probably be why.

Want to be famous?

Star in Farthing

The people behind Farthing invite you to turn up at the restaurant on Saturday afternoon to have your photo taken. Why? The next cover's going to be a reworking of the Sgt Pepper album cover. The Plokta cabal humbly suggest that this may not in fact be the first time that fans have been photoshopped into this cover; copies of "Dr. Plokta's Lonely Hearts Club Band" have been fetching high prices at fan fund auctions for years. Farthing is welcome to go visit the *Plokta* website for a wide variety of *other* Photoshopping ideas.

Mirror Mirror

Fans accustomed to too much superfluous technology have been staring into the mirrors in the bar expecting to see holograms. If you look at them for long enough you can see a bald eagle.

Vote early, vote often

BSFA Awards

As a reminder, all members of Contemplation are eligible to vote for the BSFA awards. Ballots and ballot boxes can be found at registration and in the dealers' room. Voting deadline is 6pm Saturday for a 9pm ceremony.

[*Ian Snell*]

The Fan Bar doesn't have any windows, but Tony Cullen tells us that there are large posters of all the BSFA award shortlisted artworks instead.

lots of tiny little

Bits of Fluff

If you subscribe to Foundation, your 2007 subscriptions are now (over)due. Renew early and often in the dealer's room.

Nestled in by the walls, the Albion Inn is a lovely traditional English pub with good food and beer. It describes itself as "family hostile".

The Chester Food Festival is on all weekend. There's a marquee with food stalls down at the Crown Courts, outside Chester Castle.

If anyone knows where the Kentucky Fried Chicken is in Chester, please let Steve Rogerson know because he needs an empty KFC box as a prop for Saturday Night's Blake's 7 Wobblevision.

Rubbing our Hands with Glee

Jane Killick has been amusing herself in the ladies loos [not sure we like where this is heading -- Ed] by rubbing her various appendages first with *stimulating*-hand wash, and then with *soothing*-hand lotion. Fun for all the family. [*Jane Killick*]

Looking for a souvenir?

Chester Dalek Art

There's an artist working on the walls by the Eastgate clock who is doing pictures of daleks in Chester. Prices from 10-20 quid. He'll be open Saturday and Monday but closed Sunday. Grab a souvenir before Terry Nation's lawyers find out.

Geography Help

Scottish fans are bemused by the posters for the forthcoming Harry Potter con, to be held "in the country where it all began". As the con is in Edinburgh, they're wondering whether the committee are planning to have the city teleported to England? They assure all Contemplation members that the city was definitely in Scotland when they left there this morning. [*C&M Davidson*]

Still Hungry?

Restaurant Reviews

Fiesta Havana (on Watergate Street. Cuban tapas bar with an excellent selection of tapas. Spanish omelette particularly recommended. Serves cocktails by the jug and by the glass (half-price during happy hour. The strawberry cheesecake cocktail is to die for. Gorgeous ice-cream. Open Sunday.

Summer Palace, 126 Foregate Street, reasonably priced Chinese (under £15 a head), not at all scruffy.

Got wine -- not just a bar, there's a (pricey) restaurant upstairs (£25 for two courses). Good food, great truffles and raspberries, fancy wine list with prices to match, and friendly, knowledgeable and enthusiastic staff.

Crypt Cafe -- actually the basement of Debenhams's, but nice coffee and cakes.

Caffe Uno -- we got a review for this but we think it's probably libellous.

Aquavitus (Watergate St) Vaguely Swedish cuisine as interpreted by Italian staff working in a sort of French style. We had their evening set menu, £18 for three courses, all of them delicious including a superb lamb with garlic gazpacho. The lime and poppy seed panna cotta was pretty good too. Closed Sunday.

Fat Cat Review (85 Water Street) Friendly, good beer - usually 3 real ales on poms. Reasonably priced pub menu. Very popular for food and drink with locals - recommended for those who care how much they are spending.

Healthy children's programming

Dire Warning

Cult leaders can be found around the con this weekend. You can easily spot these nutters as they will be wearing long robes, making off-tune percussive beats, and demonstrating an unhealthy interest in the works of Isaac Asimov. Lock up your children.

[*SMS*]

Alternatively...

Sell Your Children into Slavery

The Roman army wants children (join for an hour, see the world, learn to bash a Briton, crush a Celt, pelt a Pict) every day at 14:30 at the entrance of the Dewa Experience (Pierpoint Lane). Do you think we can get them to sign up Jonathan till Monday? [*Jan*]