



Jim Mowatt

Saturday 11th April

Eastercon LX2009

My Convention

So many impressions – so much input – so many people soooooooooooooooooo – calm down Jim. Friday has been a day of sensation and left me feeling more than a little punch drunk (metaphorically) and alcohol drunk (physically). Being several miles away from the convention has been a problem. Kudos to the committee for putting on the bus service but it's not ideal. If there were a contested bid for an Eastercon then I would vote for the one in a large hotel which could hold the majority of attendees. I've attended rather more panel items than usual. As a member of ZZ9 Plural Z Alpha I am, of course, intrigued by the prospect of a new Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy book from someone who isn't Douglas Adams. Eoin Colfer has written a new book in the series which will be released in October and is at this convention to well, hmmm. I should have asked him why he was here. Possibly it's to whip up enthusiasm for the new book. Maybe it's so that he can meet some of the Hitchhiker fans. Whichever it is we did find out he's quite a good entertainer. He didn't shine so much at the panel item on Friday but his solo spot the next day was a joy to behold. His anecdotes were long enough to tell the story but short enough that they weren't belabouring the point. Eoin was under strict instructions from Penguin and couldn't tell us anything about the book but he did talk at length about being asked to write the book and about his love of the Hitchhiker books. Eoin Colfer tells the tale of being called by his agent who was a good deal more excited than she usually is and telling him he's been asked to do a sequel. The word no, no, no, no was then uttered many times. He's been asked before to do Peter Pan and refused absolutely to engage in such a thing. No, wait says his agent. You haven't heard what it is yet. It's Hitchhiker's. Eoin still said no but his agent was clever. Don't say no yet she says. Think about it. Of course as soon as he put down the phone his mind is racing with all the possibilities. There are so many directions that these wonderful characters could go. There's the slight problem that they've all



just died in the last book but surely there's a way around that. We don't know how Eoin surmounted that obstacle as he wasn't allowed to say but we must assume he did and of course he agreed to do the sixth Hitchhiker book. Apparently Jane Belson had specifically asked for him to do it so that Hitchhiker's could be brought to a whole new generation of people. I can almost hear some of you sniggering cynically out there. Well maybe you have a point but then again maybe it is a sincere wish that the fun continue...



The last thing I want to mention as regards the new book is a quote from Eoin Colfer in the panel about continuing classics written by other people.

Eoin was asked.

Is it just that you're too lazy to think up your own stuff or is there something particularly interesting about re-interpreting classics.

Eoin replied:

What matters is: Is this going to be a good book?

Is it going to be respectful to the original.

Eoin feels his is both so I shall be interested to see what it's like when it's released in October.

I went back to the Midland Hotel (a very beautiful

This is all my own fault – This is not an Eastercon Newsletter

hotel indeed) on the last bus. There was an eerie feel to it. The lights were low, conversation was muted and the roundabouts were endless. Bradford has a very convoluted road system indeed

Beeblebear Picnic



It's 15:20 on Saturday afternoon and the first arrivals sprawl across the picnic blanket in the foyer bar. More Beeblebears arrived and it was quite civilised for a time. Pleasantries were exchanged. Zoe attempted a weird mating experiment with several bears and a twisted imagination. Other bears donned shades, relaxed and happily watched us consume alcohol. Then someone noticed we were gathering quite a lot of bears and possibly we might hit the magic number 42. Moments later the call went out to gather in any and all Beeblebears in the vicinity. We didn't manage 42 but we did gather quite a lot of Beeblebears.



Late programme additions

Ye Olde Currie

It is the year 1016.

Bradford sits comfortably in that niche between drabness and despair which encompasses so many small Yorkshire towns. there is a wind of change blowing over the land and the propellant of this change is the new dish being unleashed by those invaders from the East – The Vikings.

The small metal dishes, the spicy sauce, the thin flour biscuits – these are too much for the locals to resist and soon this gentle little hamlet is at the mercy of these sick sadistic vikings and their violent curries. The sewage system is overwhelmed and the vikings move in before the locals have risen from their ablutions.

The curry flourished locally throughout the middle ages and did not spread far and wide.

Robin Hood is rumoured to have had a stash as far away as Sherwood Forest but this has never been proven. Its use was limited under the Treaty of Rome in 1344 and ...

If you wish to know more please come along to the Taj Mahal conference room at 20:00 on Saturday evening.

Beowulf's Bradford

Scholars have been examining the ancient Anglo Saxon text of Beowulf once more and have established beyond shadow of doubt that the majority of the action took place in Bradford between the M606 and the A650. Clues in the rock strata show curious upheavals and this connected with a close analysis of the text and extrapolation of the dialect show that Beowulf was undoubtedly a Yorkshireman and may even have bred whippets and drank Tetleys in his spare time.

Visit Yew at 23:20 to discover the stunning truth behind this discovery.

A screenshot of a tweet. At the top, the word "witter" is written in a stylized, blue, lowercase font. Below it, there is a profile picture of a man in a suit and hat. To the right of the profile picture, the name "Pooter" is written in a bold, black font. Below the name, the text of the tweet reads: "Mustard-and-cess and radishes not come up yet. To-day was a day of annoyances." At the bottom of the tweet, the time and date are given as "2:30PM Apr 11th from TweetLaurels".