

The Queen's Lane Advertiser

(Incorporating Convention News)

Issue Number 20

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Edited by Jeremy Tullett

*A magazine containing news about various games
conventions taking place in the UK*

Inside this issue:

- Information and booking form for UK GAMES EXPO 2007
– a brand new event
- OxCon Convention Report
- Information about ManorCon 2007
- Advanced notice and booking form for MidCon 2007

Forthcoming Conventions

Beer & Pretzels Burton Town Hall, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire www.spiritgames.co.uk/bnppdetails.php 12-13 May 2007	UK Games Expo The Clarendon Suites, 2 Stirling Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk 2-3 June 2007	DiceCon West The Quality Hotel, Glasgow 17 June 2007
Summer StabCon Britannia Hotel, Stockport Bookings(at)stabcon.org.uk 30 June-2 July 2007	ManorCon Stamford Hall, University of Leicester www.manorcon.org.uk 20-23 July 2007	The Cast are Dice The Regent Theatre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent 18-19 August 2007
TringCon XV New Mill Social Centre Tring Herts www.fwtwr.com/tringcon 6 October 2007	PsychoCon Golden Lion Hotel, Leeds www.psychocon.co.uk 12-14 October 2007	MidCon Thistle Birmingham City Hotel Birmingham 16-18 November 2007 www.midcon.org.uk

OxCon 2007 Convention Report (James Rogers)

2007 saw another very successful year for OxCon. The Mitre public house on Oxford high street once again provided an excellent venue and attendance for the centrepiece events of the convention, the Puerto Rico and Settlers of Catan tournaments, was comfortably high - we hope to continue to have such excellent attendance in future years!

The pre-convention events on Friday evening started with a visit to the Oxford ice rink. This was enjoyed by those who went, however poor publicity meant that many people were unaware that it was taking place. Afterwards we walked across town to the Mirch Masala Indian restaurant and met up with a group of other people for a very enjoyable curry. After we had finished our meal a group of people returned to James Pinnion's house for an evening of gaming.

The convention proper started on Saturday, with the Puerto Rico tournament being the main event of the day. This was very well attended, fully vindicating the decision to include it in place of the traditional Diplomacy tournament. There were a few details that will need to be rethought for next year but considering this was its first year the event was very successful. Congratulations to Steve Guest for coming first, with Eric Norton second and Markus Wellbourne third. A big thank-you to Dave Norman for providing us with the use of his laptop, as well as his help in running the event.

Saturday evening, after the Puerto Rico had finished, saw the ever-popular Fifteen-to-One competition taking place and this was, as usual, run very ably by David Percik. Unfortunately we have mislaid the name of the eventual winner, but congratulations to them. While this was going on, other people took the chance to relax and play some more casual games. After this had finished a small group of people went to Jamal's curry house in Jericho for another Indian meal.

On Sunday the big event was the Settlers of Catan tournament, one of the largest in the country. Many thanks to William Alway in his first year as TD for a superbly run tournament. The top spot was claimed by Markus Wellbourne, with David Vancauter taking second place and Alan Hinman third.

Next year's OxCon will be taking place on the 19th and 20th of January and the venue will hopefully once again be the Mitre pub. More information will hopefully be available soon on our website <http://users.ox.ac.uk/~diplo/> (we are currently experiencing some technical difficulties with this but are confident that they will be resolved soon). Anyone who wants to know more should email james.rogers@st-annes.ox.ac.uk with their questions.

MidCon '07

Britain's fastest growing board games convention



16th – 18th November 2007

Thistle Birmingham City Hotel

About the con

MidCon XXIX takes place in a comfortable hotel in the centre of Birmingham from Friday afternoon (4pm) to Sunday evening (6pm). It features:

- the opportunity to play board games with like-minded adults¹
- the **MidCon** music quiz on Friday evening
- the **MidCon** general knowledge quiz for teams of 4 on Saturday evening
- the chance to buy even more board games
- the chance to sell your surplus games on the Bring & Buy stall on the Saturday afternoon

MidCon is primarily about playing games and meeting people. You can play any of the number of games people bring along with them, including the hot new games from the Spiel games fair in Essen, which takes place just a few weeks before **MidCon**. Popular games include 18XX, Puerto Rico and Power Grid, but you are welcome to bring along your own favourite games – you will almost certainly find some people willing to play at least one of them.

Costs

Attendance at **MidCon** costs £15-£18 for the whole weekend (day rates of £8/£10/£8 for Friday, Saturday and Sunday) and accommodation is available in the Thistle Hotel at reasonable rates. The hotel is reachable by public transport and there is an adjacent car park.

Registration

If you would like to join us at **MidCon**, please complete the form overleaf and return it with the convention fee of £15² a head to:

Jeremy Tullett, **MidCon**, 7 Midland Place, Derby, DE1 2RR,

or register electronically at www.midcon.org.uk.

¹ Though children are welcome as well!

² Goes up to £18 on November 1st

MidCon '07 Booking Form

The registration fee for **MidCon** is £15 per person for the whole week-end. Day rates are £10 for the Saturday and £8 (each) for the Friday and the Sunday. Please note, convention fees are *not* refundable. After November 1st we will not be able to accept postal bookings and accommodation will have to be booked directly with the hotel, whilst the convention fee will have to be paid at the convention. **Please note that the registration fee goes up to £18 after November 1st.**

Name			
Address			
Post code		Tel:	
E-mail			
I enclose a cheque / PO (payable to "MidCon") for		£	(See above for registration rates)
Other names covered by this registration			

Accommodation

Please reserve the following rooms at the rate of £47.00 per person per night for a single room and £37.50 per person per night sharing a twin/double room – a full English breakfast is included. Hotel charges will be settled directly with the hotel on your departure.

Please select one of the following options by ticking the appropriate box.

- I hereby give permission for **MidCon** to pass my credit card details to the Hotel to reserve my room. My credit card details are given below
- I enclose a cheque for 50% of the total cost of my room booking, payable to "Thistle Birmingham City Hotel", as a deposit.

My credit card details (You do not need to provide these if you have enclosed a cheque to cover the deposit on your room)

The name on my credit card is:			
The credit card number is:		The expiry date is:	

The cancellation policy of the hotel is complicated, but full refunds should be available up to 10 weeks before **MidCon**, with an escalating cancellation fee as 16th November approaches.

	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
N^o of single rooms			
N^o of twin rooms			
N^o of double rooms			
Sharing with ...			

When complete, return this form, together with your registration fee (payable to "**MidCon**") to: Jeremy Tullett, **MidCon**, 7 Midland Place, Derby, DE1 2RR. Alternatively, credit card bookings may be submitted online at www.midcon.org.uk by clicking on the Booking Form link in the left hand menu bar.

The Thistle hotel chain often offers cheap rooms in Birmingham during November at a rate below that of **MidCon**. Anyone taking advantage of this offer needs to be aware of the 'small print', noting that breakfast *may* not be included in the price, and that there *may* be no guarantee of which Birmingham Thistle the room will be in.

Details of your booking are stored on computers. We do not sell our mailings lists to any other individuals or organisations, but we may share them with other games conventions.

UK Games Expo 2007 (Richard Denning)

“Everything about games”
2nd to 3rd June 2007
The Clarendon Suites
2 Stirling Road, Edgbaston,
Birmingham B16 9SB
www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk

The First UK Games Expo is getting close now.

With 100 tournaments and game sessions plus over 50 public participation games tables and over 50 exhibitors don't miss this! Attractions include:

- Great board games including new releases. Sneak peak at the new edition of Talisman. See new games from Warfrog, JKLM, Surprised Stare, Ragnar Brothers and others. Grand board game tournament – win games signed by Reiner Knizia!
- RPGS from 30+ Games systems including RuneQuest 4th Ed, Call of Cthulhu and more
- Card games including World of Warcraft and Magic with regional qualifiers.
- Miniatures games including tournaments such as the Flames of War, Hordes and Warmachine UK Open.
- Computer Games including LAN Gaming, Nintendo Wii and Guild Wars.
- Imperial storm troopers from Star wars in full kit
- Especially for kids: Wizkids are sponsoring a special Star Wars Look a Like Competition. Come dressed as a character from Star Wars and you can win a prize!
- And lots more

BOOK NOW! The online booking system is live and you can book tickets for events and/or just the public admission tickets now.

Tickets for Normal entry or badges for tournament players?

Are you wanting to look round the extensive trade hall, try out ALL the free participation games and ALL the demo games run by the game companies? Then you need a **Normal Entry Ticket**. Adults are £3.95-Children 11 to 14 £1.95- Family tickets for 2 adults and 3 children £7.95. Children under 11 accompanied by a Full paying adult get in free. This ticket can be used on BOTH days making it a cheap and fun weekend for all.

Or are you planning to also play in our tournaments or book a RPG session. Then you need an **Event Players Badge**. Costs of these vary so check out the website but board game tournaments are £4 per half day. If you have an event players badge we throw in the Normal Entry ticket **FOR FREE**.

There are limited spaces for the Grand Board Game Championship so we advise that you Pre book your place for tournaments. Normal Entry tickets can be bought on the door.

Pre-Booking your tickets give you:

- Enhanced Goodie Bag (More Goodies)
- Extra Prize Draw Ticket
- Chance to get a GOLD Ticket for your chance at the BIG Prize (£100 spending money valid at UK Games Expo)

The system takes money via Paypal.
Full details are on www.UKGamesExpo.co.uk

The Grand Board Game Tournament

David Norman and Peter Heatherington are organising this tournament. It consists of am and pm sessions each day. You choose which event to enter for each half day. Typically there will be 3 rounds to each game. We will have individual winners for each different board game tournament and a Grand Tournament winner. The Grand Tournament winner will be based on your results in the individual tournaments you play in, with a significant advantage to those players who play more tournaments. The tournaments will take place in quiet side rooms away from the hustle and bustle of the Expo but still near enough for you to get to look round it.

Timetable:

Saturday 08:30 - 13:50: Puerto Rico, Tigris & Euphrates

Saturday 14:30 - 17:20: Underground, St Petersburg

Sunday 08:30 - 12:45 : Acquire, Antike

Sunday 13:30 - 17:20: Settlers, Ticket to Ride

Each tournament is followed by prize giving. The Grand Champion prize giving will be at 17.30 Sunday or as soon to that as possible.

Prizes for the Grand Board Game Tournament:

Overall Winner gains a VOUCHER valid on certain trade stands for £100 and a game signed personally by Reiner Knizia.

There are runner-up prizes of games signed by Reiner Knizia.

Winners of each of the 8 tournaments gain a game from our hamper of games and a voucher worth £10.

Book now!

For tournament players the cost is £4 a half day tournament, £8 for a day or if you wish to play in all 4 tournaments it will add up to £16 total which includes entrance to the whole convention and the tournament. We need to know numbers interested in each game so we can get the games organised so get on and book. Our online booking system is now live and it's quick and easy to book using a credit card via Paypal. If you prefer to book via snail mail there is a simple form included with QLA.

Days of Wonder Memoir 44 / Battlelore Tournament

Barry Ingram is organising a Days of Wonder Memoir 44 and a Battlelore Tournament.

Saturday all day – Memoir 44 Tournament.

This event is divided into am and pm sessions. Each session consists of two rounds. Within each round each player plays the same map and scenario as allied player and axis player (a home and away leg if you like).

Sunday all Day-Memoir 44 Overlord/Team event

To enter the team event you need teams of 3 or 4 players. If you don't have a team but wish to enter just let us know and we will attempt to make up some teams for you to enter. The team event is divided into am and pm sessions. Each session consists of two rounds. Within each round each team plays the same map and scenario as allied army and axis army (a home and away leg if you like).

Sunday all Day Battlelore Tournament

The format is the same as the Memoir 44 tournament but using Days of Wonder great new Battlelore game.

Prizes for the Days of Wonder Tournaments:

The Winner of each of the three tournaments gains a VOUCHER valid on certain trade stands for £50.

Practical Information you need to know:

The Venue

The Clarendon Suites

Stirling Road (off Hagley Road)

Edgbaston

Birmingham

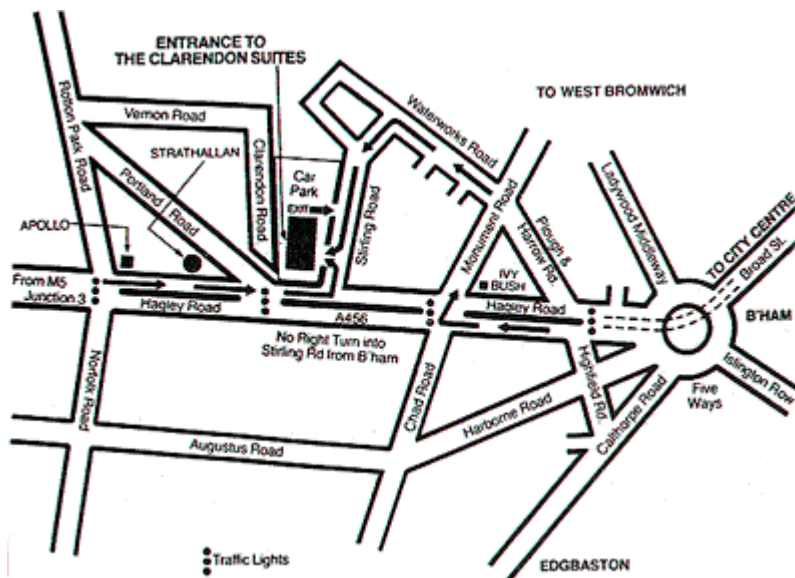
B16 9SB

Phone: 0121 454 2918

Fax: 0121 455 0859

Email: sales@clarendon-suites.co.uk Web: www.clarendon-suites.co.uk

Map of the Venue area



Directions- how to get there

By Car:

From M6 South or Northwest

Leave the M6 at Junction 6 and follow signs to "City Centre, Bromsgrove, (A38). Do not take any exits to the left. Go over the flyover and through the first tunnel. Branch left (signposted Convention Parking), then merge onto Great Charles Street Queensway - A38. At Paradise Circus roundabout take the 2nd exit onto Broad Street - A456 (signposted Motorway M5, Kidderminster). At the Ivy Bush pub on right get in to Rt hand lane at Lights and turn rt into Monument Rd, Then second left into Waterworks Rd past TOLKIEN'S TWO TOWERS. Turn left onto Stirling Road. At the end of the road the entrance to the car park is on the right. The Main car park is round the other side of the building.

From the M5 North and South

Leave the M5 at junction 3 (signposted Birmingham (West and Central), then at roundabout take the exit onto Quinton Expressway - A456 (signposted Birmingham). At roundabout take the 2nd exit onto Quinton Expressway - A456. Bear right onto Hagley Road. Continue on Hagley Road - A456

for 4 miles. You will go past the Thistle Hotel and the Clarendon Suites on your left. Turn left onto Stirling Road. The entrance to the car park is on the left. Main car park is round other side of the building.

By rail

There are two main stations in Birmingham. Birmingham New Street is the main line from London, Euston, from Leeds/ Sheffield and from Manchester. Birmingham Snow Hill is located on the Marylebone line and serves stations through Warwick to London Marylebone.

Once you have reached the Rail stations you can take a 40-minute walk:

From New Street go up the escalators to the Shopping Centre and at the top turn left. Exit down the ramp to New Street. Turn left and go past Waterstones book shop up New Street. At Victoria Square go up the steps past the fountains and to the left of the town hall. *Cross the square in front of the library and go through the forum under the library, which houses many food outlets. Have a pint now you still have 30 minutes to walk. Exit across the bridge to the large square outside the NIA, Symphony Hall, the Rep Theatre and past a large memorial hall. You are now on Broad Street. Stop again for a pint if you like. Broad Street is the main nightlife of Birmingham and has many restaurants. At the end of Broad Street is Five Ways Roundabout. Go straight across (there are underpass walkways), past Tesco's onto Hagley Road. Keep walking past the Plough and Harrow Pub (Tolkien stayed there) and the Ivy Bush pub and to the Clarendon Suites. The Thistle Hotel is just beyond. Both are on the right side of the road.

An alternative is to change trains and get a train to Fiveways station. At Fiveways come out onto Islington Middleway. Turn left to reach Fiveways and then second left into Hagley Road. Keep walking past the Plough and Harrow Pub (Tolkien stayed there) and the Ivy Bush pub and to the Clarendon Suites. The Thistle Hotel is just beyond. Both are on the right side of the road.

From Snow Hill Station come out the main exit. Turn right down Colmore Row, past the cathedral and onto the square in front of the library and follow the route that starts with a * above. Or on Colmore Row there are bus stops (see below)

Taxis are available at both Stations for just a few pounds and are the much easier option.

By Coach

Digbeth is a National Express Coach Station. Come out onto Derritend, Digbeth (apologies it ain't a pretty bit of town!). Turn left up the Hill toward the New Bull Ring Shopping Centre - looks like a Dalek.

Walk between the Shopping centre and St Martins in the Bull Ring Church. Have a look around - it's the best shopping centre in Europe. Carry on to New Street Station, or go out onto New Street and Walk- see route above.

Buses

The best bet is to get to Colmore Road. Then get buses to Hagley Road. Numbers include: 127, 138,139 and 140. Get off after passing Ivy Bush and cross the road to Clarendon Suites.

From New Street Station go up the escalators and at the top turn left and out the shopping centre to the ramp. On your left is Waterstones. Coming down the ramp if you proceed directly straight on you are on Corporation Street. Bus number 126 goes from there to Hagley Road. But on Corporation Street if you turn left before Rackhams and pass the Cathedral you reach Colmore Row (see above).

By Air

Fly into Birmingham International Airport. There is a railway station at the end of a light rail link from the airport called Birmingham International. Take a train to Birmingham New Street Station (see above).

Car Parking

There is a large FREE car park both at the Thistle Hotel (be aware if not a resident they may clamp you) and at the Clarendon Suites (which is locked at night). On street parking is limited as the area is residential.

Internet Access at Clarendon

The Clarendon Suites has a T-Mobile Hotspot Wifi Setup. Buy airtime in advance from the T-Mobile website. For more information refer to <http://hotspot.t-mobile.com/>

Disabled access

The main entrances to the Clarendon Suites are on the ground floor. All floors and levels have lifts or ramps to them. One or two areas are a bit complicated to work out access but our helpers can advise you on the weekend.

Refreshments and Food

The Clarendon Suite has 2 bars and cafeterias. Hot foot and both alcoholic and soft drinks will be available.

Cashpoint

There is a cash point in the Clarendon Suite.

Accommodation

The Clarendon Suites are a conference venue and not a hotel so you will not stay in the hall itself. However do not let that put you off because within 50 to 200 yards are several hotels.

The Thistle Hotel, Edgbaston (The Strathallan) is recommended as it is closest and is also where there is a Saturday Evening gaming room available for you to play in after the convention hall is closed for the day.

Thistle Birmingham Edgbaston
225 Hagley Road, Edgbaston,
Birmingham, West Midlands B16 9RY
Phone: 0870 333 9127
Fax: 0870 333 9227
Email: BirminghamEdgbaston@Thistle.co.uk

For accommodation:

Mention you are a UK Game Expo delegate when booking.

Single room B&B £ 45

Twin/ Double B&B for sole use: £ 55

For double occupancy B&B £ 65

Executive rooms on sole use will be at £85 and double occupancy will be £95 B&B

Apollo Hotel Birmingham

Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham
Tel: 0121 455 0271 • Fax: 0121 456 2394
<http://www.apollobirmingham.com/>

Good map of the area on that site by the way.

Rooms £35/£45/£55

Quality Hotel Birmingham

166 Hagley Road, Birmingham
West Midlands, England B16 9NZ
Phone: (44) 0121 4546621
Fax: (44) 0121 4562935
enquiries@quality-hotel-birmingham.com
Rooms £80 for a twin

All three of the above are within a very short walk of the venue.

B+Bs

There are many B+Bs on the Hagley road and near by. Here are two nice cheap ones:

Knowle Lodge Hotel,

423 Hagley Road,

Edgbaston,

Birmingham,

B17 8BL Tel - 0121 429 8366

Fax - 0121 429 8388 Emailinfo@knowlelodge.co.uk from £25 a night

Hotel Dinara is owned the family of a games player. It's a mile or so away in Bearwood.

344 Bearwood Rd

Smethwick

B66 4ES

Telephone: 0121-429 2299

£25 single £45 Double

Additional information can be obtained from Richard@UKgamesExpo.co.uk

Manorcon XXV 20th – 23rd July 2007, Stamford Hall, University of Leicester

The organization for ManorCon XXV is proceeding well. As a reminder to regulars, this year we will not be at the University of Birmingham, but instead at the University of Leicester, at Stamford Hall.

If you have booked, but need to cancel all or some of your booked accommodation, you should inform us as soon as possible. If you cancel by the booking deadline, i.e. 15th June, then you will definitely avoid cancellation charges. Thereafter the later you leave it to inform us, the more likely you are to suffer accommodation cancellation charges, and, with the change of location, these may well be more likely and higher than before.

ManorCon is run by volunteers, and does not aim to make a profit. In order for us to keep this tradition, we ask for volunteers for a number of tasks. One of these is help with the registration desk, usually by manning the desk for an hour on the Friday afternoon. As in the past, the registration desk's main duty is collection of money owed, but this year we will also be in charge of handing out keys. If anybody asks anything you don't know, just point them at the nearest committee member – it's not difficult. If you would like to help us out and failed to mention it on your booking form, please e-mail us at regdesk@manorcon.org.uk.

This year as usual we will have a mix of scheduled and ad-hoc tournaments, plus some other competitions and events.

Scheduled tournaments:

- Croquet – Knockout tournament limited to a maximum of 16 players.
- Diplomacy – team and individual round at 0900 on Saturday, plus individual rounds at 1800 on Friday and 0930 on Sunday.
- Midnight Party – three rounds, at midnight each evening.
- Outpost – a qualifying round starting at 0930 Saturday morning, followed by a final.

Ad-hoc tournaments (play games as and when you wish 18XX

- Acquire
- Antike
- On the Underground
- Phoenicia
- Puerto Rico
- Settlers of Catan
- St Petersburg

Other events:

- Games Stall – This will be run by Bishop Games, will offer lots of the newest and latest games available on the market, and will be open for business from Friday until Sunday. They will be offering a 10% discount on their normal prices.
- Pop Quiz – on Saturday evening. This will be run by Dan Lester.
- Second Hand Games Sale – probably two sessions, at times to be determined.
- Treasure Hunt – on Sunday afternoon.

Please note that, for several reasons including the need to ensure there is sufficient space, the selling of games other than via the Bishop Games stall or the Second Hand Games Sale should not be done without permission from the ManorCon Committee (contact details below).

There will be trophies for:

- The winners of the team Diplomacy.
- 1st to 3rd in the individual Diplomacy, 18XX and Puerto Rico.
- The winners of the Acquire, Antike, Croquet, Outpost, Settlers of Catan, and St Petersburg.

As of 12th March the following 32 people have registered:

Graham Austin	John Gates	Robert Lozynskyj	Joshua Perrins
Malcolm Booker	Chris Green	Dane Maslen	Nigel Pepper
Leigh Collins	Geoff Hardingham	Pete Mason	Richard Ramsden
Gary Duke	Martin Holden	Beverley McGhee	Mark Stretch
Andy Edgell	Steve Jones	Gavin Muschamp	David Tittle
Jerry Elsmore	Steve Kearon	David Norman	Mike Urban
James Faulkner	Nick Kinzett	Neil Palfreyman	Tony Wheatley
Richard Frost	Kevin Lee	Darrell Perrins	Ian D Wilson

If you think you are missing from this list, please let us know as soon as possible, but remember that the list only shows those who had booked by 12th March. If you booked after that date, your name will not be on the above list, but you should have received confirmation of your booking from Neil Duncan.

If you intend to come, but have not yet booked, please remember that advance registration is only available until 15th June. Thereafter you will have to register at the door and pay higher registration fees and accommodation charges (and, based on last year's experiences, you may not get any accommodation at all). A registration form can be found on the ManorCon website at <http://www.manorcon.org.uk>, along with lots of other information. You can also contact us:

By post: Steve Jones, 59 Sudeley Walk, Putnoe, Bedford, MK41 8JH, UK.

By phone: +44 (0)1234 405878.

By email: info@manorcon.org.uk.

The Queen's Lane Advertiser (incorporating Convention News)

Editor : Jeremy Tullett

Coordinator : David Norman

Printing and Distribution: Jeremy Tullett

Please contact the coordinator if:

- You run a convention and would like to be a part of the 'zine.
- You run a convention and would like to be included in the upcoming conventions list.
- You would like to offer to help out in some way.
- You are not on the mailing list for this 'zine, but would like to be.

The coordinator can be contacted at david@ellought.demon.co.uk

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