

Frontera Times

The official newsletter of

Starbase 24

European astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti, 42, wore the uniform aboard the International Space Station in 2015

PHOTO: Sam Cristoforetti/Twitter

November 2019



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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submissions can be made at any time to webmaster@starbase24.co.uk.

Submissions can be whole articles (long and short), pictures, jokes—almost anything. Text can be supplied in almost any format that can be copied and pasted, and photos should be sent as JPGs by eMail as this gives a higher quality image that can be enhanced if needs be. Please, no ZIP files and please not by a Facebook Messenger (as reformatting those are a nightmare!). Works should be original or, where the work is not original, the source quoted so that the appropriate credit can be given.

Please remember that the Editor only edits the magazine so unless you make submissions, the **FRONTERA TIMES** will be very small indeed. All submissions are welcome, but the Editor reserves the right to edit, postpone or not to publish a particular item. Many thanks.



ADMIRALTY BRIEFING: STARBASE 24 ADMIRALS OFFICE

Admiral's Log: Stardate 21102019.2

Over the last month or so it's been a very busy time for me and not just with the Starbase and my photography. I have been working on not just one but THREE calendars: one for the Starbase of course, and one each for the two churches that I am involved with. In itself, that's been a massive learning curve. I've always used *paint.net*, mostly due to inertia as I know it backwards and learning Photoshop was too intimidating, beyond what I needed as a photographer. And at this stage, I'd like to say a huge **THANK YOU** to Hightower for the hours and hours of work he put into helping me. Actually, in the interests of honesty, let's rephrase that ... for the hours he spent tweaking things while I said "up a bit, left a bit, that's, good, no that doesn't work, let's try something else". Why he hasn't run screaming in the opposite direction I really don't know. Thanks Kev! And thanks also to Stefan who was also daft enough to get sucked into this project.

So anyway, the Starbase calendar ... Once again

some very talented artists have donated their work and we've put together a spectacular set of images for your enjoyment. I can truthfully say that after the lessons from Kev and Stefan, I actually did do this one myself. It turns out you CAN teach an admiral new tricks! As always, our calendar is on sale to raise funds for charity and this year we are supporting Marie Curie. We also continue to help West Yorkshire Animals In Need and Authorpe Hedgehog Care.

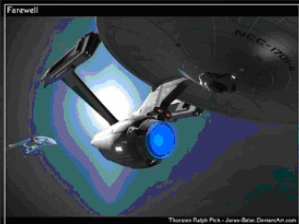
Back in the church, I've been designated as "Eco-Champion" and we are bit by bit, working to reduce the carbon footprint of the church to make our local environment a bit nicer and hopefully do our bit to help solve the eco-crisis we've all been hearing so much about. The fact is climate change is real. Is it new? No, of course

not. Would it happen without us? Yes, just at a much slower, more sustainable and moderate pace that nature can cope with. So we didn't cause climate change but we have made it far worse than it should be.

Gene Roddenberry once said, "Star Trek speaks to some basic human needs: that there is a tomorrow—it's not all going to be over with a big flash and a bomb; that the human race is improving' that we have things to be proud of as humans."

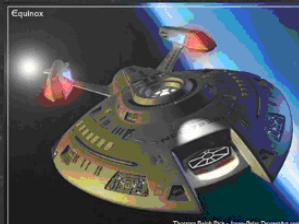


STARBASE 24 2020 CALENDAR



THE 2020 WALL CALENDAR
ONLY: £10.50

THE 2020 DESK CALENDAR
ONLY: £8.00



We can take payment by paypal: payments@starbase24.co.uk
(Friends and family option please) or bank transfer.
Please add £2 UK postage

For international postage please contact Charlotte for information

IN AID OF



Care and support
through terminal illness



He was speaking of course, of the nuclear crisis in the 60s but those words are as relevant today. He also said "Star Trek was an attempt to say that humanity will reach maturity and wisdom on the day that it begins not just to tolerate, but to take a special delight in differences in ideas and differences in life forms."

In other words, he was stating his hope that things will be better, that humans will be better by the 23rd and 24th centuries. As a Star Trek fan, I truly believe that we have a duty to make that better world happen. Looking after each other (and our planet) is a big part of that.

With that in mind, anyone visiting our Facebook group page will notice a lot of posts about mental health, the environment and other inspirational and important topics. Emma Filtness has kindly taken on the role of Morale Officer and the mental health side of posting is her responsibility. And I think it'd be fair to say she has stepped up to the challenge and done an amazing job. On the environment side of things, you will begin to see posts from myself, Sue and Kathy and we hope you will find them interesting and informative.

Starbase 24 does of course remain primarily a Star Trek (and other sci-fi) fan group and we have no plans for this side of the group to change. It will always be a safe, friendly place where we can come together to chat about our favourite shows and we very much hope to see you posting and enjoying the group.

THE 14th BANQUET

WHERE:

Peterborough Marriott Hotel

WHEN:

Fri 2nd - Sat 3rd Oct 2020

COST:

Adult: Full: £62, Sat: £40

Child: Full: £25, Sat: £15

Friday:

BBQ & Quiz Night

Saturday:

Themed Banquet
& Entertainment



TREKKIES 2: NICK FREARSON

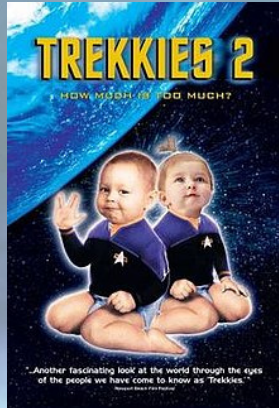
I recently got hold of a copy of Trekkies 2 on DVD, and while it's not easy to find these days, I thought it would be a great watch. Unfortunately, it has close to half the material that was in the first one and also, it has people who were in the first one.

However, on saying that it shows many different groups and conventions from around the world, including the guy who completely transformed his own home into the Enterprise.

There were also segments where actors who starred in the various shows commented on their time on Star Trek.

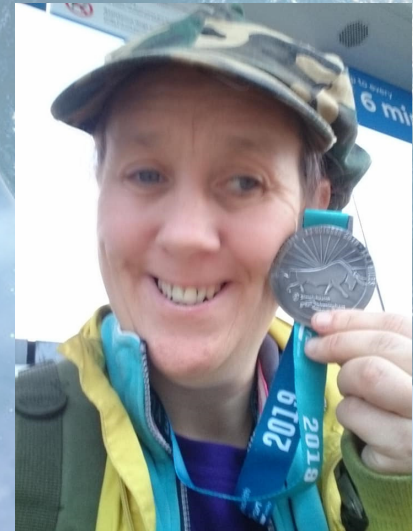
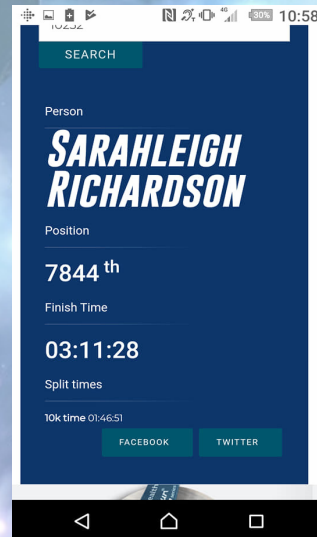
As in the first one, it was hosted by Denise Crosby.

On the whole it was worth getting to see at least once, but personally, I think it would be great if there was going to be a third one that included the JJ movies, possibly the first two seasons of Discovery, something about the 50th anniversary that was celebrated by groups over the world and, if possible, the fan made shows and movies including Renegades.



SIMPLY HEALTH, BRIMINGHAM RUN 2019: SARAHLEIGH RICHARDSON

This half marathan run raises money for a number of charities including Diabetes UK. I managed to run it in 03:11.29.



The route was cut short due to a suspicious car around Cannon Hill Park, but I am still happy with the result.

STAFFING THE READY ROOM: FCAPT STEFAN BLAKEMORE

A short while ago in July, I was asked to look after the home of Admirals Mackenzie and Kehlan. There was an Air show they wanted to go to and it was running over a couple of days. My stay was scheduled for a week and the only things I needed to concern myself with were feeding the pets and taking Duke for a walk. Sounded simple, and easy enough.

I was perfectly fine with this, because I decided to bring my computer along with me so I could take the time to get in some gaming that I have been sorely lacking for recent months. It turned out to be a rather ... odd experience.

It's not like the tasks I needed to do were in any way difficult: walk the dog, feed the dog, feed the cat, feed the fish, cook, do a touch of cleaning up, there was only one thing that I did not realise would be an issue. Aside

from the pets, I was completely alone.

This was an odd experience for me because except for periods when I am travelling, I have almost always been around someone, be they family, friends or other people. I have never been so totally isolated from people before.

The hardest thing to get used to was the quiet. Unless I was running a video or some music on my computer or

laptop (if I was upstairs) there was virtually no sound, no traffic, and hardly any pedestrians aside from local residents.

There was one brief bit of loud excitement for a couple of minutes with a jet flying circles (literally) above the house which was amusing, but still REALLY loud.

I found myself thinking about the *Star Trek Voyager*, Episode 'One', where Seven of Nine had to handle the ship on her own with only the Doctor to help her. She was completely isolated and had trouble dealing with it.

Fortunately, I didn't have any hallucinations like poor Seven did, but it certainly wasn't really a situation I was completely comfortable with. I also didn't really have the



chance to talk with people on the phone, because for some reason the Admirals had decided to set up home in a subspace dead zone so my phone couldn't connect. And while the Internet still functioned, anyone I wanted to talk to had the slight problem of being at work.

Even access to my computer didn't help, I played a couple of games but ended up noticing the absence of other people too keenly, and in the end I ended up doing something physical like cleaning up the kitchen, something that kept me moving and physically active.

It's something I have never experienced before to my knowledge.

Still it helped out my friends so it was worth it.

And as a side note, Duke does not understand video communications! On their way back home, the Admirals

visited FCAPT Hightower and opened a hailing frequency over Skype. Duke gave a very non verbal "Huh?" at seeing his human and his Klingon on the TV.



LONDON FILM & COMIC CON—GETTING BETTER AND BETTER! CAPT KEVIN GOLDSMITH

I had not been to the LFCC or London Film and Comic Con for years, mainly for two reasons.

(1) Most of the guests I could see at Collectormania Milton Keynes and ...

(2) most of the guests were either from modern sci-fi or I had already got them.

Earlier this year, I saw on Facebook that Lee Majors was attending this event, though. He is best known to people of my age as Colonel Steve Austin from *The Six Million Dollar Man*, a TV series from the mid 1970s, when I was growing up (although some may argue that I never grew up!) and also stuntman, Colt Seavers from the 1980s series *The Fall Guy*.

The tickets were soon ordered online: entry tickets for Friday and Saturday—Lee Majors for me and some *Game of Thrones* people for Denise, namely Mathew Willard (*Scooby Doo*, *13 Ghost*) and entertainer John Barrowman. As luck would have it, she found a nearby room where we could spend the Friday night.

We waited and waited for the tickets to arrive in the

post, until I checked my e-mails and found that all I had to do was to print them off—the key thing here is a barcode in the top right hand corner of the sheet.

As soon as we arrived in London, we found improvements. We were now able to use our debit cards on the underground ticket barriers, and getting to the event was pretty easy. After the obligatory baggage check, our ticket entry sheets were read using a hand held device.

We had a wander around to see where everything was. According to available maps, most for the guests (or at least the ones that we wanted to see) were on the second floor. The photo shoots were a VAST improvement—diamond tickets go first and then the rest get in line in "batch order" and go in as a group. Your sheet is read electronically, the rest is like a production line (they allow friends/carers). You hand over any baggage, the photographer says "next", he lets you know about any issues about flash flare, then 3-2-1-click ... "Next!". You then collect your photo and baggage and leave the area—very impressive and efficient.

Many years ago I did a photo shoot with Tom Baker.



He took an interest in my Dr. Who 20th Anniversary magazine. A crew member came forward and told me to leave. Baker gave them a right dirty look, but the crew member was right, I had to leave.

The sales area had improved technology as well with a form of contactless, a white 'zapper' integrated with that person's mobile phone.

Nice to see John Hardy, Sue Griffiths and Alison of the USS Iceni.

Much of the ticketing system for autographs had not changed since the event first started and I began going in the early 2000s—except for John Barrowman.

He had to contend with three photo shoots: one as himself, then in his Captain Jack coat and another with some of the Torchwood cast, plus a Q&A session, then came the diamond pass group, some of which took advantage. One woman sat on his knees for several minutes and two other people stood chatting whilst our line got bigger and longer, which, in the end must have numbered over two hundred. The only response we got from the red shirts that I think were team leaders, was, "If we do anything it will make the guest seem rude!"

We were then told that we could only pay for the autograph via card so we went to the tables near the entrance/exit and Denise paid up. Unfortunately, when she handed over her receipt to choose a photo, we were told that we needed tokens as well—we could not go on without them! Denise started to get upset as she searched her purses and I put my foot down with the crew who insisted that we must have been given these vouchers, when I new full well that we had not.

What I took to be a senior red shirt crew member came over and he directed us to a lady on the card payments tables. There we explained the situation. Denise was very tearful, but the lady soon sorted out the vouchers and wrote on the back of the receipt that Denise was disabled and that we were to be given priority.

We went back up to the photo table and after another small inconvenience, we were ushered to the front of the line where the vouchers were exchanged for a photo of Denis's choice.

Barrowman was late back from the Q&A session, but eventually it was our turn. Denise joked with him about a version of "The Lonely Goat Hurd" song that he once did and, too soon, it was all over.

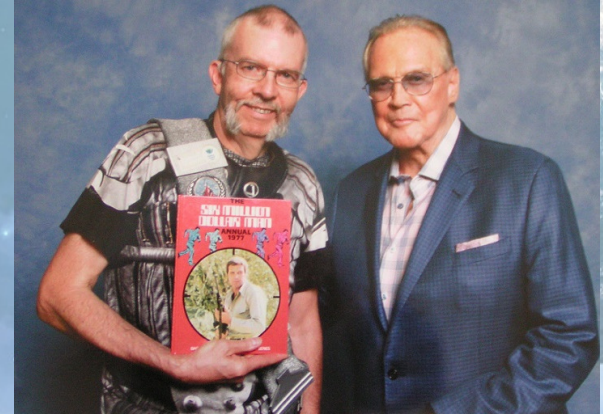
It was then time to make our way home.

Since I have been going to these events I have seen lots of improvements, mainly due to modern technology. I can remember when photo shoot pictures took hours to

appear.

Tickets sent by e-mail, method of entry and the photo shoots I do not think could be bettered—very efficient, but autographs that have to be bought via vouchers need to be made clearer. I can find no mention of this on the website

—and if there is a big line, the crew must to be more strict with the fans—once they



have said hello and got their autograph, they need to be firmly but politely ushered away.

Would we do it again? Yes, in some ways we have learned by our mistakes,-and of course if the right guests are there!

As a side note, we found a local corner café on the Hammersmith Road called *The Blue Corner*. It is reasonably priced at around £7-10 for most meals and caters for people with dietary considerations.

THE BANQUET: SOME REFLECTIONS (ADMIRAL KEHLAN)

I came to this year's banquet feeling tired and demoralised and with the 100% conviction that this was going to be the last one; that I was burned out, my team was burned out and after 13 years we really couldn't keep going any more. From talking to the Command Team, I know they felt the same way. Nothing seemed to have gone well. Ticket sales were low enough that at one point we actually cancelled the event, only to reinstate it on a much smaller scale due to public demand.

With that unpromising start, we arrived at the hotel on Friday and prepared for the evening's entertainment—a mildly horror themed quiz. We ended up with five largish teams and four rounds of questions, with the horror questions mixed in with star trek ones. Added to that was a wild card round, where we made use of the Star Trek trivia game. Each team picked two cards and then gave us a number from 1-6 for each card ... meaning that none of us knew in advance just what the question was going to be. We broke half way through for a BBQ buffet, which provided mountains of very tasty food. As a vegetarian, my options were a little limited as the veggie sausages were a little late coming out, but there was plenty of


salad, potato wedges TONS of potato wedges in fact ... bread etc to fill me up while I waited. All in all it was an entertaining and enjoyable evening.

Saturday evening, with the more formal, 3-course meal, seemed to me to be equally relaxed and fun. After dinner, our special guest from Marie Curie, Peter Sara, got up to give a short talk and tell us a bit about what the charity does and why our support is so important. We held our usual auction and raffle and finished off with a chaotic game which didn't quite go according to plan but nevertheless resulting in much hilarity.

I remember taking a quiet moment to myself in the course of the event and standing, looking at our memory board. For those who have never attended, this is a place where people can add the names and maybe photos of loved ones they have lost. In a gesture of hope we have expanded this to include a section for people still fighting and those who have won their battle. I remember reading those names, looking at the photos and then turning and seeing a sea of happy faces enjoying themselves and thinking, "I remember now why I am doing this."

So the message is: While we had planned to end with Banquet 13, we are willing to consider doing one more., but that can only happen with your support. We do not keep any money back for the next year—everything we raise goes to charity. So we need deposits from you all if we are to find the money to pay the deposit to secure the

venue. If we receive at least 40 deposits, we will go ahead and book the event. Of course, you have the reassurance that if we cancel due to lack of support, anyone who has paid a deposit, will get a full refund. I hope though that this will not prove necessary. We have until the end of December to raise the deposit, so it really is up to you. The fate of the 14th banquet is in your hands.



SB24 EVENTS

2019 FUNDRAISING TOTAL

>£2636.98<

MARIE CURIE:	£1318
HEDGEHOG CARE:	£659
WYAIN:	£659

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE

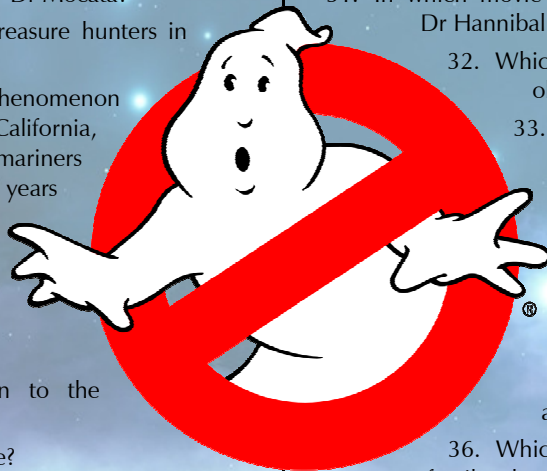
QUIZ: KATHY LURSA McMILLAN BROWN & FCAPT DAN ADAMS

For those of you who missed the Banquet, how about testing your Trek and horror knowledge with our quiz? Answers can be found at the end of this edition.

1. What was the real name of Sweeney Todd?
2. Who wrote the *Woman in Black*?
3. In the episode *Skin of Evil* what was the name of the malevolent entity that killed Tasha Yar?
4. In which mountain range was Count Dracula's castle?
5. In the episode *In Theory* what kind of Spirit did Picard blame for knocking his monitor off of his desk?
6. What was the alternate title of the book known as *Frankenstein*?
7. In DS9 what was the name of the non corporeal beings that were the devil to the prophets' angels?
8. What was the name of the mythical Bajoran creature that manifested itself every year for five days and only could be beaten by the village story teller?
9. Who played Police Sergeant Neil Howie in *The Wicker Man*?
10. In the Voyager episode title, which deck was said to be haunted?
11. *Frankenstein*, *Bride of Frankenstein* and *Son of Frankenstein* were said to be the three finest horror movies ever made by which Enterprise crew member?
12. Who was the murderer created by Robert Louis Stevenson, who was an alter-ego of a medical doctor?
13. Which 1995 BBC science-fiction serial, later turned into a movie,

brought back to Earth an alien monster

14. In what novel does a meteor shower cause untold sight problems to the inhabitants of England?
15. In which Denis Wheatley novel does the Duc de Richleau deal with a cult of devil worshippers headed by Dr Mocata?
16. Who was inadvertently resurrected by treasure hunters in *The Mummy* movie, set in 1923?
17. Which movie tells the story of a strange phenomenon that sweeps over a small coastal town in California, bringing with it the vengeful ghosts of mariners who were killed in a shipwreck there 100 years before?
18. In the original series, the entity Redjac on earth committed murders attributed to which serial killer?
19. Which movie was set in Amity Island?
20. In *Discovery* what is the name given to the tardigrade?
21. What year was *Psycho* turned into a movie?
22. Who wrote *Ghostbusters*?
23. In which movies does the *Ghostface* identity appear?
24. Who directed the movie *The Shining*?
25. According to Janeway, in the episode *The Thaw* what was the one purpose of fear?
26. Which film follows a group of friends who fall victim to a family of cannibals while on their way to visit an old homestead?
27. Which 1958 horror movie was revamped in 1986 starring Jeff Goldblum?
28. Which movie ends with a hand coming up out of a grave?



29. Which movie, directed by Alfred Hitchcock and starring Tipi Hedren and Rod Taylor, is set in Bodega Bay?
30. Which 1973 movie follows the demonic possession of a 12 year old girl?
31. In which movie does a young FBI trainee seek the advice of Dr Hannibal Lecter?
32. Which fantasy movie is set around the residents of an old people's home?
33. Which 1992 black comedy stars Meryl Streep, Bruce Willis and Goldie Hawn about immortality?
34. Which zombie movie is set in Florida and concerns scientists in an underground bunker?
35. Which 1981 movie, starring Dee Wallace and Patrick Macnee follows a television newswoman sent to a remote mountain resort, after a near fatal incident with a serial killer?
36. Which movie is set in Rome and revolves about a family who adopt an orphan baby when their own child dies at birth?
37. Which 1960's black comedy contains characters called Oddbod and Sockett?
38. Which movie is epitomised the phrase, "I see dead people"?
39. Which 1987 movie includes creatures called cenobites?
40. In the TOS episode *The Deadly Years* what natural substance caused by fear prevented Chekov from experiencing the effects of radiation poisoning?

UP THE CREEK: FCAPT

STEFAN BLAKEMORE

While in my other article I mentioned I was house sitting for the Admirals for a week, I actually stayed for just over a week and a half—one day before the Admirals left and then a couple of days afterwards to spend some time with them and relax.

I can't remember who came up with the idea but after a quick shopping trip we ended up stopping at a river not too far from Starbase Operations.

I think the idea was to take a walk and enjoy the spot, but very quickly it was decided that we were going in for a dip.

Now bear in mind that this was in July. It was quite warm and the next day was set to be an utter scorcher. Of course Duke absolutely loved it, swimming around, grabbing sticks that were thrown for him, and he even played with a couple of little kids who were nearby. He was wonderful with them as



well.

Of course, Kehlan and I got in the water as well, Admiral Mackenzie watching over our stuff and supervising. It was a delightful treat popping into the river and just enjoying the natural feel of the water.

Once Kehlan and I had our fill of swimming, we all dried off and went to the Fox and Hounds for a late lunch, and then decided to take further advantage of the river. Considering, as I said, that the next day was supposed to be unbearably hot, we went to the supermarket and got some supplies, and made plans to go back to the river to do some more swimming.

The only thing we didn't count on was several other families having the same idea and going to the same spot, so the hot day was a bit more crowded and noisy than we had expected, but it was still fun. Kehlan and I chatted to some people. I even gave two kids a tiny science lesson, and Duke had a great time playing with the children by fetching the sticks they threw for him.

Even if one of them was thrown over Kehlan, making Duke use her as a spring board.

Unfortunately on both days Admiral Mackenzie was not feeling up to joining us in the water, but even so, I'm sure that all four of us had an enjoyable couple of days.

It also led me to becoming determined to get myself a small inflatable dinghy so that we might sail up or down the river sometime.

We already have a suitable name picked out as well. Hopefully in warmer weather we can bring her out for a shakedown cruise.



APOLLO 11 MOON LANDING COMBADGE



Due to the unprecedented popularity of our Apollo 11 Moon landing Combadge, we have commissioned one final batch of these badges. Once they come into stock, we will have 20 to sell. These are the last 20 that will ever be made of this design. As with everything we produce, all profits will go to the charities we support. If you would like one of these badges, please let me know and I will reserve one for you.

A WEEK IN TREK: FCAPT DAN ADAMS

There is always something happening in the Trek world—something to be commemorated. For example, let's take just one week in October ...

13th October sees the airing of 1966's *Mudd's Women*, the lead character the rogue Harry Mudd would go on to appear in a further episode of the Original Series, 2 episodes of *Discovery* and a short *Trek*.

14th October sees the 21st anniversary of the episode *Night* in which *Voyager* is stranded in a featureless void of deep space.

15th October marks what would have been Mark Leonard's 95th birthday. Leonard provided us with the first Romulan Commander seen in the episode *Balance of Terror* and the first 'bumpy-headed' Klingon in *Star Trek the Motion Picture*. Of course, Leonard's main role was that of Spock's father, the venerable Vulcan Ambassador Sarek. Leonard portrayed the character in one episode of the original series, three films, and reprised the role twice for *The Next Generation*.

16th October sees the airing of a *Night in Sickbay*, an

interesting format in which Archer must face the challenges of command while worrying about his canine pal, Porthos. The episode was nominated for a Hugo Award.

17th October is the 25th anniversary airing of the episode airing of *Invasive Procedures*. The episode would give us some interesting hints into Trill lore. It also saw the appearance of Tim Russ, who would go on to play Tuvok, as a menacing Klingon mercenary.

18th October sees the 20th anniversary of the releases of *Deep Space Nine* 7.11 and *Voyager* 5.11. These were certainly an expensive way to fill your collection, with two episodes released per tape at a cost of £15-20, it means a complete season would cost approximately £230—almost ten times

what the blu-ray of *Discovery* would cost you today.

And finally, **19th October** sees the first airing of TNG Season 1's *The Last Outpost*. This would see the onscreen debut of the Ferengi. Previously referred to as a rival to the Federation with possible cannibalistic practices, they were revealed to be the profit motivated antagonists that would eventually become a rounded out species by *Deep Space Nine*.



A WEEKEND IN THE LIFE OF AN ARTISTE:

LURSA OF THE CLAN McMILLAN

The call came in mid-September telling me I'd been selected to appear as a supporting artiste in a movie being filmed later that month. I was booked for a fitting on 29th August at Luton Hoo, about a twenty minute drive for me, so I was hoping for a period drama.

On the Thursday I finished work early and drove off to Luton Hoo to discover what lay in store for me.

I got to the estate and drove down a long track to the filming site of the estate. I was directed to the car park, parked up and headed for the large tent on site. Various people walked past me in Victorian clothing, and I felt buoyed that I would be in a period drama. I went in and found the person who was booking us all in.

"You're a Jiu-jitsu lady..." he said.

"Am I? I've never done Jiu-jitsu." I replied.

He looked through his list and found my

name.

"Yep, you need to go to wardrobe. It's just through there and first opening to the left," he motioned behind him as he spoke.

I was in a bit of a panic. Yes, I did Tai Chi, but that wasn't the same thing. Oh well, I'd soon find out. I followed his directions and headed for wardrobe.

There was a woman in the cubicle. She asked my name and then selected my costume. Bit by bit, I put it on. There was a white vest, black socks and shoes, blue breeches, a pale cream cross-over top and a blue belt.

The breeches were a bit tight round the waist, so they were safety pinned for now, and would be altered in time for the action.

"Right," the woman said, "you can go down to hair and make up, now. Go out from here and down to the end."

I did as I was bid, and was soon sitting in a chair with a woman trying desperately to find out the best thing to do with my very wayward hair. About ten heated curlers and five minutes later, a style was selected, and my mugshot was taken so that when I turned up on filming day they would know exactly how to do it.



Whilst I was in the chair, Dan appeared and said he would need to know when I was ready to leave. He said he might be off-site when I went, so he asked me to message me when I was due to leave.



I was then sent back to wardrobe to check everything was in order. There were several of us now, and so far the women I'd seen were all oriental. The lady in wardrobe also took a photo of me for reference.

Dan came back into the room and gave us a bit of background for the film, *Enola Holmes*. It was about the sister of Sherlock Holmes, who was a lot younger than him, and she was doing her own investigation. Her mother had gone missing and she was in search of her, solving various mysteries on the way. I was told who the main stars were, and then I finished getting changed back into my own clothes and went to get my hair down, before leaving for home. Dan checked me out and I departed for home.

Filming was due to happen on the Monday. Six o'clock start and finish who knows when. I told my boss

that instead of filming on Friday, as I had booked, I would need to change it to the Monday. He was fine because I had already forewarned him it might happen. Next day, I went in to work and told the girls about the movie, which I had looked up on IMDb. I showed them the webpage and they were most envious.

"Oo!" one girl exclaimed, "Millie Bobby Brown is in it. I love her in *Stranger Things*."

"Never heard of it," I replied.

"And Henry Cavill!" said someone else. "He's gorgeous!"

For the rest of the day I revelled in the envy of the girls in the office. Finally, the weekend began, and I said my farewell until the following Tuesday.

Monday was always going to be an early start, so it wasn't surprising to find me at 5.30am just past junction 11A on the M1. I wanted to make sure I didn't get caught in any traffic, and that I managed to achieve. In fact, I got to the entrance to the estate before the gate was opened. I checked the time. It was 5.50am. Hmm, perhaps I'm a tad too early...

Then I saw a van driving towards me, and this triggered the opening of the gate. He pulled to one side so I could enter and he then drove out. I continued up the track to the film tent, as I had done the other day, and was soon parked and inside the tent. I sat down to wait to be called through, which wasn't long, and I went into

hair, armed with my photographs. I sat with the same hairdresser as I had done on Thursday, so it wasn't long before I was back up into wardrobe. My breeches had been let out, so the costume fitted perfectly today.

Now, fully dressed for the part, I was allowed to have breakfast, of which there was a huge variety. I had a mushroom omelette and tea.

Our scene was to be in a Jiu-jitsu school for suffragettes, being taught by the lady who taught Enola Homes how to do Jiu-jitsu. At last, I didn't feel so out-of-place, because I had, at least, done some form of martial art, whereas one of the ladies hadn't done anything!

Finally, we were taken to the set and we were set up in the building where filming was going to take place. We were briefed as to how the scene was going to unfold, and we practised our parts several times, before Milly Bobby Brown and Susan Wokoma walked in in their

dressing gowns. The scene was explained and first their stunt doubles performed the difficult bits, and then the actresses did their parts. This took us up to 2.00pm, repeating about thirty–forty times, before stopping for lunch.

As we walked through the estate to the set we were using, we took in all the other parts of the estate, given over to filming.

After lunch, we did a few more scenes in the room before being allowed to rest for a bit before being needed again. We were finally released to be able to go home at about 7.00pm, but of course, we couldn't go straight

home. We had to get out of costume and get out hair let down before we could go.

So, after a really long day of acting out a couple of moves of Jiu-jitsu, which I learned quite well, at 7.20pm I was back in my car heading for home.



A SERIOUSLY EXCELLENT ADVENTURE AT THE 13TH STARBASE 24 BANQUET: SUE "THE RAINBOW RAPTOR" GRIFFITHS

The Starbase 24 banquet was a bit good this year, or rather, I had a great time with something this year. That would be MC-ing and trying desperately to remember everything that needed to be said. I was challenged indeed, as I was not at all well, but Charlotte asked me to MC and, me being me, I could not resist. I was really nervous as hell as I did not want to make a complete mess of it, but I may have got away with it (I hope). I was so glad of the honour post, as I picked up some extremely useful stationery and other delightful tat and gave it my best shot.

There was a slight issue—having had health issues and trauma galore last year, I have memory loss which meant remembering how to use a microphone effectively was something wiped from my mind. Throughout the weekend, my ability to concentrate

was a little compromised so I am not entirely sure how I managed to write the answers to the (awesome) horror quiz on the Friday night, as I felt like bits of Rainbow Raptor held together with Poundland sticky tape, string and really rubbish glue that someone found in the back of a stationery cabinet in an abandoned office block. Only a bit more rubbish!

However, what did help was that I was determined to do a good job. As I sit here now, I can't remember a lot of it, but I do remember having a great time announcing what was going on, what the different tables were etc., such as *Kehlan's Krafts* and the Honour Pot, which was particularly tempting. I begged everyone to save me from myself and buy things!



Talking of *Kehlan's Krafts*, How can I not mention that I was wearing Red Angel earrings purchased from that very place?

There was a talk from the *Marie Curie* representative there, who obviously loves being involved with them and spoke about the work they do. A lot of it I wasn't aware of so it was absolutely fascinating to learn more!

After his talk, I called Jim and Charlotte up who wanted to present him with a Starbase 24 comm badge. That was really cool but the most excellent thing was calling the kitchen staff out so we could give them a great big round of applause! I used to work in catering and that doesn't happen much so when it does, it's appreciated. Another great big challenge was hosting the Catchphrase style game later on in the evening.

By that point, I was not feeling at my best and my concentration was starting to fail, but could I let that stop me? No! I once again gave it my best shot, and while it needs some refinement, for a first attempt it really wasn't



bad at all! Hightower and Dan Adams knew what they were doing, and it seemed like people had fun, and that was the main thing.

I am told my MC-ing skills are wanted in the future—hopefully I will be in a better state of repair then. While it wasn't easy to get through the Saturday evening, it was a challenge

I couldn't turn down, and I felt a happy sense of accomplishment having done so. As is often the case with public speaking, it gives me such a happy burst of energy. For years at the banquet, I wondered what it would be like to do the main speech on the Saturday night—and now I know! I enjoyed it, too, and I am glad Charlotte asked me and I had fun.



***THE BANQUET:** LT GEN BRIAN PHILPOT*

This year's banquet seemed to go very well. Everyone there looked like they enjoyed it. Being smaller made it a lot easier to get to chat with more people, and those who took part in Clare's game corner looked like they were having a good time! A big thank to Clare for organising that! I think Friday night's quiz went very well. I even got some of the questions right.

The banquet itself, on Saturday night, the food was very good. Sadly the auction was very hard work, and we didn't really make a lot out of it. The honour pot table was a great success, and of what we didn't sell, the contents went to two other events to help them out with fund raising. The raffle was liked by most people. Tickets were even sold to some people in the next room thanks to Stefan.

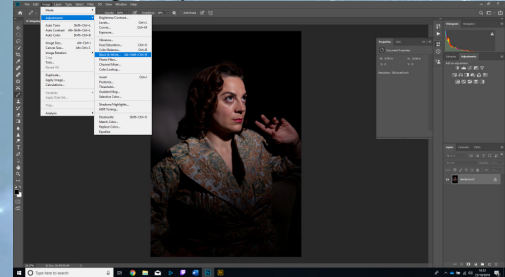
It was great to see everyone, and the group photo of everyone was a good idea. I think we should keep that up!



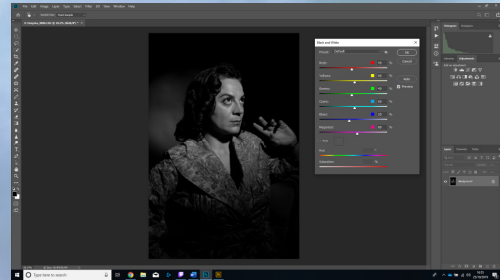
PHOTOSHOP BEGINNER ***TUTORIAL:** AMBER ROWAN ROBERTS*

Convert to Black and White

Step 1 – Go to Image-Adjustments-Black and White

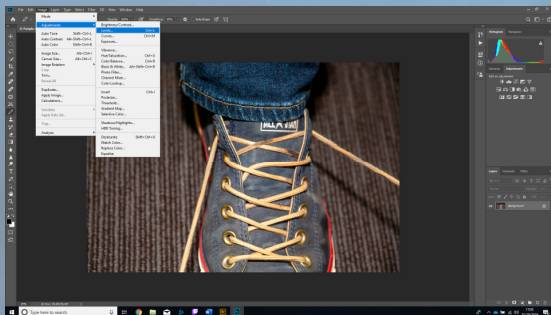


Step 2 – Move the colour sliders shown below to adjust your image. These sliders adjust their colour counterpart in the image to make them either blacker or whiter

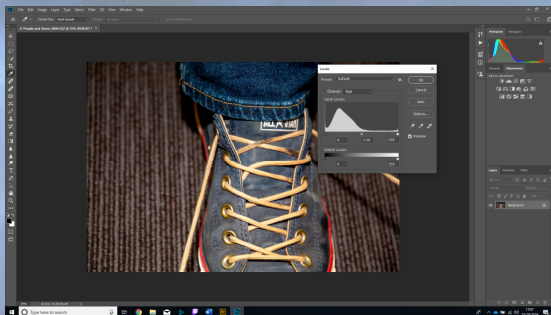


Levels

Step 1 – Go to Image-Adjustments-Levels



Step 2 – You will now see 3 sliders and a histogram. The first slider adjusts the darks in the image, the second adjusts the Mid Tones and the Third adjusts the lights.

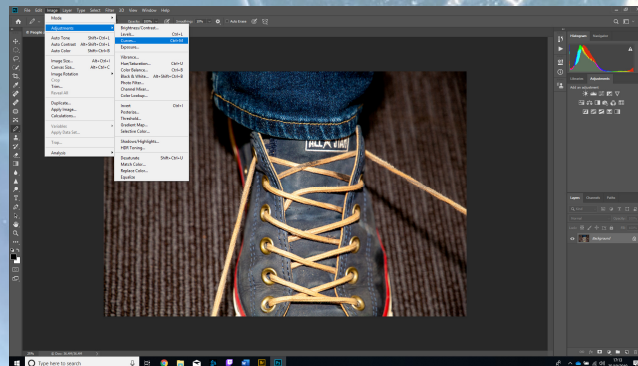


Step 3 – You will notice that the histogram looks like a mountain. Take a look at the image above and see how

the histogram is more to the left. That means there are more darks in the image than lights. So what we have to do is move the sliders to make the image look more natural. Sometimes, like with this image, you only need to make very minor adjustments.

Curves

Step 1 – Go to Image-Adjustments-Curves



Step 2 – Similar to the Levels adjustment, the Curves adjustment also has a histogram but this time it's on a graph. What we want to do here is called an S-Curve, which gives the image more depth. To do this, simply click and drag on a point in the top right area and then do the same with the Bottom left area. On the image below you can see my S-Curve, notice how the image doesn't look so flat anymore.

MEASURE OF A LIFESTYLE:

CMDR KUDZAYI CHAKAHWATA

What happens when mathematics, Star Trek, meat eating and veganism collide?

I've been facing a huge moral dilemma around eating meat vs being vegetarian or even vegan. It all started 2 years ago when I was in a Facebook conversation with a salsa acquaintance after I had returned from the Klingon Banquet. She is not a Trekkie at all but seemed interested to learn more about what happens at the event, so I told her, with enthusiasm.

After mentioning that I chose the Lamb as my main course, she flipped and asked, "How could you eat something so cute?" Plus, later that evening, she taunted me more and sent an adorable picture of a little lamb, as to guilt trip!

Yea she's a vegan! A very passionate and vocal one I might add.

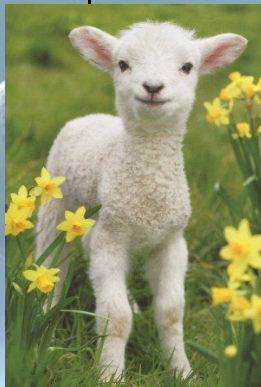
"Why did I have to mention Lamb!" I thought to myself.

She proceeded to send me four articles in three minutes after having challenged me very persistently on my choices to be a meat eater. I became very defensive and attacked her back; labelled her in my head as "one of those annoying vegans". I told her rather firmly to stop

messaging me and stop discussing this with me. But, I hated to admit it at the time, but she opened a can of worms in my brain, metaphorically. I now know, the reason I became defensive was because part of me believed her. I entered the wormhole of a moral dilemma.

Speaking of entering wormholes, one of the many things Star Trek does exceptionally well is making us challenge our morals individually and as humanity. I often imagine watching a made-up Star Trek episode where an away team visit a planet and encounter an alien race that farm and breed humans for consumption. In my head there's nothing right about that! I don't think any of us would be OK with it. But somehow it is OK for us with respect to animals. I think about this a lot. But the bizarre thing is, after all that, I still eat meat! But I am so conflicted about it.

Despite there being lots of convincing information forming a case for stopping, I may be emotionally convinced but I haven't yet been *statistically* convinced. Yes folks, I have a background rooted in mathematics and statistics too, hence this is important to me. There have been a lot of documentaries popping up over the last few years revealing medical cases both for and against meat eating. Now that's confusing enough. But I say context is



king here. What works for one person, doesn't necessarily work for everybody. What seems definitive to me is the impact on global emissions and waste from meat farming. Significant evidence supports that it is not sustainable in its current guise.

Recently a Netflix documentary "The Game Changers" absolutely blew my mind. I thoroughly recommend watching it. It has inspired me to think more seriously about veganism and to not dismiss it. They have a wealth of information on their website www.gamechangersmovie.com and it's apparently all based on independent clinical studies. I'm not saying all the studies were conducted perfectly according to my statistical mind, but it does make for very illuminating reading. It has enthused me to consider trying out a vegan diet for week or two and measuring the effects on my day-to-day, for example, performance in the Gym, quality of sleep, mood, focus, digestion etc.

But I am not an advocate of changing one's lifestyle permanently only based on what TV says! Do your immersive research, know the facts, know the source,



A number of British supermarkets are among those found to be sourcing beef from UK intensive farms.

question everything and be discerning.

If you eat meat and are also feeling conflicted about it, please do share your experiences with me. If you have turned vegan, please share the benefits you've noticed and felt. I'm interested in hearing more.

References/Sources: www.gamechangersmovie.com

Photo – Lamb Saved by Scarlett Litherland - Pinterest

Photo – Intensive farming – The Guardian -

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/may/29/revealed-industrial-scale-beef-farming-comes-to-the-uk>

QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. Benjamin Barker | 20. Ripper |
| 2. Susan Hill | 21. 1960 |
| 3. Armus | 22. Dan Ackroyd and Harold Ramis |
| 4. Carpathian Mountains | 23. Scream |
| 5. Poltergeist | 24. Stanley Kubrick |
| 6. The Modern Prometheus | 25. To be conquered |
| 7. Pah-Wraiths | 26. The Texas Chainsaw Massacre |
| 8. Dal'rok | 27. The Fly |
| 9. Edward Woodward | 28. Carrie |
| 10. Deck 12 | 29. The Birds |
| 11. Trip Tucker | 30. The Exorcist |
| 12. Mr Hyde | 31. The Silence Of The Lambs |
| 13. The Quatermass Experiment | 32. Cocoon |
| 14. The Day Of The Triffids | 33. Death Becomes Her |
| 15. The Devil Rides Out | 34. Day Of The Dead |
| 16. Imhotep, who had been punished for killing Pharaoh Seti and touching his mistress, Anck Su Namun | 35. The Howling |
| 17. The Fog | 36. The Omen |
| 18. Jack The Ripper | 37. Carry On Screaming |
| 19. Jaws | 38. The Sixth Sense |
| | 39. Hellraiser |
| | 40. Adrenaline |

BLOWN AWAY:

CMDR PAMELA COOPER

A recent away mission with the Admiralty saw me blown away.

Admiral Kehlan was there to capture the moment!



IS THIS WHAT THEY CALL AN "OOPS MOMENT"?

CMDR CHRIS BOWEN



Sometimes even a commander has to let his hair down! Tim Jeanes, Claire Webber and I had great fun at the Banquet but we got into trouble for messing around with the concierge trolley!

Fortunately, we avoided the brig!



AWAY MISSION TO DST: COMM DAN REYNOLDS



THIRD DYNASTY KURLIAN 'NAISKOS'

A naiskos is a revered artifact of the ancient, extinct civilization of the planet Kurl. A hollow ceramic figurine, the top half is removed to reveal a number of smaller figures nestled within. This configuration represented the Kurlian philosophy that an individual is actually a community of individuals. The naiskos displayed here is an artifact of the Jyltan's Third Dynasty and is approximately 12,000 years old. It was a gift to Admiral Picard from his friend and mentor, archaeology professor Richard Galen.

