



The Daily Discourse



Issue 3

newsletter@conversation2023.org.uk

Saturday Evening

Conversation: the 2023 UK National Science Fiction Convention

Bid Session

The bid session to decide the location of the 2025 Eastercon will be held tomorrow at noon in Queens. There will also be an update from next year's Eastercon, Levitation.

Programme Highlights

Remember that Glasgow 2024 will be holding a ceilidh this evening from 7:30pm in Pavilion. Dress to impress for We Look Amazing.

Adrian Tchaikovsky will be interviewed by John Coxon tomorrow morning at 10:30am in Queens.

Also at 10:30am each day is the feedback session. On Sunday it will be in Sandringham, and on Monday it will be in Pavilion.

Wifi

Non-residents wanting to use the hotel wifi should look for the "I have a promotional code" link at the bottom of the sign-in page and use the code "Lobby" (case sensitive).

Disinformation

The newsletter team would like to express our regrets that we were not asked to be on Saturday's Disinformation panel. After all, we have years of experience of misinforming fans.

It Was 50 Years Ago Today

"The British SF Award was not presented this year due to popular apathy." (*Checkpoint* 37, April 1973, as reported in *Ansible*.)

Fan Fundery

Sue Mason's TAFF report, *Into the Wide Purple Yonder*, is now published. You can get a print copy from Alison at Eastercon (until they run out) or a pdf copy, in either case for a donation of £5 to the Transatlantic Fan Fund. Only 23 years! That's not too many.

Living in the Future

If you have the Hilton Honors app on your phone and sign up for an account, you can get a digital key for your hotel room and use your phone to unlock the door. As long as you haven't run out of battery....

Virtual Art

Remember to check out the virtual art show: virtualartshow.squarespace.com

Door Dragons

We still need volunteers to check badges at Dealers' and Art Show tomorrow. Please go to the ops hub if you can help. Ops can also always use more help.

Restaurant Reviews

Karaage fried chicken restaurant in Resorts World is definitely recommended for those looking for something better than burgers. As well as crispy fried chicken with tonkatsu sauce, they also do donburi fried rice, yakitori noodles, sushi and Japanese pickles. There's a cute vending robot and the staff were helpful. Don't try to pronounce the names of Japanese dishes correctly though, it just gets them confused.

—Steve Davies

Fancy dining in Birmingham city centre? Try a restaurant hidden in a pub. The excellent Indian Café Racer is neither café nor pub grub but a full-on restaurant inside the Wellington Hotel pub on Bristol Street. Large servings of great mid-priced modest-strength curries with lovely service. Full-sized motorbike by the fireplace. Lots of fun info in small print on the menus. A true hidden gem. indiancaferacer.com

—Arthur Chappell

The hotel's posh restaurant (Brightsmith) only costs a few quid more than the bar food, and is much nicer.

Food Trucks!

We've heard good things about both of the food trucks that are open today, including from a coeliac who says that he has never had such good gluten free fried chicken before.

Overheard in the Bar

"My train from London was delayed by goats on the tracks."
—Jon Baddeley

Attention, Panellists

Please assume that the mics in all programme rooms are being streamed at all times and modulate your pre- and post-panel conversations accordingly.

Alternatively, do not do this and help us to fill up issue 4.

Shaggy Dog Story

If I Had A Dog is a new illustrated children's book created by Eira and Smuzz. Copies are £10 each or £18 for two: just ask one of them if you'd like to buy, or email smuzz@smuzz.org.uk.

The telephone, which interrupts the most serious conversations and cuts short the most weighty observations, has a romance of its own.

—Virginia Woolf

Crafty

There will be a Glasgow 2024 craft session at 3pm tomorrow in York [*I'd have thought they'd do it in Glasgow—Ed*].

Classified Adverts

Farah Mendlesohn has two small and old laptops with her, a MacBook Air and a PC. Both work but with problems. The first person to offer her £50 for either can have it.

Food Shopping

As well as the sandwiches and pizza available in the hotel lobby, there are sandwiches available from Costa and WH Smith in Resorts World. There's also a Lindt shop and one selling very nice macarons.

Late Night Drinking

The Real Ale Bar will stay open until 1am tonight and tomorrow night, then not reopen until 11am the following morning.

Wanted, Undead or Alive

The discussion launched by addressing the question of "What exactly do we mean by the undead?" Might it include an AI construct of someone who's died? Is Frankenstein's monster a zombie? OK then, what about Robocop? SF blurs the distinction between those who have crossed the line and those who haven't. Things go wrong when only part comes back.

Ghosts can represent the chasm between us and our ancestors, a past we don't understand, our fears. All cultures have a mythology and rituals to address our fears about the divide and those who don't cross it.

Why are writers drawn to this theme? Trying to deal with death in our lives, trying to communicate over the gulf of generations, grief and love for one who has died.

People used to die at home; now death is removed, sanitised, the rituals associated with it are gone.

Do the dead come back because the living have failed to carry out those rituals that ensure their progression to the next world?

—Giulia De Cesare



Meg MacDonald (mod), Zen Cho, Garth Nix, Stephen Deas, David Thomas Moore: *Wanted, Undead or Alive*

This issue was produced by Flick, with help from Jan van 't Ent, Steve Davies, Alison Scott and Mike Scott. Artwork by Sue Mason. Hot tip: there's a large ASDA and a Boots in the Chelmsley Wood shopping centre, about a ten minute drive away, but it's still not really in walking distance.