



The Daily Discourse



Issue 1

newsletter@conversation2023.org.uk

Friday Afternoon

Conversation: the 2023 British National Science Fiction Convention

Welcome to Conversation

Welcome to Conversation 2023 to our members and to our Guests of Honour: Zen Cho, Niall Harrison, Jennell Jaquays, Kari Sperring, Adrian Tchaikovsky and Ursula Vernon.

I'd like to thank everyone who has helped out with preparing for the convention, and who will help out over the weekend and afterwards. I'd also like to thank the teams for the 2020, 2021 and 2022 conventions, who kept things going during the pandemic and without whose efforts this year's and future Eastercons would not be taking place.

I hope very much that everyone finds enjoyment in the mix of activities here.

—Caroline Mullan, Chair

To Do List

Please remember to look through the Read Me, in particular the Code of Conduct and Covid policy.

You need to sign up in advance for some items: go to conversation2023.org.uk/signup or speak to the ops hub. If you're looking for kaffeeklatches, note that they are now being called table talks. [*Phew!—Proofreaders*]

Programme Changes

The 'Writing about Game Universes' panel with Jennell Jaquays and Adrian Tchaikovsky will take place at 6pm today. Rumours of a companion item, 'Writing about Time Zones', cannot be confirmed.

The inevitable changes to the programme will be made automatically in ConClár, so do refresh. Where space and time permit, we'll also list changes here.

Convention Food

The food trucks will be outside the hotel main entrance from 4pm to 9pm on Friday. On other days, they will be open from noon.

They have a great selection of food, which you can bring into the Princes Suite. Please don't order things like pizza deliveries; support the food trucks!

Art Show

There will be no art auction this year, so make sure you go to the Art Show before 6pm on Sunday if you would like to buy art.

You can meet the artists and see their work in the art show today, from 6pm to 8pm.

Want to Help Out?

Even if you didn't volunteer in advance, we still need your help: please go to the ops hub to volunteer for as much or as little time as you can spare. In return, you can earn groats and, if you volunteer for at least sixteen hours, your choice of a t-shirt or tote bag at the same time as giving yourself a warm fuzzy feeling. [*Are we sure that's not just the heating being on too high?—Ed*]

Once you've volunteered, you will get a volunteer form from your team leader. After your shift ends, they should sign off your forms and give you your groats.

You can spend your groats at the food trucks, real ale bar, most dealers' and fan tables, in the art show and at the hotel bars (except for Brightside).

The Daily Discourse

We'll be publishing every day during the convention, so look out for future editions.

Please leave contributions in the box at the ops hub or email them to newsletter@conversation2023.org.uk.

Spurious gossip is welcome!

Programme Highlights

At 4:30pm in Queens, Niall Harrison will be talking about his Desert Island Books. The NewCon Press launch follows on from it at 6pm, including Kari Sperring's *The Book of Gaheris*.

You can join in with The Dark Room, a live action interactive video game, at 6pm in Pavilion.

Tomorrow at noon, Kari Sperring will be interviewed by Juliet Mckenna in Queens.

New to Eastercon?

If it's your first Eastercon, why not pop along to the Tea Lounge at 4:30pm to find out what's going on.

Parkrun

Sign up at the ops hub if you would like to join the group going to the Babbs Mill run tomorrow.

BSFA Awards

If you want to vote in this year's BSFA awards, please visit bit.ly/BSFA2022 before noon on Saturday. The awards will be presented at 6pm on Saturday.

Cash Machines

Last time we were here, the hotel lobby ATM charged £1.99 but there was a free one at Resorts World, a ten minute walk away around the lake. We believe that this is still the case, but would appreciate confirmation.

I often have long conversations all by myself, and I am so clever that sometimes I don't understand a single word of what I am saying.

—Oscar Wilde

Access Issues

If you require assistance with anything, please ask a member of convention staff or speak to the ops hub. If you wish to do so, you can pick up an access card with appropriate wording from registration. These can be personalised to fit your personal circumstances if you prefer.

We're sorry, but we only have one access ramp, not two as marked on the map. This means that, while all the spaces on the ground floor are still accessible, the route is rather convoluted.

The gender neutral toilets have been relocated to be the toilet block outside Monarch.

No Posters

You are not permitted to put up posters anywhere in the hotel. This includes mirrors, walls and windows, as well as the more traditional toilet doors.

Masks Optional

Some programme items are explicitly mask optional. You can find which they are by using the 'mask optional' tag in the con guide or looking on the printed errata sheet.

Please remember that some people cannot wear masks for medical or other reasons.

Hotel Parking

We had previously announced that parking for non-residents was £14 per day.

Unfortunately, we had misunderstood and non-residents will be charged the full commercial rate. Cheaper parking is available in the area, including at Resorts World (£17 for up to twelve hours but reduced to £3 if you spend £20 or more in Resorts World bars or restaurants and have your ticket discounted by Guest Services) and at Birmingham International Station (£12 per weekday, £9 at weekends).

Hotel residents will be charged £10 per day. Please speak to the hotel reception to ensure that you pay this reduced rate, as the code we were given (JAKGS) doesn't appear to be working in the app.

Scandom Fandom

The FANAC Fan History Project will have a scanning station at Conversation and they are hoping to get hold of some quality UK/European zines to add to the archive. If you've brought fanzines with you that you would like to get scanned, please bring them along to the Craft Lounge from 10:30am to 12:30pm on Saturday and Sunday.

This issue was produced by Flick, with help from Jan van 't Ent, Alison Scott and Mike Scott. Artwork by Sue Mason. Hot tip: if you're a non-resident car owner, you should check if you know anyone who came by train.