



The Daily Discourse



Issue 5

newsletter@conversation2023.org.uk

Sunday Evening

Conversation: the 2023 UK National Science Fiction Convention

Programme Highlights

This evening, you can see comedy duo Prison Biscuit at 9pm in Pavilion.

Tomorrow at noon, Zen Cho will be interviewed by Virginia in Queens.

Ursula Vernon's Garden Tour will take place at 1:30pm in Queens.

The Closing Ceremony is at 3pm in Queens.

Getting Ready To Go

Check out time at this hotel is noon. After you've checked out, you can leave your bags in the hotel's luggage store or, if it fills up, the ops hub.

Attaching a luggage tag with full name and badge name, and taking a photo of the bag first to show when collecting it from the ops hub, would both be very much appreciated.

If you've parked at the hotel, you might want to think about going to reception to pay for your parking this evening, to avoid queues tomorrow. This will only work if you leave before you arrived on Friday [*Easier if your vehicle is a TARDIS—Ed*].

Breakfast tomorrow and on Tuesday will close at 10am.

The food trucks will be here from 1pm to 4pm tomorrow, and they take groats.

Doc Weir

The Doc Weir Award is presented annually at the Eastercon to recognise a significant contribution to fandom which has largely gone unrecognised. You can vote for the person you think deserves to be recognised at: conversation2023.org.uk/the-doc-weir-award before noon.

The award will be presented during the Closing Ceremony.

Tea Time

The Tea Lounge has moved to Norfolk for the remainder of the convention. [*Cromer? No, she went of her own accord—Ed*]

Art Show

Art Show closes at 6pm today. From 6:30pm to 9pm, you can collect your purchases.

Fan Funds

Voting for the European Fan Fund ends on 10th April. See fandomrover.com/2023/02/02/eff-race-begins for more information and to vote.

Voting for the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund ends on 11th April. See taff.org.uk/vote.php.

Update on Train Disruption

The goats [*NB not groats—Ed*] on the train tracks outside London were part of the emergency repair team heading north to deal with the bridge troll between Oxford and Didcot.

Check Your Timesheets

Do you still need a few more hours of volunteering to qualify for your reward t-shirt of tote bag? Head over to the ops hub to help out.



The Glasgow 2024 ceilidh

Devouring History

Gillian Polack, Sidsel and Shana Worthen

Historically, what we ate not only depended on what was available, but also on other factors as well, which writers creating fantasy worlds do not always get right. These considerations include the available technology: there are limits to what you can cook if all you have is an open fire, maybe a wooden spit, and porous unglazed earthenware. People with *Game of Thrones* levels of technology could not have baked lemon cakes.

Historically, religion also placed massive restrictions on what was eaten: some animals were forbidden, leavening could not be used at certain times, religiously-mandated abstinence from certain foods was much more frequent, certain food combinations were not permitted. Many restrictions based on religious beliefs still apply to a lot of cultures today.

The development of trade routes introduced new foods but they were not always adopted quickly due to mistrust of them, or due to their cost. Another thing to remember is that things change over time: an apple or a chicken from the 12th century would be very different from apples and chickens today.

—Giulia De Cesare

The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter.

—Winston Churchill

Evening Gaming

You can sign up to play *Blood on the Clocktower* at 10pm this evening in the games room.

Brain's Brian Teaser

On the 1st of January 2050 a generation starship left Earth heading for Proxima Centauri (4 light years away) averaging ½ light-speed. In 2055, on 1st October a hyperdrive ship, travelling at an average of 4 times lightspeed leaves Earth for Proxima Centauri. Which ship is closest to Proxima Centauri when they meet?

Satellite 8 Everywhere All At Once

Satellite 8 has a fine display of posters around the Metropole (in the Alphaverse, where food trucks *are* trucks and beer is just £1 a pint)! Just take a quick 'verse-jump to see them, but avoid the bagels. Stuck in this universe? Then visit our fan table in the dealers' room to find out more about Scotland's biennial (usually!) science fiction convention featuring our unique blend of *Science Fiction*, *Science Fact*, *Science Fun*.

No Boots

In addition to the vanishing Tesco Express, the Boots near the entrance to the Airport also exists only on Google's maps.

So You Want To Be A Writer?

Tiffani Angus (previously a senior lecturer in creative writing and publishing and co-author of *Spec Fic for Newbies*) and Trip Galey (also previously a lecturer in creative writing and author of the upcoming *A Market of Dreams and Destiny*) would like to announce that in May they'll be launching the Underhill Academy for SFF Writers, an online platform teaching a variety of pre-recorded and live courses on all aspects of writing, getting published, and surviving as a writer. Please pass the news along to beginning writers in your life!

Covid News

As you may know, we've had more reports of covid, including some convention staff members.

Please remember that if you develop new symptoms then you should not be attending the convention. Don't assume your symptoms are allergies.

Old News

You can get electronic copies of all the issues of the newsletter on the Discord and on the website at conversation2023.org.uk/newsletter.

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: If you wear a properly fitted FFP2 or FFP3 face mask, space leopards won't eat your face. Probably.