



The Daily Discourse



Issue 2

newsletter@conversation2023.org.uk

Saturday Midday

Conversation: the 2023 UK National Science Fiction Convention

Doc Weir Award

Voting for the Doc Weir award, given annually to one of the unsung heroes of fandom, is now open. There's a link on the convention website under "What's Happening", or go direct to: www.conversation2023.org.uk/the-doc-weir-award/.

Refreshment Available!

Remember that the convention programme guide and website pages are not immutable artefacts! Please remember to refresh them regularly to get the most up to date information.

Green Room

Please could programme participants come to the Green Room (Hampton) fifteen minutes before their item is scheduled to begin.

Pool Policy

For everyone's safety, Hilton policy requires that children under 16 years of age must be supervised and accompanied in the water at all times by an adult over the age of 18. The minimum supervision required is 1 adult per 2 children in the pool at any one time. ~~Do not take glasses into the pool area.~~
[Sorry, wrong Eastercon — Ed.]

Featured Events

Some of the major programme items today are:

3pm Queens: The Hay Lecture, given by Dr Colin Carson of Georgetown University with an introduction by Graham Sleight.

6pm Queens: The BSFA Awards ceremony, with BSFA Chair Allen Stroud presiding.

7pm: We Look Amazing. There are no hall costume prizes or Masquerade, but at 7pm tonight many of us will be putting on our fanciest clothes and going to the bar.

7:30pm Pavilion: Glasgow 24 Ceilidh.

Ursula Vernon's Garden

This may be labouring the obvious, but the online tour of Ursula Vernon's garden depends on suitable weather in her area. Based on the forecast, this item has been moved to 1:30pm on Monday in Queens.

Look at her garden journal on DeviantArt, Tor.com (www.tor.com/2017/01/16/ursula-vern-on-gardening-history/) and elsewhere if you want to know why we have a tour of her garden.

Book Launches

Conversation Guest of Honour Niall Harrison's book *All These Worlds* will be launched at 1:30pm today in Queens. Nina Allen will lead a short interview with Niall about the book, and refreshments are promised.

At 3pm, Sandra Bond is launching her "horrifyingly humorous, or humorously horrifying" second novel *The Devil's Finger* at her table in the Dealers' Room, where there is also likely to be fudge. Although possibly not a devil's finger of fudge.

Midnight At The Lost & Found

If you lose anything, please check for it in Ops. If you find anything that looks lost, please take it to Ops. We currently have a vaccination card, a Kindle and a cardigan waiting to be reunited with their rightful owners.

The Daily Discourse

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

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Leaflets

Remember that no posters may be put up anywhere around the convention. Note also that the hotel is being very efficient at removing fliers and leaflets left on tables.

The newsletter is available from the large rack outside the Dealers' Room (Monarch). As you may well already know if you've managed to acquire this issue.

Overheard at the Convention

Q: What do you call a food truck with no food?

A: A truck.

—*Sandra Bond*

Zen Cho Signing

There is an extra signing at 2pm today at the Books on the Hill table in the Dealers' Room.

The Phantom Menace

Rumours of a phantom Tesco abound — the enigmatic anagrammatic phrase “Spiv’s ensign erect hoax” circulates in conversations. Hypotheses and potential theories are bandied about, ranging from the store belonging to the fae, to purported sightings of it being carried off on the back of a giant beetle.

Connections to the Cult Of The Coming Of The Food Truck are yet to be proven.

—*Reiley Daniels*

Surely she had endured enough for one evening without having to listen to intelligent conversation.

—*Stella Gibbons, Cold Comfort Farm*

Volunteers Needed

Please can more volunteers go to the Volunteer Desk in Ops to sign up for door duty on the Art Show and Dealers' Room for today and/or tomorrow.

Shortcut

Don't forget that you can go outside to walk directly from the main entrance to the entrance by registration (except between midnight and 6am), and avoid the maze of twisty passages all alike.

Science Fiction Foundation

The SFF has a table in the Dealers' Room selling books for £1 each, or make them an offer for a bulk purchase.

Technical Notes

If you're not using a microphone, online watchers can't hear you. Moderators should remember to ask for a mic-running volunteer at the start of panels. If you ask a question, please wait for the mic, speak clearly, and ensure that it has a question mark at the end of it. Moderators please tell Tech when you're about to start so that they can be ready with the microphones.

Free Drinks!

Soda water is apparently free at the Hilton bar.

Sleepless In Solihull

Insomnia is a video game con at the NEC and is overlapping to some extent with our interests. You will need make reservations with the restaurants in Resorts World because there are a lot more of them than there are of us. Also, their attitude to peace-bonding realistic weapons is a lot more relaxed than ours, so please complain to them and not to us.

Food Trucks

We're sorry that the food trucks didn't start serving yesterday. We're promised that they will be here on the remaining days of the con from 1pm (not noon as we claimed in the previous issue). They will close at 9pm today and Sunday, and at 5pm on Monday.

Evening Filking

Filking will be in the Sussex room from 6pm tonight and tomorrow night.

Journal of the Plague Year

As expected, we have had a report of a member of the con testing positive for Covid, probably from exposure before the convention. Please keep taking sensible precautions, everyone!

This issue was produced by Mike Scott, with help from Jan van 't Ent, Flick, Alison Scott, Giulia De Cesare and Steve Davies. Artwork by Sue Mason. Hot tip: there really is a very large Tesco two junctions south of here on the M42, but it's not in walking distance.