

EASTERCON *ASSEMBLE*



DYSPROSIUM
2015

3-6 April 2015 www.dysprosium.org.uk



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View from the Chaise Longue

At EightSquaredCon, I was suffering. Mostly from what appeared to be pneumonia – it wasn't, as I'd just had a vaccination, but it sure as hell

felt like it. At the bid session I was amazed that there was no bid for 2015. As I asked around, the response was “no one has any energy left because of Loncon 3”. I spoke to a few friends about being a committee and before I knew it, we had a fledgling committee set up. As no one else wanted to be Chair, I stepped into the breach.

I've been called insane and a whole bunch of other things by different people because of that day, and maybe I am. But, with a bit of good planning there is no reason why it is not possible to have an amazing Eastercon following a Worldcon. For starters, we should have more people wanting to attend and that will mean increased income which means we can do more.

But more importantly, the team that I have working with me are an amazingly talented bunch of people. Much more talented than I. My strength lies in the ability to delegate responsibility to these wonderfully talented people and let them build an incredible convention for you.

Our Guests of Honour will bring with them a variety of interests that we can build the programme around. All four of them are keen to contribute to the programme and I'm sure will give us plenty to talk, sing and laugh about. As we go on, we hope that we will be able to announce additional day guests and special guests. You should

follow us on Facebook and Twitter so that you get news of that as it happens.

Our hotel is incredibly versatile. This is the first time Eastercon has used the Park Inn and we're looking forward to having convention space all on one level and wheelchair accessible. The hotel has been practising at conventions and successfully hosted AndersonCon earlier this year.

So, it sounds like it's all been smooth sailing. Well, not quite. We've had issues getting our online (and therefore credit/debit card) payments set up, but at the time of writing we've had nearly 700 people buy or upgrade their memberships online. We have been unable to pin down a lot of stuff until Loncon 3 was out of the way as people just weren't able to help. People are coming forward now and plans are afoot.

I'll point you to the volunteer section on page 18. This is a convention for you, run by you. We are producing a limited edition volunteers t-shirt for all who volunteer for more than 20 hours during the convention, as well as giving you groats for your time served. Groats can be used to pay for all manner of things: food, drink, your hotel room, even next year's Eastercon, so it is a great way of reducing the cost of the weekend.

It is all hands to the pump now Loncon is over. Even if you can't commit to helping right now, please let us know that you will be able to help later so we can add you to our plans.

So, the view from the Chaise Lounge is looking good.

- Judi Hodgkin

Meet the Committee



Judi Hodgkin, Chair

Judi has been involved in fandom since her childhood in Western Australia where some of the early Swancons would not have happened without her family providing a venue. As well as being on the committee of Concussion in 2006, she has run other conferences and events outside of fandom. Her fannish pursuits are mostly Movie and TV and she is also a massive fan of Sheri Tepper, L.E. Modesitt Jr and Storm Constantine, and has a hard time stopping herself going into avid fan mode each time she meets Charlie Stross. But don't ask her to remember specific things she's read as she gets so immersed in the worlds she reads that, like *The Silence*, as soon as she has looked away from it, she has forgotten it. This can be an advantage and a disadvantage — it saves on having to buy lots of books. She is very creative and has immense amounts of fun building things out of lost parts and unexpected materials. She is married to Zandy Hemsley and you might see their daughter, Genevieve running around the convention. Please, just stop her if she heads towards an open outside door – either Genevieve or Judi.



Paul Taylor, Secretary/Webmaster

Paul usually does his best to remain in the background, but seems to have failed on this occasion. He has worked on web sites and other administration for Redemption and several Eastercons, and was deputy head of Promotions for Loncon 3, the 2014 Worldcon. For Dysprosium, he is working as Secretary, and on the web site and social media. Outside conventions, Paul

with books, music, and large amounts of cheese.



Tim Kirk, Member without Portfolio

or, deputy chair, troubleshooter and all-round good guy

Tim started going to conventions through gaming and comics events in the late 80s. 1990 saw him going to Eastcon and turning up early to help. The final PR had a call for volunteers, and said that was a good way to make new friends. It proved to be so.

Since then he has been at almost every Eastercon. Generally helping with green room and art show, and putting in various stints elsewhere in conrunning. Outside SF fandom Tim is a cyclist, gamer and regular sleeping place for cats.



Sarah Shemilt, Treasurer

Sarah has been involved in fandom in one form or another (going to conventions, RPGs and fanfic) for over a decade and a half. Initially reading fantasy when she was younger, in her teens she discovered a certain creator called “Joss Whedon” and the bug had bitten. Around the same time she started playing RPGs and was sucked in completely. Recently Sarah has been consuming anime, Doctor Who, Babylon 5 and Game of Thrones. She also has a soft spot for a certain consulting detective and his companion in all their forms.

Her first experience of conventions was over the Atlantic in Salem, Massachusetts at The Witching Hour in 2005 where she was Deputy Chair of Accounting & Legal. From there her fate was sealed and in 2009 she attended her first Eastercon,

which she has attended ever since (broken ankle or not). She is normally to be found in Ops being “polite yet assertive”, which includes Loncon 3, her first Worldcon.

Sarah lives in London, works for Imperial College as a Systems Analyst/Project Manager/Maker of Things Happening in their Finance Division, as well as Chairing the staff disability network.

In what little spare time she has she enjoys food, fine gin and photography.



David Row, Programme

David Row has been attending Cons since... well, if he were younger he could probably remember when. His first convention was a Novacon memorable for the (oddly unique) decision to hold the fancy dress competition around the swimming pool, with the expected result. He has been responsible for running a number of anime conventions, including the first one held in the UK, but has so far managed to evade the consequences. He would have evaded Dysprosium, but found himself pinned to a wall and unable to take the necessary step backwards. In any case, it was pointed out that the Committee needed a token Old White Bearded Male.

For his previous sins he is responsible for the Convention Programme. His intention is to make it a very diverse experience with something to appeal to everyone. Including catering for those members who are actually up and awake at 9am, although this may involve sleepwalking panellists.

He writes SF, but doesn't have a cat. In fact, he doesn't even like cats, far preferring dragons.



Judith Lewis, Communications,

used to be evil. In her past she has: ‘borrowed’ a member badge to attend a con, slept 6 in a 2-person room, and lost more than one Progress Report in her house in addition to various online infractions of propriety. Since then she has reformed her evil ways and volunteered for numerous conventions as well as running some small ones plus cleaning up her evil spammy ways (mostly). She is an expert in online marketing according to other people however she doesn't think that of herself. It was because she sat sadly bemoaning the lack of bids after the bidding session at Eastercon 2013 that she landed in a comms role and since other people seemed to think she had valuable skills (and she didn't move fast enough) she was tasked with promoting Dysprosium far and wide, including online and offline channels. She is hoping to assemble a crack comms team who will tackle assembling content before and during the convention, editing it, laying it out and printing plus of course advertising the convention far and wide and promoting the heck out of it ;-)

She would like to encourage all budding writers who are better than she and her mass spam content creation to consider submitting content for the various progress reports as well as the newsletter on the weekend. Given the large number of expected newbies to the area, she thinks that pre-created. pub and restaurant reviews will be vital, as well as hopefully party announcements so get writing everyone!



John Harold, Ops

He has been doing things at conventions since he walked into the 1987 Worldcon in Brighton and asked if he could help; 36 hours later he

was helping to run the gopher hole and help out anywhere possible. Since then he has done most things at cons except be a chair, or work in the green room. Mostly doing Ops but helping tech out at times. Art Shows mainly in the last few years and moving things when needed on this side of the pond. Con work has taken him as far as Japan and (as with Dysprosium) about five miles down the road, all of it interesting and he hopes he has been of use to those he has worked with. One of the good things about working at cons has been the friends garnered from many parts of the world just from that simple "Can I help?" In the real world he is supposed to be retired, but he still works at an FE college as a sensory-needs learning assistant, which is a bit of a change from many years as a site engineer in strange places and then a short period with the education side of the probation service. When that was privatised he ended up in academia, where he has in many classes learnt at least as much as those he was supporting and trying to make the experience good for them. He is looking forward to Dysprosium and with luck meeting new people and recruiting them to cons.



Hunting Osprey (Sarah Bridger), Hotel Liaison

Drawn into convention going via Dr Who fandom in 2004, Sarah (Hunting Osprey) is a relative newcomer to Eastercons. Her first was Odyssey and she has attended all Eastercons and Redemptions since. She



committed the mistake of performing an act of competency in a public place at Odyssey, and she's been incarcerated in Ops for every convention since. She was QuarterMaster for Loncon 3, while commuting each day back to Hemel Hempstead to visit her husband David in hospital, and barely saw the light of day, being too busy to receive her "Unsung Heroes" award. Osprey's day job is supporting London traders on a trading floor so she is not to be messed with. Making a bid for freedom, she has joined her first ever committee as Hotel Liaison; whether or not she makes it out of the hotel is yet to be seen.



Peter Harrow, Lawyer

Attending Eastercon first with Concussion, Peter then went on to staff as part of the Programme Team for Contemplation. Peter put together the bid for, and was Co-Chair of, LX.

From there Peter's interest in all things Steampunk led him to suggest a National Steampunk Convention which (with the very considerable aid of John Naylor and Karen Grover) led to the Asylum, Europe's largest Steampunk Convivial.

In real life a solicitor, Peter has the soul of an artist (amongst several he has collected) and his sculptures are well known to habitués of the Art Show.



John Naylor and Karen Glover

John and Karen (Major Tinker and Lady Elsie) are exceedingly busy people. Without them, Steampunk in the UK would be vastly poorer and - possibly - non-existent. They bring to the committee a wealth of experience of running conventions and ideas that will make Dysprosium one of the most memorable Eastercons ever.

Wayne Dorrington

Graphic Designer & Illustrator



Wayne has provided all our graphic artwork for posters, beer mats, advertising etc. We think he's a genius.

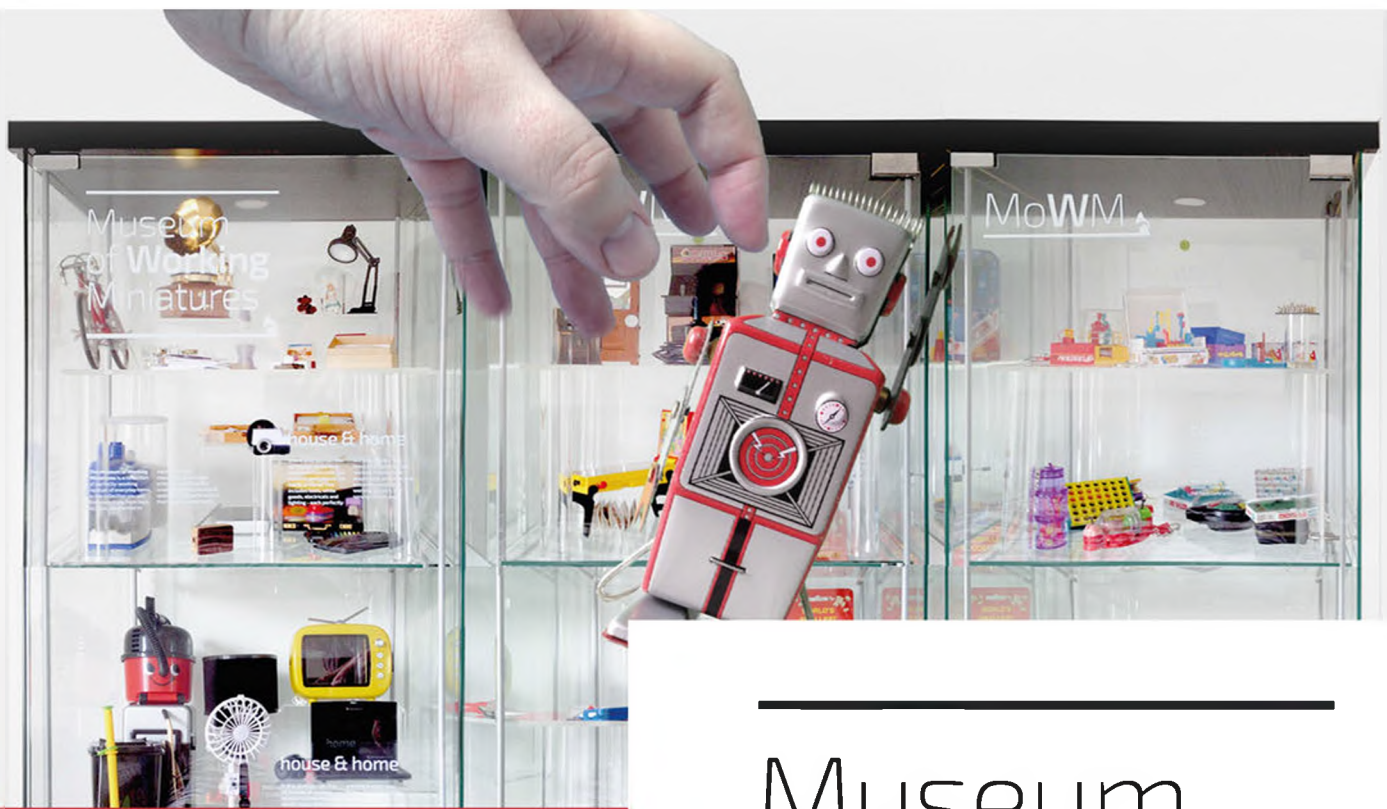
www.waynedorrington.co.uk

Studying formal Art & Design, Wayne is currently Head of Design at Beyond, a successful London creative agency. He also works on illustrations, animations and board game artwork in his spare time — a recent success is the Kickstarter Pleasant Dreams—A Card Game of Nightmares, which will soon be in production. Bored over a past Christmas break, he created an illustration for a favourite Youtube show, Geek & Sundry's Tabletop, starring Wil Wheaton. Sending it to Wil, it then made its way to the show's producer, and the artwork is now featured in every episode, and was recently used to raise money for

their crowd-funding of season 3.

He is also a show and merchandise illustrator for another popular channel, Blame Society Films, who create Beer & Board Games, Welcome to Basement, Chad Vader and Game Society Pimps. Wayne also had some viral success with his series of artworks, retelling the original Star Wars trilogy purely in Icons (Star Wars Iconoscopes). He has also recently started a Youtube channel via his alias of 'The Curator', where he showcases his unusual collection of working miniature toys, games and gadgets (www.youtube.com/workingminiatures). You can buy a print of the Tabletop Last Supper (pictured below) from his website.





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The Guests of Honour



Jim Butcher

an appreciation by Charles Stross

So: imagine you're back in 2005. You're in your local SF

bookshop, looking for something new to read. You run across a new name on the "new arrivals" shelf, pull the book out to glance at the back cover copy — these are the old days, before ebooks were A Thing, and we had to learn about new authors by word of mouth or by randomly browsing bookshelves — and learn that it's about a guy called Harry Dresden, the only wizard in the Chicago phone book, and he does consulting work for the Chicago P.D.

Well, you think, maybe it'll pass a rainy afternoon. So you buy it and take it home, and the rain passes, and the very next day you go back to the bookshop and buy everything else the author — Jim Butcher — has published in the UK.

Why?

I'd be selling the Dresden Files short if I said they were just a very fine example of an urban fantasy series, a genre noteworthy for being as moreish as a tub of M&Ms. They were, at the time of first publication, also taking a risk by going cross-genre — crossing the streams of urban fantasy (vampires, wizards, and elves: oh my!) and the hardboiled private eye detective noir. It seems inconceivable now, but the received wisdom in New York publishing in the late 90s/early 00s was that cross-genre mashups like that were a hard sell. Today, with Ben Aaronovitch, Paul Cornell, and Sarah Pinborough (to name but three) writing police/urban fantasy crossovers it's practically a category in its own right, but back then it was a rarity. Somehow Jim slipped under the radar, evaded the nay-sayers, and Roc published Storm Front — which launched one of those series that re-writes the received wisdom, going from zero to bestseller in six years flat.

Because the Dresden Files aren't as addictive as a bowl of M&Ms — unless the M&Ms in question are spiked with heroin.

Take a hard-boiled down-on-his-luck private investigator in the best tradition of Philip Marlowe. Add magic. Add a sordid background and personal demons (as well as, later, the hellish kind). Push him up against a range of adversaries, from his former teacher to the wizardly authorities of the White Council, the Queen of Air and Darkness, and various vampires ranging in disposition from the horrifyingly predatory to the coldly seductive — then add twisty-turny plot recombinations that Raymond Chandler would have been proud of. Then, on top of it all, add a a wise-cracking layer of sardonic and snarky humour of a kind that is all too rare in both urban fantasy and detective noir. That's the recipe for a Harry Dresden book: now bake until hard-boiled and consume at once.

The Dresden Files aren't Jim's only creation. He's also the author of the six-volume Codex Alera, a slightly more conventional high fantasy saga, albeit one set in a secondary world colonized by the magic-augmented remnants of the Roman Empire, pitted in a battle for survival against nightmarishly alien predators. It's a coming-of-age story and a tale of change and a good many things besides, although it's eclipsed in popularity by the Dresden Files: start with "Furies of Calderon" if you want to dip a toe in the water.

But back to the Dresden Files. By 2007, with the first (and so far only) season of the TV show running on the Sci Fi network, White Knight hit the top five of the New York Times bestseller list, making the Dresden Files one of the few written SF/F series to become breakout hits. And that brings us forward to the present day. Jim Butcher is by all accounts a really nice guy, besides being the author of two bestselling (and extremely readable) series —

soon to be joined by a third called "The Cinder Spires".

It's a long way from Independence, Missouri, to London, which is why we're lucky to have Jim as a guest of honour for Dysprosium, the 66th British Eastercon. I'm really looking forward to meeting him — and I hope you are,

Jim Butcher's most recent novel, *Skin Game*, is published in the UK by Orbit Books.

Charles Stross's most recent novel, *The Rhesus Chart*, is also published in the UK by Orbit Books.

Dresden Files Jewellery from New Moon



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D Y S P R O S I U M

2015

Membership Rates and Rises
The adult attending rate for the entire weekend

20 August 2014 - 31 January 2015: £70

1 February 2015 - 3 April 2015: £80

Supporting membership is fixed at £25 throughout

more details on Child, Junior and Infant membership rates,
please see www.dysprosium.org.uk/membership



Seanan McGuire

by Amber Benson

If you ever have the pleasure of spending an evening with Seanan McGuire,

there are six important things to remember:

1. She is a boon companion — loyal and big-hearted, she is the kind of friend you want to go on a magical quest with because she is smarter than you, likes to think outside the box, and is afraid of almost nothing. Therefore, you will most likely succeed in your endeavor, save the day, and win the love of the prince, or princess, or both — your preference.

2. She is the most prolific writer you will ever meet. She writes more in one day than most people do in a month — and that is only under her own name. There are many other works under various pseudonyms — some of which only Seanan knows about — and when you start adding them up, her body of work 'word count' probably spirals off into the billions.

3. The woman can SING. Now go buy all her albums from CD Baby.

4. She has THE best stories, period. She's lived, at least, fifty different lives in one — and some of her amazing experiences have made it into her books. But if you really want to hear the good stuff, you have to buy the lady a drink, which leads us to number five...

5. She can drink an Uh-Oh-A at Trader Sam's Enchanted Tiki Bar in Downtown Disney, and still sing sea shanties — coherently — all the way back to her hotel room.

And finally: 6. You don't mess with Seanan because she is one tough cookie. And if you are her friend, and you get messed with, she will be "your" tough cookie, too.

Now that everyone is up to speed on the awesome-sauce-ness of Seanan McGuire, let's take a moment to talk about how damn talented the woman is.

– She knows how to plot an intricate spider's web of twists and turns that leaves you guessing until the very end. She does it beautifully in the October Daye and InCryptid books, but it's as Mira Grant that she outright shines in this department.

– She has an astute eye for human psychology, creating characters so real that if they stepped off the page, you'd totally want to date them. Uhm, Tybalt, Lord of The Cats, anybody? Smitten kitten, right here.

– Her characters defy expectations. She is colour-blind, gender-blind, and sexual-preference blind when she writes — which means that race, gender, and sexual preference come secondary to her characters being interesting and unique people and creatures. The Aeslin Mice from the InCryptid books will make you laugh out loud with their insane religious antics. They veritably leap off the page.

– Her ability to weave a world that you want to step into is top notch. October Daye's version of San Francisco is actually the one you want to go and visit — not the real one. That's how good she is!

– And she is damn funny. Even when her stories are steeped in blood and gore, her wicked sense of humour shines through. I spent a good part of Discount Armageddon giggling my butt off —and the Aeslin Mice are kind of to blame.

On a personal level, I love the fearlessness of Seanan's imagination, and her willingness to say what she thinks regardless of whether you agree with her, or not — BUT I stay a loyal reader, book after book, for the beautiful sweep of her prose, and the engaging storytelling that she excels at. Read her, listen to her, and, by all means, buy her a drink — or two — if you ever end up in Trader Sam's Enchanted Tiki Room with her. She just might sing you a sea shanty, or two.



Herr Döktor

by Jonathan Green

Like many others, I suspect, I became aware of Herr Döktor's

work before I met Herr Döktor himself. His exquisite and wonderfully anachronistic models provided me with a glimpse of a world that might have been, one populated by steam-powered alien war machines, interplanetary explorers manning Martian landers named after Victorian prime ministers, and ladies in corsets wielding bespoke ray guns (much to the horror of little green men and bug-eyed monsters right across the aether).

I first met Herr Döktor (a.k.a. Ian Crichton) in 2011, when The Greatest Steampunk Exhibition came to Kew Bridge Steam Museum in Brentford. I was there as a guest author, promoting the sixth title in my ongoing Pax Britannia series of Steampunk novels, *Dark Side*, and the Döktor was there exhibiting many of his marvellous Steampunk sculptures (for there can be no doubt that his beautiful, handcrafted models are indeed works of art).

To be honest, my first impressions upon meeting Herr Döktor were that I had actually met Ulysses Quicksilver, the dandy agent of the throne and hero of my Pax Britannia novels, and that realisation left me in a state of delighted shock and utterly speechless (for a moment at least).

Welcomed into the Steampunk community, I found myself being invited to events up and down the country, where I would often find myself on the same bill as Herr Döktor. Our individual creative outlets were clearly fired by the same source material and over a pint or two at many a bar, from North Wales to North London, we would discuss everything from the novels of H. G. Wells to British anthology comic 2000AD. He is charming, erudite, witty, a font of fascinating trivia, and ever so dapper. He is a true aesthete and, ironically, a Renaissance man of the modern age who truly

appreciates that those of us working in the twenty-first century are standing on the shoulders of giants, whether our endeavours are of a literary bent or more mechanical in nature.

As our friendship grew so did an idea for a new project. My eighth Ulysses Quicksilver adventure, *Time's Arrow*, features a robot steampunk parrot called Archimedes. Having seen how much attention Herr Döktor's models attracted at events, I asked him if it would be possible to construct an Archimedes of my own. He outlined a few possible approaches but, even better than that, he offered to build the parrot for me.

What he produced was far more impressive than anything I had imagined and it didn't take long for Archimedes to become the star of the show, wherever the Steampunk world of Pax Britannia made an appearance. (Now if only I had the space to house a life-sized cybernetic Steampunk gorilla.)

I am delighted that Herr Döktor's talents and contributions to the Steampunk movement have been recognised by the Dysprosium committee. For those of us who know of his work, his presence at Eastercon 2015, along with that of his sculptures, will only serve to enhance the event, whilst also bringing a touch of class to proceedings. For those of you who have yet to discover the wonders of Herr Döktor's Laboratory, I envy you. You're in for a treat!

Herr Döktor



Caroline Mullan

by Claire Brieley



I have a photo of Caroline, taken at my first convention. The convention was

Mexicon 2, the place was Birmingham, and the specific event was an immediately-post-opening-ceremony panel: "Question Time: your questions answered: wisdom on the state of life, sf and fandom." Caroline is wearing a moderately chunky jumper, if perhaps not quite the full Sarah Lund, and she is also moderately blurred, something I put down to the photographer rather than Caroline herself. She is seated next to fan veteran, author and editor Ted White who is also moderately blurred, although I suspect he achieved that effect all on his own.

I remember that Caroline spoke with enthusiasm about Megan Lindholm's novel *Wizard of the Pigeons*; and now here we are, twenty-eight years later, and Caroline was Robin Hobb's liaison for Loncon 3. I think this speaks to Caroline's ongoing enthusiasm both for books and for *Doing Something* within our fan culture.

My second specific memory of Caroline comes from five years later, at the 1991 Eastercon in Glasgow, and this time it entails a conversation — and perhaps a little bit of a berating. She was minding her partner Brian Ameringen's table in the dealers' room and I was browsing the stock and making polite conversation about something or other — Caroline is not the world's greatest bookseller, as I fear she's too fond of talking with customers at the expense of extracting their money — and somewhere along the line Caroline, who I doubt knew me at the time, ended up telling me that really I should be wearing a gopher badge and getting out there and volunteering. Books and *Doing Something* again.

Since then we've met on numerous occasions, conventions and pub meetings mostly, but also the annual party at her and Brian's house, and book shops, and all those places fans bump into one another. I've heard about the young Caroline, the insanely voracious Jo-Walton-

esque reader of a kind that I suspect makes the rest of us just a tiny bit envious. I don't know whether the young Caroline read Jane Austen, although I'd hazard a guess that she did, and maybe she took some inspiration from *Persuasion* and Anne's opinion that 'My idea of good company... is the company of clever, well-informed people, who have a great deal of conversation.' The slightly older Caroline fell into fandom with the 1979 Worldcon in Brighton; she went to buy books and found her people and her conversation.

Whenever we talk, Caroline always has a theory. I traditionally qualify this by saying she has a theory in the sense that Imelda Marcos has a pair of shoes, but I fear that reference may be getting a little dated. So, say, Caroline has a theory in the sense that Neil Gaiman has a Twitter follower. Theories about the state of life, sf and fandom too — all things she's passionate about. And she's written about them as well, and she's really rather good at doing that and I wish she'd do more of it. Really, she was very much at home at that 1986 panel even if — as became apparent in a recent conversation about memory, and Ted Chiang's "The Truth of Fact, the Truth of Feeling", and how that relates to fan history — she doesn't remember that panel at Mexicon 2.

If there's an abiding sense about Caroline's theories, I think it's that she wants both things and all of us — the state of life, sf and fandom — to be better. Because she's seen it be good, and knows it can still be good, and still is good, and we need to have a continuing conversation about ensuring we evolve to remain good. And that might be about invigorating the London fan pub meetings, or where the Eastercon is going, or talking about how the traditional model for the convention book room works in the Age of the Kindle.

That last one is particularly tough. Are we just hanging on to something that's "traditional"? Well, it's a tradition in this kind of Convention Appreciation to encourage convention attendees to seek out the guest, buy them a drink, and have a conversation. Sometimes there's a reason for traditions.



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The Hotel

Less than a mile from Heathrow itself, the Park Inn Heathrow is a modern hotel with 895 rooms, two conference centres, free high speed wifi, space for 600 cars to park, two restaurants and a Costa Coffee bar.

The hotel has excellent transport links. You can use the Hotel Hoppa to and from the airport or the local bus network (the Park Inn is inside the Freeflow fare zone on routes 110, 105, 140 or 285), and you can also use the tube or train from central London. The hotel is only a few minutes drive from the A41, the M4 or the M25, and travel directions can be found on the hotel website (www.parkinn.hotel/airport-hotel-heathrow/location).

The convention has secured 450 rooms and by the time of Dysprosium the currently ongoing refurbishment of rooms will be complete and all rooms will have been refitted to a high standard. There are four types of room available:

- Standard room: for a maximum of 2 people with a queen or double bed and up to 2 children up to the age of 12.
- Family rooms: for a maximum of 2 adults and a total occupancy of 4 people (ie. children up to 19yo). You can choose an arrangement with a double bed and single sofa bed to accommodate three, or opt for two double

beds to sleep four.

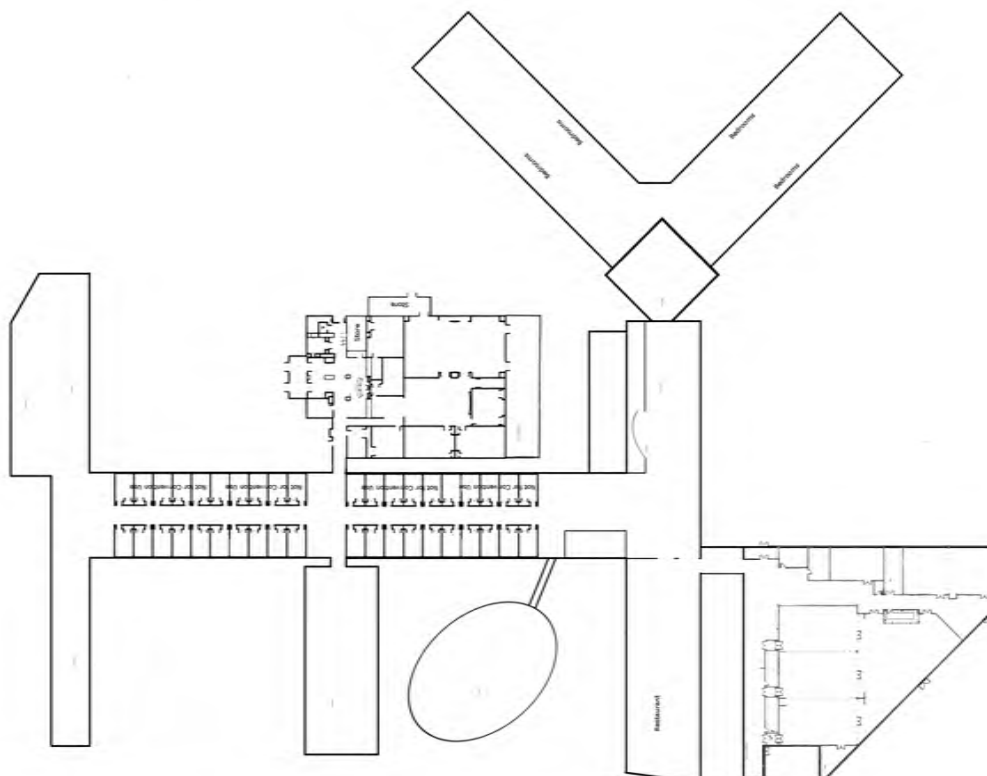
- Business friendly: for a maximum of 2 people but with a lobby and extended area for working in, plus a complimentary full English breakfast and up to 1 child up to age 12.

- One Bedroom suites: for a maximum of 2 adults and 2 children (under 19yo) these offer a separate living, sleeping and dressing space with similar sleeping arrangements as the family rooms.

The hotel takes accessibility issues very seriously and has a number of fully or partly accessible rooms: if you have a specific accessibility need please let us know when booking and we will do our best to accommodate you.

The convention is occupying both halves of the conference suite which is on the ground floor, and fully wheelchair accessible with the exception of one small programme room which has three steps down into it, and the hotel is providing a ramp to allow access to this space.

The hotel is allowing Dysprosium to handle the room allocation so if you want to be on a quiet area or in the vibrant party corridor please let us know and we will allocate you accordingly.



Hotel Booking

In order to book the hotel we've had to work around the clunky booking system the hotel has. Please follow these instructions exactly as straying from them may mean the inability to book at our rate.

Visit this URL:

<http://www.parkinn.com/reservation/clearReservation.do>

1. Under PLAN YOUR STAY, enter your Destination as "Heathrow" and in the Advanced Search Options, enter EAST into Promotional Code, then click the large purple GO button on the right.
2. Under Modify Search (on the left side), Choose your dates (Con rates apply 1-8 April) and Click Show Rooms
3. Enter the number of adults (and children) and click Search Again
4. To view the room possibilities, click View All Rates & Packages
5. View the details of the room under Rate

We have a new venue and therefore a new way for traders to sell their wares. There are a series of 20 syndicate rooms which can hold up to 4 traders or one large trader space. The whole room can be yours to kit out & arrange as you see fit. The hallway outside the rooms will have professionally designed images to create a marketplace environment and so that all traders will be advertised outside their rooms if they take a whole room for the whole weekend. For shared rooms, all sharers will go on the promotional printed materials posted floor to ceiling in the hallway, ensuring that everyone is well advertised. We will also be using video screens around the

Details

6. When you're happy with your selection, click Book Now

Please do note that family rooms are only available to those with children. As these are extremely limited we must unfortunately reserve the right to move people booking family rooms into other rooms at their expense should they reserve them without need. This need will be checked against membership lists so please ensure your details are up to date.

Once you have booked your room with the hotel, if you have any special needs, please email hotel@dysprosium.org.uk. Special needs include: wheelchair accessible room, walk-in shower, fridge, quiet corridor/noisy corridor, 2 rooms near each other (for example, families who have booked separate rooms). We will make note of your requests and do whatever we can to try to meet those needs. Please note that it may not be possible to accommodate all requests.

Dealer's Room

hotel, and expect to quite heavily advertise the rooms each trader is in to ensure there is good footfall plus the rooms are in the hallway between the two conference areas.

There will be 'pop-up' publisher rooms where a small impression could take a room for half a day and hold readings, a morning kaffeeklatsch or an evening wine reception, readings and sell books without having to commit to an entire four days of trading. These will be well publicised during the convention in the programme book and through the newsletter as well as through advertising outside the rooms themselves.

We will be working as hard as possible to ensure traders are as well taken care of as possible and table costs will not be too high. For those who take a whole room, we will be posting hours in the newsletter and you will be able to close for a short time during the day or remain open longer if you wish. To apply to be a trader, email dealers@dysprosium.org.uk.



Dysprosium is dedicated to providing a harassment-free convention experience for everyone, regardless of gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, age or religion. We do not tolerate harassment of convention participants in any form. Sexual language and imagery is not appropriate for any convention venue, including talks.

Convention members violating these rules may be sanctioned or expelled from the convention without a refund at the discretion of the Convention Committee. Our full anti-harassment policy can be found at: <http://www.dysprosium.org.uk/about/policies/anti-harassment/>. Harassment includes offensive verbal comments related to gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, age, religion, sexual images in public spaces, deliberate intimidation, stalking, following, harassing photography or recording, sustained disruption of talks or other events, inappropriate physical contact, and unwelcome sexual attention. Members asked to stop any harassing behaviour are expected to comply immediately.

Gender Parity Policy

Dysprosium is dedicated to creating an accessible, friendly, safe convention. Across the entire convention, we will endeavour to reach equal gender representation on programme items. There may be times where we have all- female items or all-male items, but we will work to balance that out with other items in the programme.

We are working to build an interesting, stimulating and fun programme. We feel that

Copyright Policy

Due to copyright issues arising at other events, Dysprosium will not be able to permit the sale in the Art Show of any artwork incorporating third party copyright material unless it is used with permission of the copyright owner.

Dealers in the dealers rooms, and Art in the Art Show, are also subject to the anti-harassment policy. In particular, exhibitors should not use sexualised images, activities, or other material. Staff (including volunteers) should not use sexualised clothing/uniforms/costumes, or otherwise create a sexualised environment.

If a member engages in harassing behaviour, the Convention committee may take any action they deem appropriate, including warning the offender or expulsion from the convention with no refund. If you are being harassed, notice that someone else is being harassed, or have any other concerns, please contact Ops immediately. The Ops Room will be found at the front entrance of the Blue Conference centre at the front of the hotel.

Convention staff will be happy to help participants contact hotel/venue security or local law enforcement, provide escorts, or otherwise assist those experiencing harassment to feel safe for the duration of the convention. We value your attendance.

We expect members to follow these rules throughout the hotel and at all social events.

having the best people on an item, regardless of gender, is the most important aspect of our convention. However, all efforts will be made to ensure that people from all genders will be invited to participate, to help achieve our Gender Parity goal.

Of course, this will be made much easier if people step forward to be on items. So, email programme@dysprosium.org.uk with your ideas and areas of interest.

Any goods exposed for sale in the Dealer's Room are done so purely at the dealer's own risk. Should Dysprosium receive a complaint from a third party copyright holder, the Convention reserves the right to withdraw the art from the Art Show or the goods from the Dealer's room without further discussion.

Accessibility Information

Dysprosium is determined to provide an Eastercon where members should not be restricted by class, age, gender, sexuality, disability, ethnicity, or any other differences. We are operating a strong anti-harassment policy which can be viewed at <http://www.dysprosium.org.uk/about/policies/anti-harassment/> and which all members agree to abide by. If you feel there is anything we've missed or that could be improved upon, please let us know at access@dysprosium.org.uk. We'll do whatever we can to meet access requirements, but the earlier you let us know your requirements the more likely we are to be able to meet them.

Our hotel, the Park Inn Heathrow, is the most physically accessible hotel of the three large hotels in that area. The corridors are wide and bright and the mirrored surfaces kept to a bare minimum, which will be a blessing for our members with assistance animals.

Access to the hotel from both carparks is via a drop kerb with wheelchair-friendly doors into the spacious reception areas.

The Convention Registration desk is located at the main entrance to the Blue conference centre at the front of the hotel. There will be people on hand to give directions to Registration. The hotel reception is via a separate entrance. The Blue conference centre has a walkway to reach the main body of the hotel, so if the weather is inclement, there should be no need to go outside.

The entire convention is hosted on the ground floor of the hotel. No more waiting for lifts or having to tackle stairs! The Red conference centre has a gentle ramp with hand rails to get into the main body of the centre. There is one further room which has two steps down to it

which will have a temporary ramp to enable wheelchair access. The Blue and Red conference centres are connected by a corridor approximately 100 yards long. There is a slightly steeper ramp about one third of the way down this corridor with a grab rail. Manual wheelchair users may find they need a push going up the ramp as the grip sends a wheelchair into the wall.

All convention rooms are carpeted and most public spaces are hard surfaces. All the rooms in Blue conference have natural light, while all rooms in Red conference have artificial lighting. We hope to have a hearing loop installed in the biggest room and realtime video output of what is happening on the stage, while all other large convention spaces will have microphone systems in place.

Toilets within the conference spaces will be gender-neutral, while toilets in the public areas will remain gender split.

The restaurant has some areas raised where wheelchair users will be unable to get to, but there is plenty of floor level seating.

Car parking is available on site for £5 per day for convention members (you need to leave your registration number with reception) and an overflow car park is provided around the back by NCP. We are currently in negotiations with NCP to get a good rate for members.

There are a small number of wheelchair accessible bedrooms in the hotel, but more bedrooms with disability-friendly features like walk-in showers and fridges for storage of medication.



Programme

We are going to be putting on a more eclectic set of programme streams than has been common at recent Eastercons in order to broaden the appeal. We hope this new approach will attract new members who aren't hardened Eastercon attendees and introduce those same dyed-in-the-wool Easterconners to new programme items. We aren't going to ignore the old-timers, but hopefully everyone will find something new to enjoy.

One of the aims we have is for a more 'hands-on' programme. More workshops, 'how-to' items, and things people can get their hands (or brains!) dirty with, and panels with space for discussion. Many will be serious, such as writing workshops. Some, like DalekDrome, not quite so much.

Some of the panel/talk/workshop streams we already have planned:

- Introductory items — especially for those new to Eastercon, or indeed if this is your first con ever, helping reduce the confusion a little. We will help you quickly understand Eastercon traditions and will have people willing to be asked questions of through the whole con.
- Traditional SF — Comparisons between SF and ongoing science and technology, 'Classic' SF, Alternative History, Steampunk.
- Hard Science — current advances in things like Astronomy, Space Science, Biology, Materials/ Nanotech, Computing.
- Fantasy — Urban Fantasy, High Fantasy.
- Writing — the craft of Writing, Traditional/ New ways of Publishing.
- Creatives — Costuming, Knitting, Drawing, Construction, Writing. We want to encourage Cosplay during the convention, and we will be holding a Costume Ball/Masquerade on one evening.
- Con Running — How to bid for/run a convention for those who may be considering

it. This stream will

include both practical activities and talks/panels and some fun items to lighten the subject.

- Gaming — Board games, RPGs, LARP, Discussions on gaming in and about AF/Fantasy.
- Media — Films, TV, Magazines/Comics/ Graphic novels, Special effects, Makeup/Costuming.
- Video — We will be running a video programme for you to catch some old favourites or just take a break and relax for a bit.
- Filking — space will be made available for filkers in the evening, as well as some appropriate programme items.
- Fun/Semi-serious — We are going to be running these throughout the programme (but especially in the evenings), and will include group activities, to encourage people (especially new members) to take part. This will include items on food and drink (and yes, there will be chocolate!).
- Art Show — we will have the usual Art Show during the convention.
- Children — there will be child-friendly items providing interest for the younger people attending as well as a creche for the very small.

In general, sessions will be 60 minute slots with 15 minute gaps to allow people to move between programme items and time to move rooms around. Some of the workshops and similar items may take up more than one slot. Panels/talks will be structured to allow 15 minutes of 'question time' from the audience.

We do need people's help with this programme, in particular volunteers to teach, talk, and take part in panels. If you want to take part, please contact us.

Volunteering

We need people willing to help on panels, workshops, and helping to keep the convention running. If you're interested in helping, we would love to hear from you. You don't need previous experience

and it's a great way to meet new people and learn new skills.

Art Show — we need people to help organise and put up/put down the exhibits and to

supervise the doors and help with the Art Auction.

Gophers — general con helpers, who are prepared to run around and help get things (and people!) where they should be on the day, and to help make sure only con members are present, keeping food and drink out of some areas, and helping the committee.

Ops — Ensuring the programme is on schedule, helping to get changes out to the members, finding lost panellists and making sure the right stuff is in the correct place.

Newsletter — Helping fill and produce the semi-random newsletter about the con that appears at the con, and making sure it gets spread around.

Registration — Helping at the desk to get people sorted out as they arrive, making sure who they are and giving them all the con stuff they need.

Tech Crew — Lights, sounds, and sometimes useful actions. The people responsible for making sure all the electronics are in working order throughout the convention.

The night before the con — stuffing bags, stuffing envelopes, putting up signs, etc, etc.

Please send us the following details:

Full Name

Sex (optional, but it helps us run a gender-balanced programme)

Email address

Phone number

I wish to help with

Ops / Gopher / Art Show / Tech Crew / Registration / Newsletter (Volunteers will earn 'groats' which can be used to pay for things at the con and will be redeemed at places like the dealers rooms and, perhaps more importantly, the bar!)

- I would like to help on a panel/talk — please give more details

- I would like to run or help to run a workshop or creative event — please give more details.

How much time you can give us?

Please remember you must be a member of the convention to volunteer.

Send all this to:

volunteers@dysprosium.org.uk

As with any convention, but perhaps Eastercons specifically because of their nature, we must make sure to reach out beyond where we usually attend to visit new conventions. We have a team of people who are going to be attending events and promoting us until we sell out of the 1,200 available attending memberships. We are aiming to be a sell-out convention but we also hope to bring a new wave of fans to Eastercon. So we will be attending more than just Loncon 3, with people at Nine Worlds, ConCom, Novacon, Lakelade comic convention, Thought Bubble, Steampunks in Space, Steampunk Market, PicoCon, and Steampunk Doncaster 2014: Tiffin in the Park,

Please do pop by if we have a table to say hi — if you are a member we might have ribbons and if you aren't, well, you're reading this so I

Where to find us

hope you'll consider joining us. Please also consider volunteering for us and maybe helping us spread the word — THANK YOU!

Contact Info

We've got a great team of people who are involved in organising this convention. And of course, we know you'll want to get in touch with one of us at some point so we've tried to make it as easy as possible for you to do so.

General Enquiries, info and direct access to the Chair:

enquiries@dysprosium.org.uk

The keeper of the coin is also accessible to you if you need her

treasurer@dysprosium.org.uk

Is something borked online? Whoops! Please contact

webmaster@dysprosium.org.uk

Got a hot breaking news story? Member of the press? Need comms assistance?

communications@dysprosium.org.uk

Wanna volunteer to run something? Got a cool idea for a panel?

programme@dysprosium.org.uk

Something you need to know about the venue?

hotel@dysprosium.org.uk

WE NEED YOUR HELP so don't forget to contact

volunteers@dysprosium.org.uk

Something up at the venue? Need a gopher? When we're at the con you'll need

ops@dysprosium.org.uk

Already a member but not sure? Wanna be a member? Got a membership question?

membership@dysprosium.org.uk

Question for Logistics or Tech?

logistics@dysprosium.org.uk

Current Membership

(Child and Infant memberships are not listed) (A) designates Apocryphal

[T.B.A.]	Ben	Chrispy	Dawn Abigail	Frank J Chick
1/2r	Bernard Peek	Christianne	DC	Frank Reilly
A. J. Blakemont	BFG	Christine	Deirdre Saoirse Moen	Freda Warrington
Aardvark Hunter	Bhob	Clare	Del Cotter	Gary Couzens
Aaron Taylor	Bill	Clare Boothby	Denzil	Gary Stratmann
Abi Brown	Billy Stirling	Clive	Dev Agarwal	Genki LYDIA
Adam Jackson	Bjorn Tore	Cobi van Hemmen	Doctor Geof	Geoff Thorpe
Adam Osborne	Black Knight	Colette	domin-IKA	George Budge
Adrian Emery	Blufive	Colin	Donald	Gerri Sullivan
Adrian Tchaikovsky	bob	Colin	Donna Scott	GhottiHed
Aileen Meek	Bobby	Colin Fine	Doris Panda (A)	Gideon
Alasdair Russell	Bobby G	Constanze	Doug S	Gillian
Alex	Boggis	Cristina	Dr Bob	Giulia DeCesare
Alexander Lamb	Bogna Hutchinson	Cristina Macía	Ecki Marwitz	Gizmo (A)
Alexey	Brian	Cristina Pulido Ulvang	Ed Buckley	Goth Target
AlexMc	Cadbury Moose (A)	Cuddles	Ed Hardman	Graham (Affordable)
Alice Lawson	Cal	Cuil	Eddie Cochrane	Graham Bates
Aliette de Bodard	Cameron Johnston	CurlyKirsty	Edward Cox	Grim (A)
Alison Baker	Campbell	D.J. Bass	Edwin	Gryphon
Alison Buck	Carl Allery	dakkar	Eggwhite	Guido Eekhaut
Alison Scott	Caro	Dan Milburn	Eira	Guy Dawson
Allan J. Sim	Carol	Daniel	Elaine Coates	Gwen Funnell
Alytha	Carol Goodwin	Dave	Eleanor Bocarro	Harriet/Kalypso
Amberdon	Caroline Hooton	Dave Farmer	Elfsinger	Helen Pennington
Amrit	Caroline Mullan	Dave Hutchinson	Elin	Helenex
An Innocent Bystander	Carrie	Dave Tamnlyn	Ellie Winpenny	Herbert Panda (A)
An Innocent Bystander	Catherine	Dave the Planetbuilder	Elsewhen Press	Herman
Andrew	Catherine Cable	Dave Weddell	Emily Down	Herr Doktor
Andrew Barton	Cathie Taylor	David	Emjay	Huntingosprey
Andrew Hayton	Cathryn Easthope	David A Harvey	Erik V Olson	Huw Walters
Andrew Hogg	Cathy Holroyd	David Allan	Erling Mork	Iain Alexander
Andy Bigwood	@miniosiris	David Damerell	Ethan Coates	Ian Jackson
Andy Croft	Ceri	David Drysdale	Fab	Ian Watson
Andy Leighton	Charles Noad	David Haddock	fanf	Ian Whates
Angella	Charles Whyte	David J Howe - Telos	Fangorn	Inamac
Angie McManus	Charlie Panayiotou	Publishing	Feline	Ingo Rohlf
Anna	Charlotte Elvedal	David Jessop	Feòrag NicBhrìde	Irina
Anna Troy	Chloe	David L Clements	Ferdinand Elvedal	Jaap Boekestein
Annika	Chris	David Laight	Fifitrix	Jacey Bedford
Ashley	Chris	David Langford	Filkipper Bill	Jack
AstroDragon	Chris Amies	David Peak	Fire	Jackie Burns
Austin	Chris Harlow	David Stokes	Flick	Jagsz (A)
Barbara	Chris Morgan	David U	Fluff (A)	Jahanara
Barbara Stewart	Chris Southern	David Wake	Ford	Jaine Fenn
Baroness Katrinka	Chris Suslowicz		Francesca Barbini	James

James	Larsen	Mike Quin	Robert	Susan Stepney
James AKA	Laura Vasco	MikeO	Robert Gorman	Tanaqui Meyer
Letmelogon3	Lauren	Ming	Robert Holbach	Tanya
Jan Edwards	Lesley Arrowsmith	Miri	Robert Ramsay	Target
Jane	Libby	Misha	Robert Watt	Teddy
Jane	Linda Stratmann	MomGhoti	Robin Hill	Terri Trimble
Janet Edwards	Lisa Malone	mrgazpacho	Rod O Hanlon	terry
Jayant Uppal	Liz Cable	Ms. Kay	Roger Robinson	Terry Jackman
Jaytea	Lizzit	Munchkin	Roland	Tess
Jeff Wooliscroft	Louise	Murphy (A)	Ros Day	The Bellingham
JeffO	Lucas T Bear (A)	Nadia	Roy Gray, TTA Press	The Fossil
Jennifer Wilkinson	Lucie	Natalie	Roy Harling	The Legend That Is
Jenny	Ludi	Neil Raha	Runesmith	Richard Stephenson
Jenny	Lydia	Neil Summerfield	Runesmith	Thomas Down
Jenny Barber	Lynne Batik	Neil Williamson	Ruth EJ Booth	Tibbs
Jeremy Maiden	Mad Elf	Nene	Rychard of Dawlish	Tibs
Jim	Maggie	Niall Gordon	Sabine Furlong	Tilly
Jim Burns	Magnus	Nicholas Jackson	Sally Sinclair	Tim Atty
Jim Butcher	MAKI	Nick	Sam Stone - Telos	Tina Anghelatos
Jim Linwood	Malcolm Davies	Nick Lakin	Publishing	Tired Lisa
Jo Ramsay	Malcolm H	Nicolai	Sandra Battye	Tom
Joan Paterson	Mandy Slater	Nige Furlong	sandra unerman	Tom Cleaver
Joanne	Manuella Jessop	Nik Whitehead	Sara Jayne Townsend	Tom Lloyd
Joe Gibbons	Marcus Brodeur	Nile	Sarah	Tom Nanson
Joe Supple	Marcus Gipps	nojay	Sarah Haddock	Tom 'palfrey' Parker
Joel Coates	(Gollancz)	Oli :-)	Sarah Jane Heckscher	Tom Womack
Jofli A. Bear (A)	Marcus Rowland	Oscar	Sarah Shemilt	Tommy
John Aitken	Marcus Streets	Owen Dunn	Sarah Walters	Tommy Persson
John Bray	Margaret	Pat Barber	scotchgrl	Tony Hammond
John Collick	Margaret Menzies	Pat Reynolds	SEAN	Tony Jones
John Coxon	Margaret Walty	Patricia Ash	Seanan McGuire	Tony Keen
John Dallman	Marianne	Paul	Sebastian	Tony Morton
John Davenport	Marianne Cain	Paul Ballard	Sha	Traci Whitehead
John Edwards	Marion Linwood	Paul Holroyd	Shana Worthen	Tracy Ann
John Jarrold	Marion Pitman	Paul Taylor	Shannon	Trevor
John Stewart	MarionNaomi	Pauline Duffy	SHEN	Trevor Barker
John Taylor	Mark	Pauline E Dungate	Shona McNeill	Turtle Lady
johnthebootman	Mark Britton	Paws4Thot	Sian Bradshaw	Uitlander
Jonathan Cain	Mark Sinclair	Peadar Ó Guilín	Silas	Urban Gunnarsson
Jono Price	Mark Slater	penwing	Simon	V Donnelly
Judi Hodgkin	Markus	Pepper (A)	Simon	V. Anne Arden
Juhani Vuorio	Martin	Peter	Simon Bradshaw	Val Nolan
Jukka Halme	Martin McGrath	Peter Cohen	Siôn Arrowsmith	Valerie
Julia	Martin McManus	Peter Coleborn	SJ Groenewegen	Vanessa
Julian	Martin Owton	Peter Harrow, Esq	skyaxe	Verycheesymice
Julie Taylor	Martin Wisse	Phil	Smitty	Vicky
Juliet Kemp	Martyn Dawe	Phil Dyson	Smudge	Vincent Canning
June Rosenblum	Martyn Taylor	Phil English	Smuzz	Virginia Preston
Kaida Stormshadow	Mary Peek	Phil Nanson	Spike	Warden Goodall
Karen Furlong	Matt	Phil Plumbly	Squirrel	Warren Hudson
Karen Sylvester - One	Matthew	Phil Willis	Stephen Aryan	Wendy Metcalfe
Dotty Duck	Matthew	Philip A. Suggars	Steve	White Clanger
Kari Sperring	Matthew Kilburn	Piers	Steve Brooks	Wilf James
KAT OPPERMAN	Matthew Sylvester	Piers Barker	Steve Cooper	Worshipthesquid
Kat W	Maynard	PigGhoti	Steve Davies	Wrigley Caterpillar (A)
Kate	Meeps	PilgrimDan	Steve K	Zandy Hemsley
Kate	Meike	Pompino the Kregoyne	Steve Lawson	Zephyr Beeblebear (A)
Kate Keen	Melica	Rachel Coleman	Steve McHugh	Zoe Deterding
Kate Solomon	Melissa Taylor	Rae	Steve Rogerson	Zoë Sumra
Katherine Fowler	MEM Morman	Rafe Culpin	Steve Rothman	
Kathy Boulton	Michael	Raija	Steven Cain	
Katrina	Michael	Rebecca Brodeur	Stevie Carroll	
Keith Martin	Michael Barker	Rebecca J Payne	Stuart	
Keith Scaife	Michael Bernardi	Rebecca/Liz	Stuart Bear (A)	
Kent Bloom	Michael Ibbs	Red	Stuart Pegg	
Kerri	Michele Atty	Rentawitch	Sue Boulton	
Kevin Chettle	Michelle	Rhionnach	Sue Croft	
Kevin Mantle	Michelle Drew	Rhodri	Sue Dawson	
Kim Whysall	Michelle of Gallifrey	Ric	Sue Oke	
kirsteena	Mike Carey	Richard Calder	SUE YORK	
La Femme Chocolat	Mike Cheater	Rick Moen	Susan	
Lal	Mike Figg	Rob Adams (@Tillane1)	Susan Bartholomew	
Lapswood	Mike Llewellyn	Rob Malan	Susan Booth	



For 3 years Julius McCoy, selected to join the elite Zed Lunar Academy at 12 years old, has been battling to save his home. Now he is facing the most crucial test of his life, as mankind makes the biggest decision it has ever faced in Book 4 of Tijaran Tales: Tijara's Heart by FT Barbini.



TIJARAN TALES are now available from Koru Books. For more information, visit www.olorispublishing.com, or check us out on Twitter: @KoruBooks and Facebook: facebook.com/korubooks.

3-6 April 2015
The Park Inn,
Heathrow,
London UK

www.dysprosium.org.uk

enquiries@dysprosium.org.uk

facebook.com/dysprosiumcon

@DysprosiumCon



featuring:

Jim Butcher • Seanan McGuire
Herr Döktor • Caroline Mullan

