

EightSquared

Eastercon
29 March -
1 April
2013

Walter Jon
Williams

Freda
Warrington

Edward
James

Anne
Sudworth

Bradford
Cedar Court
Hotel
BD5 8HW



Progress Report 2

Progress Report 2

I haven't counted the things we're keeping track of between us now, with the convention so close. The total's definitely more than sixty four. Our site visit on 9th February was extremely productive and the Cedar Court's staff all continue to be friendly and helpful. It's exhilarating to see everything coming together, and I have endless cause to be grateful to the rest of the committee and all our section heads for their efforts, as well as being profoundly thankful for their experience and expertise. Do remember that you can show them all your own appreciation if you see a chance to lend a hand here or there over the weekend.

As well as upholding Eastercon's long-proven traditions such as the Art Show, we're including more recent institutions like the Doctor Who screening and a LARP in the programme. We're also trying a few innovations such as the small press and genre get-together events explained more fully later in this PR and on our blog. To ease the inevitable but hopefully minor inconveniences for the members staying in other hotels, there will be a 'Quiet' room, in addition to the fan lounge and bars, where people can take a restorative break from all the activity and excitement. We'll also make changing facilities available on Saturday, for those bringing hall costumes, and before the Mirror Mirror Ball. We'll be very interested in your feedback in due course. All in all, it's promising to be a splendid convention. I look forward to seeing you there.

Juliet E McKenna,
Chair, EightSquared

About EightSquared

Please check out our blog at <http://eightsquaredcon.wordpress.com/>. This will keep you up to date with the convention and related events. For those of you who prefer your snippets short, we have a Twitter account which is @EightSquaredCon. We also have a Facebook page.

We have some more detailed information about the hotel later in this PR. However, you may want to be aware that our main hotel, the Cedar Court, is now the Best Western Cedar Court, so don't be surprised if you see that name being used on their website and elsewhere.

We should also remind anyone who still has pre-supporting membership that you should be thinking about converting to attending membership if you want to come. Please also note that our rates went up on 1st February and so the cost of an adult attending membership for EightSquaredCon, the 2013 Eastercon, is now £70. An adult supporting membership is now £35. Junior, child and infant memberships remain the same, at £25, £10 and £1 respectively. Membership is only available on the website until 15th March and afterwards on the door.

Programme

We are currently working on the programme and the process of contacting participants is underway. If you haven't heard from us as yet, please bear with us. This is a complex and inevitably protracted business.

Accommodation Update

Hotel Availability

The Cedar Court is full apart from those with serious mobility issues/young children.

The Campanile is full.

The Midland has some rooms left but no single rooms.

Jury's Inn has plenty of availability.

Questions on booking accommodation

Q. I haven't booked my hotel yet – am I too late?

A. No, but you only have until 15th March to book a hotel through the convention. After 15th March all members will have to make their own accommodation arrangements and will not have access to the convention rates.

Q. I have paid for my membership and booked a hotel but I haven't heard from Hotel Liaison. What should I do?

A. Email accommodation@eightsquaredcon.org straight away.

Q. I no longer need my hotel room. What should I do?

A. If you have not contacted your hotel and passed on financial details on to them, then you only need to email Hotel Liaison. If you have passed on your financial details to the hotel then you need to cancel direct with the hotel so that you are not charged for the room, and please let Hotel Liaison know.

And finally if you have had an email from Hotel Liaison which asked you to pass on your financial details direct to your hotel, please make sure you do so by 1st March in order to secure your room.

Any queries, please email our Hotel Liaison at: accommodation@eightsquaredcon.org

Thanks

The cover of this PR shows 'Night' by Anne Sudworth and is used by kind permission of the artist. The committee would also like to thank Sue Mason for providing artwork to go in this progress report.

Guest News

For those who want to do some background reading on our guests' work, please note that Walter Jon Williams has made many of his early works available in a variety of ebook formats. People who would like to read some of his works before the con will find many of them listed at <http://www.walterjonwilliams.net/ebook-store.html>. Note that this includes many of the harder to find books, the Drake Maijstral, Dagmar and Dread Empire series and the historical novels (published as Jon Williams).

Freda Warrington's early books are being reissued from Titan, including 'Taste of Blood Wine' and 'A Dance in Blood Velvet'.

'The Cambridge Companion to Fantasy Literature' by Edward James and Farah Mendlesohn (Cambridge University Press) has been nominated for the BSFA Best Non-Fiction Award. This and the other BSFA Awards will be presented at EightSquared.

Anne Sudworth

by Stan Nicholls

“BRINGING, NOT DARKNESS, BUT A DEEPER LIGHT”*

When I was a kid I devoured ghost stories. The most affecting practitioner of the form was, of course, MR James, whose best tales left a lasting impression on me. One thing James made me realise was that the countryside can be every bit as spooky as a haunted house or urban back alley. To this day I can't walk a lonely country lane or canal towpath without occasionally glancing over my shoulder to see if ... something might be following me.

Anne Sudworth's paintings give me a similar feeling.

Similar, but not the same. Because whereas James and a handful of other writers of supernatural fiction effectively suggest dread, her work can evoke a range of emotions. A certain unease is undoubtedly one of them, but frequently a sense of sanctity, melancholy and even awe are present.

Anne began drawing and painting as a child. She tried art college briefly but it wasn't for her so she left, dispelling the myth that talented artists need specialist education to develop their skills. (A truism that goes for writers, too.) Following in the tradition of Stubbs (also largely self-taught) and Delacroix, her earliest professional work depicted equestrian scenes, reflecting her love of horses. She then extended her range to embrace landscapes, with the Lake District a favourite source of inspiration.

The pictures for which she is perhaps most widely known are her continuing series of woodland and forest scenes. These are characterised by the portrayal of trees that seem to emit an inner light. Indeed, an argument can be made that her use of light in these moody studies is every bit as powerful as the quality of light achieved by such masters as Caravaggio. Though she mirrors the real with pastels, not oils.

Anne isn't a fantasy artist as such – not in the accepted swords and dragons sense. Her work is more subtle than that, imbued as it is with an implication of the fantastic. Part of this is to do not so much with what's in the paintings as with what's “around the corner”, so to speak; behind those superbly rendered trees or approaching on rural moonlit pathways. (That MR James feeling again.) You could say that they depict the spirit of the land. Or more accurately, the spirit in the land. In this respect I think of Anne as a quintessentially British artist, though universal in the emotional response she induces. Insofar as definitions have any genuine relevance, her works sit firmly in the Romantic mode, and while it's become a cliché to refer to paintings in that genre – and with this level of expertise – as haunting, it's difficult to think of a more apt description.

Her technique is, quite simply, superb. But it would be a mistake to view her work solely in that aspect. If Anne's paintings were to be judged purely on appearance, no matter how excellent the realisation, that wouldn't be enough. The parallel would be a beautifully written book without a plot. What lifts them, what adds meaning to their outward show, is a kind of opulence, both of subject and of execution. Their delineation of the seen and the unseen is their greatest strength. And that comes through the most precious gift an artist possesses: an understanding about the difference between looking and seeing. It's something that those born with an innate artistic talent have as second nature, and what sets them apart from the rest of us.

As a person, however, Anne is anything but apart. Convivial, warm, unpretentious – the perfect Eastercon artist GoH.

For best results, approach with chocolate cake.

* John Masefield



Edward James

by Tony Keen

At a Picocon some years ago, Paul Cornell gave a talk in which he characterised authors trying their hands at different media (novels, comics, TV scripts, etc.) as a game to become the best Renaissance Person, in which the clear winner was Neil Gaiman. Well, for those of us who write non-fiction, Edward James is our Neil Gaiman. In the modern academic world, the increasing proliferation of scholarship drives everyone into becoming more and more specialised. Yet Edward James has managed not only to be a leading figure in Medieval History, but also one of Britain's best-known scholars of science fiction and fantasy.

I first encountered Edward James in the History Department library at the University of Manchester, around 1990. Not in person – that meeting was still more than a decade away – but on the cover of 'The Origins of France', a green paperback, much-borrowed by students writing their first year essays on Clovis and the Capetians, and still in print today, thirty years after it was first published. And that's just one example of the sort of historian Edward James is – not just someone who held Professorships at the University of Reading and then University College, Dublin, but someone whose works regularly get into paperback and become standard student texts. This is still the case – his most recent historical book, 'Europe's Barbarians', is not only in paperback, but has been translated into Italian.

But that's not why he's been invited as a guest for Eastercon, of course. Eastercon has invited the other Edward James, the leading sf scholar, and someone who has been part of fandom, on and off, for nearly half a century. As Peter Weston documents in 'With Stars in my Eyes', Edward first attended conventions in the mid-1960s, where he rapidly struck up a friendship with one Terry Pratchett. He soon dropped out to concentrate on his scholarly career, but around 1980 returned, attending conventions and developing a programme of lectures on science fiction at the University of York, where he was employed at the time. He rapidly became involved in the Science Fiction Foundation, and edited their journal *Foundation* from 1986 to 2001. He is currently the Foundation's Chair.

He wrote 'Science Fiction in the Twentieth Century', and co-edited 'The Profession of Science Fiction', 'The Parliament of Dreams: Conferring on Babylon 5', and 'Terry Pratchett: Guilty of Literature'. With his partner Farah Mendlesohn, he won a Hugo in 2005

for 'The Cambridge Companion to Science Fiction', still the best student textbook available – a sister volume, 'The Cambridge Companion to Fantasy Literature', appeared in 2012.

None of this, of course, addresses Edward's tremendous affability. He is kind, generous to his students, entertaining, and as I had the pleasure to discover this summer, an excellent host to visitors. I have enjoyed many long conversations on science fiction, fandom, medieval and ancient history, cats, and many other shared interests. You'll find him an excellent Guest of Honour.



More EightSquared

Volunteers

As ever, Eastercon depends on you and other people volunteering to help out. We now have people in charge of all of the major areas of the con and we're asking for help in areas such as Ops, Tech, Gophers, Art Show and elsewhere. Please volunteer via the link on our website.

If you need to contact us, you can send email to info@eightsquaredcon.org. You can also send post via our long-suffering membership secretary at:

EightSquared
19 Uphall Road
Cambridge
CB1 3HX

Book Groups

In honour of our writing guests, we will be running book groups on Walter Jon Williams, 'This Is Not A Game' (and sequels), and Freda Warrington, 'Elfland', at the con. Get reading, and come along and talk about the books with moderators Kate Keen and Kari.

Genre Get-togethers.

One of the great pleasures of an Eastercon is getting a chance to chat with your favourite writers and maybe getting your books signed. Even better, you may find yourself drawn into conversation with a favourite author and another writer in the same genre whose works you haven't read yet. Finding out that you're on the same wavelength before you buy someone's books is always a real plus. Rather than leave this to chance, EightSquaredCon are specifically planning genre get-together sessions in the Cedar Court's Conservatory over the course of the weekend. Authors working in similar areas within the broad scope of speculative fiction will be able to sit and chat with each other and like-minded readers. So make sure you check out this schedule if you want to bring along

your books to be signed. Or just come along with a beer, coffee or other beverage of choice to join in the conversation.

Ghost of Honour

We're considering JB Priestley as convention Ghost of Honour. A native of Bradford, a productive playwright and novelist with an often unrecognised bent for science fiction, fantasy and the absurd, Priestley has been somewhat neglected in recent years and we'd like to rectify that.

Costuming

The traditional Masquerade has suffered in recent years from poor attendance and there has also been a shortage of people willing to look after the Chaos Costume room. We plan to follow the example of Illustrious in 2011 and hold a costume ball. We are therefore proud to announce the Mirror-Mirror Ball to be held on Saturday evening. Come as your alternate self from another dimension! We'll also be awarding hall costume prizes. Note that we will be making changing facilities available for those staying in other hotels.

Bad Death Awards

Following the example of the Bad Sex Awards, EightSquared plans to recognise those works in which the characters die horribly, unrealistically or just badly. Bring along your favourite badly-written death scene or write your own and read them aloud in this light-hearted programme item and vie for the grand prize of a round of applause and some chocolate.

Poetry

POETS WANTED. Don't just come to EightSquaredCon, bring some of your recent poems with you and be prepared to perform them. We intend to have a read-around for an hour, chaired by Chris Morgan. Definitely no critical comments. Poems on any subjects, rhymed or unrhymed.

Code of conduct

We've naturally been paying close attention to fandom's ongoing discussions of convention behaviour and etiquette. There have been a small number of regrettable incidents over the last few years, not all of them in the US but some in the UK as well. As you'll see from our website, we have put together a Code of Conduct. If you are in any doubt as to what we consider unacceptable behaviour, read this.

Independent and Small Presses

Science Fiction and Fantasy has always sustained a fine tradition of small press publishing. Furthermore in recent years, the genre has generally led the way in taking advantage of print-on-demand and internet technologies to offer new ways for readers and writers alike to connect with each other. EightSquaredCon would like to offer small press and independent/author-led publishing initiatives the opportunity to show fans what they're offering over the course of the weekend. However as those of you who were at LX in 2009 will recall, our Dealer Room space is limited. Accordingly, we're proposing to hold morning sessions in the Conservatory on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, where such publishers can reserve a table to sell their books and talk about their plans to interested con-goers. If you're interested in taking part in a showcase session, please email chair@eightsquaredcon.org as soon as possible.

Online Programme

Having looked at the various options available for online programme guides, we have selected one called Sched since it seems to provide reasonably good features for an affordable price. You will therefore be able to find our programme at <http://8squared2013.sched.org> along with the usual additional information, from shortly before the start of the convention. An online version of the Read Me should also be accessible from our website.

Zulu Tradition

On the Friday evening of the convention, we're planning to have a concert from Zulu Tradition, a company of genuine young Zulu singers and dancers who deliver a heady mix of African harmonies (traditional songs as well as Afro-Gospel) and high-energy, athletic dance – all traditionally costumed and with drum-rhythms. Their stage shows are exciting, enthralling and hugely entertaining, so we hope they'll find an enthusiastic audience.



Things to do in Bradford

Naturally, we hope you'll spend most of your time at the convention. But if you want a break, Bradford has lots to offer.

Eating Out

Bradford is famous for being the UK's centre of Indian food. These vary from massive curry houses like Aakash and Aagrah, to small intimate dining places like Kipling's serving the cuisines of areas like Lahore or Karachi that do not normally get a look-in in the average high street Indian restaurant. The committee have now eaten in a number of these restaurants and it's an experience not to be missed. The Aakash, housed in a converted Methodist chapel and reputedly the largest Indian restaurant in the UK (if not the world) was most impressive, though you need to develop a tolerance for 'Happy Birthday' being played every 10 minutes or so.

You could eat a different curry every meal of the convention and not eat the same sort of food twice. The prices are often quite cheap and we're hoping to arrange a convention discount with one or more of them.

Entertainment

The National Media Museum, previously the National Film Museum, is located in Bradford. In fact, Bradford is the UNESCO world city of film. They have major collections of film, video, radio, photography and internet resources, and recently acquired Ray Harryhausen's personal collection. Entry to the main museum is free and individual EightSquaredCon members will be able to pay the group concession rate for those

programmes etc where a charge is made. Please show your membership confirmation before the convention starts and your badge thereafter to get this discount.

Shopping

Bradford doesn't just have the usual high street shops you'll find anywhere. It also has places like Bombay Stores, perhaps the largest department store in the country specialising in Indian fabrics. A five pound taxi ride from the hotel takes you to Shearbridge Road, with various stores selling jewellery, clothes for men, women and children, including bridal, shoes, party stuff and a haberdashery. Walking up Shearbridge Road to Listerhills Road brings you to a little arcade of shops which includes East Meets West, with many beautiful garments for women, but a bit more seriously priced. A short walk along Listerhills Road, on the corner of Preston Street is Star Wedding Décor & Textiles, where our intrepid researchers bought two sew-your-own salwar kamiz for £30.

Getting to Bradford

For those of you who have a satnav or GPS, here are the post codes of the main hotels we're using:

Cedar Court: BD5 8HW

Campanile: BD4 6SA

Midland: BD1 4HU

Jurys Inn: BD1 2DH

Getting to the Cedar Court by road

The Cedar Court is just off the roundabout at the end of the M606. Follow the signs to 'Eastern Ring Road' round to the right and the road to the Cedar Court is the first exit on the left past the traffic lights (there are signs to 'Cedar Court'). The hotel itself is the first entrance on your left. If you are coming by a different route, you should follow signs to Bradford and then to Staygate in order to get onto the appropriate section of the Bradford ring road.

If you are coming long-distance from either the North or South, the simplest route is to take the M1, head for the M62 at J42 and then take J26 off the M62 to get onto the M606. Note that there are extensive roadworks on the M62 (putting in new speed cameras) and you may need to allow additional time.

By Train

Bradford has 2 stations, Bradford Interchange (BDI) and Bradford Forster Square (BDQ). Bradford Interchange has regular fast services to and from Leeds (25 minutes), Manchester Victoria (60 minutes), York (60 minutes), Selby and Huddersfield. Forster Square has local trains to Leeds, Ilkley and Skipton.

In most cases, unless you live locally, we recommend getting a train to Bradford Interchange and then getting a bus or taxi to the Cedar Court. Bradford taxis are both abundant and relatively inexpensive, and you should be able to get to the Cedar Court for about £6.

By Coach

Coaches to Bradford generally end up at Bradford Interchange or Forster Square, and you can then follow the same solution as for trains, getting a bus or taxi to the Cedar Court.

By Bus

Assuming you are at Bradford Interchange train station, you want to catch a 845, 846 or 847 bus to Staygate in order to get to the Cedar Court. Other Metrolink buses may also go past the hotel. Note that you will need to walk from the bus stop on the main road to the hotel.

By Air

Leeds Bradford Airport (LBA) has a variety of national and European connecting flights. The airport is located to the north-east of Bradford (postcode LS19 7TU) and has a regular bus service (747) into Bradford.

Convention Bus Service

From Friday, 8:30 am, we will be running a minibus service between the overflow hotels and the Cedar Court. Note that the Midland Hotel is near to Bradford Forster Square station, so you may be able to get on the bus there.

Membership List

New members since PR1 (1 Sept 2012)

521	Anne	Kustritz	538	David	Bridger	551	Herman	Ellingsen
571	Dev	Agarwal	608	Paul	Brown	613	William	Ellwood
552	Stian	Alderin	558	Felicia	Buciu	527	Bjørn Tore	Elvedal
557	Jobeda	Ali	478	Peter	Buck	528	Ferdinand	Elvedal
487	Nina	Allan	479	Alison	Buck	526	Charlotte	Elvedal
587	Charlie	Allery	565	Jim	Burns	477	Emma	England
495	Katrina	Allis	584	Jackie	Burns	546	Adrian	Faulkner
522	Shaw	Allyson	615	Chris	Butler	489	Nigel	Fisher
531	Annabelle	Amsler	585	Sophie	Calder	490	Eve	Fisher
555	Stephen	Aryan	518	Bridget	Chee	491	Karl	Fisher
476	Sarah	Ash	602	Vicky	Chester	492	Anna	Fisher
612	Sandra	Auden	616	David	Cheval	563	Naomi	Foyle
473	Christopher	Baker	610	Rhiannon	Cole	506	Ben	Galley
481	Alison	Baker	510	David	Cooper	618	Luigi	Gargaro
569	Tony	Ballantyne	511	Jane	Cooper	475	Adam	Gauntlett
570	Barbara	Ballantyne	512	Matthew	Cooper	624	Henry	Gee
583	Trevor	Barnes	513	Libby	Cooper	625	Phoebe	Gee
493	Susan	Bartholomeu	72	John	Coxon	484	Roelof	Goudriaan
		SZ	507	Peter	Crowther	36	Dave	Gullen
549	Christopher	Behrsin	508	Nicky	Crowther	637	Jukka	Halme
500	Tracy	Berg	643	Serena	Culfeather	568	Chris	Harlow
626	John	Berlyne	93	Adrian	Czajkowski	499	John	Harold
599	Neil	Bond	530	Anne-Marie	Czajkowski	547	Lee	Harris
498	Robbie	Bourget	564	Cory	Doctorow	525	Tajinda	Hayer
537	Sarah	Bridger	641	Phil	Dyson	597	Neil	Hayton

496	Anders	Hedenlund	536	Ira	Nayman	560	David	Stokes
611	Alice	Hedenlund	573	Robert	Neilson	561	Victoria Anne	Stokes
16	Kathleen	Hedges	545	Emma	Newman	562	Teresa	Stokes
590	Chris	Hill	471	Sarah	Newton	559	David	Tallerman
591	Penny	Hill	648	Ruth	O'Reilly	524	Sten	Thaning
629	Andrew	Hogg	580	Dom	Oliver	572	Sue	Thomason
15	Warren	Hudson	575	Martin	Owton	567	Sara	Townsend
649	Graeme	Hurry	623	Bella	Pagan	586	Cath	Trechman
627	Simon	Ings	651	Philip	Palmer	579	Richard	Turner
516	Terry	Jackman	601	Alex	Pardoe	592	Brian	Turner
550	Aleksandra	Jagielska	604	Raju	Patel	632	James	Turner
606	Andrew	January	605	Pravesh	Patel	633	Tanya	Turner
607	Emily	January	503	Roj	Peyton	634	Matilda	Turner
105	Trevor	Jones	469	Ruth	Pratt	142	David	Ulicsak
609	Kira	Jones	470	Marcus	Pratt	515	Sandra	Unerman
603	Roz	Kaveney	640	Virginia	Preston	533	Paul	van Oven
466	Richard	Kennaway	488	Christopher	Priest	635	Kirsti	Van Wassel
543	Stephen	Kilbane	578	Elizabeth	Priest	554	Kirsti	van Wessel
650	Stephen	Kitchener	630	Anna	Raftery	636	Lalith	Vipulananthan
539	Alex	Lambert	540	Flemming	Rasch			
532	Sébastien	Lê	480	Sharon	Reamer	553	Alex	von Thorn
646	Ted	Lee	566	Gillian	Redfearn	483	Juhani	Vuorio
12	John	Lenahan	642	Jordan	Reyne	514	Jim	Walker
14	Mike	Llewelyn	62	John F W	Richards	614	Jenny	Walklate
494	Adrian	Long	63	Maerryn	Richards	576	Jaine	Weddell
631	Owain	Macey	541	James	Ridgway	577	Dave	Weddell
468	Shahid	Mahmud	600	David	Rivera	593	Mann	Wendy
534	Chris	Malme	504	Steve	Rogerson	104	Liz	Williams
157	Dave	Mansfield	617	Daniel	Roper	535	Neil	Williamson
505	Craig	Marnoch	523	Michael	Row	644	John	Wilson
628	Paul	McAuley	589	Edwin	Rydberg	544	Katharine	Woods
556	Keris	Mcdonald	482	Stephanie	Saulter	486	Thomas	Wootton
595	Patrick	McMurray	598	Donna	Scott			
596	Julie	McMurray	542	Marah	Searle-Kovacevic			
639	Siobhan	McVeigh						
620	Aileen	Meek	35	Gaie	Sebold			
517	Mark	Meenan	474	Mike	Shevdon			
519	Kieran	Meenan	548	Laurel	Sills			
520	Kathryn	Meenan	467	Elin	Sjolie			
619	David	Milburn		Bekkebråten				
621	Ian R	Morley	594	Martin	Sketchley			
622	Kay	Morley	501	Martin	Smart			
485	Lynne Anne	Morse	472	Ian	Smethurst			
574	David	Murphy	502	Melica	Smith			
588	CarolAnne	Murphy	509	Mike	Smith			
645	Catie	Murphy	529	Robert	Smith			
497	Sanna	Mykkänen	647	Ian	Snell			
638	Darren	Nash	581	Ian	Souch			
			582	Alys	Sterling			

NOVACON 43

Park Inn Hotel, Nottingham

8th to 10th November 2013

Guest of Honour

Hugo and Nebula award winning author of *Among Others*.

Jo Walton



Join us for:

SF Authors

Science Talks

Dealers Room

Art Show

Book Launches

The Nova Awards

www.novacon.org.uk