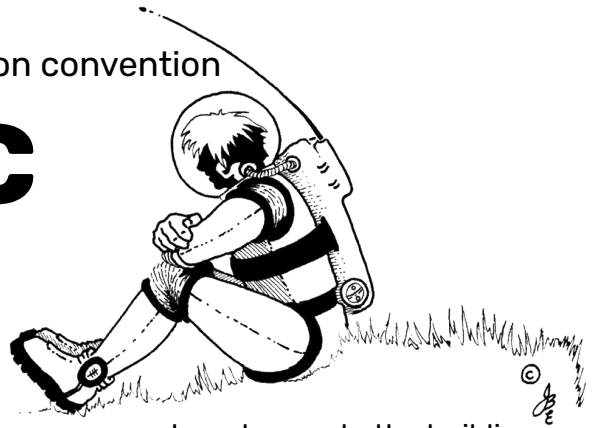


Levitation: The 75th British national science fiction convention

THE GALACTIC OBSERVER

Issue 1 – Friday afternoon



Chair's welcome

Welcome everyone to Levitation (Eastercon 2024)!

We have a packed programme of panels, workshops and talks; guests from far and near, artists and dealers.

One of the best things about an Eastercon is its people. Take advantage of the social spaces in the hotels and convention centre: say hello to people you don't know, and introduce them to other people. Help make the connections and networks that help Eastercons thrive.

We are still in Covid Times: masks are preferred in all rooms and we will prevent overcrowding. We are all in this together and need to care for each other.

Eastercons run on volunteers, so please sign up for a few hours. You get groats (tokens) to use in the convention and after eight hours can claim your convention T-shirt (sent after the convention). The head of volunteers is in a purple hi-vis vest.

You all helped to make this convention. Enjoy!

—Farah Mendlesohn

Open filking

Open filking will start at 8pm at the far end of the ground floor. If you have any trouble finding it, post in #help-desk on Discord.

Programme changes

Programme changes are reflected automatically in the online guide (available at guide.eastercon2024.co.uk) and are reproduced here.

Don't forget to check on Discord – there are threads for each item!

Watching Things on Screen moves from Coalport to Wenlock 3&4 in the same time slot (Saturday 8pm).

How (Not) To Become an Astronaut moves from Sunday 7pm to Saturday 8pm in the same room (Coalport).

Sentient AI As Character moves from Wenlock 3&4 to Coalport in the same time slot (Sunday 7pm).

Develop Your Vocal Delivery moves from Friday 1pm to Sunday 7pm in the same room (Wenlock 3&4).

Title Trivia

You may remember that Levitation is named for Henrietta Swan Leavitt, who was the first person to effectively estimate the distance to other planets by galactic observation. Hence the title of this, your Levitation newsletter.

After Dark

The conference centre will close each evening from 10:30pm (and 11:30 on Sunday). You'll have half an

hour to vacate the building but please be out well before the doors lock.

After hours we'll all be in the lovely comfy bar (or equally lovely games room) at the Holiday Inn. People who aren't residents of the Holiday Inn or International Hotel should order their drinks before 11pm; only residents can order after that time for them and their guests.

Food, Glorious Food!

Missing from the ReadMe.

Sushi: YouMe Sushi at PuttPutt Noodle (which is a soft play hall).

—Farah Mendlesohn

Armadillos Assemble!

One of the things we're sure you want to do this weekend is join Glasgow 2024, a Worldcon for our Futures, happening at the Scottish Event Campus 8-12 August. If you join this weekend they'll give you whisky chocolate! Or non-alcoholic alternative, I'm sure.

We understand that they're comparing a list of registered members with the list of people at this convention, and they *will* hunt you down. Go chat to them in the big social area by the convention centre bar and café.

Got a story? Email us! newsletter@eastercon2024.co.uk

Breakfast Blues?

If your hotel room doesn't include breakfast, you could do a lot worse than the Wrekin Giant, open from 8am throughout the weekend with a 2-for-one special on their £4.79 full English breakfast / veggie breakfast and many other breakfast options.

Hear Beer!

"My, there is a lot of beer!" said the nice chap from the conference centre to me yesterday afternoon. "I hope you lot are thirsty!" Let's prove him right. It's £6/pint, which feels positively economical to this time traveller from Conversation 2023.

Cloak and Dagger

If you need to leave your stuff, the TIC has a cloakroom set up on the 1st floor, in the corner by Coalport, £3 an item.

Need a Hugo Award?

The Hugo Award finalists have been announced in a glittering star-studded pre-recorded video after the opening ceremony, and can be found on the Glasgow 2024 website:

<https://glasgow2024.org/hugo-awards/2024-hugo-award-finalists/>

Many congratulations to all the finalists, especially those who are here this weekend.

Discord in the Ranks

If you haven't found the Levitation Discord server yet, then link through from the

Levitation Members' Portal to discover a whole world of text chat along with audio and video chat rooms. Every programme item has a persistent thread where people can chat about the topic before, during and after the event. You can also get help, arrange meetups, and get to know your fellow fans.

Access All Areas

If you have an access need can you please make it known to ops, speak to anyone in a hi-vis jacket, or tag @access in Discord. Please don't just assume we can't help; we have lots of ways to be flexible and we want everyone to enjoy the convention.

Run, Park, Run!

If tomorrow morning's five mile hike seem like a bit

much, how about a nice gentle, metric 5k run or walk? Parkrunners are meeting at 08:50 at this spot: <https://w3w.co/removers.suitcase.delighted>

Hail Hydro!

There's a fresh drinking water fountain here in the TIC for people want to stay hydrated and not spend money. It's round the corner from the games room on the ground floor, down a dark corridor and past a sign saying 'Beware of the Leopard'. There's a map in the helpdesk channel in the Discord if you still can't find it.

Bill Stickers will be Prosecuted

Remember that you may not attach anything whatsoever to any of the walls anywhere in the TIC at any time.



Hugo Finalists were invited on stage by Esther. Spot members of the newsletter team!

This issue was edited by Steve Davies with help from Alison Scott, Jan van't Ent, John Coxon, and a motley crew of other people. The artwork is "Contemplative Spaceman" by Guest of Honour Jackie Burns. Our technology is now either too old or too modern, but we can't tell which.