

THE GALACTIC OBSERVER

Issue 4 – Sunday afternoon



Feedback

The **Feedback Session** was held at 10am so that anyone who hadn't put their clock forward would not get to feed back.

Reports of compliments are thin on the ground, but a request was made for a PDF of the full programme for those who prefer not to use the online guide. This is on the list of things to do, but didn't quite make it to the top of the list pre-convention.

More flying toasters

The committee have asked us to emphasise that we need to be out of the TIC well before the building closes. Do note that the TIC is open for an hour later on Sunday, but you should still be aiming to leave before 11:30pm.

(This means not hanging around in Beckbury drinking beer until the very last minute when Security turn the lights out.)

Visible and trans

Today is trans day of visibility! Solidarity with all my trans siblings at this con and elsewhere! May you be exactly as visible as you want!

(Those with a physical invisibility can ask Ops for bandages.)

—Alexandra Lanes

Venue staff appreciation

There is an online collection plate for the staff available through the members' portal or at app.collectionpot.com/pot/3064884.

There will be a traditional collection at the closing ceremony but if people would like to give digitally, please visit the link above.

No nuts here

The committee have asked us, quite nicely given the circumstances, to emphasise that the TIC should be a nut free zone since we have members with serious allergies. This includes chocolates, candies or sweets containing nuts.

Item found

In Coalport Friday night, a personal item of jewellery. If you have lost such an item please contact Ops in Beckbury (next to newsletter).

A toast for Deb Geisler

Fans are gathering at 5pm Sunday at the Glasgow 2024 desk to raise a glass to the memory of Deb Geisler, who chaired Noreascon 4 (the 2004 Worldcon). We would love for anyone who misses her to join us.

Return to the Moon!

A well-known science fiction author has been working with ESA on an exciting project involving, well, the Moon. Pepper, James S, Stuart, and a super-special secret guest have all the news at 11am on Monday in Atcham.

Blisteringly good beer

If you're a fan of local beers, The All Nations Inn brewpub is a short drive away. Licensed to brew since 1832 they are offering a selection of ales and large baps. The dog-friendly gardens have splendid views over Blists Hill.

—Dan Smithers

Foodback

Newsletter staff can recommend Nando's (just as cheeky as other branches), Wildwood Kitchen (for just about anything), Novello Lounge (for light meals and coffee) and Miller & Carter (for excessive quantities of dead animal). We also went to Wagamama and recommend bringing earplugs.

Lounge fiction

My subconscious keeps thinking of the restaurant nearby as the Novella Lounge. Or, for BSFA members, the Shorter Fiction Lounge.

—Graham Sleight



The clock in the Telford Centre.

Kit Williams clock

Something that may be of fannish interest is the clock at the shopping centre, only a short walk away (left). It is by artist and writer Kit Williams who is known for his mystery picture book *Masquerade*. I have yet to see it perform on the hour, but I intend to before the end of the con.

—Kylie Ding

More time travel

Meanwhile, in 204 AD, Hippolytus of Rome gets a mysterious ethereal message and spends the next 18 years worrying about the date of Easter.

—Pat McMurray

Tiny LARP follow-up

I tried the LARP [see issue 2!—John] eight times. Seven to completely bewildered individuals, and once to someone who guessed it in 17 seconds (because they'd read the newsletter).

—CM Lowry

Historical curios

Do you want to own some fannish history? We have several copies of *New Futurian* from the 1950s. If you would like an issue, see Eowyn around the con and ask her for a copy. Donations to cover costs of cataloguing are gratefully accepted.

Glasgow deadline

Expressions of interest in programme need to be in by 3 April, and there's an item at noon on Monday in Coalport entitled **How to fill in a programme participation form**.

Business meeting

The **Business Meeting**, which has been held every year with exactly that name for as long as I can remember [*don't make me hurt you—Alison*], was held this morning.

Phil Dyson gave a very brief bit of news, which is that he and the Reclamation 2022 team are putting together a bid for 2026; if you would like to know more or volunteer, contact him.

Tommy Ferguson and James Bacon gave an update on behalf of the 2025 Eastercon, Reconnect (and if you missed it, it's available on catch-up). Rates are currently £70 with a variety of concessions, and will eventually rise; you can register at [registration.easterconbelfast.org](https://www.easterconbelfast.org) and they would love you to do so.

Shops shut

Just a reminder that the Asda near the convention centre will be closed today. However, most of the restaurants appear to be open.

Sleepjack

Did you remember to put your biological clock forward one hour last night? Are you awake at all? We didn't think so.

Fan fund frolics

If you would like to give money to the fan funds and can't wait for the **Fan Funds Auction**, you have options.

Firstly, you can head to the Dealers' Room and find the Amazeballs, which are jolly good fun.

Secondly, you can vote! The deadlines for the different funds are below.

- **European Fan Fund (EFF):** 11:59pm, 1 April.
- **Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund (TAFF):** 11:59pm, 2 April.
- **Going Under Fan Fund (GUFF):** 11:59pm, 22 April.

Thirdly, the **Fan Funds Auction** will be held at 8pm Sunday (that's tonight) in Atcham. The catalogue will be available beforehand; keep an eye on Discord and the next newsletter for more info.

For more details, visit the table in the Dealers' Room.

Thirteen-sided dice

If you, like your newsletter editor, are a fiend for odd dice (or just dice in general), there are thirteen-sided dice available alongside a game that uses them at the Beyond Cataclysm table in the Dealers' Room (closing 5:30pm on Sunday). I love them and they are very shiny.

This issue was edited by John Coxon with help from Steve Davies, España Sheriff, Jan van't Ent and a deafening silence. The artwork is "Contemplative Spaceman" by Guest of Honour Jackie Burns. If an alien tries to communicate with you, it's probably because they want to sell you something.