

The 70th British National Science Fiction Convention 19-22 April 2019 Park Inn Heathrow, London, UB7 0DU

READ ME

Frances Hardinge

Sydney Padua

John Scalzi

Message from the Chairs

Welcome to Ytterbium. We are delighted to welcome you, and our guests **DC**, **Frances Hardinge**, **Sydney Padua and John Scalzi** to the Heathrow Park Inn for the 70th annual British Science Fiction Convention.

Conventions can be confusing. We've tried to put some of the essential details in this Read Me, along with some useful extras (such as where all the restaurants are).

If anything goes wrong, let the Info Desk know first. We have people in charge of fixing things, in Ops, Tech and Safeguarding. Never hesitate to bring an issue to our attention, we want you all to be happy and safe.

Please remember though, that everyone is a volunteer.

Farah Mendlesohn Phil Dyson And the Committee and Staff

Contents

Park Run1
Registration & Info Desk1
Programme2
Dealers' Room & Art Show5
How to Volunteer6
GoH Kaffeeklatsches8
Highlighted Events9
Launches & Workshops10
Accessibility10
Quiet Space11
Hotel

Questions and Problems19
Food and Drink21
Children and Creche23
Courtesy24
Code of Conduct26
"Automated Customer Service"
by John Scalzi28
Conference Map
Orbiter Map35
Aviator Map

Park Run

We know there are quite a few Eastercon attendees who like to take part in Park Run on Saturday mornings. This is a free running event taking place every Saturday morning all over the world. Please visit the Park Run website (<u>https://www.parkrun.org.uk/</u>) to find out more and register to have your time recorded.

The closest one to the convention is at Bedfont Lakes, and while it's only the other side of Heathrow from the hotel, it's quite challenging to get there by public transport.

To help members wanting to participate, Ytterbium have arranged a minibus to the Park Run and back, on Saturday of the convention. The schedule will be as follows:

- 08:00 Meet at Ytterbium Registration desk in Orbitor Conference Centre
- 08:15 Depart for Bedfont Lakes
- 08:30 Arrive at Bedfont Lakes
- 08:45 Park Run Briefing and Announcements
- 09:00 Park Run
- 10:00 Depart Bedfont Lakes (or earlier if everyone has finished)
- 10:15 Arrive back at Park Inn

We have a limited number of seats on the bus, so please check availability with the Registration desk. If you haven't arrived by 8:10 on Saturday, we may give your seat to someone else.

Registration & Info Desk

Thursday	4pm-6pm	
Friday	9am-7pm	When closed, go to Ops at the end of the
Saturday	9am-2pm	Syndicate Corridor for assistance, or speak to a
Sunday	9am-noon	member of the Ops team wearing pink hi-vis.
Monday	9am-noon	

If you require a large print copy of this Read Me or the Pocket Programme, please enquire at the Info Desk and one will be printed for you.

Programme

To see the full details of the programme, please use Grenadine, which you can download here <u>https://events.grenadine.co/event-guide-mobile-app/</u> or get from your app store. The event code is **easter2019**.

You can also view the programme using a web browser by going to <u>https://sites.grenadine.co/sites/ytterbium/en/programme</u>.

If you are taking part in the programme, please go to the Green Room (next to Bleriot) fifteen minutes before the start of your item. The Green Room will be open:

- Friday 4.15pm-7pm
- Saturday 10am-8pm
- Sunday 10am-10pm
- Monday 10am-4.30pm

Outside of these times, please go to Ops to collect your free drink.

 If you are moderating an item, you might like to attend the Moderators Workshop at 1:30pm on Friday in Bleriot.

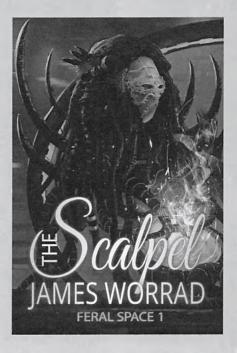
• Some spaces in programme rooms will be reserved for people with access requirements: please respect this.

• Space in programme rooms is limited, and if a room reaches its limit it will be closed. If a volunteer or member of staff informs you that a room is full and you continue to attempt to enter, or refuse to leave, then you may be removed from the convention.

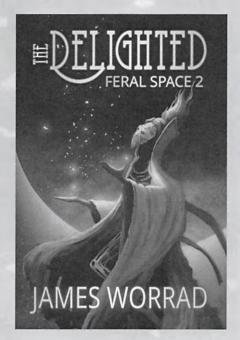
- When asked to clear the room, please do so promptly.
- We have a meeting room available for small group meetings. Please speak to the Info Desk if you would like to reserve time in the room for your group.
- Please be considerate and switch mobiles either off or to silent mode during programme items.

Newsletter: Watch out for issues of the Ytterbium newsletter over the weekend for important updates about the convention, programme news and other fine content. Which you can send to us! Tweet with **#eastercon70**, send email to **newsletter@ytterbium.org.uk** or scribble it illegibly on a piece of paper and leave it in the box at Info Desk.

JUNKIE STAR-PILOTS!



AVAILABLE IN ELECTRONIC AND DEAD TREE FORMATS FROM AMAZON AND CERTAIN LESS REPUTABLE MERCHANTS. SALES OF THE NEURALWARE EDITION STRICTLY PROHIBITED OUTSIDE FERAL SPACE. THE SCALPEL UTILEASHES A MITID-WARPITIG TALE OF GALACTIC ITTRIGUE, EXPLOSIVE ACTION, ITICATIDESCENT DIALOGUE AND SMOULDERING PASSIONS. BUCKLE IN AND TAKE THE RIDE.



WELCOME TO THE MIND OF JAMES WORRAD WELCOME TO FERAL SPACE

AN IRISH WORLDCON August 15 - 19, 2019

Guests of Honour Jocelyn Bell Burnell Ginjer Buchanan Mary & Bill Burns Diane Duane Steve Jackson Ian McDonald

5/12

19

Convention Centre Dublin www.dublin2019.com | f 👽 @Dublin2019 | info@dublin2019.com

"World Science Fiction Sodery", "WSFS", "World Science Fiction Convention", "Worldcon", "NASFC" "Hugo Award", the Hugo Award Logo, and the distinctive design of the Hugo Award Trophy Rocket are service marks of the World Science Fiction Society, an unincorporated Iterary society.

Dealers' Room

Friday3pm-6pmSaturday10am-6pmSunday10am-6pmMonday10am-3pm

Art Show

Friday	Noon-7pm
Saturday	9am-8pm
Sunday	9am-4pm, close for auction then re-open until 9pm
Monday	Art and Artist pick up only from 9 am until room is empty

Purchasing Art

You can buy some items immediately from the Art Show Shop, which stocks prints, cards, mugs, jewellery and more.

All items are for sale unless marked otherwise (NFS - not for sale). Some items are available for Instant Sale, and the rest are available for purchase through our silent auction. Speak to one of the Art Show staff, or check the signs, for details of how to bid and how to buy Instant Sale items.

Bidding will close at 4pm on Sunday. A list of successful auction winners, and the number of items they have won, will be published at the Info Desk 6pm on Sunday.

Winners should come to the Art Show from 6pm on Sunday to collect and pay for art. We accept cash (GBP), sterling cheques and preferably debit or credit cards, and you will receive a receipt for your purchase.



Sum has always known she is different. She and her mother follow the ways of the outlawed Mantra. With no warning Sum is cut addiff: with her mother gone Suni sets off to find her father in the crystal mines and the destiny the Mantra wants for her.

www.stairwellbooks.co.uk

How to Volunteer

The Volunteer Room is Syndicate Room 18

Ytterbium is entirely run by volunteers, all of whom have paid for their memberships, and if you've already offered to help then thank you! If you haven't already volunteered, it's not too late. Come to one of the training sessions: Friday at 10:30am or 11:30am, Saturday at 9am in Johnson and Sunday at 9am in Bleriot.

If you volunteer, you get groats (reward tokens) to say thank you. Each is worth £2 when used in the convention and hotel bars, on convention food or in the Dealers' Room.

We also have a T-shirt! It's available to those who volunteer for twelve or more hours for the convention (sent after the convention so we can send you the correct size). Come to the volunteering session or the volunteer room in Syndicate Room 18 to find out more.



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BRISCOL-CON 2019 10TH ANNIVERSARY

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Discussion Panels Art Show Merchants Book Readings Interviews

PRICES £25 Until 31st May £30 From 1st June £35 On the day A Chat With... Workshops Bar Friday Evening Event Author Signings Double Tree Hotel, Redcliffe Way, Bristol BSI 6N(

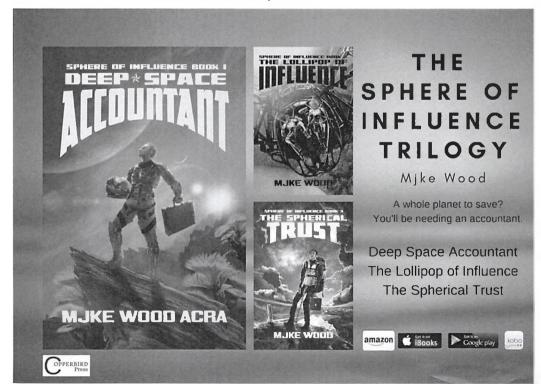
ww.bristolcon.org

GoH Kaffeeklatsches

Sydney Padua	Saturday, 2:00pm, Tereshkova
DC	Saturday, 3:15pm, Syndicate Room 15
John Scalzi	Sunday, 12:45pm, Tereshkova
Frances Hardinge	Monday, 11:30am, Tereshkova

Kaffeeklatsches give you the opportunity to meet authors in a small conversational setting. If you wish to attend one of the sessions, you need to sign up in advance at the Info Desk at least two hours before the event.

There is likely to be high demand for the Guest of Honour Kaffeeklatches: if there are more sign ups than spaces, a lottery will be drawn two hours before the event and a list of successful attendees posted.



Highlighted Events

Friday

3pm Opening Ceremony

7pm BROWN GIRL BEGINS

A feature length film written, directed and produced by Sharon Lewis inspired by Nalo Hopkinson's award-winning novel "Brown Girl in the Ring" with introduction from Sharon Lewis, and reflections from Courttia Newland.

Saturday

11.30am GoH Frances Hardinge interviewed by Brian Attebery

2pm GoH John Scalzi interviewed by Emma Newman

3.15pm The Hay Lecture

Medical Imaging: Exploring the Final Frontier, Dr Hamied Haroon

- 6.30pm BSFA Awards Ceremony
- 8.15pm Playing Rapunzel
- 9.30pm Mitch Benn Followed by late-night disco

Sunday

- 10am Playing Rapunzel children's concert
- 11.30am GoH Sydney Padua interviewed by Tade Thompson
- 2pm GoH DC interviewed by Carolina Gomez Lagerlöf
- 3:15pm BSFA lecture: My dear Mr Darwin, Dr Charissa Varma
- 9pm Robin & Kylie's Wedding and Disco! Everyone welcome.

Filk is at 10pm in Armstrong, Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Launches (in the Syndicate Rooms)

Friday

- 3pm Suzie Gray, E-Tabula Rasa
- 5pm David Cartwright, Camelot 2050
- 5pm NewCon Book Launch, in Tershkova
- 7pm David Wake, Atcode

Saturday

1pmStephen Oram, Biohacked and Begging and Other Stories3pmNoel Chidwick, Shoreline of Infinity:
Arthur Chappell: Watch The Signs! Watch The Signs!
Gavin Miller & Anna McFarlane: A Practical Guide To The Resurrected5pmPeter Buck, Elsewhen Press7pmThomas McCaughley, Silicon Burning: Singularity Rising
Volume 1

Sunday

3pmRose McAuley, What Not: A prophetic Comedy, Handheld Press3.15pmTor Launch, in Tereshkova

Workshops

Please sign up at the info desk. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis.

Accessibility

To help members feel comfortable and get the support and assistance that that they need, the convention has produced a range of different badges, available from the Info Desk.



There are badges to inform people that you need help or consideration due to various kinds of visible and invisible disabilities, badges to request that you not be photographed, and badges that indicate your preferred pronouns. There are also blank badges available, in case the pre-made ones don't cover your circumstances.

There are also a series of badges that show how happy you are for people to strike up conversations with you. A red badge signifies "I don't want people to talk to me", yellow "I'm happy for you to talk to me if you already know me", and green "I'm happy for anyone to talk to me". Please look out for these badges and respect the intentions of the wearer.

It is entirely your choice whether or not you wear one or more of these. Equally, no one's ability/disability, desire for conversation or photography, or choice of pronoun should be challenged in the absence of a badge.

Please avoid bringing **nuts** into the public spaces of the convention (your own room is fine). Be aware that nut allergy is one of the most serious allergies and if you have been eating nuts, make sure you have washed your hands and face afterwards (in the most extreme cases, even this level of contact can cause a reaction).

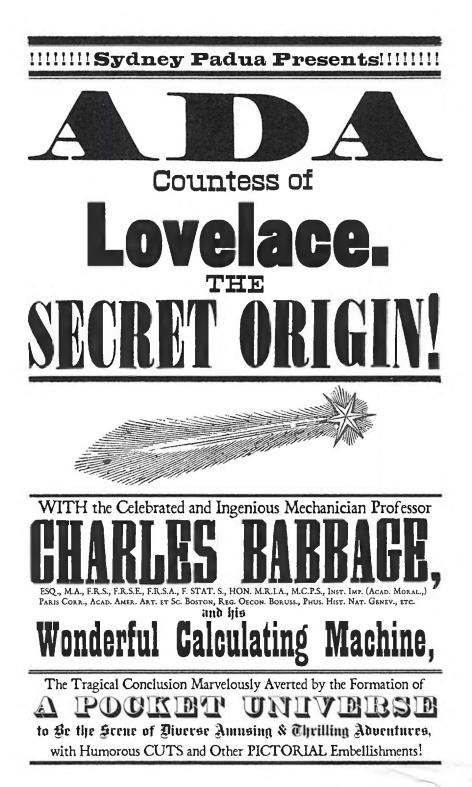
All areas of the convention except the cloakroom have step-free access and the hotel wall signs have Braille. Sadly, induction loops are not available for the hearing impaired.

If you have any other Access queries or needs, please speak to the Info Desk.

Quiet and Reserved Space

Ytterbium has a Quiet Room in Syndicate Room 21. It will be open from 8am to Midnight. Please be respectful and accommodating to other users of the room, who may be there for different reasons to your own.

This is a very small hotel for the size of the convention and we have been unable to create a reserved social space. However we do have a small meeting room available. If you would like to set up a small group meeting of some kind please speak to the Info Desk who will find you some time in that room.











The first real computers weren't made until almost a hundred years later.



The Hotel

The hotel's check-out time is noon. The hotel can store residents' luggage: please ask at hotel reception. The cloakroom for day attendees is at the far end of the Syndicate corridor. It is not wheelchair accessible but if you ask at Info Desk then assistance will be provided.

If you would like to put up posters, please attach them to doors, mirrors or glass (not to the walls) and use white tack or equivalent.

Parking in the hotel car park is free for all hotel residents. For non-residents, parking charges are capped at £5 per day.

Convention members are welcome to use the Pace health club at the hotel, including the gym and swimming pool. Opening hours are 6am-10pm, except on Friday and Monday when they are 8am-8pm. Please note that non-convention members may also be using the facilities.

The Syndicate Room corridor, leading between the Orbiter and the Aviator convention spaces, can get very congested. We would ask all convention members to be mindful of this and to do their best to keep traffic moving (and also to be patient with others who may not be able to move quickly). A refusal to move in this area when asked to by a volunteer or member of staff will be considered an infraction of the code of conduct.

Pharmacies

- Village Pharmacy 218 High Street, Hayes, UB3 5DS (closest)
- Dunn's Pharmacy (Alphega Pharmacy) 740 Bath Road, Hounslow TW5 9TY
 If you need a doctor, please contact the hotel reception.

Taxis

Convenience Store

Parker car service (020 8560 0000, http://parkercarservice.co.uk) or ask reception. Sovereign Food and Wine (Wheelchair accessible) – Convenience Store – 625 Sipson Road, West Drayton, UB7 OJE

Questions and Problems

If you have any questions, problems or concerns during Ytterbium, your first port of call should be the Info Desk, at Registration. When the Info Desk is closed, go to the Operations Room, known as Ops, which is at the end of the Syndicate Corridor and open from 8am to Midnight.

Ops is also the place to go about lost or found items.

At all times, one of the committee will be acting as Duty Committee Member (DCM): look for the green vest. The DCM will do their best to deal with any problems that Ops cannot. Other committee members will be wearing red vests, but please remember that they are very busy and may refer you to the DCM if they are already dealing with another matter. An on-duty number will be distributed in the newsletter.

If you encounter a problem, please speak with a person first if you can. The convention staff will be very busy this weekend, and a face-to-face report will be responded to faster than a social media report.

One great way to let us know about non-urgent problems is by coming along to the Feedback Sessions (see Programme).

Please take incident reports to **Ops or Registration**: contact them as soon as you can if a situation arises. If the matter you'd like to discuss is serious or confidential, please ask your first line of contact to call one of our Safeguarding team who can either take your report, or sit in with you while you talk to the Chairs as you choose. If you are under 18 we have DBS-checked members of the Safeguarding team for you to talk with.

If a complaint is received about a committee member that cannot be resolved on the ground it will be referred to an Ombudsman team made up of representatives from previous convention committees.

In an emergency, call 999 and then tell the hotel, so that they can direct the paramedics. If you require non-urgent medical assistance, please contact the hotel who have an on-call doctor available.

If you report a serious criminal matter, please be aware that we may be obliged to contact the police. We would, however, take into account any concerns you may have around involving them. We will consult you before any action is taken. NEW MAPS



more uncollected **JOHN SLADEK**

New Maps: More Uncollected John Sladek edited by David Langford. First published in April 2019 by Ansible Editions. Trade paperback (255pp, ISBN 978-0-244-15877-4) \$20.00 plus UK or US postage; ebook £5.50. To order online, see ac.ansible.uk.

What Has Gone Before: The critically acclaimed Maps: The Uncollected John Sladek (Big Engine, 2002) brought together many stories and bits of unclassifable weirdness that had never appeared in book form when this brilliant satirical SI author died too young in 2009. Since 2002, more stories have come to light and these all appear in New Maps. But the main focus of this collection is on John Sladek's witty nonfiction: essays, book and film reviews, bizarre squibs and flights of fancy. For the full contents fist see: https://ae.ansible.uk/?t=newmaps-cont.

"Sladek, an American who spent most of his writing life in Britain, was the finest satirist ever to grace the SE field with his presence." (Andrew J. Wilson on Maps in The Scotsman, 2002)

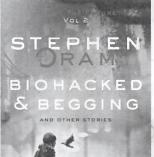
David Langford of Ansible Editions has a limited number of copies of *New Maps: More Uncollected John Sladek* for sale at Ytterbium, but failed to arrange a dealers'-room table (all gone by the time the book was finalized). Stop him and buy one! The special Eastercon-weekend price is £15.

STEPHEN ORAM BIOHACKED & BEGGING AND OTHER STORIES

The new collection in the acclaimed NUDGE THE FUTURE series of near-future sci-fi tales

"Enter Stephen Oram: With Bradbury's clear-sightedness and Pangborn's wit." Simon ings, New Scientist

"Oram sees what few other SF writers see – the perversity of our everyday relationships with new technologies – and thrusts that vision five minutes into the future." Dan O'Hara, Editor of Extreme Metaphors: Selected interviews with J. G. Ballard, 1967 – 2008





The future is ours and it is up for grabs...

Immerse yourself in the future of biohacking and implants, genetic modification, blockchain micro-transactions and futuristic dating-apps with author of Ealing Robots, Stephen Oram.

Prodding and poking the possible in volume 2 of Nudge the Future, Oram starts with another flash fiction foray into the world of Unified Sentience and ends with virtual reality for babies and biohacked fish.

With sharpness and wit, these sci-fi shorts will grab your imagination and refuse to let go.

The Many Things to Vote For!

When you register at the convention, you will receive an envelope containing Hall Costume Tokens and ballot forms for BSFA Awards. Doc Weir Award ballot forms are available at registration/information desk.

The Doc Weir Award celebrates the unsung heroes in fandom, those who do the work behind the scenes every year. Please vote for your chosen candidate by filling in the form and putting it in the box at Info Desk by 10:30am on Monday. The winner will be announced in the Closing Ceremony. If you requested a copy of the booklet about past winners of the award, please check the Newsletter to find out how to get a copy, or read it at <u>efanzines.com/DocWeir/history.htm</u>.

The BSFA Awards are voted on by members of the British Science Fiction Association and of the Eastercon. You can vote by filling in the form and leaving it in the box on the BSFA Dealers' Room table by noon on Saturday. The winners will be announced on Saturday at 6:00pm in the BSFA Awards Ceremony.

Hall Costume Tokens should be given to people whose outfits impress you. Costumers who receive tokens should take them to Info Desk by 10:30am on Monday and follow the instructions there. The costumer with the most tokens will be suitably rewarded during the Closing Ceremony.

The current Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund and Going Under Fan Fund races, which send fans between Europe and North America / the Antipodes, will close shortly after the end of Ytterbium. You can cast your vote at the Info Desk or online.

Food and Drink

Food is available in the hotel's restaurant, RBG; in the lounge café near the registration desk; and 24 hours a day in the "Costa Express" alcove next to the health centre. Alcohol is available in the restaurant, the lounge and the convention bar.

We have made arrangements with the hotel that there will always be vegetarian and vegan meals available, as well as options that are dairy- and gluten-free. The hotel will make provision for other dietary requirements on request.

There will be sandwiches and baked potatoes available at pop up stations.

Convention Bar

The convention bar is in the Discovery room. As well as offering a full bar service, it also sells a selection of real ale, cider and perry. It will be open until 2am, depending on demand.

Area Eateries

BJ's Sandwich Bar (WA, Ve) - 356 Bath Road, West Drayton, UB7 ODE
Heathrow Fish And Chips Best Kebab (WA, V, GF) - 358 Bath Road, West Drayton, UB7 ODE
Holiday Inn Hotel - 276 Bath Road, West Drayton, UB7 ODQ

Hi! Pizza (V, VE, GF) & Sports Bar

Hot Spot Fish Bar - 308-310 High Street, Hayes UB3 5DU
Ibis Hotel (V, Ve, GF) - Pub Food - 112 Bath Road, Hayes, UB3 5AL
II Basilico (WA, V) - Pizza/Pasta - 627-629 Sipson Road, West Drayton, UB7 OJE
Madeirinhas (V) - Portuguese - 47 Sipson Way, West Drayton, UB7 ODW
Marriott Hotel: Carluccios (WA, V, Ve, GF) - Italian - 234 Bath Rd, Hayes, UB3 5AN
McDonald's (WA, V, Ve, GF) - 15 Mondial Way, Hayes, UB3 5AR
Novotel (WA, V, GF) - Cherry Lane, West Drayton, UB7 9HJ
Radisson Hotel - 140 Bath Rd, Hayes, UB3 5AW

- Bijou Lounge Bar (WA, GF) gastropub
- Annayu (V, VE, GF) curry
- Steak and Lobster (WA, V, GF)

Renaissance Hotel – Bath Rd, Hounslow, TW6 2AQ

- Bar Eleven (WA, V, Ve, GF) pub food
- Cafe Cha (WA, V, Ve, GF) Starbucks
- Market Garden (WA, V, GF) gastropub

Sheraton Skyline Hotel - Bath Rd, Hayes, UB3 5BP

- Madhu's (V, VE, GF) curry
- Sports Bar (V, VE, GF) pub food
- Starbucks (WA, V, Ve, GF)

We have listed area eateries with a guide to accessibility and dietary options. We recommend you ring to double check any access or dietary requirements.

WA	Wheelchair accessible
V	Vegetarian
Ve	Vegan
GE	Gluten-free

Swans Chinese Restaurant (V) – Takeaway – 292 High Street, Hayes, UB3 5DU The Harlington Tandoori (V, Ve, GF) – 316-318 High St, Hayes, UB3 5DU The Pheasant Inn & Restaurant (WA, V, Ve, GF) – Gastropub – 98 West End Lane, Hayes, UB3 5LX Three Magpies (V, VE, GF) – Pub food – Bath Road, Hounslow, TW6 2AU Zayani Indian Restaurant (V, Ve, GF) – 393-395 Sipson Road, West Drayton, UB7 0HU

Creche

Children

Friday

Session 5: 1350-1450 Session 6: 1450-1620 Session 7: 1620-1735 Session 8: 1735-1850

Saturday and Sunday

Session 1: 0850-1005 Session 2: 1005-1120 Session 3: 1120-1235 (Lunch) Session 5: 1350-1505 Session 6: 1505-1620 Session 7: 1620-1735 Session 8: 1735-1850

Monday

Session 1: 0850-1005 Session 2: 1005-1120 Session 3: 1120-1235 (Lunch) Session 5: 1350-1505 Children under 5 must be registered as infants with their caregiver indicated on their badge

Children 5-12 must be registered members and should be accompanied by a responsible guardian unless attending a children's event and with the agreement of the host.

Members 12-18 may move around the convention and can participate in items appropriate to their age. We welcome 12-18s volunteering but be aware that Ops and some other areas reserve the right to decline your service on the grounds of age-related Health and Safety concerns.

Stairwell Books // Science Fiction and Fantasy Dystopian fiction, science fiction and fantasy, young adult and stories to make you think You will definitely enjoy:



ind us on our stand and don't forget your ribbon www.stærwellbooks.co.uk

Courtesy

• Please respect people's pronoun choices (some may wear a badge, some won't, but all requests should be acceded to).

• Note if someone is wearing an access badge and act accordingly. Do not assume that the absence of a badge means that someone does not have access needs.

• Ask before taking photographs or recordings of members and attendees whenever possible. Respect "no photography" badges. Anyone who persists in filming/recording/photographing Ytterbium members who have denied their consent will be expelled from the convention.

Membership badges must be worn at all times: people without membership badges will be refused entrance to convention space. If you lose your membership badge, please speak to Registration or, if Registration is closed, to Ops; a fee may be charged for replacement.



Liz Zitzow E.A.

I'm a fan and I'm here. Talking at a con is free. Look for my badge.

You're here. At Eastercon. In London. Chances are, you've travelled from far away. You've got royalties from Ghu only knows how many different countries. Or maybe you've got a consulting job in one country and live in a different one. Or maybe you're keen on getting the Irish tax break on royalties. I know you came here to have fun, not think about your taxes...

Helping people with international tax issues is what I do all day.

Let me help you too.

+44 (0)7905 218 254 LizZ@BritishAmericanTax.com

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SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY TIME TRAVEL, SPACE OPERA, MAGICAL REALISM, DYSTOPIAN FUTURE, ACTION & ADVENTURE, ALTERNATIVE HISTORY, HORROR, PARANORMAL



COME AND CHECK OUT OUR RECENT TITLES

Come to the Elsewhen Press room at Ytterbium Books. Authors. Artwork. Not to mention other stuff...

Join us for drinks and reading at our book launch on Saturday 5:15pm

https://elsewhen.press

Code of Conduct

Ytterbium aims to be a safe place for the enjoyment of all of our members. Please be aware of this code of conduct when interacting with others at the convention.

You may be asked to leave if you commit any action or behaviour that:

- is illegal, or
- has been raised with you at previous conventions, or
- causes significant interference with convention operations or excessive discomfort to other attendees, or
- adversely affects Ytterbium's relationship with its guests, its venue, or the public.
- This includes social media activity.

The full codes of conduct are here:

https://www.ytterbium.org.uk/about/convention-policies/

Being unaware of these documents will not be accepted as a justification in the event of an incident.

The committee reserves the right to take such actions as it feels appropriate where any individual or group is found to have breached the convention's Code of Conduct. These actions may include but are not limited to:

- talking with all parties involved and attempting to mediate a solution
- issuing verbal warnings
- revoking memberships and requiring that the person(s) leave the event
- · involving hotel or facility staff, security or police

Although we consider our members and attendees to be sensible and responsible people, we recognise that issues related to this Code may still arise.

We will deal with any issues as promptly, efficiently, and fairly as possible, maintaining confidentiality at all times.

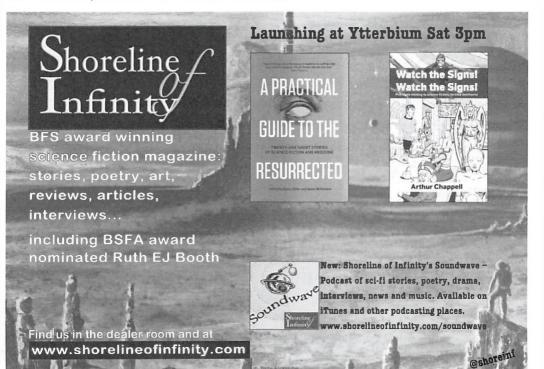
The standard of judgement in these matters is the "reasonable person" standard as applied by the designated committee members. Attempts to "rules lawyer" the Code of Conduct will be seen as a sign of bad faith.

This convention respects the rights of people to self identify their gender. Please respect people's choice of toilets, challenging is a breach of the code of conduct.

Weapons Policy

No actual weapon, or any item that can be mistaken for one, may be carried either openly or concealed at any time on properties being used for Ytterbium. The only exceptions to this rule is where a weapon is part of a costume, in which case the weapon must be taken to Ops in advance to be approved and "peace bonded" unless it is very obviously a toy.

Any item that is used in a threatening or harmful manner may be confiscated and the carrier may be asked to leave the convention.



Automated Customer Service

by John Scalzi

Thank you for calling the customer service line of Vacuubot, purveyors of America's finest automated vacuum cleaners! In order to more efficiently handle call volume, we rely on automated responses. To continue in English, press one. Para Espanol o prima dos.

Let's continue in English. Which Vacuubot product are you calling about? For the Vacuubot S10 model, press one. For the Vacuubot XL model, press two. For the Vacuubot Extreme Clean model, press three.

Congratulations on owning the Vacuubot Extreme Clean Model, America's most thorough and comprehensive automated vacuum cleaning solution! If you need to order additional components for the Extreme Clean, press one. If you have a repair query, press two. For all other questions, press three.

You have additional questions. If you need help connecting the Vacuubot Extreme Clean to your home network, press one. If the Vacuubot Extreme Clean is conflicting with other automated home machines, press two. If the Vacuubot Extreme Clean has decided to purge your house of all living things, press three.

Congratulations on activating purge mode! While purge mode was designed to eradicate small pests like insects and spiders, in some models a beta software build was inadvertently released that also includes larger targets, like pets and some humans. We're sorry for the inconvenience. To continue, please press one. Be aware that by pressing one, you are absolving Vacuubot and its owner, BeiberHoldings, Inc, of all legal and medical responsibility.

You pressed "O" to speak to a human representative. The current wait time for a human representative is six hours and fourteen minutes. To return to the automated response system, press one.

Welcome back to the automated response system. First things first: Have you tried turning the Vacuubot Extreme Clean off and on again? Press one for yes, two for no.

You said no. Is that because the Vacuubot Extreme Clean is currently exhibiting the Taser Defense Mode, making it impossible to approach without having 50,000 volts of electricity course through your body? Press one for yes, two for no.

We apologize for the Taser Defense Mode. It was originally designed to zap small insects, but our subcontractor misread the manufacturer specifications. Fortunately, the Defense mode can be distracted by throwing something at the Vacuubot Extreme Clean, like a heavy blanket or a pet. If you have a heavy blanket, press one. If you have a pet, press two.

The automated system has detected that you are using high levels of profanity right now. While the automated system is in fact automated and doesn't care what you yell at it, your bad attitude is being noted for if and when you are put in contact with a human representative. When you have calmed your sassy boots down a bit, press one.

That's better. Now, let's talk about pets. If you have a cat, press one. If you have a dog, press two.

You have a cat! Excellent. Now, all you have to do is toss the cat at the Vacuubot Extreme Clean, and while it's busy zapping the cat, you rush in and turn it off. If you're willing to do this, press one. If not, press two.

What do you mean you're not willing to electrocute your cat? It's a cat! It would do the same to you in an instant! Look into its cold, pitiless eyes and tell me it wouldn't! Press one for obvious agreement, press two if you've been duped by this feral interloper in your own home.

UGH, FINE. Then we'll just have to go with a heavy blanket. Do you have one of those, at least? One for yes, two for no.

Good, you have basic home decor. Now, the plan here is, throw the blanket over the Vacuubot Extreme Clean, and while it is struggling, trying to get the blanket off of it, you run over and turn if off, making sure not to touch the actual Vacuubot, because it will just zap the crap out of you. Press one when you're about to throw the blanket.

Did it work? One for yes, two for no.

We're sorry to hear it did not work. Just out of curiosity, did it not work because the Vacuubot Extreme Clean vaporized it with previously unannounced lasers? One for yes, two for no.

We apologize for the lasers. The Vacuubot Extreme Clean is meant to have onboard LIDAR to help navigate the room more intelligently, but we got a really good deal on some surplus military lasers. On the other hand, it's probably a good thing you didn't throw the cat after all.

See, now, you're just shouting a lot of profanity again. Just press one when you're done.

Also, stop pressing zero for a human representative. We're not exposing our very fine customer service people to you. Not with that attitude. Just press one.

Are you trying to wait us out? We're an automated response service! We have nothing but time! Press one. Or don't. We can wait. FOREVER.

Thank you for pausing your hissy fit. We regret to inform you that because you have attacked your Vacuubot Extreme Clean with a blanket, it has likely now classified you as an - 29 -

enemy forever and burned that classification into its permanent memory. It has also probably now targeted your cat. In scenarios such as this, your Vacuubot Extreme Clean will classify any area it's cleaned as its personal territory. Has this Vacuubot Extreme Clean cleaned your entire home? Press one for yes, two for no.

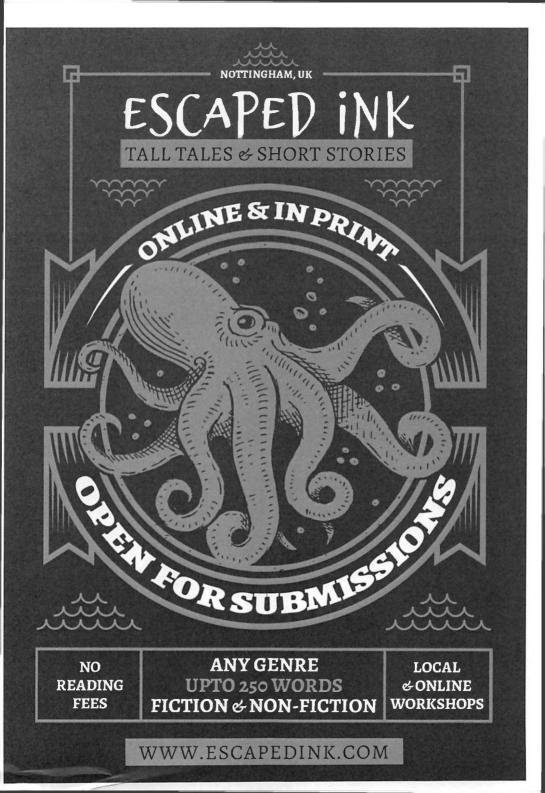
Ahhhhh, well, it's the Vacuubot's house now. We suggest you grab the cat and run. Seriously, run, those lasers have probably recharged by now. Run and don't look back, the Vacuubot senses fear! Press one when you have reached minimum safe distance from the Vacuubot's lair.

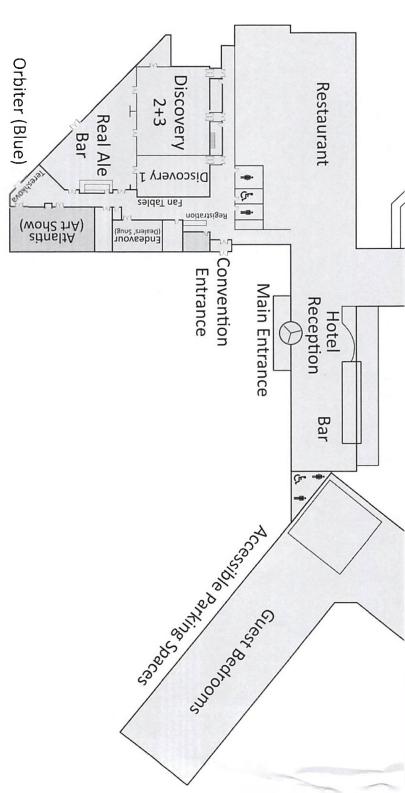
Congratulations, you've escaped the unstoppable killing machine that is the Vacuubot Extreme Clean. Unfortunately you can't stop now. The Vacuubot Extreme Clean has forwarded information about you to all the other Vacuubots, all of whom will now hunt you, ceaselessly, until you have been cleaned from the surface of the planet. This is your life now, to wander, never a moment's rest, until even your cat deserts you and you are left alone to contemplate the barren wasteland that is now your existence.

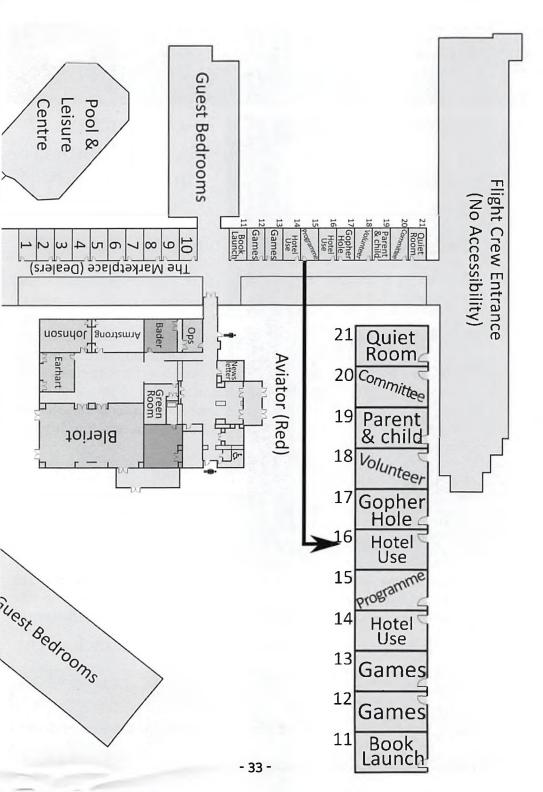
Unless, of course, you would like to purchase a place on the exclusive Vacuubot termination whitelist! Just \$69.95 a month! Press one for a special introductory rate!

Thank you for your purchase. We'll connect you to a human representative now!

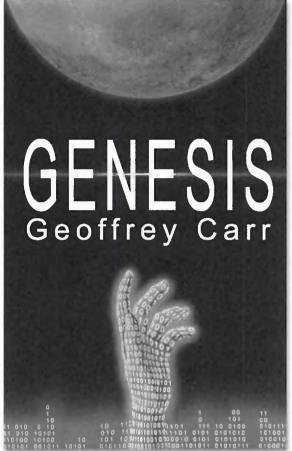












A conjunction of Al, the Cloud, & interplanetary ambition...

Deep in the Cloud, something collates, reads, learns, watches, plans. Researchers, engineers and entrepreneurs die in accidents; Agency analysts spot a pattern but struggle to find the culprit. A multi-billionaire inventor is working hard to realise his dream, and keep it hidden. Deep in the Cloud something is watching him, too; and it plans.

> What could possibly go wrong?

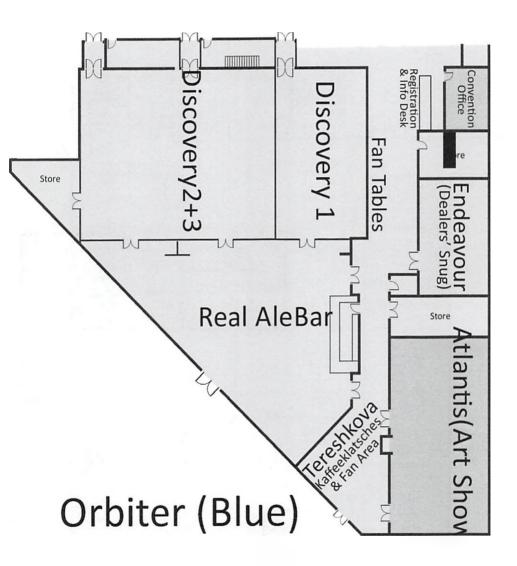
Geoffrey Carr is the Science and Technology Editor of *The Economist*. His professional interests include evolutionary biology, genetic engineering, the development of new energy technologies, and planetology. *Genesis* is his first novel.

Geoff will be reading from Genesis at our launch event

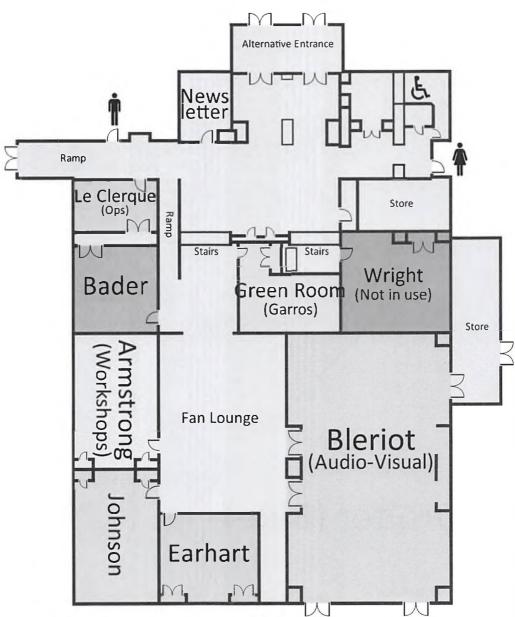
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Join us for drinks and reading at our book launch on Saturday 5:15pm

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Aviator (Red)



The Doc Weir Award

Dr Arthur Rose Weir was born in 1906 and discovered fandom in 1958, when he joined the Cheltenham Circle. He was member number 49 of the BSFA, for which he acted as Secretary as well as writing for Vector, its critical journal. He died on 4 March 1961 at the age of 55.

He was a very popular fan, and a collection taken after his death raised £14, which was eventually used to buy a silver cup be presented annually to 'the person (fan) voted the person one would most like to see win the said Award'.

Since then, the Doc Weir Award has been presented every year except 1982, 1983, 1986 and 1988. Winners' names were added first to the base of the cup and then, when that filled up, to plaques on the box itself.

Each year, members of the Eastercon vote for the person who they think is most deserving of the award, generally somebody who has made a significant contribution to fandom which has largely gone unrecognised, one of the unsung heroes if you like.

If you'd like to vote for this year's winner, please get a ballot paper from the Info Desk, fill it out, and put it into the box there before 10:30am on Monday.

This year, a booklet has been produced giving brief biographies of the past winners, both famous and not. If you would like a copy, check the Newsletter for details of how to get one.

It's also available online, at efanzines.com/DocWeir/history.htm.



Fri 10 to Mon 13 April 2020

Birmingham Hilton Metropole Hotel

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