



Welcome to the Conversation 2023 Factsheet!

Conversation will be the 74th UK National Science Fiction Convention, or Eastercon. It will be held at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole from 7 to 10 April 2023.

This is a short update on the convention at the end of January – an ‘in case you missed it’ summary of what we’ve been doing and what’s coming up – and we’re intending to do this again once more before Easter. Those of you

who use these channels might already have seen the information on our website (<https://www.conversation2023.org.uk/>), our Facebook page (<facebook.com/conversation2023>), or our Twitter account ([@eastercon2023](https://twitter.com/eastercon2023)), and will be able to find more news and updates there.

We’ve set out a number of our contact email addresses here, with a full list on the [website](#), but if you haven’t got access to email you can write to us at the postal address at the end.

What to expect at Conversation: The Eastercon this year will be as hybrid as we can make it, enabling members on site and online to take part and interact with one another.

As well as all the activities you’d expect in the hotel (programme, art show, dealers’ room, games room, social spaces and so on), we’ll be streaming most of the programme to online members, having some online programme participants streaming in, and making the recordings available for catch-up later. We’ll also have a Discord server open to all members from some weeks before the con, an online art show, and we hope some specifically online social activities too.

The programme will of course feature our Guests of Honour and include a focus on their work and interests; there will also be keynote lectures sponsored by the SF Foundation and the BSFA, panels and talks and workshops, presentation of the BSFA Awards, book launches, films, auctions, and evening entertainments including live events provided by the Glasgow 2024 Worldcon.

Guests of Honour: On which point, our wonderful guests for 2023 are Zen Cho, Niall Harrison, Jennell Jaquays (online), Kari Sperring, Adrian Tchaikovsky, and Ursula Vernon AKA T Kingfisher (online).

Hotel bookings and access: You can still book a room at the Hilton at convention rates using the instructions we originally emailed. If you no longer have access to that please contact membership@conversation2023.org.uk for help.

Please read the instructions carefully, as the booking site can be confusing. The link is safe, but seems occasionally to throw a security error; please let us know if you have any difficulties.

Rooms booked with the convention code include breakfast and taxes and are cancellable in advance. This is a large hotel which can accommodate all expected members, but there are other hotels nearby.

The Hilton is a modern building and all the function rooms and facilities are accessible. We are working closely with the hotel to make the convention as accessible and enjoyable as possible for everyone; our access audit of the hotel and our access policy are on the convention website.

If you require an accessible room then please contact access@conversation2023.org.uk by 20 March if you haven’t already done so. All accessible rooms have walk-in showers except as noted.

We intend to have programme items each day suitable for families, and are exploring relevant childcare options for younger children attending on site. If you plan to bring children under 12, please contact access@conversation2023.org.uk by 12 February so that we can understand interest in childcare provision.

Programme: The programme is now well under way with the initial schedule outlined, so we will be contacting potential participants before too long. If you’ve contacted us about taking part or a programme idea, we’ve got your details; otherwise, please get in touch as soon as possible via programme@conversation2023.org.uk

Dealers' room and art show: The onsite art show is now full and work on the online art show is also well under way. We've almost reached onsite capacity for dealers' and fan tables as well, although we're looking into ways for online members (and onsite dealers) to have a channel on the convention Discord. Please contact art@conversation2023.org.uk or dealers@conversation2023.org.uk respectively if you've got any questions.

Volunteering: All Eastercons rely on volunteers to make them enjoyable for everyone, both in the planning stages and at the convention itself. If you'd like to help out with Conversation, either on site or online, please contact volunteers@conversation2023.org.uk – including if you already offered but haven't heard from us. There'll be a form on the website soon to help you to offer to help us. Thanks to all who've already volunteered!

Bursary scheme: Conversation has a participation scheme (bursary) to assist fans who would otherwise be unable to attend, whether on site or online. We're currently sending out decisions from the second round of applications. We regret we're not considering new applications at the moment, but there will be a third round in March if funds permit; extra contributions are very welcome. Guidance is available at: <https://www.conversation2023.org.uk/policies/eastercon-2023-bursary/>

How to join Conversation 2023: If you or your friends aren't already members of the convention, people can join via the website at <https://registration.conversation2023.org.uk/> or by emailing membership@conversation2023.org.uk (or writing to the postal address below). You can also check your membership status at <https://registration.conversation2023.org.uk/members/check> or by contacting us at those addresses.

We expect that it will still be possible to join on the day (although to help get everything set up for online members in particular we'd love people to sign up in advance!) with one-day onsite memberships available too. We'll be able to provide more details nearer the time.

Our rates until 5 February are:

Attending – adult full: £80; adult low income: £45; teenager (aged 13-17): £20

Online/supporting – adult: £40; teenager: £10

Child (aged 5-12) attending: £5

Infant (aged 0-4) attending: 0

Ages are as at 7 April 2023.

From 6 February adult full attending rates will rise to £90; other rates will remain unchanged for now.

What's next: There will be a lot more information available soon, including: details of the programme; our streaming and catch-up platforms and the con Discord server; particular volunteer help that we need from online and onsite members; food and drinks; convention policies (including our Code of Conduct, Covid-19 policy and sustainability policy) as we confirm the details; day memberships; merchandise, and more. So follow us online where you can, and we'll send another round-up in March.

Future Eastercons: Next year's Eastercon will be Levitation 2024 (at the Telford International Centre and online): see <https://eastercon2024.co.uk/>

The bid session for 2025 will be on Sunday. We know of a bid to bring the Eastercon to Belfast; this is aiming to announce formally soon, with final negotiations, contracts and finance being put in place to bid for the ICC Belfast and Hilton Belfast (site of the 2019 Eurocon). Any other bids should contact chair@conversation2023.org.uk

Getting in touch: Contact details for membership, access, programme, other volunteering, dealers' room and art show are included in the relevant sections above. There's a list of all our contact email addresses on our website, or you can email info@conversation2023.org.uk if you're not sure who's best placed to answer your query. You can find a list of our committee and staff (all volunteers!) on the website too, at <https://www.conversation2023.org.uk/committee-and-staff/>.

If you prefer to contact us by post, write to: Conversation 2023, 37 Coventry Road, Ilford, IG1 4QR, UK.