Welcome to Conversation 2023's factsheet 3

Conversation is 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 our final summary of what we've been doing and what's coming up. Those of you who use these channels might already have seen this information at http://conversation2023.org.uk, on our Facebook or Twitter pages, or on our Tumblr, 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 at https://www.conversation2023.org.uk/contact/, but if you haven't got access to email you can write to us at the postal address at the end.

CONVERSATION

EASTERCON 2023
7-10 April 2023

Advance onsite memberships closing
You will no longer be able to buy full or day onsite memberships online after 31 March. You will still be able to buy online/supporting memberships online, and full and day onsite memberships will be available on the door from Friday 7 April. Join at https://registration.conversation2023.org.uk .

Hotel
Our cancellation policy is three days; the hotel may have told you 28 days. We'd recommend that you take a covid test in good time to cancel your hotel room if it's positive. Our reserved block has now been released, but some rooms remain available through online booking sites in the Hilton and other nearby hotels.

Arriving at the con
If you are driving, please car share where possible. There is ample parking at the hotel, which is £10/night for residents; pay at the hotel rather than using the machines. Non-residents should use the machines.
If you are coming by train, the hotel is close to Birmingham International station, and the fastest walking route is https://www.conversation2023.org.uk/getting-to-the-hotel/
Con registration will be close to the hotel's Monarch entrance. Close to that will be our ops hub in the Warwick suite, where you will sign up for things and get help with things.

Online convention
Our programme guide is on ConClár at https://guide.conversation2023.org.uk . You will access programme items by logging in on the registration site and following the links there to each room. We will email you with full details next week.
Our convention Discord is up and running, and you should have had an email with the access link. Discord will be the best way to chat with other con members online, and catch up with programme items you miss.
We will have paper copies of the programme guide available and can let you have one in pdf format if our online tools don't work for you; this will be less accurate than online guides due to last minute changes.
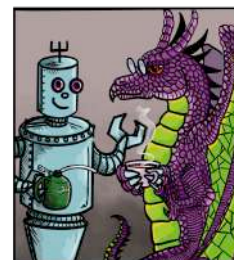
Convention Policies
Please make sure you're familiar with them, particularly our code of conduct, which you'll need to accept to participate in the con. Our Covid policy asks you to test before coming to the convention, to not come if you test positive or have symptoms of an active infectious disease, and to wear a mask in programme items and crowded areas. Our access policy lets you know what we are doing to make the convention as accessible as possible to as many people as possible. The policies are at https://conversation2023.org.uk/policies/ and paper copies will be available at the convention.

Help at the con
We still need more volunteers, both in person and online. Please let us know in Discord in advance or at the ops hub at the con if you're available to help, even just for a little while; we'll aim to match you to suitable roles. Please also let us know if you're a qualified first aider (with an up-

to-date certificate, which you should bring a copy of). If you need help before the convention or online, ask in the #help-desk channel on Discord; unless you need help with accessing Discord, in which case email us at comms@conversation2023.org.uk. If you need help at the onsite convention, please ask in the ops hub.

Programme
The convention formally opens at 3pm on Friday, but the programme starts at noon, including some items that feature our Guests of Honour. It closes at 4pm on Monday. Highlights include:

Interviews, panels, launches and some surprises featuring our Guests of Honour: **Zen Cho**, **Niall Harrison**, **Jennell Jaquays**, **Kari Sperring, Adrian Tchaikovsky** and **Ursula Vernon**.
The Glasgow in 2024 Ceilidh: get your dance on
John Robertson's **The Dark Room**
Prison Biscuit, with Donna Scott and Ewan Kershaw
Our Debut Author Spotlight, with Lucy McLaren, A.Y. Chao and M V Melcer (Mel).
Book Launches including ones for Guests of Honour **Kari Sperring** and **Niall Harrison**
We Look Amazing: A perfect place to show off your cosplay and finery of all kinds. If you've ever thought 'But when would I wear it?' Well, this is the time. Though of course you're welcome to look amazing at all the other times as well.
Some items require sign-up in advance due to limitations on materials or numbers, including ballots to be part of small table talks (onsite and online) with our Guests of Honour. The signup link is https://www.conversation2023.org.uk/sign-up . If you are a programme participant you should have had email about all of your items; please check and make sure you have confirmed.

A reminder that you'll want to bring some or all of:
Some warm clothes because we hope to turn ventilation way up
Your outfit for We Look Amazing
Dancing shoes for the ceilidh
Running gear for parkrun
A swimming costume if you're staying in the hotel and want to use the pool
A reusable water bottle and/or hot drinks flask
Face masks and lateral flow tests
Power bank and all the leads
Craft projects to enjoy and show off in our crafting space
Tote bags for the dealers' room (bring one to use, one to add to our spares)
Lanyards (with release) if you've got them (one to use, one to add to our spares)
Tablet or laptop to watch the convention online if you need to isolate or just want to chill (use 4/5g if you can to avoid stress on the WiFi)
A note of the details you joined with so we can find you.

Food and drink at the con
We'll have plenty of food and drink, including real ale, on site. There are a dozen or so restaurants within a short walk of the convention. Look out for restaurant tips in the convention newsletter.

Souvenir book
We'll have one, but it will be later this summer. Please take photos, tell us stories, and create things to remind you and all of us of the con, and send them to us at pubs@conversation2023.org.uk.

Getting in touch

There's a list of all our contact email addresses on our website at https://www.conversation2023.org.uk/contact/ , 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 other pre-con volunteers on the website too. If you prefer post, write to: Conversation 2023, 37 Coventry Road, Ilford, IG1 4QR, UK.