



# The Daily Discourse



Issue 4

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Sunday Lunchtime

Conversation: the 2023 UK National Science Fiction Convention

## 2025 Eastercon Announced

The 2025 Eastercon will be Reconnect in Belfast. Their Guests of Honour will be **Lauren Beukes, Derek Landy, Rebecca Roanhorse, Jeanette Ng, William Simpson** and special Bar Guest of Honour **Ian McDonald**. This will be the first time the Eastercon has been to Ireland and we're all very excited. Congratulations to James Bacon, Tommy Ferguson, Jo Zebedee and all the team.

Join now for the early bird rate of £60 at [registration.easterconbelfast.org](http://registration.easterconbelfast.org)

Commiseration to Catastrophe; we'll just have to wait for another year to have an Eastercon featuring baby space leopards and build-your-own beds.

## BSFA Awards

Congratulations to the BSFA Award winners:

**Novel:** *City of Last Chances*  
Adrian Tchaikovsky

**Short Fiction:** "Of Charms, Ghosts and Grievances"  
Aliette de Bodard

**Artwork:** Cover of *The Red Scholar's Wake*  
Alyssa Wynans

**Non-Fiction:** *Terry Pratchett: A Life with Footnotes*  
Rob Wilkins

**Best Book for Younger Readers:** *Unraveller*  
Frances Hardinge

## Sunday Highlights

6pm: BSFA lecture, given by Dr Penny Goodman, Queens

9pm: Performance by comedy duo Prison Biscuit, Pavilion

At 7:30pm, in an addition to our published programme, GoH Kari Sperring will be joining the PG/12A rated fantasy readings in Balmoral.

## Queueing Theory

The food truck queues aren't as long as they look. If you're waiting in a food queue, why not start a conversation with the people around you? Ask them what they've enjoyed so far this weekend and what they're looking forward to.

## Accessing Virtual Programme

We're still getting reports that some of you haven't managed to log into our streams. The full instructions are at:

[conversation2023.org.uk/virtual-programme/](http://conversation2023.org.uk/virtual-programme/)

You need to log in with the email you used to join the

convention. If after you've followed the instructions you're still having trouble, we are helping in the #help-desk channel in the Discord, or ask at the ops hub.

## Catching up with Catch Up

We're sorry we haven't got the catch up video running yet; tech's been a bit busy running all those lovely streams. We're expecting to have catch up working later today. We're getting a lot of questions about how long you will be able to watch for. It will at least be a few days, but please watch for further announcements.

## Covid Roundup

We're continuing to get regular reports of positive covid tests. Please mask where possible for your own and others' protection.

## Overheard at Eastercon

On spotting Levitation chair Farah Mendlesohn's green and yellow hair: "Greater love hath no woman than to dye for her Eastercon".

## A maze of twisty little passages all different

Despite appearances, there are secret stair routes to all floors, which you can use if it would

be convenient for you. Try not to end up in Narnia.

### **Active Listening**

The Listener phone hasn't been as reliable as we'd like. If you can't get through please message our Access lead, Karen Fishwick, in Discord or go to the ops hub and someone will get straight back to you.

### **Why are we special?**

Adrian Tchaikovsky was asked what makes SF and Fantasy different from other genres. He explained that the answer is world building. It's what we do. It's why SFF classics stand up: they give us worlds that we want to spend time on.

### **Gannet Fandom**

You all seem to love the food trucks! So much so that you ate up all the souvlaki by 7:30pm. They're now back with more meat. And more halloumi. And more chips.

People asked about chairs by the trucks; please come into the hotel and eat your food in Princes – the refectory/fan lounge.

### **Use Your Groats, Luke**

If you're working on the con, remember that you can use your groats at most tables in the dealers' room.

### **The Groat Redeemer**

The Treasurer will be touring the dealers' room at 4pm today to convert dealers' groats into cash. He'll do that again

Sometimes the greatest adventure is simply a conversation.

—Amadeus Wolfe

tomorrow, and can often be found in the ops hub if you need to exchange your groats urgently.

### **Fan Fund Auction**

The Fan Fund auction will be tonight at 9pm in Balmoral. If you are bidding remotely you should join by Zoom to prevent stream lag. The link to join is [bit.ly/2023-fan-funds-auction](https://bit.ly/2023-fan-funds-auction) and is in the programme item post for the auction in Discord.

### **Crypto Fiasco**

I know we're all disappointed the panel didn't take place, but as a consolation can I interest you in the next best thing, a very reasonably priced NFT of the panel?

—The Ming in Yellow

### **Critical Moose News**

Pemmi-Con's raffle has been drawn, and the winners are 39, 34, 13, 42 and 14. Come to our table in the Dealers Hall by 6pm to claim your prize.

### **Obvious Joke Removed for Taste Reasons**

The Satellite 8 desk has your chance to put life on Earth (according to the Panspermia theory at any rate). So far, only one person has successfully landed three comets on Earth, thus ensuring life started and hence we can all safely exist at the convention this weekend.

### **The Easter Egg Hunt**

Pick up questions from the ops hub. Hunt till the ops hub closes or runs out of eggs.



*The Catastrophe team [– they were robbed. Ed].*

This issue was produced by Alison Scott, with help from Steven Cain, Steve Davies, Mike Scott, Flick, Giulia De Cesare and Jan van 't Ent. Artwork by Sue Mason. Hot tip: If you stick your head in a bucket of chilli sauce, space leopards will not eat your face. Probably.