



Guest of Honour  
Kari Sperring

Science Guest  
John Gribbin

Read Me

## Programme Descriptions

### Friday

#### 19:30: Opening Ceremony

Your opportunity to get acquainted with our guest of honour, **Kari Sperring**, and our special science guest, **John Gribbin**, as well as the rabble who organised this event. There'll be a few twists this year, so why not drag yourself away from the bar (with a refilled glass, of course) and join us as we launch the good ship Novacon 44?

#### 20:30: Room 101

Our guest of honour, **Kari Sperring**, names and shames those objects, individuals and social trends she desires hurled into the Cosmic Abyss. Provided he's back from rehab in time, **Steve Green** gets to act as Judge Judy and executioner. Let's hope Kari doesn't make a convincing case for Novacon's annihilation, else this will be a very brief weekend indeed.

#### 22:00: Congoing On a Shoestring

It's been a busy year for British and Irish fans: a Worldcon in London, a Eurocon in Dublin, a clearly unmissable weekend in Nottingham. But in a time of austerity, how can we stretch our purses, wallets and credit cards accordingly? Theatrically swerving their backs upon payday loans, **Bellis**, **Theresa Derwin** (moderator), **Jaine Fenn** and **Mark Plummer** offer their experienced advice (but please do us a favour and don't act upon most of it until well after you get home).

### Saturday

#### 10:30: Big, Really Big

Space opera has enjoyed a resurgence in popularity in recent years, as readers once again enjoy dramas only a cosmic stage can contain. **Janet Edwards**, **Jaine Fenn** (moderator), **Andy Sawyer** and **Jacey Bedford** explore the joys of galactic empire-building.

#### 12:00: Computing With Quantum Cats in the Multiverse

Can our special science guest, journalist and author **John Gribbin**, create a cat's cradle using string theory? We have a feline he might.

#### 13:30: Meanwhile, in a Room Overlooking Historical Accuracy...

From *Pavane* to steampunk, science fiction has often looked backwards as well as forwards, offering its own spin on history *as it might have been*. But just how much notice of the facts does fantasy need to take? Our guest of

honour, **Kari Sperring** (aka historian Dr Kari Maund), is joined in discussion by **Jacey Bedford**, **Linzi Cooke** and **Theresa Derwin** (moderator).

#### **15:00: Guest of Honour Interview**

**Kari Sperring**, author and long-time Novacon enthusiast, discusses her work and inspirations with **Kate Keen**. (Followed by a Q&A.)

#### **17:00: Eurofandom**

Novacon has always enjoyed a strong presence from fans outside the UK (this year's committee even includes residents of both France and Greece), but how does 'their' fandom differ from our own? **Bellis** (moderator), **Stamatis Stamatopolous** and **Wolf von Witting** discuss their experiences in Germany, Sweden, Greece and Italy.

#### **18:30: Group Therapy**

The life of a writer is said to be a lonely one, which might in part explain the growing popularity of writers' groups, from Milford to Tindall Street. But do they drive participants to strive for artistic heights, or stifle them under a duvet of well-meaning support? Our guest of honour **Kari Sperring** swaps her own experiences with **Jacey Bedford**, **Linzi Cooke**, **Jaine Fenn** and **Caroline Mullan** (moderator).

#### **20:00 Book Launches (downstairs bar)**

Whilst the main programme suite is set up for our musical guests, **Crimson Clocks**, why not wander downstairs and check out some of the newest science fiction and fantasy releases?

#### **21:30: Novacon Presents... Crimson Clocks**

Steampunk rockers **Crimson Clocks** spring into action, led by vocalist **Linzi** (aka author **LM Cooke**), who's joined by **Colin** (bass), **Jo** (violin/oboe) and **Steve** (drums). Be warned: "Prepare for a Penny Dreadful, set to music."

#### **22:45: Book Auction**

There are some books you'll never forget, hard as you try. We'll sell them to you.

## **Sunday**

#### **11:00: Getting an Agent**

**Jacey Bedford** offers an insider's guide to a few tricks of the trade.

#### **12:30: Girly SciFi**

*The Hunger Games*, *Divergent*, *The Host* -- all examples of the boom in 'young adult' sf featuring strong female characters struggling for survival in a hostile future? But is this sub-genre really as feminist as it might at first appear? And

does *The Maze Runner* represent a traditionalist backlash? Our guest of honour, **Kari Sperring**, joins **Janet Edwards**, **Jaine Fenn** and **Caroline Mullan** (moderator).

**12:30: Art Auction (downstairs bar)**

You've had all weekend to peruse our art show, hosted by Serena Culfeather. Why not top it off by buying one (or two) of your favourite exhibits?

**14:00: Invasion of the POD People**

The explosion in self-publishing and print-on-demand small press releases has been variously described as the death of the traditional industry and the birth of a new platform in which creators have seized the methods of production? Perhaps the truth is a mix of both. Featuring **Peter Buck** (Elsewhen Press), **Alex Davis** (Boo Books), **Theresa Derwin** (KnightWatch Press) and **Terry Jackman** (moderator).

**15:30: The Road to the Stars**

Renowned astronomical and science fiction artist **Dave Hardy** (y'know, the chap whose art graces the cover of your limited-edition souvenir chapbook) presents an audiovisual tribute to visionary Russian author and film director Pavel Klushantsev.

**17:00: Awards Ceremony**

As well as the presentation of this year's Nova Awards for excellence in UK and Irish fanzines (ensure you get your votes in before midnight on Saturday!) and the official announcement of Novacon 45, we'll also have some excellent prizes in the Novacon raffle (all proceeds to Talking Books for the Blind). And then it's farewell for another year, although we do hope some of you will stay with us a little longer, for Sunday evening's banquet and beer tasting. The post-convention bacchanalia begins at 19:00.

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**The Downstairs Bar will be open on Friday evening from 7pm until 11 pm.**

It will also be open on Saturday evening, and possibly Sunday, depending on (amongst other things) how much use you make of it on Friday evening. There are comfy chairs!

**There will be book launches and other off-piste items**

These will all be publicised on the flipchart outside registration, so keep your eyes peeled for exciting announcements.

## Programme grid

Time	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
10:30		Big, Really Big		
11:00			Getting an Agent (main programme)/ Book launch – Elsewhen Press (downstairs bar)	
11:30				
12:00		Computing With Quantum Cats in the Multiverse	Girly SciFi (main programme) / Art Auction (downstairs bar)	
12:30				
13:00				
13:30		Meanwhile, in a Room Overlooking Historical Accuracy...	Invasion of the POD People	
14:00				
14:30		Guest of Honour Interview	The Road to the Stars	
15:00				
15:30				
16:00				
16:30				
17:00		Eurofandom	Awards Ceremony	
17:30				
18:00				
18:30		Group Therapy	Banquet and Beer Tasting	
19:00				
19:30				Opening Ceremony
20:00	Room 101	Book Launch (downstairs bar)		
20:30				
21:00				
21:30	Congoing on a Shoestring	Crimson Clocks		
22:00				
22:30				
22:45		Book Auction		
23:00				
23:30				

## **Sunday Evening Beer Tasting and Food**

As in previous years, Novacon is hosting a beer-tasting event and a meal. We are providing some beer, but we rely on members to bring more interesting stuff. Bring three bottles of interesting beer to registration, and we will give you a beer badge which gives you access to the beer tasting. Alternatively you can buy a beer badge at registration for £5.

Beer tasting starts at 19:00 in the Churchill Room (the former dealer's room). The meal is served at 19:30 in the same room, and at the request of our GoH will feature Mediterranean food. Access to food is by ticket only; food tickets are available from registration.

**YOU MUST BUY YOUR FOOD TICKET BY 11:00 ON SUNDAY MORNING.**

Assorted soft drinks will be available free to everyone during the meal.

## **Dealers' Room**

The dealers' room is in the Churchill Room, through the glass doors on your left as you head from the main bar towards reception. It will be open Friday 16:00-19:00, Saturday 10:00-14:45 and 16:15-18:00, and Sunday 10:00-16:00. No food or drink in the dealers' room, please, unless you're a dealer.

## **RNIB Raffle**

Throughout the convention we will be running a raffle in aid of RNIB Talking Books for the Blind. Buy tickets. Buy some more. Special thanks to DAW Books and to Simon (SJ) Parkinson for donations to the raffle.

## **Downstairs**

All the off-piste items on page are in the downstairs bar; in addition the Art Show, Dave Lally's programme and the secure ops store are downstairs.

## **Art Show**

The art show is in meeting room two. It is open Saturday 10:00-18:00 and Sunday 10:00-11:30. No food or drink in the art show room please.

## **Dave Lally's Programme**

In addition to the events highlighted on the preceding pages, the Dave Lally Programme will run from Friday afternoon through to Sunday afternoon. Head down the stairs and look for a second flipchart, and the entrance to the Lally programme will be nearby.

## **Left Luggage**

This can be left in the secure Ops store downstairs – ask a committee member.

## **Novacon Registration**

The registration desk is just outside the business office in the main foyer, and will be open at the following times:

Friday	16:00-19:15 and 20:30-22:00	for Novacon 44 registrations only
Saturday	10:00-14:30 and 16:30-18:00	for all Novacon business
Sunday	10:00-16:00	for all Novacon business

## **Operations**

We can usually be found in or around the business centre in main reception, just behind the registration desk. There is a secure ops store in meeting room 6 which will be used to store any books you have for the auction, Sunday evening beer, coats and bags (at the owner's risk) and various other stuff. If you want to leave anything here, speak to the Duty Committee Member. If you have volunteered to be a GOPHER, come and find any committee member and we'll sort you out. There are rewards!

## **Duty Committee Member**

Throughout the convention, one committee member will be acting as Duty Committee Member, and will be identified as such by their shiny gold waistcoat. If for any reason there is something that the convention Needs To Sort Out, then your first port of call is the Duty Committee Member.

## **Badges**

The hotel bar and leisure club are open to the public. Your convention badge grants you access to the convention-only areas of the hotel – programme spaces, art show, dealer's room – and the special rates for food that the convention has negotiated. Be sure to wear your badge at all times, or you may find your access to these spaces and prices restricted.

## **Leisure facilities**

We have full use of the leisure club which has a pool, sauna and gym. Access for disabled guests is through the main club entrance outside, reached from the bar. The leisure club is privately-run. Please note: the pool runs some adults-only swim sessions, check times with hotel reception.

## **DIRE WARNINGS**

The Park Inn is in the business of selling accommodation, food and drink.

Neither the hotel nor the Novacon committee approve of members crashing in rooms or bringing in their own supplies, so don't do it.

### **Food**

All convention food will be served in the main bar area on the ground floor. Food orders placed at the bar are cooked to order, so there may be a wait. Please remain in the bar until you've got your food.

### **Friday and Saturday 18:30-22:00, Saturday and Sunday 12:30-14:30**

There will be a selection of bar food such as pizza, burgers, chilli, jacket potatoes and baguettes. Prices start at £2.00.

The standard menu will also be available but this costs considerably more. If you want a sit-down meal in the restaurant using the regular hotel menu on Saturday, you'll want to reserve a table as it can get busy.

**Friday evening only** a fixed-price carvery, meat or vegetarian options.

### **Friday / Saturday / Sunday late night butties**

Bacon butty, sausage butty, chip butty will be available.

Crisps, nuts, chocolate bars, baguettes available from the bar 10:00-23:00.

### **Drink**

The main bar on the ground floor is open from 10:00 until we're all tired. There will be plenty of Black Sheep and house wine. The downstairs bar will be open from 19:00 to midnight on Friday, and late Saturday evening. It is available as lounge space at other times, and is used for off-piste items. The lifts in reception serve the downstairs bar.

### **Outside**

Across the main road outside the hotel you'll find a cashpoint, assorted shops including a newsagent and a supermarket with basic medicines. For an actual pharmacy ask reception for directions to Boots half a mile away.

We'd like you to do all your eating and drinking inside the hotel, because we've told them that you'll be eating and drinking lots. But other pubs are available, including a very old one in the caves under Nottingham castle. And there are other restaurants in Nottingham – the Internet is your friend – but really, eat in the hotel. It's good for our reputation.