

NOVACON

47

FRIDAY

18.45

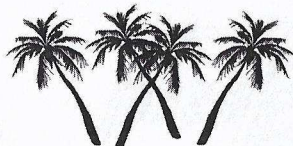
Opening Ceremony

It all starts here! Come along and meet the committee and our **Guest of Honour**. Find out what delights we have planned for you over the course of the weekend.

20.00

Desert Island Books

In conversation with Carol Goodwin, our **Guest of Honour** Adrian Tchaikovsky tells us about the books he would like to be washed up on a desert island with, and why they mean so much to him.



21.15

Book Launch Party

Come along and get a copy of Adrian's new book, *Dogs Of War*, signed on the spot for you. Free wine and nibbles to get you into the convention party groove.

22.30

In Memoriam

We very sadly lost Brian Aldiss and Peter Weston this year, two people who were very important to **Novacon** and the **BSFG**. Come along to view some documentaries and footage of both and share your memories of their life and their work.

SATURDAY

10.00

Science Talk: Adventures In The Goldilocks Zone: The Search For Other Earths

It's only Saturday so set your alarm for this one. Around 3500 confirmed planets and another 4500 candidate objects new exoplanets are being discovered every day. Professor Frazer Pearce from the University of Nottingham discusses how these recent discoveries have influenced our ideas about the formation of our own Solar System as well as how exoplanets are discovered and their properties measured. The Trappist-1 system, which contains 7 Earth-like planets, 3 of which orbit within the Goldilocks zone will be discussed as will the prospects for upcoming exoplanet detection missions.



11.15

Other Fans' Obsessions

We are at a loss to know how they have the time, but Anne Nicholls, Stan Nicholls and Juliet McKenna apparently have interests outside of SF and Fandom. Come along and be enthused by their other passions. Moderated by Yvonne Rowse.

12.30

Growing Up Fannish

The more astutely observant among you will have noticed the next generation of fandom popping up at conventions over the last few years. What is like to grow up fannish and get let loose with your friends in a hotel a couple of times a year? Emjay Ameringen, Penny Hicks and Magdalen Standage-Bowles share their experiences. Alice Lawson is in loco parentis.

13.45

Guest Of Honour Interview

Guest of Honour Adrian Tchaikovsky in conversation with Juliet McKenna.

15.00

The Rise of African SFF

In 2009 it was commonplace to say that 'Africans don't write science fiction.' Now it is commonplace to say 'Africans have always written science fiction.' 2016 was a bumper year of SFF novels by Africans. The **Nommo Awards for Speculative Fiction** got financial support for prize money in four categories with winners to be announced right after Novacon at the Ake Festival in Abeokuta Nigeria. In 2016, the **African Speculative Fiction Society** was founded, with roughly 150 writers, editors and artists as members. Omenana magazine is publishing regularly online from Abuja, Nigeria. What are some of the key works from this explosion of creativity? What are some of the national differences in SFF from the continent? What are the issues for African writers? What makes SFF by Africans distinctive? Panellists are Yoruba language and SFF author Tosin Coker, Ezeiyoke Chukwunonso, Masimba Musodza and Nick Wood. Moderated by Geoff Ryman.

16.15

The Rise Of African SFF Part 2

Tosin Coker, Ezeiyoke Chukwunonso, Masimba Musodza and Nick Wood grab a quick comfort break (we're kind like that) and return to the stage to do readings from their work.

17.30

Eaters Con

If a committee replaced George R R Martin at the last minute with the bloke who said 'these aren't the droids we're looking for' people might be a bit miffed. If the hotel ran out of bacon they'd need a new identity. Food is important to fans, it's become part of the ritual of attending conventions and visiting new places. A panel of bon viveurs moderated by Dave Hicks will consider our culinary tastes, excesses, indulgences, and times when we've accidentally eaten the Guest of Honour's starter.



18.45

Gor Blimey! Things Ain't What They Used To Be

Join Theresa Derwin, Chris Stocks and others as they theatrically deliver the narrative from some of the worst SFF books they've come across. Think Thog's Masterclass with attitude.

20.00

Open Mic Poetry

Former Birmingham Poet Laureate Chris Morgan leads a session for all you budding poets to come along and share your work. Beginners welcome!

21.15

Pub Quiz

Get yourselves sorted into teams, come up with a really cool team name and then dazzle us with your fund of useless knowledge. Includes silly games and fabulous prizes.

SUNDAY

10.00

Science Talk:

The Tech And The Amazing Stuff We Can Do With The Tech

In a talk that does what it says on the tin, Professor Michael Merrifield from the University of Nottingham, who is overseeing the UK's involvement in the Extremely Large Telescope, tells us about (yes you guessed it right) the tech and the amazing stuff we can do with the tech.

11.15

The Secrets Of Porcupine Books

Porcupine Books has survived on the choppy seas of used bookselling for nearly twenty years. Come and find out how this small bookseller has managed to sell books at consistently low prices, as Claire Briarley interrogates Brian Ameringen, and take the opportunity to ask the questions that will uncover Porcupine's Hidden Secrets...

12.30

I Couldn't Possibly Put THAT In The Novel! (The Joys And Pitfalls Of Research)

Guest of Honour Adrian Tchaikovsky, along with Andrew Bannister, Christina Lake and Juliet McKenna discuss the trials and tribulations of the research process for world building and getting all that pesky detail bang on correct. Moderated by Andy Sawyer.

13.45

Art Auction

Hopefully you have taken the opportunity over the weekend to go and have a look at some of the fantastic artwork on display in the art show. Now's your chance to bid for it and give it pride of place on your living room wall.



15.00 What's Happened To The Story? TV Narratives In The Streaming Age

We used to watch TV as a family, one channel at a time. Even when we got central heating, and second TVs, then satellite and cable, we still clung to an episodic shared storyline. Now we're freewheeling. How do we discover new shows, how do we come together to talk about them? Programmes had a structure and a rhythm built

around ad breaks, cliffhangers, mid-season breaks. What happens now? Moderated by Dave Kirby with Fran Dowd, John Dowd and Magdalen Standage-Bowles.

16.15

Recycling The Redshirts

A talk on science, cookery, cannibalism and Star Trek. Douglas Spencer presented this talk at Worldcon 75 in Helsinki, but when the room wasn't big enough to accommodate everyone who wanted to hear it, he undertook to present the talk again on a future occasion. This is a future occasion.

17.30

Handover Ceremony

Say goodbye to this year's committee and GoH. Meet the suckers splendid people who will be organising this all over again for next year. Who will be Guest of Honour? All will be revealed.

20.00

Dave Holmes Memorial Beer Tasting And Guest Of Honour Banquet

Our traditional Novacon wind down. This year's beer tasting is dedicated to the memory of Dave Holmes whom we very sadly lost this year. Entry via beer badge only, available from Registrations for £6 or three bottles of beer. Soft drinks will be freely available.

The banquet, as chosen by Adrian, is Chinese. Again, you must have a ticket for this, also available from Registrations. Come along to either or both and spin out the convention as long as long as possible before real life returns on Monday.

OFF-PISTE

Yet again we will be hosting special items not on the main menu. We will be posting these as and when they become clear just what the hell is going on so keep your eyes peeled for the notice board, covert note slipped from person to person or just something you overhear in the toilet.

We do have a few things planned in advance such as:

Friday

19.15 - Come along for wine and nibbles and the launch of Theresa Derwin's latest anthology, *Her Dark Voice 2*. This Pre-Book Launch will have Readings by Pauline E Dungate and a surprise guest. The book will be dedicated to Vicky Stock and help raise money for Breast Cancer Campaign.

Saturday

Late - Book auction. Brian Ameringen is the auctioneer. Come along and give all those lonely books a home.

Sunday

Afternoon - **Follycon** will be holding a Tea Party. Come, have tea!

ART SHOW

The Art Show will be downstairs, just follow the gasps of amazement. It really is well worth dropping in, so many people put so much work into these items and you can also get the chance to put a bid in on a particularly nice piece that you may like to bid on in the Art Auction.

DEALERS ROOM

Tat, who can honestly say that they have enough of it? Not I. So here is stuff from the four corners of the globe... well, not that a globe can have four corners but you know what I mean. So, why not drop in and see if anything takes your fancy.... The same applies to the Committee room.

DAVE LALLY'S ROOM OF MOVING IMAGES

Look, we've tried telling him we are at a different hotel but he keeps finding us. He has a whole collection of rarely seen stuff and old favorites that he is just itching to show you.... Actually, the itching might be part of another problem, but stop by and look in wonder!

THE DAVE HOLMES MEMORIAL BEER TASTING

Tickets available from Registration for a small fee or 3 bottles of interesting beer. However, after last years "Magic Beans" shenanigans these will now not be accepted as a replacement for 3 bottles of beer. Come, enjoy, and raise a toast to absent friends.

SUNDAY EVENING MEAL

This is a ticket only event and these must be purchased from Registration in advance of the event.

OPERATIONS

This is the glass room just in front of the hotels reception desk. It's basically where the Committee go to sleep off the hangover but if you have any questions about nearby banks or food or anything at all about the convention, then please feel free to wake them... LOUDLY.

DUTY COMMITTEE MEMBER

Don't be confused, this is not the most adult or intelligent of the Committee, it's just the most sober at that time and the fact that they keep changing faces and sex is more to do with the latter than it is a Doctor Who homage. They can be easily identified by a rather ill-fitting and unfashionable Gold Waistcoat.



Bar Menu

Served from 10am -10pm

<i>Soup & Roll</i>	£2.95
<i>Baguettes</i>	£3.50
<i>Sandwiches</i>	£2.95

Fillings

Ham & Cheese/Cheese & Onion Mayo/ Tuna Mayo/ Egg Mayo

<i>9" Pizza</i>	£5.50
<i>Please choose a topping.</i>	(50p for additional topping)
<i>Cheese and Tomato/ Pepperoni & Jalapeno/Chicken & Pepper</i>	

<i>BBQ Chicken Melt & Chips</i>	£5.50
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<i>Cheeseburger & Chips</i>	£7.00
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<i>Curry of the day & Rice</i>	£6.95
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<i>Fish, Chips & Mushy peas</i>	£6.95
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<i>Jacket Potato and choice of 2 fillings</i>	£5.95
<i>Coleslaw, Cheese, Baked beans, Chilli, Tuna Mayo,</i>	

Side Orders

<i>Fries* Garlic Bread* Salad</i>	£2.00 each
<i>Cheesy Chips* BBQ Wings</i>	£3.00 each

(V) Suitable for vegetarians. Please note that some of our dishes contain allergens or additives; please ask a member of the team and we'll be happy to explain

AT A GLANCE

	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY		
10.00		SCIENCE TALK	SCIENCE TALK	10.00	
11.00		OTHER FANS' OBSESSIONS	SECRETS OF PORCUPINE BOOKS	11.00	
12.00		GROWING UP FANNISH	I COULDN'T POSSIBLY PUT THAT INTO A NOVEL!	12.00	
13.00		G.O.H INTERVIEW	ART AUCTION	13.00	
14.00		RISE OF AFRICAN SFF	WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE STORY?	14.00	
15.00		RISE OF AFRICAN SFF PT2	RECYCLING THE REDSHIRTS	15.00	
16.00		EATERS CON	HANDOVER CEREMONY	16.00	
17.00	OPENING CEREMONY	GOR BLIMEY!		17.00	
18.00				OPEN MIC POETRY	18.00
19.00		PUB QUIZ		DAVE HOLMES MEMORIAL BEER TASTING AND G.O.H BANQUET	19.00
20.00					IN MEMORIAM
21.00			21.00		
22.00			22.00		
23.00			23.00		