

PROGRESS REPORT 1



Table of Contents

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR	2
WORLDCON 101	3
FUNDS FOR FANS	4
WHAT’S IN A NAME? (Accessibility Services)	4
FORTHCOMING MEMBERSHIP CHANGES	5
GLASGOW 2024 INSTALMENT PLAN	5
FINDING FANDOM	
Ken MacLeod	6
CHAIR’S VISION	8
CALLING ARTISTS!	10
WHAT WE’RE UP TO (Division & Department Updates)	11
EVENTS	11
LOGISTICS	11
MEMBER & STAFF SERVICES	12
PARTIES & FACILITIES	13
PROGRAMME	14
PROMOTIONS	14
PUBLICATIONS	17
WSFS	17
BRITISH WORLDCONS: THE EARLY YEARS – LONDON IN 1957 AND 1965	
Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer	18

About the Cover:

‘Wuthering’ is an oil painting completed in 2014 and exhibited at Loncon 3, where it also picked up a Best in Show award. For this cover image I digitally added the glowing orb to create a slightly more fantastical moment.

It’s a subject matter that I’ve attacked a number of times, over the years, (the first being way back in 1986) and in a variety of mediums...drawings, engravings and also sculpture. It’s a case of, ‘I’ll keep at it until I get it right!’

Chris Baker

Photo & Illustration Credits:

The photos of Esther and Fionna at Polcon in Krakow, Poland were taken by Radek ‘Rynvord’ Polanski.

The reproductions of the program book covers, literature, and photos from the 1957 and 1965 London Worldcons are courtesy of Rob Hansen from his fanhistory website, <http://www.fiawol.org.uk>. Refer to his site and the article for more detail.

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Message From Our Chair



Dear all,

Welcome to 2023! With just over a year to go, our plans are well and truly in progress now.

Being able to celebrate becoming a seated Worldcon at Chicon 8 this year was a delight. We announced our win with a huge team of staff able to come up and get the applause they deserved. Many of us were wearing our special Glasgow 2024 tartan 'Landing Zone', designed in the convention colours. It was wonderful to see people in person again throughout the event and be able to share some of our dreams for the future.

The next year will be extremely busy for us as we assemble what are often called the 'front facing' elements of the convention – the bits you will see when you attend. The majority of the organisation is behind the scenes, as the teams bring together the planning

and preparations of the last few years. In my section about Glasgow 2024's Vision, you can see how we are enacting our promise to embed Inclusion, Imagination and Caring into the convention throughout its journey. Exhibits, Programme and Events are being planned, floorplans are being pored over, and ideas are flying about! We are discussing in-depth how we will approach our online responsibilities. Finally, we already have a keen awareness of issues that will confront us, not least the difficult balance of negotiating our lives in a post-pandemic world.

All of my Divisions – the groups who manage and create the Worldcon, are now fully active, but as ever we are looking for people to volunteer. We never have enough people – an adage I think every volunteer organisation feels! My team all work incredibly hard, and it is their good work that you are already seeing in the planning and thought that has gone into Glasgow 2024 so far. We very much welcome anyone who wants to contribute to our plans.

The standards a Worldcon is held to are exceptionally high. As we start to make large decisions, our budget becomes clearer and aspects such as our infrastructure start to be locked in, so too must we try our hardest to hold as many of these up as we can. Whilst we can be a forerunner for positive change within the Science Fiction and Fantasy community, our reach is not infinite. I readily accept at this stage that there will be missteps and things that we cannot do. However, it is how we respond to these, as a community as well as a convention, that will provide our legacy for the future.

Despite this, the pathway through 2023 looks to be exciting. We are moving into the section where our ideas can start to take life – and hearing my team start to work on things they have dreamed of making a reality is a really incredible experience. It's going to be amazing – and I can't wait for us to start sharing some of the things we have planned for 2024!

Worldcon 101

Are you new to the world of Worldcon? Let us show you around!

Let's start off with the basics: what is a Worldcon in the first place? Worldcon is the annual convention of the World Science Fiction Society, or WSFS. It has taken place in almost every year since 1939 (interrupted only by the Second World War). It's a space for fans to gather and meet like-minded people, including the authors, artists, and other creators behind the media they love. If you come to a Worldcon, you'll find discussion panels, talks, shows, and exhibitions to enjoy, as well as plenty of social space to share a coffee, a beer, or a game with friends old and new.

If you're getting this progress report, chances are you are registered as a 'member' of Glasgow 2024. But what does that mean? Well, it's the annual convention of the World Science Fiction Society – so if you're a member of Glasgow 2024, you're a member of WSFS for the duration of your membership. WSFS membership entitles you to nominate and vote in the Hugo Awards, to propose and vote on the society's organisation and activities, and to vote on where Worldcon will be held in two years' time. That means you'll be voting for the location of the 2026 Worldcon (you will receive plenty of information about this before the vote takes place). That's why buying a Worldcon 'attending membership' is not the same as buying a 'ticket' – membership offers more than just attendance.

Worldcons are run by fans for fans. Every single person involved in organising a Worldcon is a volunteer giving their time and energy to make these amazing events a reality. The fact that fans do this for each other every single year shows just what a passionate, generous community has developed around Worldcons. It's also because these events are great fun! Worldcon volunteers love these events and want to help create more of them for others to enjoy.

We'll be aiming to do a few things especially for those of you who haven't attended a Worldcon before. At the convention itself, there will be ribbons for you to wear if you want others to welcome you to your first Worldcon. There will be social events to help meet your fellow members. You can also choose to volunteer, to help make the convention happen, whether over a few hours at the event, or however much or little time you're up for giving in advance to help with the organisation. Volunteering is a great way to get to know your fellow volunteers and more about the convention itself.

Most importantly, Worldcon is all about having a great time surrounded by people who love science fiction, fantasy, and related genres in all their forms. We look forward to meeting you there!

Funds for Fans

Conventions are a great way for fans to meet like-minded people, but financial difficulties can make it difficult to buy a membership and locate appropriate accommodation. This is particularly true for Worldcons, because they aren't in the same place every year.

Glasgow 2024, a Worldcon for our Futures, intends to have resources available to those who need assistance attending. We will be setting up a way to apply for those resources – donated memberships and other funds – in the coming months. While donated memberships are the most straightforward offering we will have, we also expect to be able to offer limited funding to help those who particularly need it with other costs, such as accommodation and childcare.

If you wish to help support other fans in attending Glasgow 2024, you will be able to donate unwanted memberships or money directly to the fund. We are still working out the details, but it is already possible to donate memberships via the Registration Team.

In addition, there are some specific fan funds out there which fund one fan each year to travel widely, to meet other fans over several weeks of events. It is generally necessary to campaign over several months and win a vote in order to win the right to represent the relevant fandom in travelling abroad.

TransAtlantic Fan Fund

The TransAtlantic Fan Fund (or TAFF) was created to bring North American fans to European conventions and European fans to North American conventions. For more information, see

<https://taff.org.uk/>

Get Up-and-over Fan Fund

The Get Up-and-over Fan Fund (aka GUFF) helps fans from Australia/New Zealand to attend Europe-based conventions. (If you happen to be going in the other direction, it's called the 'Going Under Fan Fund'). Find out more at

<https://taff.org.uk/guff.html>

European Fan Fund

The newest fan fund will hopefully continue beyond its inaugural year (2023) and fund a member of European fandom to travel, potentially to Glasgow 2024, amongst other conventions. More details are available here:

<https://fandomrover.com/2019/01/31/european-fan-fund/>

What's In A Name?

Many longtime Worldcon attendees are familiar with the phrase 'Access Services,' but at Glasgow in 2024 they'll encounter our department as 'Accessibility Services' instead. This change follows similar usage at DisCon III in 2021, where the Member Services department discovered a bit of linguistic confusion.

The dictionary defines the word 'access' as the 'permission, liberty, or ability' to enter a space. While our department is concerned primarily with **ability**, it is not only to physically enter spaces, but also to enjoy and participate in the convention as a whole. On the opposite side of things, we don't manage the physical **permission** to enter spaces – our department can't get you into the Hugo rehearsals!

For clarity's sake, we opted to rename the department 'Accessibility Services' in Glasgow. The word 'accessibility' is widely used to refer to making adaptations for a wide variety of disabilities and other needs, and it makes our mission of supporting member participation in the full Worldcon experience much clearer.

Forthcoming Membership Changes

After holding our rates for eight months, Glasgow 2024 will be implementing its first rate rise on May 1st 2023.

We will be raising rates for all Attending Membership types, other than the Infants, which will be held at £5. Our new rates will be

- **Full Adult Attending** – rising from £170 to £190
- **Discounted Adult Attending** – rising from £125 to £140
- **Young Adult Attending** – rising from £110 to £120
- **Teenager Attending** – rising from £75 to £80
- **Child Attending** – rising from £45 to £50

We intend thereafter to have rates rises every four months, that we hope will be smaller that this first rise, but this will depend on UK inflation rates.

The 1st of May 2023 will also be the introduction of our Virtual Memberships. We will have Virtual Membership rates for Young Adult, Discounted Adults and Full Adult and we currently expect these to be around half the equivalent Attending rate.

Bid Friends should also note that if you have not converted your Friend Status to Attending (by purchasing a WSFS membership for £45) by May 1st 2023, you will automatically be converted into a Full Adult or Young Adult Virtual Membership. As a result, the cost of upgrading to Attending will be significantly higher.

You should be able to find your current membership status via our membership list, if you have chosen to be listed. But if not, please email

registration@glasgow2024.org

and we will reply with your current status and upgrade options.

Glasgow 2024 Instalment Plan

From January 31st 2023, we will be opening our instalment plan and contacting every Support (WSFS Only) member who has ticked the Instalment Plan tick box (This can be done at any time, by editing your membership record).

Our plan is that members will pay instalments in five payments starting the month after you ticked the box (or February 2023, for those identified by January 31st 2023). With payments fixed at the Attending rate when you ticked the box.

On receipt of the fifth payment, the Support membership will be upgraded to the required Attending membership, however this may take a few days as our instalment plan is managed manually.

If for any reason you find your circumstances change before the final payment, you can cancel your instalment plan and we will refund the payments made, less a £5 charge to cover Credit Card charges. However, if you restart an instalment plan it will be set at the current Attending rate, and this will probably not be the rate you were originally on.

We will close our Instalment plan on January 31st 2024, so that the last payment will be made in June 2024.

If you want to know how to edit your membership email

registration@glasgow2024.org

and we send you instructions on how to login to your membership record.

Finding Fandom

Ken MacLeod

I was early to science fiction and late to fandom. In the IT department at London Electricity in the mid-1980s, I found myself for the first time among others who read science fiction. We started a science fiction club, and discovered at our monthly lunchtime sessions that when science fiction fans get together they talk about anything and everything except science fiction. I owe to these discussions my entire knowledge of the cavalry and archery tactics of the Golden Horde.

Meanwhile, Iain Banks had been spotted by Paul Kincaid as early as *The Wasp Factory*, and invited to *Mexicon II* in 1986. Iain was an instant recruit to fandom – ‘These are my people!’ he said – and kept urging me to come to cons. ‘There are room parties! There are lift parties – they’re like room parties, except you go up and down!’ And soon after I and my family moved to South Queensferry, Iain introduced me to Edinburgh fandom. They were my people all right. But I held back from cons. I ran out of excuses when I learned that my first novel, *The Star Fraction*, was to have a launch party at Intersection, the 1995 Glasgow Worldcon.

In at the deep end!

Arriving in Glasgow on the Thursday morning, I was a bit vague as to how to get to the SEC from Queen Street Station. I had a panel at noon, so I took a taxi. The driver asked what the event was. I told him it was a science fiction convention.

‘I had Erich von Daniken in the back once,’ he said.

This was the first time I had to explain to a taxi driver that science fiction isn’t about believing in flying saucers and ancient aliens. It wasn’t the last.

I was thrilled to discover at registration that my publisher, Legend, had sponsored the goody bags and placed postcards of the cover of *The Star Fraction* in every one. Carrier bag in hand, badge pinned on, I looked around in bemusement. Legend’s publicist Kate Farquhar-Thomson appeared out of nowhere like a good fairy, sat me down for a coffee, guided me to the room and sat in the audience. From the stage, it was reassuring to see her friendly face at the back.

Do Scottish SF writers have a special take on the subject? If so, what?

With Iain Banks, Chris Boyce, Michael Cobley, Duncan Lunan, Ken MacLeod

My very first panel, and I don’t remember anything about it!

Afterwards, Iain and I were chatting in the enormous hall, and were suddenly swept up by Oisín Murphy-Lawless, Lara Byrne and two other students from Dublin. They were lively company. In a restaurant that evening Oisín spotted some legendary SF writers at a nearby table. He strolled over and casually worked his way around it, inviting them one by one to a forthcoming Trincon.

At a publisher’s party – it may have been a Tor party, thrown by Tom Doherty – I came upon the broadest spread of free drinks I had ever seen, and used it freely. I talked with Robert Forward about gravity waves and with Jane Stableford about life.

John Brunner’s death on the Friday evening came as a shock, and overshadowed the rest of the con.

On Saturday morning I barely had time to sit down with a coffee when Mike Cobley rushed up and asked if I could fill a vacancy on a panel on world-building that was starting at 10:00. I found myself beside Katherine Kurtz and David Wingrove for sure, and Stephen Baxter, Bayers, and Dianne Thornley (minus whoever of these was the vacancy). I was a complete unknown and I recall perplexed faces in the audience. But everyone gave me the benefit of the doubt, and Katherine Kurtz chatted to me as if I had every right to be there.

Likewise kind to a newcomer was Walter Jon Williams, who had a signing table right next to mine and kept talking with me between his many signings and my few. Almost the only person who brought a copy for me to sign was Neil Rest, a stalwart of US fandom who was gratifyingly enthusiastic.

My wife and two children joined me on the Saturday evening for the launch party. Posters of the cover decorated the walls. I'd invited friends, family, and neighbours. A lot more of them than I had expected turned up. So did a fair number of writers and fans – it was there I first met Harry Turtledove and Peter Hamilton.

And the programme? It's all a bit of a blur. Looking through the schedule, I see far more items I kick myself for missing – or forgetting – than I remember being at.

1995 was a long time ago:

040 Cyberspace Beginners - Logging On and Loading Up. What Is This Internet Thing Anyway?

How do you take the first few steps onto it?

462 Romancing the Internet. Are We Entering The Era Of The Cyber-Blind-Date? Why Are Increasing Numbers of Fans Finding Love on the Information Highway?

Do these relationships have different codes of conduct than terrestrial affairs?

Innocent days!

One panel I know I didn't go to was:

075 Women in Uniform

What is it like to be a woman writing hard/military SF?

Lois McMaster Bujold, Elizabeth Moon, Jennifer Stevenson, Diann Thornley

If I had gone, I might have understood – which I certainly didn't while watching the awards ceremony – why Bujold won the Hugo for *Mirror Dance*, and why she took the stage wearing an embroidered waistcoat and a long skirt.

(Five years later, having heard good things about Bujold's work on rec.arts.sf.written, I read the two-novel Baen paperback *Cordelia's Honor* and raced through the rest of the saga. It was my turn to enthuse to Iain: 'It's like James Bond, written by Jane Austen!')

I had another panel on the Sunday:

413 Guessing Games. Does the acceleration of change invalidate extrapolative fiction?

Maia Cowan, Laura Frankos, Ken MacLeod, Paul McAuley

Again, I've forgotten what was said, but given that we're all still at it, I guess the answer was no.

In the Dealers' Room I bought some Soviet cosmonaut and spacecraft badges, which I still have, from the Moscow 2017 Worldcon bid stall. In my second novel, *The Stone Canal*, the narrator Jonathan Wilde has a stall for his space memorabilia company, Space Merchants, right next to these hopeful Russian fans. Browsing the Dealers' Room at the 2005 Glasgow Worldcon, the book's US publisher Patrick Nielsen Hayden remarked to Jo Walton: 'You know, the last time we were here, we were inside a science fiction novel!'

What stories will the 2024 Glasgow Worldcon be inside?

NOTES:

Thanks to Oisín Murphy-Lawless for sharing his memories of how we met at the con.

You can find a short documentary about the con here:

<https://www.ganymede.tv/2020/04/gtv-beam-me-up-scotty/>

The schedule, amazingly, is online here:

<http://ldtm57.pairserver.com/pbt/95sched.html#central>

Chair's Vision

Glasgow 2024, A Worldcon for our Futures has the vision to be Inclusive, Imaginative, and Caring (with no specific order, and equal weight to each of these ideals). But what does this mean in practice? It's easy to have a vision, but carrying it out is harder. Here are some of the things the Glasgow 2024 team is doing to make this vision real.

Accessibility

Accessibility is an element of the convention that is both a necessity, and notoriously difficult to effectively provide. We have been mindful of this from the beginning of our journey. Accessibility covers a range of requirements, and it is important to see these as different, and sometimes in conflict with each other. These are examples of work within this group, which I hope will demonstrate the complexity of this area.

- Our Accessibility Team have done a preliminary site visit to the SEC and the local hotels. They have spoken with these groups in detail about our requirements, as well as with local representatives on aspects like room bookings, access to the site, and potential issues within the buildings.
- We have worked to make sure our fonts and other public writing has clarity, via our Clear Language group.
- We have been proactive in encouraging under-represented viewpoints throughout our work, and have tried where possible to integrate these voices within the team, rather than as a consultative addendum. We are mindful that accessible voices may differ, and that this is part of this process.
- The Programme Team have discussed preliminary plans for sensitivity reading and for creating a diverse composition of the Ideas Team who help create the programme items that you will attend during the convention.
- We are discussing accessibility within the online provision we decide on as a priority for our final decision. This is a lengthy process that involves all divisions, and there is no best fit.
- We have considered the types of individual spaces that will be needed at the convention, for groups needing areas of their own.
- Where needed, the Accessibility Team work with other divisions to help inform and recommend actions, for example, helping ensure representation in the panellists and themes for our ongoing 'Glasgow Presents' series on YouTube.

Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct is an essential part of my vision and something that the entire team work proactively towards.

From our inception as a bid, Glasgow 2024 has had a Code of Conduct which all members, committee, and staff must attend by, as well as those interacting with us in on and offline spaces. This is a living document and by necessity has already undergone several iterations.

Our Code of Conduct Team, listeners, and guidelines are already in place behind the scenes. Regrettably, we have already used this on more than on occasion. I believe strongly that Inclusion does not mean 'I can say or do what I want,' when those words and actions are harmful or distressing to others, and it is not caring for anyone to act in such a way.

My team, all of our members and all attendees have a right not to be abused or harassed during any part of Glasgow 2024.

The current Code of Conduct for Glasgow 2024, A Worldcon for our Futures, is here:

<https://glasgow2024.org/about/code-of-conduct>

Volunteers

We love our volunteers, they are the heart's blood of the convention and without them nothing would happen. Over the course of the convention, hundreds of you will put in a few hours to help us, and we want to make sure you are looked after.

Volunteer Ethos

Volunteers are encouraged not to 'crunch' during any of their work, by working excessively until they burn out or are exhausted. We will not be rewarding for the volunteer who works the most hours – all hours are valuable, and some people need to spend more effort to do what might appear to others to be 'less'. This encourages everyone to see all work valued. I am proud of every member of the team who makes the decision to work better, rather than more.

Volunteer Training

Learning from Chicon, we are investigating local groups to adopt a local equivalent of mandatory Bystander Intervention training for all volunteers. We intend that this will take place via online sessions before the convention and briefing at-con. Bystander Intervention helps people recognise when harassment is taking place, and how to effectively respond to it. We are also investigating sensitivity training to accompany this. Specialised teams like our listeners, accessibility, and Code of Conduct teams will also receive team-specific training where possible. Thank you Chicon, for your lessons here!

Volunteer Thank You!

We are already looking at volunteer rewards, with a view to both acknowledging the huge amount of work that our volunteers do, and making these rewards as eco-friendly as possible. Several options for doing this have already been suggested.

Sponsorship

Many of the things we now take for granted at a Worldcon are supplied by sponsorship. This includes the voice to text (CART) equipment for large events, transcription services, interpreters, and facilitation of the larger events at the convention. Whilst the money donated by sponsors must go to specifically requested areas, in recent years this is most often inextricably linked to accessibility (for example, *PAX provide Quiet Rooms* via sponsorship).

Sponsorship is particularly important to Glasgow 2024 as we are unable to benefit from many of the subsidiaries that an American convention receives (for example, we are not able to claim charitable status as an organisation).

Nevertheless, we have a duty of care to both our attendees and our sponsors when interacting with sponsors. We are currently working on our sponsorship policy, but expect it to look broadly like that of Chicon 8, which can be read here:

<https://chicon.org/home/about-worldcon/sponsorship-opportunities/>

Sustainability Team / Reuse & Refuse Team

Whilst we have already tried to be sustainable in our actions – for example in having paperless in-person meetings and suggesting people offset their travel by contributing to one of Scotland’s re-wilding projects, we formed the Sustainability Team in October 2022. This group is helping us draw up our overall policy, taking its cue from lessons learned at the COP26 summit at the SEC in 2021, and will also become the Reuse and Refuse Team during the convention itself. This group will work both before and after to help us dispose / donate and reuse any spare equipment from the convention. For example, Dublin 2019 donated several palettes of unused water bottles to a homeless charity, and the SEC already encourage conventions and conferences to share ‘one use’ items like disposable carpeting and billboards.

You can read more about Scotland’s rewilding efforts here:

<https://www.rewild.scot/>

<https://treesforlife.org.uk/support/donate/>



Calling Artists!

Are you an artist? Would you like to have your art feature in our publications?

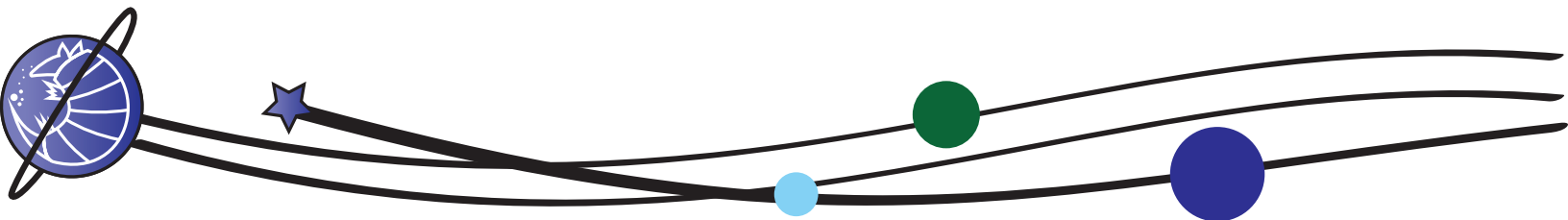
We are looking for pieces for our Progress Reports and the Souvenir Book. Doodles, spaceships, cartoons, armadillos, anything fan-related...we want them! Submissions should be

- Small single-column line art (approximately 3½" (9 cm) wide)
- Submitted at 300 dpi in CMYK

Submit your art to the Publications team at

publications-art@glasgow2024.org

and we will try to include them in our materials. Once they are submitted, they will be checked by the designer and will need approval for publication.



Events

by Vincent Docherty

The Events Division manages larger staged items, plays, performances, and awards. The team is building at the moment and I have already been engaged with a number of key players and producers for the excitement we plan to bring you. I'd also welcome suggestions, especially theatre.

Many of the events will take their inspiration from the convention theme 'A Worldcon for our Futures.'

We are planning for

- The Opening Ceremony on Thursday
- A major live orchestral performance on Friday
- The Worldcon Masquerade on Saturday
- The Hugo Awards Ceremony on Sunday
- The Closing Ceremony jointly with the 2025 Worldcon on Monday

We will also run other events including plays, music performances, and awards presentations during the convention.

We intend to stream the Hugo Awards Ceremony and a number of other events for remote participants.

We will let you know more about the exciting details as plans coalesce. Suggestions, offers of help, particularly stage-experienced volunteers, and questions for the Events Team are very welcome. Please contact us at

events@glasgow2024.org

Logistics

DHs: Brian Nisbet

DDHs: Nigel Furlong, Bella Storey-Cosgrave

Email: logistics@glasgow2024.org

The Logistics Division is one of the support Divisions for Glasgow 2024. Many of the functions carried out by the team will never be noticed by the majority of the members and we're very happy with that! We're the team responsible for storing things before the con, getting it all into the building, pointing the way, lighting the lights, checking the sound, and ensuring smooth operations for five days. After the Closing Ceremony our job is only half done as we work to clear everything, and everybody, out of the SEC. A huge part of that is making sure that anything left over, from cardboard boxes to crates of water to glass display cases, is either disposed of in an ethical manner or, preferably, donated to a good cause. We've even created a new team for this last activity, Reuse & Refuse, who will have ownership of Glasgow 2024's Sustainability Policy, which will be published later this year.

Since the vote in Chicago we've been recruiting for all of our positions, putting together draft plans and working with the other Divisions to understand their needs.

Like the Jedi, the Logistics Division craves neither excitement nor adventure. We adore efficiency and smooth running, along with a well-organised timetables and plans going to plan. We are also realists and we understand conventions, so we have four backup plans to hand and many more in storage!

Overall we aim, in line with Glasgow 2024's overall vision, to enable the other Divisions. We want to ensure they have what they need to make the con as awesome as possible for everyone who walks into the venue, and then fade into the darkness, lightsabers, backup plans, and mixed metaphors in hand...

Member & Staff Services (MSS)

Member and Staff Services covers a wide variety of functions which help make the convention work. Here are some updates on where we're up to.

Volunteers

The Volunteers team helps with recruiting, organising, and onboarding all the people who make this convention possible. We have a solid core staff for this area in place, and have, in conjunction with it, done a lot of work around creating the tools that the team needs in order to do their roles. Because Glasgow 2024 is ineligible for Google Workplace, they need to coordinate quite a few different systems as part of onboarding and offboarding staff, and these tools help them do just that.

For Glasgow 2024, 'Volunteers' encompasses anyone who volunteers to help with the convention, primarily by filling out the volunteer survey. 'Staff' covers anyone who has been onboarded to a role within the convention structure.

You can browse currently-open roles:

<https://glasgow2024.org/get-involved/volunteering/available-roles/>

Fill out the volunteers' questionnaire, if you haven't already and wish to volunteer:

<https://volunteers.glasgow2024.org/forms/initial-volunteer-form/>

And contact the Volunteers team with additional questions about volunteering,
volunteers@glasgow2024.org

Accessibility

Our Accessibility team has been engaged in making this convention since we were a bid. They did site inspections during the 2022 on-site bid visit, and are gearing up for an active year in which we arrange for mobility devices and prepare for accessible hotel bookings to be open before the end of 2023.

You can reach the team at accessibility@glasgow2024.org

Childcare

Childcare is an accessibility issue, but the pandemic has led to a dip in requests for it at recent Worldcons. We are expecting to have paid childcare available at Glasgow 2024. If you are thinking of possibly bringing a child to the convention and would benefit from provided care (for a fee), the single most helpful thing you can do is register them as convention members as soon as you are fairly certain they are coming. The more we know children of childcare age are coming, the more we can financially justify the cost of partial subvention for it, and accurately determine the right place to locate the provision.

Diversity and Inclusion

In order to make our convention as inclusive as we can, we have the support of a team of volunteers whose current role is to be available for consultation when we have specific questions. Although we also aim to be as diverse as we can be in our staffing, this is the group to whom we turn when we have specific questions to discuss, especially ones which affect multiple parts of the convention.

In addition, for the first time, we are a Worldcon with a demography survey, which we have asked our volunteers to optionally and anonymously provide demographic data which is being used to help the convention apply for funding grants. It will also be available – in aggregate form only – for future Worldcons to use. The goal of collecting this data is firstly, to apply for grants, and secondarily, because we cannot know in what ways we are and are not diverse, and therefore we cannot do better, without knowing where we currently are.

Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct enforcement team is a part of MSS. We are already starting to staff this critical area, not least because our Code of Conduct is already in effect. It covers internal interactions amongst staff, as well as the way members and the public engage with the Promotions team and how they act within Glasgow 2024-organised events. Everyone who volunteers for the convention and everyone who signs up as a member agrees to abide by the convention's Code of Conduct

<https://glasgow2024.org/about/code-of-conduct>

Team Info

Team Info is available to answer all those questions that you're not sure where they should be sent. They're happy to pass questions on to the relevant part of the convention. You can reach them at

info@glasgow2024.org

Newsletters

We've already started up the convention newsletter for volunteers (defined as those who've filled out the volunteers' questionnaire) and will be doing a regular one for members as well going forward. MSS will be running the at-con newsletter as well. No decisions have yet been made on that front, although the convention's sustainability policy means we will be prioritising digital methods of distribution where possible.

MSS also covers other areas, including visa letters, badge ribbons, and staff rewards. You can reach us at

mss@glasgow2024.org

Parties & Facilities

Parties Info

Parties will be in function rooms of the Crowne Plaza Hotel, which is attached to the SEC by a corridor. The rooms will be used for programme during the day and change each night to become the party rooms.

We plan to announce more information about how to book a party room later this year; watch our website and social media for an announcement. If you want to register an interest, please email

parties@glasgow2024.org

now and we will send an email when the information is published.

Our corkage waiver covers all non-alcoholic drinks & snacks as well as a limited alcohol waiver.

Parties will be in the Crowne Plaza. We expect to announce more details about how to book a party space later in 2023.

Facilities update

Since being announced as the 2024 Worldcon we have confirmed our function contracts with both the SEC and the Crowne Plaza Hotel. And through the Glasgow Convention Bureau we have secured 1530 bedrooms in nearby hotels (both on site and in the City Centre), ranging from the 1 star Ibis Budget to the 5 star Kimpton Blythswood. We are currently looking to secure additional blocks of accommodation, including budget accommodation in student halls, and plan to open bookings at the start of 2024.

Programme

It's been a short four months since Glasgow 2024 was seated, and we in the Programme Division are excited about the opportunity to bring you a great programme. We have already received a lot of interesting content ideas from our members, and we have fabulous Guests of Honour who represent the breadth and diversity of SF&F, who we are looking forward to highlighting.

Glasgow is a vibrant city filled with science fiction, fantasy, and inventiveness. We are looking forward to reflecting this in the programme and, to achieve this, we are setting up processes for picking up more ideas from our staff and members.

We are planning our divisional timeline, and will be posting forms that let you register your interest in being on programme by early April. We take your privacy very seriously, and we will need everyone who is interested to contact us and give us permission to reach out to you.

We are also in the process of staffing the division, including programme development, brainstorming, and administrative roles. If you are interested in helping out, please see the volunteers section of our website (<https://glasgow2024.org/get-involved/volunteering/>) for how to get in touch.

Promotions

Glasgow 2024 Promotions team have been busy bees since September.

Our Glasgow 2024 Presents programme has been running strong with 6 events, all of which are available for watch back on our YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/@Glasgow2024/>

We've been appearing in person at some events in 2022. Glasgow 2024 was actually a Guest of Honour at Polcon in Krakow, Poland in November, where we were gloriously represented by our chair Esther, and our IT Deputy Division Head Fionna.



Dragon Plushies at Polcon, courtesy of and photos by Radek 'Rynvord' Polanski

Also, our Landing Zone Glasgow Tartan has been spotted out in the wild, such as here at our fantable at Octocon, in Dublin, Ireland in October.



We also launched our Winter Song - Last Winter, where we filked the seasonal hit by Wham 'Last Christmas' to showcase many chilly wintertime favourite reads and watches. How many can you spot?

https://youtu.be/TDJykj4jP_g



The fabulous Lola at Third Vault Yarns has launched our convention colourway which picks up the colours and energy of our Landing Zone Glasgow Tartan and blends them into a beautiful yarn. We've called it Skein Dubh playfully punning on the traditional accompaniment to a kilt: the Sgian Dubh - a small ceremonial knife often worn tucked inside of the top of the kilt hose.

https://www.thirdvaultyarns.com/ourshop/prod_7898335-Skein-Dubh-Glasgow-2024.html

Please also check out our other merch on our Merchandise page:

<https://glasgow2024.org/get-involved/merchandise/>



Glasgow Gimlet

- 1 1/2 oz GIn2024 gin (60 mL)
- 1/2 oz Drambuie (20 mL)
- 3/4 oz freshly squeezed lime juice (30 mL)
- 1/4 oz simple syrup (10 mL)

Garnish: star fruit slice

Combine ingredients in cocktail shaker. Add plenty of ice and shake well. Strain into a coupe or martini glass.
Garnish.

Cocktail by Tammy Coxen. Artwork © Iain Clark 2022

Looking for Agents for Convention Attendance:

Our Promotions Con Presence Team is looking for people willing to be agents for Glasgow 2024 at conventions across the world. This mainly involves taking promotional material to events, staffing fan tables, or talking with local cons about Glasgow 2024 Worldcon. If you might be interested in being part of this wider network please email our teams at

con-presence@glasgow2024.org

to raise your interest and find out more.

Publications

The Pubs Team took the opportunity at Chicon to share a drink celebrating PR0 while ensuring that the preferred beverage of all concerned was on hand. We will reconvene at Boskone, Eastercon, the All Staff and Satellite to consider the challenges of Oxford commas (is there a comma in that? or apostrophe...) and missing umlauts. We continue to recruit and in an amazing coup for us, we have seen Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer join our team in advisory and content provision roles. Yes, we recruit GOHs, shameless!

We plan on 6 Progress Reports in total, our next is due in August. We will have the Souvenir Book, programme read me, events booklets and excitingly plan on an 'Art and Artistry' of Glasgow 2024 to capture all the beautiful work related to and at the Worldcon as a post con publication.

We had a lot for this Progress Report but from PR2 we will be including some adverts for fan activities for free. Our rate card for adverts in our Souvenir Book will be published in PR2. We welcome contributions especially if of local interest and would love to consider any art related to Glasgow for our publications. Our email is

publications@glasgow2024.org

if you wish to get in touch.

Sara, Lauren, and James

WSFS

The 2024 Hugo Awards Subcommittee has been appointed, consisting of Kat Jones (Hugo Administrator and WSFS Deputy Division Head), Cassidy (Deputy Hugo Administrator), Nicholas Whyte (WSFS Division Head), and Kathryn Duval (WSFS Deputy Division Head). All authority over the administration of the Hugo Awards has been irrevocably delegated to the Subcommittee by the Glasgow 2024 Committee.

WSFS Division is also responsible for the Business Meeting and for 2026 Worldcon Site Selection as well as the 2024 Hugos, and we are exploring how to make all three of our areas of responsibility caring, inclusive, and imaginative, in line with the core values of Glasgow 2024.



Esther working hard at Polcon – photo by Radek 'Rynvord' Polanski

British Worldcons: The Early Years London in 1957 and 1965

Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer

The long-running World Science Fiction Convention is becoming a more global endeavour, but there wasn't much 'world' in the early history of the Worldcon. Starting in 1939, the first five conventions were held in the United States and the sixth (in 1948) only strayed just up the road to Toronto before the convention returned to the US for its next seven iterations. The attendees were inevitably almost all North Americans, given the expense of international travel.

London did host an 'International Science-Fiction Festival Convention' in 1951, an event that was considerably more international than any of the Worldcons to date, and in early 1955 – a timescale that seems incredible by modern standards – British fans started to think about presenting a formal bid to bring the 1956 convention to the UK. The bid was to be made at the 1955 Worldcon in Cleveland, but in the end the British bid was withdrawn in favour of a strong bid from New York.

The idea had clearly taken root, though, and in 1956 the magazine *Nebula* was assuring its readers: 'Don't think that it's too early to be talking and writing about the 1957 Convention.' Potential conventioners seemingly had to be encouraged to think a mere eighteen months ahead. The London bid was formally presented at the New York Worldcon in 1956 and convincingly defeated a bid for Oakland, California by 203 votes to 65 despite an almost entirely North American electorate. Ted Carnell wrote in a December 1956 *New Worlds* editorial, 'Already it looks as though London will be truly representative of a "World" Science Fiction Convention.'



15th World Science Fiction Convention

LONDON 1957

Sponsored by the World Science Fiction Society Inc., New York

KING'S COURT HOTEL, LONDON, W.2. Friday, Sept. 6th to Monday, Sept. 9th 1957

JOHN WYNDHAM - PRESIDENT
E. J. CARNELL - CHAIRMAN
ROBERTA WILD - SECRETARY
CHARLES DUNCOMBE - TREASURER

Thereafter, not much happened for a while. The first 'progress report', then officially styled *The Journal of the World Science Fiction Society*, was issued in March 1957. It also announced a change of venue, from the Royal Hotel in Bloomsbury to the King's Court Hotel in Bayswater, both in London. The convention claimed members in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, USA, Canada, Belgium,

Germany and Sweden. Later lists added Wales, North Borneo, Australia, France, Venezuela, and Switzerland.

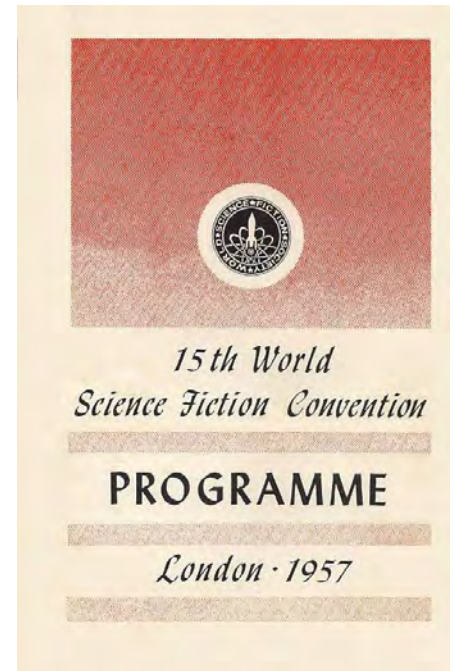
The guest of honour wasn't announced until PR3 in July 1957, only two months before the convention. It's likely that the convention couldn't afford the airfare for an American guest and so the committee waited until John W Campbell confirmed that he was coming anyway before extending an invitation.

The 15th World Science Fiction Convention – referred to colloquially as 'the Loncon' but that name wasn't used in its publications – ran from Friday 6 to Monday 9 September 1957. The publications don't specify a membership fee but several contemporary fanzines cite 7/6 (seven shillings and six pence in pre-decimal currency). An advertisement in *New Worlds* confirms this is 7/6 'Society [WSFS] membership' plus a further 7/6 'Convention fees' to actually attend, a total of 75p and equivalent to about £14.40 today. Rooms in the King's Court Hotel cost 20/- per person per night (£1). The site is still a hotel, although it's now called the Caesar and charges upwards of £169 per night for a double occupancy room.

The president of the committee was John Wyndham and the chairman Ted Carnell. The programme book lists seventeen other people as committee or staff. The membership list has 481 names, but attendance

was 268. Their badges were simple pieces of card with names and nothing else. Convention members who are still around include Robert Silverberg, Peter Mabey, Jim Linwood, Michael Moorcock, Keith Freeman, Jim Caughran, Rainer Eisfeld, Greg Benford, and Jim Benford.

Only three Hugos were presented, for best American professional magazine (*Astounding Science Fiction* ed. by John W Campbell), best British professional magazine (*New Worlds* ed. by Ted Carnell) and best fanzine (*Science Fiction Times* ed. by James V Taurasi, Sr, Ray Van Houten and Frank R Prieto, Jr). The other categories weren't pursued as the committee thought they were 'impracticable to operate on an international basis', what with the British reprint editions of American magazines featuring material some months after the original American appearances. Eligibility was between July 1956 and July 1957 and members were allowed a single choice in each category. There was no shortlist, and winners were chosen by simple majority.



The programme seems extraordinarily minimal: a single panel during which 'well-known SF personalities will answer your questions'; a handful of talks, a film, and a few fannish items, with a single WSFS business meeting on the final day. The other ceremonial business of the Worldcon (including presentation of the Hugos) formed part of Saturday night's lengthy entertainments, culminating in a costume party – as part of which a fancy dress parade was scheduled to begin at midnight. In retrospect it's difficult to say which seems more remarkable, that people would performatively drink tea or that other people would apparently watch them do it. Nevertheless, the (extensive) rules of the tea-drinking contest were printed in the programme book.

Everybody seems to have had a good time, though, mainly because the European and American fans who had previously only known one another on paper finally got to meet. British fan Vince Clarke said that what struck him most strongly was '...how wonderful it is to talk to people I've never seen, and have them understand because they have the same background.' Irish fan (and later writer) James White wrote

in early 1958, 'Even now the spirit, the feeling, hangs on. One keeps expecting someone – a late returning American fan perhaps – to drop in on us suddenly; then the Fifteenth World Science Fiction convention, the very best convention ever, will flare up again...'



John W. Campbell, Joan Harrison, Peggy Campbell, Christine Haycock (later Moskowitz), Barbara Silverberg, Daphne Buckmaster (ejc-Ted Carnell)



Alan Whicker and masqueraders (collection of Norman Shorrock)



23RD WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION LONDON 1965

It was almost inevitable that they'd want to do it all again. Worldcons were still selected only one year in advance and the second British Worldcon won its bid at the 1964 convention in Oakland. There was no serious opposition. There had seemingly been more advance planning this time as a first progress report was issued almost immediately in September 1964 and identified both a venue, the Mount Royal Hotel in London, and a guest, Brian W Aldiss. The 23rd World Science Fiction Convention more openly proclaimed itself to be Loncon II.



The convention ran from Friday 27 to Monday 30 August 1965. Memberships was 21/- (£1.05) attending, equivalent to about £16 today, and 15/- non-attending, effectively what we would until recently have called 'supporting'. The Mount Royal Hotel offered double-occupancy rooms at 50/- per person (£2.50), or about £39 today. It's still a hotel, now the Thistle Marble Arch, and a standard double will now cost upwards of £171. Overseas visitors were able to purchase a one-week London travel pass, good for all buses, Tubes and trains. It cost 30/- (£1.50). These days anybody can buy one of those, although they now cost £65.70.

The convention was chaired by London fan Ella Parker and the programme book lists only five other committee and staff. Tom Boardman, an SF advisor to the publisher Gollancz, was toastmaster. The programme book lists 414 members to 1 July, and attendance was 350. One of the members was a teenage Terry Pratchett, and the membership list includes around forty other former or future Worldcon Guests of Honour.

The programme was a little more expansive than in 1957, but still confined to a single track running from Friday evening to Monday afternoon; it included four talks, four panels, two auctions, a quiz, a fancy dress parade, long and short films, fannish ceremonies, the Hugo presentation as part of a (ticketed) convention banquet, and once again a single business meeting on the final day. It rather stands out that while the convention flyer boasts participants from the UK, the US and 'from all over Europe and behind the Iron Curtain', they are all male aside from the convention chair. On the day they did find space on a panel for Judith Merril.

A more conventional set of Hugo Awards was presented, with an eligibility period of 1 January to 31 December 1964. Members were invited to 'suggest' finalists in seven categories and 'a panel of experts' then produced shortlists from which members were invited to pick a single favourite in each. Only one of the seven awards stayed in the UK.

Convention secretary Ethel Lindsay noted 'the interest engendered outside fandom which came from newspapers,



Ethel Lindsay behind the registration desk



John Brunner, Harry Harrison (ts-Tom Schluck)

the BBC and the publishers'. Four publishing companies hosted receptions for their authors, with Penguin hiring the London Planetarium and a Dalek who invited Ethel to 'twist again like we did last summer'. According to one report, Ella turned down a young man who said he was a science fiction fan and wanted his band to play at the convention. He was Mick Jagger and Ella thought his band, the Rolling Stones, too 'sexually charismatic'.

Again everybody seems to have had a fine time, although after this the Worldcon wouldn't return to the UK for fourteen years.

Further information:

Loncon (6-9 September 1957): King's Court Hotel, London
Chair: Ted Carnell
GoH: John W Campbell, Jr

Loncon II (27-30 August 1965): Mount Royal Hotel, London
Chair: Ella Parker
GoH: Brian W Aldiss

British fan historian Rob Hansen has covered both conventions extensively, and fanac.org have scans of many publications, photos and ephemera:

1957:

Rob's site: <http://www.fiawol.org.uk/fanstuff/THEN%20Archive/1957Worldcon/LonWorld.htm>

Fanac.org: <https://fanac.org/conpubs/Worldcon/Loncon%20I/index.html>

1957: *The First UK Worldcon* is a free ebook – although donations are welcome – assembled by Rob and available from: <https://taff.org.uk/ebooks.php?x=1957>

1965:

Rob's site: <http://www.fiawol.org.uk/fanstuff/THEN%20Archive/1965%20Worldcon/65Wcon.htm>

Fanac.org: <https://fanac.org/conpubs/Worldcon/Loncon%20II/index.html>

Audio recordings of some programme items: <https://fanac.org/worldcon/Loncon/w65-audio.html>

