# PROGRAMME & Bristol-con



Discover a future in which a wheelchair is no harrier to adventure!

Deane Saunders-Stowe

# Synthesis: Weave

"A scifi story that keeps you gripped from beginning to end, with many twists & turns, a must read for all scifi fans."

— C. Bardot

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Hello, and welcome to BristolCon! Whether you've been coming regularly over the past eight years, or this is your first time, I hope you have a brilliant time. Our con staff and minions (the people in the tasteful orange lanyards) will be happy to help you out or answer any questions you might have, so don't be shy about approaching them.

This year we're delighted to have Ken McLeod and Sarah Pinborough as our author guests of honour, and Fangorn as our GOH artist. They will be heading up a programme that's stuffed to the rafters with entertaining panels, selected after discussion with all our attending panellists and put together by resident genius MEG. We also have presentations in the art room, workshops in the Snug, and a bustling dealer room. There are friendly spaces to sit down with a cup of coffee and relax, so feel free to wander and take in as much or as little as suits you.

The fun continues into the evening with our devilishly hard NSFW quiz in Programme Room 1 (this year Nick is threatening both singing and poetry!) and our Games Masters will be in the Brick-Out Room, where you can try out a range of games you may not have played before.

Thanks one more time to our team of willing minions, committee members and the staff at the Hilton Doubletree. And to all our members old and new – BristolCon wouldn't exist without your ongoing support, and I hope we can give you an event you'll remember for a long time to come.

Best Wishes,

Jo



### New from Juliet E. McKenna



A new collection

A new fantasy world

Welcome to the River Kingdom, where shadows can be all too solid and dangerous.



Back in print at last – Colin Harvey's first book for Wizard's Tower – **Dark Spires** – featuring Gareth L. Powell, Joanne Hall, Liz Williams, Roz Clarke, Eugene Byrne and many others.





Hotel: The Hilton Doubletree sits next to St Mary Redcliffe Church, and is a ten minute walk from Temple Meads Station in one direction, and from Bristol town centre in the other. The no. 76 runs from the centre past the hotel. There are maps of the area around the hotel available from the reception desk. More information on finding the hotel is available on their website.

Parking: There is limited parking in the hotel car park. This is free for the day (ignore the machines) and £7.50 to stay overnight. Please come early if you want to secure a space! You will need to give your registration at Hotel Reception. There is also pay and display parking for 170 cars opposite the church. Further afield, parking can be found at Lower Guinea St. near the Ostrich Inn (five minutes walk) and on-street in the area around Queen Square, though this can get busy.

Eating: The hotel bar does paninis and light lunches, and this year will be offering packed lunch style items. Next door to the hotel is the Arc Cafe, in the crypt beneath the beautiful church of St Mary Redcliffe, one of Bristol's most famous buildings. This is a volunteer-run cafe staffed by recovering addicts (so it's all in a good cause) with free wifi, good coffee, and a range of sandwiches, baguettes and hot food (and cake). The Arc Cafe seats about 70 and they are very friendly, though they don't serve alcohol. Across the road is the Portwall Tavern, universally known as the Little Blue Pub. It's easy to find, it's on the far side of the car park opposite the hotel and it's blue. And little. They do pub grub and real ale. Also within walking distance of the Hilton Doubletree is the Hole In The Wall, which is a nice pub that backs onto Queens Square but can get crowded at times so it's advisable to book – not ideal if you're in a hurry but the food is tasty.

Cashpoints: The nearest ATM is at Temple Meads - there are now points on BOTH sides of the barriers! For those coming from the centre, there is one on Prince St., which charges, and a free one slightly further away outside Sainsbury's.

Assistance: If you need help with anything throughout the convention or if you have any particular requirements including those regarding accessibility, please come to the committee desk or approach a member of the con staff, who can be identified by their bright orange lanyards.



Formed in 2011, The BristolCon Foundation exists, in the words of its mission statement, 'to encourage the creation and enjoyment of speculative fiction, in all its forms, with a focus on the West Country and South Wales'. Funded by profits generated by BristolCon, the Foundation provides small grants or loans to assist projects which we hope will bring speculative fiction to wider audiences, help out creators who are just starting out in the genre, and bring new creators to the field. While Bristol has a thriving community of writers, artists and fans, the Foundation aims to reach out to people in the city and beyond, to help them connect with each other at both formal and informal events.

The BristolCon Fringe is funded by the Foundation, and plays host to monthly free reading events, promoting local authors by providing them with a friendly space to read out their work in front of an audience. The Fringe readings are recorded, then broadcast globally on our dedicated podcast.

This year we have supported the launches of Charles (Ian) Millsted's Silence Rides Alone, Pete Sutton's A Tiding of Magpies, RB Watkinson's The Cracked Amulet, and the anthology Fight Like A Girl, which was launched with a mini-con, with a panel from the authors and demonstrations of both armed and unarmed combat. Whatever your project, ask us if we can help!

The BristolCon team is determined to ensure that BristolCon provides a safe and inclusive space. We pride ourselves on the friendly and respectful atmosphere of the convention. We therefore ask everyone to conduct themselves appropriately, extending courtesy and co-operation to all members.

#### Be excellent to one another.

In the event that any member, or anyone else attending or working on the convention, behaves so as to detract from the atmosphere of BristolCon, the committee will take appropriate action. If you wish to raise concerns about someone's language or behaviour, please contact the con team.

## ARTSHOW

Gemma Beynon

Claire M. Hutt

Andy Bigwood

Steve Upham

Simon Breeze

The Not So Miserable

Jim Burns

Margaret Walty

Fangorn

See the Programme grid for presentations taking place in the Art Show.

## HALL COSTUME COMPETITION

Since Halloween is upon us, Bristolcon is holding a costume competition. In your con goodie bag you will find a slip of paper with three Hall Costume tokens printed on it - like the one illustrated here. If you see someone wearing a costume which you admire, ask if they are entering the competition, and give them one or more of your tokens.

## FILM REEL

#### Sonova

(www.facebook.com/sonovashortfilm/)

Uncanny Valley (vimeo.com/147365861)

Voyagers (santiagomenghini.com/voyagers/)

### Toonacalypse

(www.facebook.com/toonocalypse/)

Saurora (www.facebook.com/saurorafilm/)

#### Wanderers

(www.erikwernquist.com/wanderers/)

Water (www.facebook.com/dirtonsale)

To enter the competition, the costumer (or their parent/guardian) should count them up, write their name on the back of one token and hand all of them in to the convention desk by 4pm. The person with the most tokens will win a small prize. The winner will be announced at the Closing Ceremony.



The North Bristol Writers are an eclectic group of like minded individuals who decided to gather together to share their creativity. They have produced one anthology, North by Southwest; their second, the Dark Half of the Year, will be released at the end of this year. Members perform regularly at various vents both individually and as a group. Notable syplicit include the Bristol Fastival of Literature, (vinning second place in 2015 in the Flash Slam), Sanctum, Form-Fest 2016, Bristolfon and Bristolfon Fringer. The North Bristol Writers Include Pete Sutton, Ian Milladd, Kavlin Henney, Roz Clarke, Jo Hall, Clare Dornan, Justin Neviland, Maria Herring and Suzanne & Ian McConaghi.

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AY	WHAT	?	HOW	TO	WRITE	CONVINCING	DIALOGUE	43	

BOOK LAUNCE: FUTURE INNS
SICK CITT SYNDROME BY PETE SUTTON
TALES FROM THE CRYPT AT RANOS VALE
TALES FROM THE CRYPT AT RANOS VALE
OF DESTRUME OF LITERATURE

06

START OF BRISTOL FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE

FLASH SLAM: SI STOKES CROFT
FEATURING NORTH BY SOUTHWEST - NBW TEAM

BRISTOLCON
FEATURING NBW BOOK-SELLERS TABLE

10 DOES STYLE STOP AT STRUNK & WHITE?

NOV REFLECTIONS ON THE YEAR

19 SET UP 2017 DATES
WORKSHOPS & CRITIQUES

find more about us : https://northbristolwriters.wordpress.com

### **Red Kite Publishing Presents**

Jark Fantasy Comic Fantasy Young Adult Fantasy

From Master Story Teller Will Macmillan Jones

www.willmacmillanjones.com

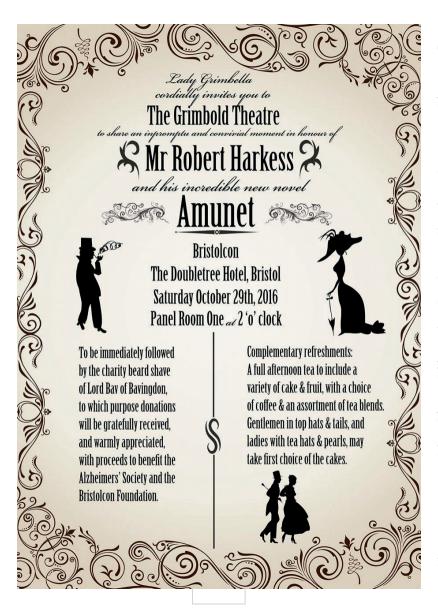




- Dr Who Memorabilia repro props, models and figures from the 1960s to the present day.
- Boo's Jewels a selection of individually created jewellery and accessories, plus a
  range of distinctive handmade greetings cards.
  (www.etsy.com/uk/shop/boosjewels)
- Yvonne Meaney hand crafted fashions
- Superhero fiction from Tony Cooper (www.hungryblackbird.com) and SF & F from Sophie Sparham (www.sophiesparham.co.uk)
- Chloe Green (www.ChloeHammondAuthor.com)
- Scifi & the supernatural with a romantic soul from Pippa Jay, (pippajay.co.uk) & fantasy from KS Turner (www.ksturner.net)
- North Bristol Writers, Wizard's Tower Press & Convention Booksales (northbristolwriters.wordpress.com & wizardstowerpress.com)
- Will Macmillan Jones author of comic fantasy, children's books & horror (www.willmacmillanjones.com)
- Forbidden Planet cult entertainment retailer
- GalaXafreaks psychedelic science fiction comics cosmic capers galactic gaffs. (www.galaxafreaks.com)
- Oxfam second hand genre fiction
- Grimbold Books diverse and quirky science fiction, fantasy and dark fiction. www.grimboldbooks.com

## BRISTOL F & SF

ENJOY THE COMPANY OF LIKE-MINDED GENRE FANS ALL YEAR ROUND AT BRISTOL FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY PUB NIGHTS EVERY MONTH AT THE SHAKESPEARE TAVERN DETAILS AT WWW.BRISTOLCON.ORG





Born and bred in Birmingham (U.K.), Fangorn (aka Chris Baker) began his professional career as a graphic designer. Through a series of fortuitous events (that included an introduction to the world of SF conventions and their art shows) he then went on to produce fantasy and SF art for gaming and book covers, which include works for Robert Asprin's Myth series and the Redwall books by Brian Jacques.

As a result of producing artwork for the graphic novel of David Gemmell's 'Legend', in 1993 he was hired by Stanley Kubrick to produce concept designs for the film A.I. which was in the early stages of development. Despite Kubrick's untimely passing 1999, Fangorn went on to continue working with Steven Spielberg on his version of Kubricks script, that became A.I: Artificial Intelligence.

In the years that followed, Fangorn has gone on to work on over 20 films, which include Road to Perdition, War of the Worlds, Star Wars: Episode 7, Alice in Wonderland, the last three Bond movies and Gravity which earned the design team an Art Directors Guild award in 2013. He also received a BSFA Best Artwork award in 2006.

Although still enaging in film work, much of his creative output is oil painting, sculpting, printmaking and photography. His most recently published artwork is for an anniversary edition of Stephen King's Salem's Lot published by PS Publishing.

He still hasn't decided what to do when he grows up.



## SARAHPINBOROUGH

Sarah Pinborough is a YA and adult thriller, fantasy and horror novelist and screenwriter. She has published more than 20 novels and has written for the BBC and is currently working with several television companies on original projects. Her recent novels include the dystopian love story, The Death House



and a teenage thriller, 13 Minutes, which has recently been bought by Netflix.

Her next adult novel, a psychological supernatural thriller, Behind Her Eyes will be out in 2017 from HarperFiction in the UK. The book has sold to nearly twenty territories so far and was sold at auction to the US in a significant deal to Flatiron, Macmillan. There are discussions on going with several movies studios about the film adaptation. Sarah hopes this will be her breakout novel. If it's not – she may cry!

You can follow her on twitter on @sarahpinborough

www.sarahpinborough.com

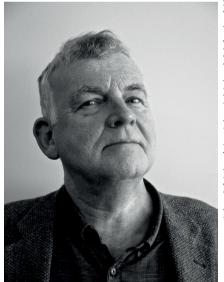


THE BRISTOLCON FRINGE HOSTS READING EVENTS EVERY MONTH IN THE CITY CENTRE. TO HEAR THE VOICES OF BOTH WELL-KNOWN AND UP-AND-COMING LOCAL AUTHORS, OR TO READ YOUR OWN WORK AT ONE OF OUR OPEN MIC NIGHTS, SEE WWW.BRISTOLCON.ORG UNDER 'BRISTOL SF&F'.

## GUEST OF KENMACLEOD

Ken MacLeod was born in Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, Scotland and lives in West Lothian. He has Honours and Masters degrees in biological subjects and worked for some years in the IT industry. Since 1997 he has been a full-time writer. He is the author of fifteen science fiction novels, from The Star Fraction (1995) to The Corporation Wars: Dissidence (Orbit, May 2016), and many articles and short stories. His work has been translated into many languages including German, Turkish, Spanish, Polish and Japanese. His novels and stories have received three BSFA awards and three Prometheus Awards, and several have been short-listed for the Clarke and Hugo Awards. He is currently working on a space opera trilogy, The Corporation Wars (forthcoming 2016-2017).

In 2009 he was Writer in Residence at the ESRC Genomics Policy and Research Forum at Edinburgh University, and in 2013 and 2014 was Writer



in Residence at the MA Creative Writing course at Edinburgh Napier University. He is on the Advisory Board of the Edinburgh Science Festival.

Ken MacLeod's blog is The Early Days of a Better Nation:

http://kenmacleod.blogspot.com

His twitter feed is @amendlocke

Ken's main publisher is Orbit Books:

http://www.orbitbooks.net/

09:15	Minion Briefing	
09:50	Welcome - Joanne Hall	Welcome - Cheryl Morgan
10:00	Not Just Hocus Pocus	Call Me Rosetta
	We all know the appeal of wand and incantation systems of magic in fantasy fiction, exemplified by Harry Potter (Wingardium Leviosa!), but what about more subtle and deeper kinds of magic, the kind you maybe can't learn in Wizard School? We consider the forms such magic might take and has taken in literature.	First Contact: As a probe sent out from Earth, what am I looking for, and what do I send back? If there's life out there, when we meet the aliens, how do we say hello? How can we explain ourselves, and what should we keep back until the second date?
	Lucy Hounsom (Mod), Philip Purser-Hallard, Paul Cornell, Ellen Crosháin, Sarah Ash	Ian Millsted (Mod), Pete Sutton, Deane Saunders- Stowe, Janet Edwards, one other tbc
10:50	Reading: Philip Purser-Hallard	Reading: Joanne Hall
11:00	Guest of Honour Interview Ken MacLeod is interviewed by Jaine Fenn	The Regiment of Monsters?  Epic fantasy that is focused on warfare is often criticised for presenting 'boy's own' adventures, or containing racial stereotypes codified into fantasy races. Is this perception justified? It's often argued that fantasy can't be more diverse because it 'wouldn't be accurate' – if fantasy needs to be 'accurate', what happens when we look more deeply at historical armies such as the Romans, in which peoples from different countries were dedicated to specific roles in combat? What about the many female warriors overlooked by popular history?  Ben Jeapes (Mod), Gaie Sebold, Dev Agarwal, Ben Galley, Cassandra Khaw
11:50	Reading: Ken MacLeod	Reading: Edward Cox
12:00	Beyond Evil	SF&F On the Margins
	A good villain is often the key to an exciting story, but it can be hard to create a complex and interesting baddie. What are the pitfalls and possibilities of writing really compelling villains and how can you avoid resorting to tropes?	The pros and cons of small press, indie and self-publishing for writers have been well explored over the past decade, but what benefits, if any, does the increased ease of access to publishing hold for readers and for the culture of speculative fiction? What exciting projects or changes in SF&F have come about through these marginal routes to market?
		Sammy Smith (Mod), Joanne Hall, Cheryl Morgan,

Programme Room 2

Time

Programme Room 1

#### Other Programming

Open Arms Session in the Brick-Out Room

If this is your first convention, if you're new to BristolCon, or just fancy a mingle, come along to a friendly meet and greet and share a hot beverage with some of the staff, panellists and other punters.

Kaffeklatsch with Guest of Honour Sarah Pinborough

#### Cutting The Flab with Terry Jackman

'Less is more' is a golden rule in story writing, but how do we achieve that?

In this workshop writer and editor Terry Jackman looks at ways to approach self editing in a practical, no nonsense fashion. In addition, Terry will give anyone attending the workshop a free edit of the first page of their story or novel, either on the day or after the convention. Please bring a printed copy with you.

Your Questions Answered by Gareth L. Powell

A round-table discussion with award-winning author Gareth, in which he will do his best to answer your questions about writing and publishing genre fiction. An essential session for all aspiring SFF authors. I Blame it All on Dan Dare: Presentation from Jim Burns in the Art Show

Time	Programme Room 1	Programme Room 2
12:50	Reading: Sophie E. Tallis	Reading: Stephanie Burgis
13:00	Guest of Honour Presentation	Uncanny Valleys of the Mind
	By Fangorn (Chris Baker)	We've been worried about sentient robots for a long time, but are we really worrying about what they might do to us, or what they might do to our understanding of ourselves? When we're developing smart machines, how do we weigh up the benefits and the dangers, and given that a Twitter chatbot can become a fascist in 24 hours, when do we pull the plug?
		Pete Sutton (Mod), Claire Carter, Kevlin Henney, Ken MacLeod, Rosie Oliver
13:50	Break	Reading: Pete Sutton
14:00	Book Launch followed by Mass Signing	Break
	Nristell Ink corbially invite you to the launch of Rob Narkess's steampunk novel Amunet.	
	Followed by signings from the convention's participating authors.	
14:50	Break	Break
15:00	Murderous Women	Writing Through the Storm
	It appears to be accepted wisdom in the SF&F community that female readers don't like grim and gritty fiction in which lots of people die horribly. Grimdark, allegedly, is by boys for boys, yet many women are successful horror writers. In crime women are encouraged to write hard-edged and brutal novels, so much so that a male writer can adopt a female pen name and be more successful than before. Why are attitudes to 'what women want' so different in different genres?	Writing fiction can provide emotional catharsis and writers often draw on challenging life events in their work. How does writing support you through challenging life events and how do such events enrich or distract from people's writing? How has reading fiction helped our panel to navigate through life's dark places?
	Amanda Kear (Mod), Anna Smith-Spark, Jonathan L. Howard, David Gullen, Dolly Garland	Kate Turner (KS Turner) (Mod), Stephanie Burgis, Gareth L. Powell, Neil Beynon, one other tbc
15:50	Reading: Joel Cornah	Reading: Neil Beynon

Please note that details may be changed after the programme book has been printed. Any changes will be

marked on the schedules pinned up outside programme rooms, and announced at the start of each item.

Whilst you are welcome to take photos at BristolCon, please do not make audio or video recordings without the permission of the item's participants.

Time	Programme Room 1	Programme Room 2
16:00	Guest of Honour Interview	Under the Covers
	Sarah Pinborough is interviewed by Edward Cox	We all know how important covers are to books. Whether or not you judge a book by its cover, marketers assume you will, and cover art is a key part of how a book is marketed and received. Our panel reveals the process by which cover art is commissioned, from writers and publishers selecting artists to the challenges of rendering the writer's vision artistically, with reference to examples of the good, the bad and the ugly of cover art.
		Terry Jackman (Mod), Jaine Fenn, Fangorn (Chris Baker), Kate Turner (KS Turner), Patrick Samphire
16:50	Reading: Sarah Pinborough	Reading: Patrick Samphire
17:00	It Takes A Village	Running the World / Cleaning the Toilets
	From first draft to a table in Waterstones (we wish!) there can be a lot of people involved in producing a book. With representatives from all along the production line, we follow the journey of a book as it passes from one pair of hands to another, taking a close look at the roles of everyone involved and their working relationships.	One person's utopia is another's dystopia. How can we build believable and effective governments in SF&F, and how can we prevent our utopias becoming dystopias (and should we try)? And while we're focused on the action at the top, who's cleaning the toilets?
	Cheryl Morgan (Mod), Sammy Smith, Roz Clarke, Edward Cox, Nick Hembery	Ken MacLeod (Mod), John Baverstock, Ian Millsted, Juliet E McKenna, Jaine Fenn
17:50	Reading: Sammy Smith	Reading: Janet Edwards
18:00	(Have Fun) Storming The Castle	After the Heroes Have Gone
	The panellists are the staunch defenders of Castle BristolCon, with its ramparts, crenellations, moat-with-spikes and traps for the unwary conventioneer – can the audience come up with an effective plan for taking the castle?	We all enjoy a big battle, especially on the big screen, but what happens afterwards? Who's picking up the pieces of New York after the Avengers have smashed it up, who's living in the wreckage of a Godzillastomped Tokyo and what are the Alderaanians who were off planet at the time supposed to do next? Wars have knock-on effects that aren't always explored – we ask our panel to think about the fate of the ordinary folk, after the heroes have gone.
	John Baverstock (Mod), Ade Couper, Jacey Bedford, Mhairi Simpson, Dom Dulley	Roz Clarke (Mod), Joel Cornah, Juliet E McKenna, Fangorn (Chris Baker), R B Watkinson
18:50	Reading: Steven Poore	Reading: Edward Cox

#### Other Programming

In a Flash with Kevlin Henney

A hands-on, pens-down session on writing flash fiction, giving non-writers a chance to write, established writers a chance to try something different and anyone with writer's block to chop that block into finder.

Bananagrams + Chrononauts in the Brick-Out Room

Stage Managed Fighting with Dev Agarwal and Dolly Garland

An interactive and fun session in which Dev and Dolly will use props to discuss how to make fight scenes more realistic, look at what describing fighting can tell the reader about characters, and consider how fighting can be integrated into the wider story.

Shadow Hunters in the Brick-Out Room

Crowdfunding Comics- An in-depth look at the pros & cons of raising funds and awareness: Presentation from Andrew Pawley in the Art Show

Writing Characters with Gaie Sebold

Machi Koro in the Brick-Out Room

A workshop on creating story people we care about, and understanding how they drive the plot.

Crowdfunding Comics- An in-depth look at the pros & cons of raising funds and awareness: Presentation from Andrew Pawley in the Art Show

Closes

Time	Programme Room 1	Programme Room 2
19:00	Through a Glass, Darkly	The 'F' Word
	If speculative fiction holds up a mirror to society, how has this changed over time, and what does it tell us about our current concerns? What are we going to be worried about over the coming years?	The late Graham Joyce believed in fairies. He wrote about fairies. He lit candles on his lawn for fairies. But he didn't like to use the F word (not 'f**k'. He said 'f**k' all the time). He said they didn't like it, and Graham's fairies were not people you'd want to cross. When the shadow steps out, not only is it sometimes not sweet, but sometimes it stays out The panel discusses the darkly numinous otherworld where fairytale meets nightmare.
	Adrian Faulkner (Mod), Sarah Pinborough, Robert Harkess, Justin Newland, Terry Jackman	Jonathan L. Howard (Mod), Will Macmillan Jones, Kate Coe, Lucy Hounsom, Thomas David Parker
19:50	Reading: Justin Newland	Reading: Lucy Hounsom
20:10	Closing Ceremony	
	It's a wrap! Onto next year	
	The BristolCon Quiz, hosted by Nick Walters	
20:30	Our traditional quiz, with added singing and poetry, allegedly.	



Drop in to the Brick-Out Room at any time from 3pm onwards and as well as fiddling with Lego, you can play any of the games listed below and more. Our Games Masters Jon Dowling and his team will be on hand to help you if you need them. Hosted games are scheduled throughout the afternoon and evening, so you don't need to bring friends or know the rules - just turn up and play!

One Night Werewolf - You arrive in a small village being ravaged by a werewolf, and try to discover who the werewolf might be in just one night. Quick game with quite a lot of bluffing.

Ricochet Robots - You are bored workers in a robot factory trying to race robots from one place to another. BUT, the robots have no brakes!

Machi Koro - You try to make your city successful by building all the distinctive landmarks before everyone else.

Betrayal at House on the Hill in the Brick-Out

19:30 Be A Bard with Mhairi Simpson in the Brick-Out Room

One Night Werewolf in the Brick-Out Room

Love Letter - You try to get more of your love letters to the princess before anyone else can. A simple and quick game based around deduction.

Shadow Hunters - You try to figure out who is on your team and complete your objective before everyone else does. A hidden-role game with possible backstabbing involved.

Bananagrams - Make a Scrabble style array of words to use all of your letters before the other players. A word based game that could well appeal to writers!

Chrononauts - You are a dimension traveller and you want to make Earth's history match your history. But changing history has consequences...

Betrayal at House on the Hill - You and some friends are exploring a haunted house and trying to defeat the evil. Then one of the explorers turns into the evil that needs to be defeated.

Be A Bard - An entertaining and creative game in which story cards prompt the twists in the tale. Our hosted game will be run by the game's creator, Mhairi Simpson.

## SOLONGANDTHANKS

Another BristolCon over, a new one just begun.

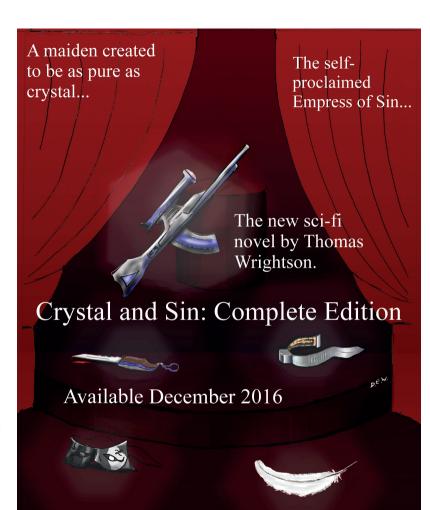
Details of our 2017 convention, with the date and Guests of Honour names will be given at the Closing Ceremony. Tickets for next year's convention are on sale at the reception desk at the super-advance rate of £15.

WE ARE RECRUITING TO THE COMMITTEE! Fancy living \*inside\* Castle BristolCon? If you're interested in helping put future BristolCons together, please come and talk to one of the team. Several members are standing down or reducing their input in 2017, so now is a great time to get involved.

BristolCon 2016 was brought to you by the BristolCon committee: Ade Couper (Minion King), Andy Bigwood (Art Show), Dan Pawley (Entertainment), Desiree Fischer (Secretary), Heather Ashley, Joanne Hall (Chair), John Baverstock (Tech), Mark Robinson (Dealers), MEG (Programme), Mike Dollin (Treasurer) and Roz Clarke (Media & Publications).

#### We would also like to thank:

- Our lovely team of Minions
- Cheryl Morgan for providing our website for the past lots-of-years
- Alan and Colette for the badges
- Chris and Brian Rumble for their work on our new display frames
- Angry Robot, Random House, Ben Jeapes, Fox Spirit, Hachette, Forbidden Planet Serpent's Tail and Grimbold Books for their contributions to our goody bags and competition prizes
- Ann Baverstock for feeding the staff
- The staff at the Hilton Doubletree for their hard work and support
- All of our lovely panelists, workshop runners, artists, dealers and members for making BristolCon the fun and friendly experience it is every year.



Volumes 1-3 available now from Kindle, CreateSpace and Kobo.

## The Cracked Almulet

Blistering New YA/Adult Crossover Novel of the Epic Fantasy Genre. Critics Ask: "When is the Film Coming"?

R B Watkinson's 'The Cracked Amulet' embroils readers in a land where danger, magic, fantastical creatures and chillingly-vivid characters run amok. There's nothing else like it on the market, with critics tipping the adventure as the perfect candidate for the big screen. In fact, one critic recently wrote, "Enter through the portal and be swept up in a whirlwind of a vividly described new world. RB Watkinson writes like a dream"

R B Watkinson's 'The Cracked Amulet' is being praised by critics for being an amazing YA/Adult crossover of the fantasy genre: the story's culture and values transcend any single age group to make it a cracking read for anyone and everyone, and it has received nothing but four and five star reviews. This is just the very start of the saga. The next book is currently on R B Watkinson's writing desk and should be released very soon.

A reviewer wrote: I adored every single page of this beautifully written novel, I found myself hooked from the first page by the intriguing landscape and the fabulous characters. I love the feeling of being transported somewhere new, getting engrossed by the magic seeping through the pages...What interested me most about this novel is the diversity of the audience it is aimed at. I read a lot of young adult novels and Watkinson's characters really seem to fit the desired tastes of that audience. However, I do feel that this book is written to target older age groups and I think that it's very-

cleverly done.

spirits, Coryn and Katleya lose all they have and must flee all that they know. Coryn, ex-slave and soldier, protected by a cracked amulet, must find his sister and fulfill an oath. Katleya has only her wits and her knives to defend herself. She can use her Wealdan only to see the Wefan and is desperate to reach one of the teaching Havens where she can learn to use her ability fully. But she is hunted by the Blood-priests of Mureck who would use her and her Wealdan for terrible purposes of their own. A story as intricate and as powerful as any Weaving of the Wefan.

Against a background of failing states, magik, monsters, and

Order The Cracked Amulet from any book shop or buy it from: Www.amazon.co.uk/The-Cracked-Amulet-Wefan-Weaves/dp/1910461075 FB: www.facebook.com/rbwatkinson189 Author Website & Blog: www.rbwatkinson.wordpress.com

