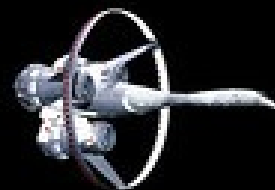


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Bristol-CON

SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY CONVENTION



• The Basics

Date: 26th October 2019

Location: Hilton DoubleTree Hotel, Bristol

Guests of Honour: Authors Diane Duane and Gareth L. Powell. Artist Andy Bigwood.

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Programme 2017

Here is the Draft Programme for Bristolcon 2017

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Programme Room 1 ([Back to Top](#))

Time

Description

09:50	Welcome : MEG
10:00	Gender Flipping & Fluidity – Recent years have seen discussion of gender become an established part of the SF&F conversation. The panel will celebrate this rise, discuss how it has come to pass and look to where it may go in the future, with a nod backwards to LeGuin and Woolf (amongst others).:
	Joanne Hall (M), Virginia Bergin, Joel Cornah, Tej Turner, Lucy Hounsom
10:50	Reading: Lucy Hounsom
11:00	Guest of Honour Interview – Jen Williams
	Interviewed by Peter Newman
11:50	Reading: Steve McHugh
12:00	A Masters Degree in Exobiology – Our literature wouldn’t be complete without a bestiary of fantastic creatures, from space whales to drop bears to piercers. What are the panel’s favourite brilliant, intriguing or just plain bonkers critters from SF&F?:
	David Gullen (M), Jen Williams, Steve McHugh, Graham Austin-King, Jessica Rydill
12:50	Reading: Graham Austin-King
13:00	Guest of Honour Interview – Sarah Anne Langton
	By Joanne Hall
13:50	Setup
14:00	Paul Cornell’s Long Day In Lychford, followed by a mass signing
14:50	Break
15:00	Mapping SF & F – Most of us love a good map. The panellists look at the role of maps in speculative fiction and discuss the process of collaboration between writers and artists that ultimately lays out the fictional landscape before us.:
	Sophie E Tallis (M), Anna Stephens, Juliet E McKenna, Andy Bigwood, Joel Cornah
15:50	Reading: Joel Cornah
16:00	Guest of Honour Interview – Jonathan L Howard
	Interviewed by Gareth L Powell
16:50	Reading: Jonathan L Howard
17:00	Out Of This World Trip Advisor – The panel reviews a variety of famous places in SF&F, and decides if there are any fantasy worlds or alien planets that would make good holiday destinations.:
	Danie Ware (M), Jen Williams, Dolly Garland, Gareth L Powell, Paul McAuley
17:50	Reading: Gareth L Powell
18:00	I Don’t Know Which Shelf To Put This Book On – Clarke’s Law says that at first inspection, any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic. Does it then follow that any sufficiently analysed magic is indistinguishable from science? Our panellists discuss where SF meets F. What makes a book one or the other, and what goes on when the two meet, and maybe even have babies?:
	Jo Lindsay Walton (M), Elizabeth Jones, Danie Ware, Jason Whittle, Nick Hembery
18:50	Reading: Dominic Dulley
19:00	Thinking Outside The Dyson Sphere – If sense of wonder is the heart of speculative fiction, this is where to find it. The panel discuss the most plausible, and implausible, habitats in SF&F, from alien megastructures to weird solar systems and fantastic worlds. :
	Jaine Fenn (M), Dominic Dulley, Justina Robson, Janet Edwards, Nik Whitehead
19:50	Reading: Justin Newland
20:00	CLOSING CEREMONY
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Programme Room 2 ([Back to Top](#))

Time

Description

09:30	My First Con: If you're new to conventions this is for you. Theo Graham and Peter Newman will run an informal session where you can learn what to expect and how to get the best out of Bristolcon. (THIS EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE BRICKOUT ROOM)
09:50	Welcome: Dan Pawley
10:00	You Are The Product – It's long been said that if something on the Internet is free, then it's you that's being sold. In an increasingly social media obsessed world, where every click you make feeds into an algorithm somewhere, maybe we should be concerned about just what companies do with our information. Is this just tinfoil hat paranoia, or could your online life genuinely affect your "real" life, from the billboards you see to your chances of getting insurance? What will this look like in another decade? Another century?
	Kevlin Henney (M), Gaie Sebold, Adrian Selby, Kate Coe, David Gullen
10:50	Reading: Gaie Sebold
11:00	A Fistful Of Genres – How has the Western influenced SFF and do interesting things happen where genres intersect? Westerns and SF are both literatures concerned with taming new frontiers and the effects of new technologies, be it a six shot revolver or an FTL drive. Are tales of the great nineteenth century expansion into the American West a forerunner of adventures on space colonies? How many Western tropes have carried over into heroic fantasy?
	Peter Sutton (M), Jonathan L Howard, Stark Holborn, Ian Millsted, Terry Jackman
11:50	Reading: Terry Jackman
12:00	She Infodumped Me – Tabletop roleplayers complain about games which have pages and pages of lore and history, aka: several centuries of stuff happened, which you and the other characters weren't involved with. How do authors and game designers balance creating a complex realistic world with the need to avoid information overload in the reader?
	Juliet E McKenna (M), Jacey Bedford, Peter Newman, Ellen Crosháin, Dyrk Ashton
12:50	Reading: Ellen Crosháin
13:00	Gert Lush Science 2017 – Science is always on the march. In the first few months of 2017 alone, we've seen new exoplanets, companies laying off workers to replace them with AIs, flowers pollinated by robot bees, and maybe even an actual Dyson sphere. What do these discoveries mean for the future, and for SF?
	Dev Agarwal (M), Justina Robson, Paul McAuley, Rosie Oliver, GR Matthews
13:50	Reading: Paul McAuley
14:00	Break
14:50	Break
15:00	Klaatu Barada Nikto – Our panel talks (mainly in English) about languages in SF&F, from simple neologisms to fully fledged conlangs (constructed languages), and about how language has been used to build worlds in film and literature. Will we all eventually speak the same language, or will the urge to distinguish our tribe from others always drive difference?
	Jessica Rydill (M), Anna Smith Spark, Deane Saunders-Stowe, Piotr Swietlik, Jaine Fenn
15:50	Reading: Anna Smith Spark
16:00	Space Sick, Space Healthy – Health has been a primary human concern for ever. As we increasingly build our own environments and begin to move into new ones inimical to humanity, will we encounter new problems? Will an inability to adapt to new technologies be viewed as a handicap? How will you get on in the Martian colony if you're claustrophobic? Could things currently viewed as problems be seen as advantages in the right place, and what might be lost in years to come?
	Rosie Oliver (M), Janet Edwards, Dr Bob, Dev Agarwal, DJ Cockburn
16:50	Reading: Janet Edwards
17:00	They Hacked My Lightbulb, Now I'm Sat In The Dark – The Internet of Things is coming. The connected house sounds like a tech dream, but what happens when your fridge suffers a ransomware attack and refuses to open when you need to get the milk to finish that cup of tea? The panel will aim to celebrate the possibilities, but probably spend more time discussing just what could go wrong in this brave new world.
	David Gullen (M), John Hawkes-Reed, Jo Lindsay Walton, Anna Stephens, Jaine Fenn
17:50	Reading: Anna Stephens

18:00	Aw Ma, Not Soylent Green For Tea Again! – Years ago, we were told that in the future we’d be eating our meals in pill form. Why didn’t this happen? What is the future of food? The panel discuss what we could and should (or maybe shouldn’t) try to grow, manufacture and cook on a space station, or a voyage to the stars, or just in an increasingly overcrowded world where climate change will limit traditional agriculture.
	Roz Clarke (M), Joanne Hall, RB Watkinson, Kevlin Henney, Peter Sutton
18:50	Reading: RB Watkinson
19:00	Health & Safety In Space – The H&S Inspectors are visiting your genre to check for dangerous breaches of protocol. From Jurassic Park to Skynet, we ask – how did they get that past Health and Safety?!
	Nik Whitehead (M), Jonathan L Howard, Anna Stephens, Katya Bozukova, Nick Walters
19:50	Reading: Nick Walters
20:00	
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Snug [\(Back to Top\)](#)


Time	Host	Description
09:50		
10:00	Gareth L Powell	A session for aspiring authors, in which they can ask anything about the business and craft of writing, securing an agent, and getting published.
10:50		
11:00	Justina Robson	Kaffeklatsch
11:50		
12:00	Virginia Bergin	A pep talk for unpublished writers!’ – presentation and Q&A advice session for writers who have yet to be published from Macmillan author Virginia Bergin
12:50		
13:00	Stephanie Burgis & Patrick Samphire	Writing middle grade fantasy and science fiction
13:50		
14:00	Nick Hembery	Get Edited: bring your story ideas along to get them workshopped into solid plots. A led discussion with no bad ideas, constructive criticism and tons of encouragement.
14:50		
15:00	Peter Newman	Getting Unstuck: A workshop for any writers who are stuck with a project. It doesn’t matter if you’re just starting out or an established writer, at chapter 1 or 100: as long as you have a project you can bring to the group, Peter will try to help you move forward with it.
15:50		
16:00	Juliet E McKenna	Someone goes on a journey; a stranger comes to town: A group story-brainstorming session to explore what writers can learn from testing out their ideas and planning their plot before they reach for the pen or keyboard.
16:50		
17:00	Jessica Rydill	Writing and mental health: Do mental health problems help or hinder creativity and writing; how do writers cope? What about writers’ block? How does it interfere or interact with the day job? What about Philip K. Dick, L. Ron Hubbard, and so on?
17:50		
18:00	Dev Agarwal	How to stage manage and craft violence in fiction. This will be an interactive session drawing on audience ideas and participation.
18:50		
19:00	Piotr Swietlik	Dialogue writing advice. A workshop helping to develop techniques of writing good dialogue, with tips and cake.
19:50		
20:00		
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Art Room [\(Back to Top\)](#)


Time	Host	Description
09:50		
10:00	Elizabeth Jones	BookTube! – get involved with the huge community of reviewers and book-related channels on YouTube
10:50		
11:00		
11:50		
12:00	Andy Bigwood	3D Printing – A Beginner’s Guide
12:50		
13:00		
13:50		
14:00		
14:50		
15:00	Sarah Ash	Stray Gods, Spirits & Shinki Noragami
15:50		
16:00	The Theremin – Charlie Draper	The Iconic sound of the Theremin has been heard in many different sci-fi and fantasy films and television programs. Join Charlie for a talk including music
16:50		
17:00	Val Jones of JoValJo Crafts	The Thing About Dragons
17:50		
18:00		
18:50		
19:00		
19:50		
20:00		


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