



Follycon

Welcome to the first Follycon Factsheet! Follycon will be the 69th British National Science Fiction Convention, or Eastercon. It will be held at the Majestic Hotel in Harrogate, from 30 March to 2 April 2018.

We'd like to thank everyone who voted for us, and everyone who has already become a member. If you haven't already joined the convention, please see the details below.

Remember that we're the 2018 Eastercon! The 2017 Eastercon, Innominate, will be held in Birmingham and you can find their website at eastercon2017.uk.

Follycon won't be producing traditional Progress Reports in the run-up to the convention, but this is a short summary of what we've been up to since Easter. You can find much more information on our website, follycon.org.uk, our Facebook page, facebook.com/follycon2018, or through our Twitter account, [@follycon2018](https://twitter.com/follycon2018).

Hotel

Follycon will be held in the beautiful Yorkshire spa town of Harrogate, at The Majestic Hotel.

The Majestic is a grand four-star Victorian hotel, set in 8 acres of private gardens in the heart of Harrogate. It has 170 bedrooms, a health club and swimming pool, free wi-fi and ample parking. Harrogate railway station is about a mile away, and Leeds Bradford Airport about twelve miles. You can find out all the details from thehotelcollection.co.uk/hotels/majestic-hotel-harrogate.

The Majestic isn't large enough to accommodate everyone, but fear not: there are several other hotels onsite and nearby, and we are negotiating for blocks of rooms in them. In addition, there are plenty of local B&Bs if you are looking to stay in Harrogate on a budget.

We expect to open hotel bookings by Easter 2017, and will give you notice of the exact date and process in the next Factsheet. Before then, we're very keen to put together a list of those who require an accessible room, or who need to be in the main hotel for access reasons: please email access@follycon.org.uk if either of these applies to you.

Guests of Honour

Follycon has four fabulous Guests lined up to delight you.

Kieron Gillen is one of the finest writers of graphic novels today. His major work-in-progress at present is *The Wicked + The Divine* (mostly illustrated by the talented Jamie McKelvie), but he's also worked on a number of other titles such as *Journey Into Mystery*, *Uber*, *Mercury Heat* and the official Darth Vader comic. He also worked as a games journalist, and co-founded games magazine *Rock, Paper, Shotgun*.

Christina Lake is a TAFF winner, writer and con runner. She's a brilliant fan writer who has won multiple Novas and FAAn awards, as well as running fan programme streams and fanzine conventions many times. While not running conventions, producing fanzines, or hanging out in the bar, she's currently developing her PhD thesis on utopian and dystopian eugenics. And she's a published SF author.

Nnedi Okorafor is one of the most innovative and exciting new writers of the twenty-first century, producing books for all ages that have been published in and won awards across three continents, including the 2016 Nebula and Hugo Awards for her novella *Binti*. Her work blends fantasy and science fiction, and, while drawing on her Nigerian heritage, is fiercely original and centres in particular on the experience of young women of African descent.

Kim Stanley Robinson is one of the great SF writers. His many books are wide in scope and ambition, taking in alternative universes, utopias, dystopias and many wide worlds in and beyond the solar system. Awards include the BSFA, World Fantasy, and Nebula and Hugo awards for the three volumes of the Mars trilogy. He also has a PhD based on the works of Philip K. Dick. His most recent book is *Aurora*, published in 2015. Based in California he hangs out with scientists and is a rare visitor to the UK.

T-shirts

Our fabulous T-shirts, featuring Sue Mason artwork, are being printed by a company called Teespring and delivered directly to you, rather than being sold at conventions. If you'd like to order one, please visit teespring.com/follycon. We may have a limited number of shirts available for sale at Innominate, the 2017 Eastercon; if you know that you would like to buy one there it would be helpful if you let us know in advance by emailing shirts@follycon.org.uk.

Code of Conduct

In line with recent Eastercons, the Follycon committee is committed to principles of inclusion and equality, and to a strong stand against harassment of any kind. We're currently working on the convention's code of conduct, and expect to have it on our website shortly.

Getting in Touch

We'd love to hear from you, whether by email or via social media (or even by post to the address at the end of this update). At this point in time, we think there are four main reasons that you might want to contact us.

Access

We are working closely with the Majestic to make the convention accessible, but it is a Victorian building that wasn't originally designed with accessibility in mind. Wherever practical, ramps and lifts have been installed, and we'll be planning the programme rooms to ensure that the convention space is as accessible as possible. The hotel has an accessibility brochure, with lots of information and photographs, that you can find at tinyurl.com/maj-access. If you have any questions that aren't covered there, email us at access@follycon.org.uk.

Dealers and Art

If you'd like to register an interest in space in the Dealers' Room, please email dealers@follycon.org.uk. If you're interested in exhibiting in our Art Show, please email artshow@follycon.org.uk.

Programme

At Follycon, we intend to make every single programme item as good as possible. We will have some items inspired by our guests and by hot topics of the day, and some that are complete surprises. We'll have a volunteer and suggestions page on our website next year. Until then, if you have a suggestion for a programme item or you'd like to volunteer to be on the programme, please let us know at programme@follycon.org.uk.

Volunteering

If you'd like to help out with the running of the convention, whether beforehand or on the day, please send an email to volunteers@follycon.org.uk letting us know what you'd be interested in doing.

The Future of Eastercon

A consultation about the best ways to manage the Eastercon in future is currently taking place. You can find out more about the project at eastercon.wordpress.com, and the team involved would value your feedback on their work to date. (This isn't a Follycon initiative, but we do support their work.)

Everything Else

There's a list of these and other contact email addresses on our website, or you can send an email to info@follycon.org.uk if you're not sure who's the best person to answer your query. If you'd prefer to contact us by post, please write to Follycon, 19 Uphall Road, Cambridge, CB3 1HX.

Who Are We?

Our committee is made up of:

Alison Scott – Chair
Steve Davies – Deputy Chair
Michael Abbott – Programme
Liz Batty – Communications
Alice Lawson – Hotel
Caroline Mullan – Programme
Phil Nanson – Treasurer and membership
Paul Taylor – Communications and IT

You can also find a list of staff members on the website.

How to Join

If you're not already a member of the convention, you can join by visiting follycon.org.uk/join. Our rates until the end of November 2016 (better join quickly!) are:

Adult (25+)	£60
Young Adult (18-24) / Unwaged	£45
Child (5-17)	£30
Infant (0-4)	Free
Supporting	£30

Ages are as at 1 April 2018.

We hope to offer day memberships for Follycon, and details will be announced near the time of the convention.