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## **Levitation 2024 Programme Guide**

Convention time for Europe/London, shown in bold.

□ Volunteer Induction Session

Pattingham, Duration: 45 mins



Emjay (moderator)

Fan Interest, In person only, No catch-up, In person, Friday,

Eastercons are volunteer events. We all give something to make the Eastercon happen. Everyone has a better time if volunteers know who they are reporting to, where help is needed and who to go to for assistance. Please do come along to this session to find out how you can help make Levitation a better convention (and meet people!).



Most of the area was cleared for the construction of new housing, light industry and retail developments but almost by chance one area – the Ironbridge Gorge, was set aside for the conservation of natural and cultural heritage.

This short presentation will take us through the key people and events who have become the stars of the Ironbridge story – highlighting places of interest and hidden quirks – to explore how the so called 'birthplace of industry' became the quiet tourist destination it is today. There will also be tips for being a 'countertourist' should you wish to take a sideways look at Telford and Ironbridge while you're here!



written in English, *Contemporary Pakistani Speculative Fiction and the Global Imaginary: Democratizing Human Futures* explores the ways in which contemporary Pakistani authors extend the genre in new directions by challenging the cognitive majoritarianism

12:00

(usually Western) in this field. The co-authors of the book present.



All cultures have their own myths and legends, and looking beyond European sources can lead to a rich source of inspiration. The panel will discuss the ins and outs of this: What SF & fantasy works have been based on myths further afield than Europe? What non-European myths or legends would they like to see incorporated into fiction? And are there any ethical considerations - is using myths sourced from cultures other than one's own and example of cultural appropriation?



lost civilisation. Architects and planners have looked to science fiction and science fiction has looked back, but ideas of what makes a liveable city have changed a lot as we have taken on the needs of different demographic groups, climate, location, and resources. What have been the most imaginative sf cities, and what the most interesting to live in? What does it take to help a city thrive?



#### Levitation 2024 Programme Guide

Climate change isn't science fiction. But SFF is the literature of ideas, and perhaps it can offer us some solutions to the climate emergency. Much climate fiction suggests we are heading towards a dystopian future of scarcity and environmental collapse. But work such as Kim Stanley Robinson's The Ministry For The Future or EI Swift's The Coral Bones offer a more hopeful take on futures where we can address the worst effects, albeit as a result of radical prescriptions for societal change. Can SFF help us find solutions as well as scare us into action?

13:00



Guest of Honour, Virtual, In person, Friday,

Welcome to the Opening Ceremony. This is a chance to meet our Guests and hear about the highlights of the convention. At the end of the Opening Ceremony we will hand over to Nicholas Whyte to present the 2024 Hugo Shortlist.

#### 14:30

#### Hugo Award Shortlist

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 30 mins



Nicholas Whyte (moderator)

Virtual, In person, Friday,

The announcement of the shortlist for the 2024 Hugo Awards. This will be immediately after the Opening Ceremony, with no break in between.

#### 15:00



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Science, No catch-up, Virtual, In person, Friday,

Here we are at the heart of the Industrial Revolution, the very chasm of Mordor (otherwise known as Iron Bridge Gorge). Superficially science fiction celebrated the industrial revolution while fantasy recoiled from it, but is it that simple? Well of course not!



When we talk about diversity, someone always pipes up, "But I just want to read good fiction!" However ideas of good fiction and good writing are intensely tied to culture, prejudice and often to prejudicial and discriminatory value structures. This panel will discuss how we think about "good" in ways that can revolutionise the field and make room for marginalised voices



Virtual, In person, Friday,

Andor is a retrofuturist series, set in the run up to Rogue One and Star Wars: A New Hope, focusing on the early days of the Rebellion and how it shapes and is shaped by the Empire in turn. But where does Andor sit within the canon of noirish and dystopian works and what can it tell us about the evolution of these genres? What can we expect from series 2?

#### 16:00



Come and hear readings by newly published writers! Each participant will read for 10 minutes each.



https://guide.eastercon2024.co.uk

On 29th March 1974 Mariner 10 became the first spacecraft to flyby Mercury. With Japan becoming the fifth country to land on Earth's Moon earlier this year, our panellists discuss current issues for the exploration of Space by Humankind in the next 50 years.





Ironbridge 1, Duration: 45 mins



Eleanor Roberts (moderator)

Tade Thompson

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In person only, No catch-up, In person, Friday,

Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* is one of the most influential science fiction novels in the canon. The panel will talk about their favourite fictional engagements with the story, from C. L. Moore's 1946, No Woman Born, through to the new film of Alasdair Gray's Poor Things.

Elsa Sjunneson

Robin

#### 19:00

## ☐ The Past Isn't Straight (& Neither is the Future)

Atcham. Duration: 45 mins



Heather Valentine



Wendy Metcalfe

Writing, Virtual, In person, Friday,

Diversity of sexuality and gender, arguably, is as old as society itself; why is it only now that traditional publishing is positively encouraging an increasingly diverse range of characters, stories and writers beyond hetero and binary (so-called) norms?

Our panel discusses the state of play in the past, present and future for diverse authors and stories featuring diverse characters seeking publication in today's genre publishing industry. How has the cast of characters in SFF stories changed over the years? How is it likely to change going forward? How well does this year's genre bestseller or nomination list represent LGBTQI+ and non-binary characters compared to a decade ago, a century ago? Expect a broad range of questions and opinions from experienced authors.



William

Science, Virtual, In person, Friday,

Science has taken a battering in recent years with the rise of "anti-vax", anti-climate change, and other denialist and conspiracy narratives. This might be nothing new (just ask Galileo), but how might SF now help to defend science? Does Science Fiction create unrealistic expectations? Is SF, in fact, part of the problem?





Board games have enjoyed an explosion in popularity since the 1990s, but this hasn't always been matched by compelling

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commentary. Arguably the most incisive criticism has been found on YouTube with channels such as Shut Up and Sit Down, but the written word is also becoming more popular with newer paper magazines (Senet, Tabletop Gaming) and websites (Dicebreaker). In February 2024, the New Tabletop Games Journalism manifesto was published by Lin Codega, Rowan Zeoli and Chase Carter, in an echo of the earlier manifesto for video game journalism.

Where do we go to find the best discussion of tabletop gaming? Which writers do we enjoy, and which videos and essays have stayed with us? How does modern game journalism compare to the fanzines and magazines from the early days?

#### 20:00



Different versions of the idea of walking away are central to Ursula Le Guin's 'The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas' and Cory Doctorow's 'Walkaway'. Is walking away from an unjust, oppressive or simply unequal society the right or wrong thing to do ethically? What are the practicalities of walking away? Might it just be a colonial landgrab in practice? Is it possible to walk away metaphorically by creating alternative networks in existing societies? This panel discusses these questions in relation to these and other texts.

#### Talk: Imaginary Lines

Pattingham, Duration: 45 mins



Kari (moderator)

History, Virtual, In person, Friday,

Imaginary Lines: the Welsh borders in the Early Middle Ages.

Borders come in many different shapes, change with time and politics, mean different things to different peoples, cross cultures and languages and properties. In this talk Kari looks at the history of Wales and its neighbouring counties and the different roles that the idea of a border played.

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#### New ways to think about worldbuilding

Coalport, Duration: 45 mins



Janet Forbes



Stephen Oram (moderator)

Guest of Honour, Virtual, In person, Friday,

There is an awful lot of advice out there about worldbuilding and this panel will discuss some of the best and worst. But it will also discuss new ways to think about world building: do you create a world you would be interested in living in/writing in/reading about (the former may be far more comfortable than the latter). Do you start with the character and build a universe around them, or do you start with the world and then figure out who would live there? Do you begin with geography or politics? Do you just take your favourite fetish, your personal political power fantasy, and your current obsession and go from there?

#### ☐ An Evening with Donna Scott

Wenlock 3 & 4, Duration: 45 mins



Donna Scott (moderator)

After Dark, Virtual, In person, Friday,

Donna Scott: Donna may be known as a science-fiction editor, but she is also a comedian who has performed extensively across the UK, having reached the finals of BBC New Voices, Old Comedian of the Year, and most recently Some Antics Comedy Competition in 2023. Geeky storytelling, occasionally whimsical, frequently oversharing. Plus poems.

#### □ The FunCon Party!

Atcham, Duration: 45 mins



Emma J King (moderator)



Fan Interest, In person only, No catch-up, In person, Friday,

A kids' party for grown ups where all the games are adapted for adult participants. Join in with games such as pass the parcel, musical chairs, statues, what's the time Mr Wolf?, and the human

### Friday, 29 March 2024

#### □ The Long Walk: Telford to Ironbridge

Other, Duration: 240 mins



Farah Mendlesohn



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Exercise, In person only, No catch-up, Sign up required, In person, Saturday,

Starting at 7am, from the front entrance of the Holliday Inn, Mike Scott and Farah Mendlesohn will be walking to Ironbridge, a distance of a little over 5 miles/8 kilometres. Meet outside the Holiday Inn at 7am. Breakfast has been arranged in Ironbridge and then you can either make your own way home or we will arrange for pick up. Please wear walking shoes/boots and a waterproof if it looks like rain.

The route will depend on the people who turn up.

We have found an Accessible route for Scooters so if you would like to trundle along, please sign up!

Runners are welcome to run ahead. Dogs also welcome: the cafe (Truffles) is dog friendly and large).

Sign up at the Registration Desk.

#### 07:00



#### Scientists in the Media Imagination

Coalport, Duration: 45 mins

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Sabine Furlong

Media, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

We've had movies about Einstein, Oppenheimer, Fossey, the Curies, and the women who computed for NASA. How well does cinema portray great scientists and breakthrough science, and what could be done better? Which scientists deserve tribute who remain unrecognised by popular media? The panel discusses, and invites suggestions.



Science, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

So you're thinking about murder... Skeletons and fiction

In books and on screen, bones occasionally turn up. Maybe someone is searching for a missing person; maybe they've surface by accident. But how realistic is it for the protagonist to know, exactly, what they represent? And can we really tell age at death, ancestry, cause of death, and or biological sex? Yes, the last one is a minefield, but I will only briefly discuss gender, which is **not** a stand-in for biological sex, which itself is not always binary. Can we tell animal from human? And can we identify some diseases and disorders from the bones?

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Dr Rose Drew has been messing about with skeletal materials, human and non-human, for over 25 years. She has examined skeletal remains from three continents, ranging from Archaic to Roman to Viking to Medieval to Modern. Come along, and play Stump The Anthropologist during questions!

#### The Threat and Promise of Megaconstellations

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 45 mins



Science, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

Huge constellations of low Earth orbit satellites hold the promise of always available internet, real time satellite imaging everywhere and more, but there is a darker side to these projects. They increase the brightness of the night sky, swamp radio astronomy, and may have implications for the ionosphere as well. Are they a good thing or a bad thing, and if they're bad, can they be stopped?

#### 10:00

#### Visit to RAF Cosford museum

Other, Duration: 210 mins



Simon Bradshaw (moderator)

Fan Interest, In person only, No catch-up, Sign up required, In person, Saturday,

Led by Simon Bradsaw, the usual convention rules to under 18s apply.

Visit the National Cold War Exhibition with its eye-catching architecture and design. Discover Cold War stories in immersive Hotspots; explore thrilling displays of aircraft, iconic cars, models, tanks and even life-sized Russian dolls. Come and marvel at the world's oldest Spitfire and several other classic aircraft in our War in the Air Hangar. Sign up at the Registration Desk on Friday.

Entry is free.

TRAVEL TO BE DETERMINED DEPENDING ON NUMBERS.

https://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/midlands/

10:30

Choosing Character Voice

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Ironbridge 1, Duration: 45 mins



Writing, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

What are the relative benefits to the storyteller of adopting 1st, 2nd and 3rd person point-of-view? What can the author achieve with each and what are the challenges? What opportunities does the choice of past, present or future tense present? What other stylistic elements contribute to character voice? Our panel discuss the crafting of the compelling protagonist and the many ways to go about it.



Who could talk you into anything against your better judgement? What do we mean by "charisma", anyway, and how can writers and creators best portray it? Our panellists resist the lure of the Dark Side long enough to play (metaphorical) spin the bottle with Doctor Who, Daenerys Targaryen, Mal Reynolds, Tony Stark and many, many more.

#### □ Climate Friction: Solar Punk & Environment Justice

Pattingham, Duration: 45 mins



Alex Cochran (moderator)



Tricia Sullivan

Literature, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

SF has warned of potential climate catastrophe for decades, but has the genre ever realistically confronted the dangers faced by Humankind? Is SF in fact dreaming of superpowered Space Opera utopias while scientists and engineers spend their days in the climate trenches? Our panel discusses SF's role not only in positing, but in meeting the environmental challenges of the future.



archeology and what you should look out for.

11:00

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Coalport, Duration: 45 mins



Writing, No catch-up, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

You know everyone on the crew; all were psych evaluated; the passengers were frisked for weapons; and everyone is asleep. So who shot the captain, and how? Most of us love a puzzle, but when it comes to SF there are so many more possibilities than the rogue android with the titanium piping in the transporter room. So, who do our panel think 'done it', and how?

#### □ The BSFA Lecture: Annals of Vandalism

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 45 mins



Shana Worthen (moderator)

Literature, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

For decades now John Clute has been writing about the damage done to literary and publishing history by the British Library practice of removing and disposing of dust-wrappers. In this talk he will explain why it is so problematic and show you some of the most interesting in his forthcoming book, *The Book Blinders*.

The first known dust jacket to appear in a book in the UK dates from 1819. Front and back flaps were soon filled with ads, bios and synopses. But almost none of this has survived and the insittution primarily responsible for this is the British Library, which has maintained a policy of removing dust jackets from every book it has accessioned.



Physical and mental enhancement are common in Fantasy and SF: Body mods, cybernetics, elixirs and god-given trinkets.

Whether magical or mechanical, accident or design, adventurers noble and villainous are always seeking a competitive edge. The impacts can be exciting, horrific, wondrous, disastrous; perhaps all of the above! Our panel discusses favourite and notable examples.



#### 12:00

#### □ BSFA Awards

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 60 mins



Allen Stroud (moderator)

audio recorded for research purposes).

After Dark, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

The BSFA awards are presented annually by the British Science Fiction Association, based on a vote of BSFA members and—in recent years—members of the British national science fiction convention Eastercon. They are fan awards that not only seek to honour the most worthy examples in each category, but also to promote the genre of science fiction, and get people reading,

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talking about, and enjoying all that contemporary science fiction has to offer



So work of value carries with it the hope of pleasure in rest, the hope of pleasure in using what is produced and the hope of Levitation 2024 Programme Guide

pleasure in our own creative skill. Any other kind of work is worthless; toiling to live so that we can live to toil."

Science Fiction has been speculating about the automaton of different kinds of work for its entire existence, from the replacement of factory workers with robots to the production of "writing machines". There have been a number of seismic shifts in the way mechanisation, electrification and now electronic technologies have affected and are affecting industry, public services, and the creative arts. How do we respond to the attempts to erode the value of human input in its varied ways.

#### 13:00

# From Policy to Implementation Coalport, Duration: 60 mins duckbunny (Gillian Polack) Caroline Mullan (moderator) Penny Hill

Fan Interest, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

We've all experienced it: the long laboured over policy document, full of exciting new ideas; it wins awards, every one talks about it... and three years later nothing has changed. This panel will talk about how you take something from policy to implementation, and share with you the good, the bad, the ugly, their downright farcical experiences and pull examples from their favourite sf and fantasy.



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Guest of Honour, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

Do you need to own your favourite SF & fantasy novels, or do you think of your local library as an extension of your personal book collection? With the widespread existence of online libraries, and inter-library loans, libraries have huge potential in terms of enabling access to a wide range of books.

#### $\square$ Gods walk among us

Pattingham, Duration: 60 mins



R E Lewin

Virtual, In person, Saturday,

Fantasy fiction is full of gods. Sometimes those gods manifest within those worlds, rather than being more remote figures that are worshipped. Our panel will discuss the best and worst examples of this, and how to write gods as characters without the pitfalls of overpowered characters. Is Marvel's Thor a god or a powerful alien? And why is Pratchett's Anoia the best god of them all?



of the process of developing and fine tuning a board game. This item will happen in the games room. Sign up at the registration desk, or pop by the games room throughout the convention to see if Joss is free to playtest at a different time.



Over Doctor Who's 60 years, the industrial revolution has influenced many storylines and their telling through allegory and motif. One serial, The Mark of the Rani (1985), featured George Stephenson, and was filmed extensively around Ironbridge Gorge; a theme of the story is the exploitation of workers. The panel goes beyond that one story and looks at how Doctor Who has examined the multiple legacies of the industrial revolution in terms of industrialised manufacturing, labour relations, and growth of an exploitative middle class, among other themes.



One day we will colonise space. The design of buildings and other artefacts will be adapted to meet the specific needs of the environment - what do we think they will look like with what we know now, and how might these design choices influence architecture on Earth?



Launch: Cybersalon anthology of applied fiction

Wenlock 3 & 4, Duration: 60 mins

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"All Tomorrow's Futures: Fictions That Disrupt" – an anthology of applied science fiction from Cybersalon Press.



The old adage would have us believe that writing is a solitary profession, but nothing could be further from the truth. Any story travelling from conception to publication without exposure to a second set of eyes can only be the poorer for it. The best writing groups have something to offer all writers, and aim to lift everyone up.



Virtual, In person, Saturday,

Why has Canada produced so many exciting writers? From our GOH Michelle Sagara to Margaret Atwood, Guy Gavriel Kay, Kate Heartfield, Derek Kunsken and Premee Mohamed, Canadian SFF writers produce some great fiction. Just what are they putting (poutine?) in the water? And what is distinctive about Canadian SFF?

□ GoH: Elsa Sjunesson interview

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 60 mins



Ed Fortune (moderator)



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Farah Mendlesohn

Guest of Honour, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

Virtual GoH Elsa Sjunneson is interviewed by Ed Fortune.

#### 17:30



being David Lynch's 1984 version. In addition, the Sci-Fi Channel produced miniseries adaptations of the first three books about 20 years ago. Let's discuss these and other adaptations of the series in various media. We can even talk about the prequels and sequels if you must.



Science, No catch-up, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

Panellists discuss their favourite conspiracy theories and what might attract people to believe the moon landing was a hoax, aeroplanes are releasing mind controlling chemicals, and Finland doesn't exist. Is there any basis in science, and where's the harm in someone believing the Earth is flat, anyway?



19:00

Worldcon buzz, and hear about some of the amazing events, guest and performances that you can expect in August on the banks of the Clyde.

Do you think you know everything about all things science fiction, fantasy and horror, or books, TV, film and comics... And perhaps even Glasgow and its Worldcons? Assemble your team and test your knowledge in Glasgow 2024's table quiz!



□ Does sf influence the decision to study science?

Pattingham, Duration: 45 mins

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Science, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

Research has suggested that children who are going to choose science are the first to choose their careers. For a very long time we've assumed that there is a connection between reading science fiction and choosing to study science. But does science fiction create scientists or is it just that scientists are attracted to science fiction? What responsibilities does this put on science fiction writers?



Science, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

Twice failed ESA Astronaut candidate Dr Emma J King talks about her experience of the the astronaut selection process. Emma is a science communicator with a degree in astrophysics and was one of the top 2% of candidates in the 2021 European Space Agency astronaut selection process.

#### 20:00



Art, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

Invertebrates are enjoying a bit of a 'moment'. As space pilots, pets, curious aliens, knitting patterns, and other designs, why are they so fascinating? Is it really the number of limbs that drives our interest? Our panel wrestles with these and other questions.

□ Sex and relationships in fiction

Pattingham, Duration: 45 mins

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Literature, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

Sex sells, but there are so many things to consider: how it fits in with your genre and your plot, how graphic you should be; whether relationships be the main focus and what kind of relationships - platonic or erotic? The panelists will discuss what their preferred balance is and how to achieve it.

#### Fantasy Book Swap

Coalport, Duration: 45 mins



Ali Baker (moderator)

🛃 Tade Thompson

Literature, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

Fantasy Book Swap is a podcast made by Ali Baker. Each episode Ali and a guest discuss children's fantasy fiction, each reading the other's recommendation. In this episode Guest of Honour Tade Thompson recommends a book to Ali.

@fantasyswap on Twitter

https://www.facebook.com/Fantasybookswap



In a world full of conflict, chaos, and polarised positions, sometimes the most radical act is to be kind to others. Yet cosy SFF focusing on understanding and care for others, like the work of Becky Chambers, Everina Maxwell or Katherine Addison, can easily be dismissed as lightweight or insubstantial. Why is that the case, and are we underestimating the significance of these

## Saturday, 30 March 2024

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#### □ Why Eastercon is coming to Belfast in 2025

Coalport, Duration: 45 mins



🖁 Tommy Ferguson (moderator)

Fan Interest, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

It's hard to believe that Eastercon has not been in Belfast before — given the rich history of Science Fiction and fantasy — as well fandom — that has come from the city over the past 75 years. In this talk Tommy Ferguson will delve into the early days of Belfast fandom, The Wheels of IF and some of the giants of Science Fiction fandom. He'll then whistle through the years, touching on Fan clubs, the rise of comics fandom, Roleplaying and Table top games to bring it right up to date with the background to the 2025 Eastercon in Belfast: Reconnect. Questions like — why did early fanzine fandom flourish? How did SF&F meet during the 'troubles' — and why does no one know about the annual, 10, 000 plus attendance convention in Belfast? He also won't mention the Cortex incident!



Atcham, Duration: 45 mins



Farah Mendlesohn



Fan Interest, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

This is your chance to raise grips and grumbles with the Committee (we hope anything more serious will have been addressed in the moment).



Making art is one of the things humans do; we make pigments from clay, vegetable matter and chemicals; we use metals, earths and plastics to mould; we print, mould, and spin, blow, freeze and heat. Every new technology is spread through innovative artists. What will we use to make Art in the future? What Art materials were offshoots from twentieth century technology? What will our descendants consider to be Art? And what themes will emerge in their work?



Ironbridge 1, Duration: 45 mins



Fan Interest, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

Welcome to the Business Meeting where you can ask questions of past and future conventions. There is no formal bid to vote on

10:00

this year, but we do expect to hear presentations from at least one future bid.



Atcham, Duration: 45 mins



Chris Behrsin

J A Mortimore (moderator)

David Wake

Michelle Sagara



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Writing, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

Many authors still dream of a mainstream publishing deal. Others choose to go the indie publishing route. What are the pros and cons of each? And is there a value for an aspiring author to self-publishing online?



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Media, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

The Muppets have performed in all genres, including SF with the iconic series Pigs in Space. The panel will discuss why the Muppets have become such a fixture, what they have contributed to our genre and what movie we'd like to see them star in.

Telling Stories in Different Media
 Atcham, Duration: 45 mins
 David Green
 Jackie Burns
 Janet Forbes
 Samuel Poots (moderator)

Guest of Honour, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

First there was storytelling, next there were plays. In 1476 Caxton invented the printing press, and then rather a long time later the Lumiere brothers led the way in film. Nowadays in addition to those mediums, story creators can choose convey their ideas through graphic novels and through plot-based computer games. We will consider whether the medium affects the story; whether some plots are more suited to one medium than another; and we will compare the effect of different mediums being used to tell the same story.



12:00

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The George Hay Lecture was instituted in 2000 by the Science Fiction Foundation in honour of one of our co-founders, the environmentalist and science communicator George Hay. The lecture is given each year at the annual UK Science Fiction Convention, Eastercon. It is delivered by a working scientist, or exponent of science, to an educated audience of fans, on the current work in their field.

This is the 24th occasion on which the George Hay Lecture has been delivered.

Battling Cancer in 2024 and beyond: Where are we in Cancer Research today.

James Flanagan is an academic at Imperial College London working on cancer research and will outline current approaches to treatment, and what is being worked towards for the future.

## The Rise and Rise of the Short Story Coalport, Duration: 60 mins Aliette de Bodard Jonathan Laidlow M V Melcer Rick Danforth

Writing, No catch-up, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

The magazine market almost died in the 1990s but now it thrives more than ever. The panel discusses key market changes in the last 30 years. Can it be predicted what kind of stories a given market will publish? Where is the best new work to be found? What are the best tools and venues for seeking publication?



□ Social Media Platforms: Which one and why?
Jackie Burns

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Atcham, Duration: 60 mins



Anne-Louise Fortune



Michelle Sagara 🛛 💓 Richard Stephenson



Wendy Metcalfe (moderator)

Fan Interest, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

Once we used My Space, then Live Journal, then Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, even Tik-Tok. But after the turmoil of the last two years, we have more choices than ever. Bluesky? Mastodon? Threads? What is the impact of Discord? Panellists discuss their preferred platform, its pros and cons, and what the ideal system might look like.



13:00

Guest of Honour, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

Genevieve Cogman, author of the *Invisible Librarian* series in addition to other fantasy works, will be interviewed by Eleanor Roberts.



operatives and collectives making districts better places to live.

14:30

What sf and fantasy works explore soft power and model how it could be used?



A relaxed chat about the challenges, joys and pitfalls of writing for Roleplay Games. Topics will include: how writing impacts play. what's fun, what sells, what systems and styles are 'hot' in RPG at the moment, tackling design, art and layout.



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Science, Virtual, In person, Sunday,
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The past thirty years have brought multiple transformative revolutions to the methods of machine learning. And if the hype for the next thirty is even partially true, Artificial Intelligence is just getting started. In light of the current and impending challenges of a society that includes digital and artificial intelligences, are we not overdue for a revolution in the way we train our human intelligences? This panel discusses an issue which is fundamental to a healthy society and includes science fiction writers and a neuroscientist, to build on the new applied science fiction publication - "All Tomorrow's Futures: Fictions That Disrupt"



TV series, books... but mainly just Doctor Who episodes. This is presented as part of Glasgow 2024's contribution to the programme this year!

#### 16:00

## ☐ The Venn Diagram of Subgenres in Horror

Atcham. Duration: 60 mins



David Bamford (moderator)

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Literature, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

Horror fans have often been divided when it comes to putting labels on certain themes and tropes. Terms such as "elevated horror", "analogue horror", and the newcomer of "cozy horror" have sparked all kinds of debates; but what are we actually trying to say, and does it help to coin these terms?



Pattingham, Duration: 60 mins



Jesper Stage (moderator)

Scholarship, No catch-up, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

The Economics of colonialism. Colonies are established for many reasons, and economics is often only one of them. Nonetheless, economic driving forces are often important, both for where colonies are established, as well as for what kind of colony is established in a specific location. This talk will look at some of what we know of the economics of real-world colonial empires, and compare with the economics of some colonial empires from fantastic fiction.

Jesper Stage, Professor of Economics and Chair of the Economics Unit, Luleå University of Technology



bringing new perspectives to the subgenre that have been under- or

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completely unrepresented for decades. Who are the authors we should be reading now, and what does the SFF readership still need to hear?



Ironbridge 1, Duration: 60 mins





Michelle Sagara

Guest of Honour, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

Michelle Sagara, author of the Chronicles of Elantra series in addition to other fantasy works, will be interviewed by Kari Sperring.

A Brief History of Solar Energy

Wenlock 3 & 4, Duration: 60 mins



Paul Coxon (moderator)

Virtual, In person, Sunday,

Solar photovoltaics have spread widely in recent years as costs have plummeted. They contributed around 4% of the electricity generated in 2023 and could be one of the world's cheapest energy sources by 2030. Dr Paul Coxon, a materials scientist at the University of Cambridge, explains how the solar revolution began, how solar cells work, and how scientists are now harnessing natural structures and materials to make solar photovoltaics more efficient.

#### Board game playtesting - Ashfall (Sunday)

Other, Duration: 60 mins



Joss (moderator)

Gaming, In person only, Sign up required, In person, Sunday,

Come playtest and help shape a board game before it's published! Ashfall is a 1-4 player deck building sci-fi RPG. It's a complex story driven game where player choices matter. We're looking to playtest with people who are interested in being part of the process of developing and fine tuning a board game. This item will happen in the games room. Sign up at the registration desk, or pop by the games room throughout the convention to see if Joss is free to playtest at a different time.

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#### Develop your Vocal Delivery

Wenlock 3 & 4, Duration: 45 mins



In person only, Performance, No catch-up, Sign up required, In person, Sunday,

If you are a writer the opportunity to read from your work is one of the ways you can publicise it. But this doesn't come naturally to everyone, and there can be a lot of anxiety around reading aloud.

Learn how to use your voice more effectively, a beginner's workshop on reading to an audience. This session will be run by voice coach, Anne-Marie Czajkowski.

Participants should bring a short piece of their own work to read (no more than 250 words).



As of January 10, 2024, Greta Gerwig's very pink fantasy-comedy "Barbie" (2023) has collected more than 636 million U.S. dollars at the North American box office, and a total of 1.45 billion U.S. dollars worldwide. It has quickly become the biggest debut ever by a female director. 12% of 18 to 29 year olds have seen it. It filled the cinemas with people of all ages (and genders). But it's rarely discussed as Science Fiction. What does Barbie bring to the SFF table?



75 years is a lot of memories: former Eastercon chairs are invited to expound upon their best and worst stories of organising



We all know that Elizabeth I was a witch who whipped up a storm to drive off the Armada. The Duke of Wellington employed wizards to roll out roads across Spain, and Marie de Medici's daughters ruled the affairs of a continent until one of them

19:00

destroyed magic forever. What are the most interesting "secret histories" created by fantasy writers to explain historical events? Our panels reviews the 'evidence'.



Ironbridge 1, Duration: 105 mins



Gary Lloyd

🚺 Ken MacLeod

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Vincent Docherty

Music, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

Gary Lloyd, Bettina Carpi and Ken MacLeod will be presenting the premier of Morrow's Isle at Worldcon. This is a chance to hear a sneak preview of some of the score and learn more about it from Gary and Bettina.



Fan Interest, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

The Fan Funds Auction is in aid of fannish good causes including the travel funds TAFF (Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund) and GUFF (Get Upand-over Fan Fund). These funds provide a crowdfunded way to send delegates to conventions overseas and foster connections between fans around the world. Lots will doubtless include items to read, watch, make, wear, consume, display, or donate to a future fan funds auction.

Although this item will be streamed, bids will be taken in person only.



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Everyone's a comedian, or so they think. There are many different forms of comedy: slapstick, wordplay, gags (something with a punchline), farce, pratfall (think Jackass), banter, etcetera. Comedy in science fiction can be tricky as it can break the immersion. How do you incorporate it into your work?

#### Maths and Politics

Pattingham, Duration: 45 mins



Nicholas Jackson (moderator)

Science, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

At first glance, maths and politics might seem completely distinct: one exists in an ideal, platonic realm, whereas the other is very much subject to the inconsistencies of the human world. However, maths can sometimes help us understand the often murky world of politics. In particular, we'll be looking at attempts to find fair voting systems (and whether such a system can even exist), combating gerrymandering with geometry, using topology to understand the landscape of political debate, and how an application of catastrophe theory ensured that one university got a students' union building.

#### 20:00

# Horror in Antiquity

Pattingham, Duration: 50 mins



Literature, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

The first werewolf story was written by Petronius in the first century AD. The panel discusses what the Romans did for us horror fans!



Fan Interest, No catch-up, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

There are very few pets in science fiction, but for many of us, not being able to take our pets would be a sticking point. So, what

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animals would enjoy following us to the stars? What are the ethical issues? How do we avoid the mistakes of the past?



Coalport, Duration: 45 mins



Kari (moderator) 🛛 🥢 Michelle Sagara

Virtual, In person, Sunday,

Our guest of honour Michelle Sagara / West reads from her latest

# Sunday, 31 March 2024



Wenlock 3 & 4, Duration: 45 mins

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Chris Morgan (moderator)

Readings, Virtual, In person, Monday,

Welcome to the poetry circle! Bring your poems, lyrical, scurrilous, rhymed and free, to share with your fellow poets and poetry fans!



Fan Interest, Virtual, In person, Monday,

Representatives of Glasgow 2024 Worldcon - including the convention chair Esther MacCallum-Stewart - present the vision and status of ongoing programme planning for Glasgow's third Worldcon, which takes place in four months' time.



We are entering a new era in space exploration. The European Space Agency are planning a return to the moon, and commercial

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lunar missions are increasing. Pepper and James Shields have an exciting announcement related to this, of special interest to British science fiction fans. Come along to hear more!

#### □ Ninety years of the Black and Red Staniers

Pattingham, Duration: 45 mins



Tony Keen (moderator)

Virtual, In person, Monday,

In 1934, two classes of 4-6-0 steam locomotive debuted for the London, Midland and Scottish Railway, the "Black Five", and the "Red Stanier", later better known as the "Jubilee" class. In this talk, Tony Keen takes you through the background and history of these two highly successful classes.

#### 11:00



Ironbridge 1, Duration: 45 mins



Literature, Virtual, In person, Monday,

The exhibition at the British Library this year has placed folk and fairy tale at the heart of fantasy. The panellists will discuss the role fairy tale has played in modern and contemporary fantasy, the sources people have drawn on, and the ways in which authors, artists, film makers and others have weirded and subverted the folk and fairy tale.



Have you ever wondered how that could happen? In the eighteenth century a woman's pocket was essentially a bag, tied at her waist. In this workshop you will hand sew a pocket in the eighteenth century style, resulting in an object that is both appealing and useful. Please sign up for this workshop in advance, at the registration desk. There are 10 places.



In person only, No catch-up, In person, Monday,

Kari

Anna Feruglio Dal Dan

Maria Sjöstrand

#### Levitation 2024 Programme Guide

We are seeing more non-anglophone SFF works being translated into English, but translation is as much a matter of conveying cultural concepts as it is of translating the words. How do writers and translators convey meaning as well as translating the words? Are there come concepts and ideas that just can't be conveyed

#### 12:00

#### Consider the Loom

Coalport, Duration: 60 mins



📕 Juliet E McKenna



Marcus Streets (moderator)

Meg MacDonald @MegInTransition

🏉 Penny Hill

Literature, Virtual, In person, Monday,

How do fashion and technology interact in sf and fantasy. Do you ever find yourself wondering how on earth a character can wear a thing that their culture clearly could not produce? The panellists will talk about clothing and fashion design and trends from different sci-fi universes and fantasy ones, how people describe cloth and fabric and construction, how they use it as part of their worldbuilding and their character design, what people's fave outfits were and which they'd like to lift wholesale to add to their own wardrobes.

# Monday, 1 April 2024

13:00



Dr Srinarahari 🧧

Farah Mendlesohn (moderator)

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Guest of Honour, Virtual, In person, Monday,

Dr. Srinarahari, the Secretary for the General of Indian Association for Science Fiction Studies talks about Science Fiction from India. This is a pre-recorded interview, taking place online only, and there will be no live Q&A.

#### Decorating Bags

Wenlock 3 & 4, Duration: 60 mins



Wendrie (moderator)

Fan Interest, In person only, No catch-up, Sign up required, In person, Monday,

Wendrie Heywood will be running a bag decorating workshop. If you have totes you want to transform, this is your chance. There

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will be some spare totes available.

# □ Octothorpe Live

Atcham. Duration: 60 mins



Alison Scott 🛛 🚮 John Coxon (moderator)

Fan Interest, Virtual, In person, Monday,

Come and listen to a live recording of Octothorpe, a podcast for science fiction and science fiction fandom, with John, Alison, and a MYSTERY STUNT LIZ. We will probably discuss Levitation and what we thought of it, and we will digress wildly as the mood takes us, by which we mean Alison.

## ☐ The Particle Physics Frontier

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 60 mins



Clara Nellist (moderator)

Virtual, In person, Monday,

Dr Clara Nellist is a particle physicist based partly at the University of Amsterdam, and partly at CERN, where she works on the ATLAS experiment.

This talk will present a scientific journey through the latest results from the Large Hadron Collider and the experiments at CERN, offering insights into how these endeavours extend our understanding of fundamental particles and forces. We will delve into the remarkable potential of particle physics to redefine our knowledge of the very fabric of our cosmos, exploring the boundaries of what is currently known and venturing into the new frontiers of the dark universe and beyond.



Re-live the high points of the convention, here the results of the Doc Weir award, and say farewell to the guests.

# Listing 157 items

No more items to display

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