



# RECONNECT

Eastercon 76 • 18–21 April 2025 • Belfast ICC & Hilton Lanyon Place

## PROGRESS REPORT FOUR • FEBRUARY 2025

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[easterconbelfast.org](http://easterconbelfast.org)



[info@easterconbelfast.org](mailto:info@easterconbelfast.org)



[@reconnecteastercon2025](https://www.facebook.com/reconnecteastercon2025)

RECONNECT logo: Sara Felix

## Co-Chairs' Welcome

Hi Everyone

We have had a busy year so far, and all of it is with a focus on the convention which as I write is just over two months away. At time of publication, we have already broken the 700 members mark, and we have a hope and expectation that we will be welcoming 850 members in two months' time. We are delighted at this response – and the excitement it is generating for the first Eastercon to be held in Belfast.

Our Programme is being developed, and we are astounded by how many ideas and suggestions have been made, both internally and from those interested in participating, which far exceeds the spaces that we have. We will have six rooms dedicated to panels, and then workshops and gaming as well as a quiet room.

We are excited by some of the larger events that are planned, including a cèilidh, the Northern Ireland based Video Game Orchestra, and a disco.

In response to this increased activity our teams have grown and expanded and we are delighted to welcome many more people to the committee and team.

We are grateful for your, our members' support of Bursaries. We have had many requests for support, which we welcome, and are delighted that we can help fans come along.

Unfortunately at this stage, we expect that we cannot provide a creche due to the cost; and while we do anticipate a few teenagers attending the convention, we have no children's programme or provision for children. We think it is important to make this clear at this stage to enable people to plan their attendance.

Our Masking Policy has been confirmed. If people need a fully fitted FFP3 standard mask, we will supply and pay for that. If people wish to wear masks, that is fine and we welcome and encourage that, but there is not a mandatory requirement.

We are delighted to be able to confirm our virtual offering – and many thanks to the people who have stepped up to enable this to happen. We will be streaming out the three main programme halls with an aspiration to stream all of the remaining ones. These will also be available on catch up. In addition, we will have a Discord server set up which will enable interaction for those not physically able to attend – as well as those at the con who want to heighten their experience. For the programme we will be using the ConClar event scheduling app, though the printed ReadMe will also have a high-level list of programme items, times and locations.

We will be remembering those who have passed, with a memorial table, and also remembering previous Eastercon Chair Vanessa May with a number of activities.

We are very excited about the programme items that our Guests of Honour will be taking part in, a lot of which they have suggested! We plan to have the programme to

visit  
Belfast



TOURISM  
NORTHERN  
IRELAND

# TL/DR

## RECONNECT

### Eastercon 76

#### When:

◆ 18th–21st April 2025

#### Where:

◆ ICC (International Convention Centre)  
2 Lanyon Place  
Belfast BT1 3WH  
<https://iccbelfast.com/>

◆ Hilton Belfast  
4 Lanyon Place  
Belfast BT1 3LP  
<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/bfs-hitw-hilton-belfast/>

#### Notes:

The ICC and Hilton Belfast are connected by an indoor corridor and escalators. There is ample space at the ICC which has hosted up to 5,000 people.

The venue is central to Belfast, being 10 minutes' walk from the City Hall and main shopping and dining areas, with imposing views of the River Lagan.

There is a massive choice of hotels and other accommodations, ranging from the opulent to the frugal, within half a mile of the venue.

#### More:

More details on every aspect of the convention can be found on the Reconnect website: <https://easterconbelfast.org/>.

For further information, email [info@easterconbelfast.org](mailto:info@easterconbelfast.org).

you at least two weeks before the convention, if not sooner. Hopefully this information will help you prepare your plans to ensure you enjoy your convention.

Looking forward to welcoming you all to Belfast for Reconnect – Eastercon 76. To get a flavour of what to expect in our city Mark Slater has created this wonderful video: <http://www.xpen.co.uk/Belfast>.

Tommy and James

## Memberships

### Including Updates for Day Rates and At-Con Joiners; Virtual Membership

#### Membership – New categories

We are delighted to be able to offer two new types of membership, both of which we have introduced since Progress Report Three in December.

**Day rates:** Many local readers, viewers, gamers or cosplayers will be keen to know more about the entertainment, enlightenment and fun to be had at an SF convention. If this is you, this is your chance!

**Virtual membership:** We are delighted to announce that we have arranged online streaming broadcasts of our major programmed events during the con, which will be available both live and (for a limited time after the con) catch-up/retrospective viewing. This will be open to attending, supporting and our new category of virtual members. There will also be a live Discord chat channel.

Here is a full list of the rates on offer for attending the con. **Note that there is a premium for paying on arrival, so it is well worthwhile paying ahead.** Advance memberships and payment must reach us by **midnight UK time on Friday 11 April**; after that, you will need to arrive on the day and pay the at-the-door rate.

#### Membership rates payable in advance:

	All days	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Standard adult (18+)	£100	£30	£40	£40	£20
Discounted <sup>(1)</sup>	£40	£15	£20	£20	£10
First Eastercon	£70				
All-Ireland resident	£70				
Child/young adult <sup>(2)</sup>	£20				
Cosplay (Saturday only) <sup>(3)</sup>			£5		
Virtual	£20				

#### Membership rates payable at the door:

	All days	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Standard adult (18+)	£150	£35	£45	£45	£25
Discounted <sup>(1)</sup>	£40	£15	£20	£20	£10
First Eastercon	£100				
All-Ireland resident	£100				
Child/young adult <sup>(2)</sup>	£20				
Cosplay (Saturday only) <sup>(3)</sup>			£5		
Virtual	£20				

(1) The discount is available to the unwaged or others under urgent financial pressure. (No questions asked.)

(2) Aged 10–18 on 7 April 2025 if accompanied by an adult. Under 10 free.

(3) You must register in advance via the cosplay sign-up form which is sent as a PDF alongside this PR, and either attend in costume or change immediately on registration. Changing facilities are available. Cosplayers will have to register with the convention desk first to get the membership badge. Afterwards please register with the Cosplayer desk (location TBC) to get further information for the Catwalk event and to be judged for the competition.

**\*Please check the Reconnect Website for all convention policies (Code of Conduct, disease mitigation, weapons etc.) in advance of attending:**

<https://easterconbelfast.org/about/>

# Travel & Arrival

**Travel and arrival:** Some details were in PR3, but here are more tips for getting to the ICC and Hilton.

**Arriving at Belfast Grand Central Station:** This massive brand-new station has got train-spotters enthusiastic - here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SktHPz02x4s>

For the ICC and Hilton, get a train to Lanyon Place. Use the stop at Botanic if you have accommodation in the University area.

**From the Lanyon Place station entrance:** Cross the A20 road to the north side, turn left (downhill), then at a set of steps turn right (north) between a brick building on your left and a glass-clad one on your right. (See first Google Street View photo.)

You reach a roundabout next to the Oxford Street (Hilton) car park entrance. Go



straight on and the ICC entrance is in front of you. (See second photo.)



**From Belfast International Airport:** Translink 300 and 300a coach to Grand Central station. At least every 20 minutes during the day.

**From Belfast City Airport:** The 600 bus (accessible, every 20 minutes) goes to Grand Central Station but also stops at St. George's Market just downhill from the Hilton and ICC entrances. On your left at the bus stop, the ICC is the massive pale grey circular building.

**From Dublin:** Nearly all the bus services connect with Grand Central Station.

**By ferry via Larne:** The train from Larne calls at Lanyon Place three stops before it terminates at Grand Central.

**Car parking:** This web page from the ICC gives details of some car parks not shown on Google Maps: <https://iccbelfast.com/plan-visit/parking>. A £12/day rate is available.

## The RECONNECT Committee

### Co-chair and Treasurer

Tommy Ferguson

### Co-chair

James Bacon

### Deputy Chair & Volunteers

JJ Brutsman

### Exec Committee Member

Amanda Sloan

### Social Media Queen

Jo Zebedee

### Tech

Keith Smith,  
James Turner

### Tech Valkyrie

Kathryn Baker

### Venue Liaison

Lisa Macklem

### Dealers

Melissa Taylor,  
Samuel Poots

### Art Show

Serena Culfeather,  
John Wilson

### Operations

Pat Maher

### Accessibility

Declan Meenagh,  
Cinzia Savonitti

### Listener Team Lead

Kate Wood

### Listener Team (Pre-Con)

Samuel Poots,  
Melissa Taylor

### Programme

David Bamford,  
Meg McDonald

### Programme Ops

JC Clarke

### Cosplay Programme

Sabine Furlong

### Horror Programme

Lynda E Rucker

### Green Room

Kari Sperring

### Membership

Zoe Thompson

### Registration

Zoe Thompson,  
Martin Smart

### GoH Liaison

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### Logo Design

Sara Felix

### Website Design

Jackie Duckworth

### Support Team

Eugene Docherty

### Discord

John Coxon

### ICC Halls

Richard Bissmire

### Thanks To:

Tammy Coxen, Pat Virzi,  
James Shields

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## Registration

During the main convention days (Friday to Monday), our Registration Desks will be in the main entrance foyer of the ICC. On Thursday from late afternoon till mid-evening there will also be a registration desk in the lobby of the Hilton for early arrivals.

### Main registration opening times in the ICC:

Friday 18 April:	0900-1800
Saturday 19 April:	0900-1400
Sunday 20 April:	0900-1400
Monday 21 April:	0900-1200

The essential item you will collect on registration will be your badge. This is your crucial piece of ID for the con and must be worn at all times, either with a lanyard or a badge clip. Your copy of the Souvenir Book and the ReadMe pocket programme will also be available to collect, along with other information leaflets.

**Sustainability:** We will have some lanyards available, but – to save the Earth’s resources, if you have your own, please bring one. We will happily accept donations of any spare lanyards you may have. We are committed to reducing waste and our carbon footprint and aim to pass along as much material to future conventions as possible. Please return your lanyards at the end of the con.

For the same reason we also ask you to bring your own water bottle; water stations will be available. We also advise you to bring your own reusable coffee cup for hot drinks.

**Lost badges:** If you lose your badge during Registration opening hours, come to Registration for a replacement. Outside those hours, come to Operations who will issue a temporary pass.

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## Information; the Con Online

**ConClar and the ReadMe:** Your essential guidance to find your way around the con comes in a choice of two formats: a tablet/smartphone app – ConClar, or a paper ReadMe (pocket programme). Both will tell you when things are happening (via the programme section) and where (maps and guides). Any last-minute updates and news during the con itself, especially changes announced after the ReadMe goes to press, will be via ConClar. You can pick up your copy of the ReadMe when you register, and ConClar will be available via the convention webpage.

**Discord:** We will have a Discord server, as is now traditional! You’ll be able to join shortly before the convention, so keep your eyes peeled for an email that will explain how to do so. There will be threads for programme items so you can chat to other members while in the audience or afterwards, a help desk where you can remotely ask for assistance, social channels where you can look at pictures of cats/LEGO/knitting, and also channels for the Dealers’ Room and Art Show.

We are currently recruiting moderators for the Discord; if you’re planning to be at home over the convention weekend, this is a particularly good way for you to volunteer, if you’d like to. Please email [volunteers@easterconbelfast.org](mailto:volunteers@easterconbelfast.org) and let them know that you’d like to help out with Discord.

**Online streaming:** The three main programme streams will be available to watch live remotely and will also be saved for catch-up watching later by con members (though the videos will not be made public outside the con’s membership). If circumstances and resources permit, other programme items may also be available streamed. Details will be published on ConClar and Discord as soon as they are created.

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## Getting Around During RECONNECT

There are maps of our facilities in the ICC and the Hilton in the ReadMe and on the ConClar app. Once you have registered in the very spacious ICC entrance concourse, the way to the con’s events is via the escalators on your left, then follow the curved corridor on the first floor round to the right till you reach the various parts of the massive Hall 1 facility which is the con’s main space in the daytime and evening. Alongside Halls 1C, 1B and 1A is the corridor which leads to the Hilton Link access; up a further level, follow the corridor round till you reach the rear entrance to the Hilton’s ground floor. If you go past any programme items in progress, please keep respectfully quiet to avoid disturbing the audience.

The Hilton’s main con facilities are on the hotel’s mezzanine level, where our largest halls are Lagan A and B; we also have a series of other function rooms on a corridor which leads away from the other side of the Lagan foyer.



# PICTCON1



Guest of Honour  
Francesca Barbini  
November 8th 2025  
Salutation Hotel, Perth,  
Scotland.  
Tickets: £30/£20

Tickets at Eventbrite:  
<https://tinyurl.com/PictCon1>

## Opening & Closing Times; Food and Drink

**ICC opening and closing times:** We have access to the ICC from 8 am till 10 pm from Thursday 17th till Monday 21st April. Events in the ICC finish by 10 pm, however programming will continue in the Hilton until later. The Hilton has 24-hour access; see below for food and drink.

**The Hilton Hotel:** Several options for dining are available.

**The Riverside Restaurant and Bar** offers full breakfast Monday – Friday from 6:30 am-10 am and Saturday/Sunday 7 am-11 am. They offer dinner from 5:30 pm-9:30 pm Sunday – Thursday and from 5:30 pm-9:45 pm on Friday/Saturday.

**The No. 4 Pub** is open from 11 am-midnight Monday – Thursday, Friday/Saturday 11 am-1 am, and Sundays 12 pm-11 pm. Lunch is served from 12 noon to 4:30 pm and sharing platters and light bites from 4:30-11 pm.

In addition there will be light fare available at the **ICC's cash bar** and on the **Mezzanine level of the Hilton** – exact hours will be announced on ConClar and the ReadMe.

For more details of the Hilton's facilities, visit:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/bfshitw-hilton-belfast/dining/>

## Programme

We are getting really excited to share our programme with you. Working furiously behind the scenes to bring together all your wonderful ideas and showcase our fabulous Guests of Honour. We are looking forward to having a great focus on Irish and Northern Irish creativity, horror, and comics – as well as an out of this world truly fantastical mix of your SFF favourites.

Now we are getting close we can give you a few teasers of what you can expect - but we won't give everything away just yet.

### Guests of Honour – we have 6!

As well as interviews with each of our stunning Guests of Honour, we will be showcasing them in panels and presentations. We don't want to spoil the surprises but keep an eye out for when our programme goes live to know all the fabulous things these amazing individuals will be doing!

### Specialist Extravaganza!

On top of the traditional Hay and BSFA lectures we will have a fantastic series of speakers and lectures including (but not limited to): Professor Francis Keenan of Queen's University Belfast on "We Come in Peace... " Aliens in popular Science Fiction"; eminent cryptographer and cyber security specialist Bruce Schneier discussing "AI and Democracy"; alongside the wonderful Dr Emma King regaling us with "Lessons from Antarctica" which shares current conversations on climate / conservation science alongside experiences visiting Antarctica with the Homeward Bound women in STEM programme.

**Don't forget your dancing shoes!** We will have a fantastic Friday night Disco for you to bust out your freestyle moves and rock on! Then on Saturday we will have cèilidh courtesy of Glasgow 2024, A Worldcon for Our Futures, as their thank you to fandom for your wonderful support over the last few years. Please remember cèilidh dancing counts as HIIT exercise and we recommend you hydrate.

**A little light music?** If you want to sit and listen, the Friday evening will also have a performance by the Irish Video Game Orchestra (IVGO) who will be taking us on an immersive journey through beloved video game realms, bringing to life the iconic scores that resonate with many generations of gaming enthusiasts. From the sweeping melodies of The Elder Scrolls to the powerful dynamics of Baldur's Gate 3, the IVGO's performances bridge the gap between the worlds we have traversed on screen and reality.



*Image taken at Glasgow 2024, A Worldcon for Our Futures*

**Panels?** Don't worry – we have panels! We will be bringing you a plethora of panels to please, prompt, and perhaps provoke your imaginations, ruminations, and conversations.

Some of what we hope to include are "Swords and Sapphics"; "Fear in Five Panels: Comics and Horror"; "Envisioning the Future of Ireland"; "Damn Fine Cherry Pie"; and "Up, Up, And Away! Space Travel in Science Fiction" to name but a few.

**A little more interactive?** We will have a wonderful selection of workshops from juggling to watercolour, Steampunk, Tea dunking duels and Thrifting your Cosplay. Also, where would a convention be without a Sara Felix bespoke Tiara Workshop? Bereft that's where. However we have you covered. Sara will be running a workshop where you can design and take away your very own tiara. Sara's inspiration for this tiara is former Eastercon Chair

*(continued on page 9)*



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SCAN ME

Art by Francesca Myman



**DUBLIN 2029**



A BID TO BRING  
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IN  
**SUMMER 2029**

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[WWW.DUBLIN2029.IE](http://WWW.DUBLIN2029.IE)





## Programme (continued from page 6)

Vanessa May, who loved all things purple. There will be a small additional charge for some of the workshops to cover materials but all information will be available in the ReadMe programme guide.



### More?? You bet!

We will also have Table Talks (aka Literary Beers/ kaffeeeklatsch), Guided walks, Signings, Meet Ups and Book Launches. So whatever takes your fandom fancy there should be something to tickle it.

**Cosplay:** Calling all Cosplayers! Come and enter our Cosplay Competition and enjoy a special rate to attend all day Saturday (only). There will be an opportunity to show

off your costume all day, special panel items and workshops, Plus the main "cat walk" event where you show off your costume on stage and prizes are awarded. If you want to enter the competition, and take advantage of the Cosplay discount, you need to let us know and sign up. The sheet is attached. Or email us on: [cosplay@easterconbelfast.org](mailto:cosplay@easterconbelfast.org). Conditions for the cosplay prize competition are on the sign up sheet. You can also show your costume without taking part in the competition. There is no traditional masquerade, it will be as part of the "Cat Walk".

Junior entries (14 and under) are more than welcome, but will not be judged. There may be a small surprise for those who enter!

(Please note that the Cosplay rate is for Saturday Cosplay entries only.)

You can arrive in costume or change at the convention. You will need to register to be judged once you are ready to show off your costume. Details of where will be given closer to the con and when you register.

As is an Eastercon tradition, Hall costume tokens will also be used. These will be in all membership packs and can be awarded to any member, cosplay or otherwise who is in costume over the convention. Saturday is our Cosplay and Hall costume day, but all members can wear costumes as they wish over the convention. Hall costumes can be awarded at any time. The Hall costume prize will be awarded at the closing ceremony.



## Sales & Exhibits

**Dealers' Room:** We're now all booked up! We cannot take applications for Dealers tables OR Fan tables. We've been delighted with the interest shown in Reconnect and are super excited for you all to meet the fantastic lineup of folks coming to Eastercon.

<b>Opening times:</b>	Friday 18 April:	1200 to 1800
	Saturday 19 April:	1000 to 1800
	Sunday 20 April:	1000 to 1800
	Monday 21 April:	1000 to 1500

This allows set up on Friday morning of 4 hours for Dealers who are not on site on Thursday, and take down when our closing ceremony occurs. If you are a Dealer, please note we'll contact you privately to organise Move In/Move Out.

### **Art Show:**

<b>Opening times:</b>	Friday 18 April:	1200 to 1800
	Saturday 19 April:	1000 to 1800
	Sunday 20 April:	1000 to 1800
	Monday 21 April:	1000 to 1300

Serena will be in the Art Show area from 9 am daily to tidy, sort and support artists and exhibitors who may also wish to arrive early; the Monday closure is earlier than the Dealers' Room to allow takedown time. Please pick up your purchases before noon on Monday.

We plan a "Meet The Artists" event from 1400-1600 on Saturday for informal chats between con members, artists and other exhibitors.

### **Fan tables; freebie tables:**

We'll have a table available for freebies and a separate table for fanzines at the con. Have you been decluttering? Fallen out of love with something? If it's in good condition, bring it along to Reconnect and leave it on the freebies or fanzine table. Please be aware uncollected items will either be recycled or donated once the con has finished.

### **Special displays:**

We also expect some spectacular and historic visual displays for you - but we won't spoil the surprises for you just yet; you will have to wait and see!

## Support the SFE!



The *Encyclopedia of Science Fiction* – founded in 1979 by Peter Nicholls and John Clute – won Hugos for each of its 1979, 1993 and 2011 editions, and has been free online ever since 2011. With John Clute and David Langford now the principal editors, it's updated at least once a week and currently has well over 20,000 entries totalling more than 7,200,000 words, plus nearly 35,000 cover scans in the Picture Gallery maintained by Roger Robinson. (At left: SFE logo by Chris Moore.)

Ever since we launched the bigger and better Fourth Edition in October 2021, the *Encyclopedia's* web hosting and other running costs have been entirely dependent on readers' donations. If you find it a useful resource, we'd be most grateful for help via the **Donate** button on the website. Also, all proceeds from sales of our founding editor Peter Nicholls's collected essays about SF (right) go to support the SFE.

**Take a look: [sf-encyclopedia.com](http://sf-encyclopedia.com)**





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## Out & About

We could stuff this Progress Report full of lists of pubs, restaurants, museums, activities, and outings – but there are so many good places to go, and so many other excellent sources of information, that it is superfluous for us to reinvent the wheel.

**VisitBelfast** are the city's visitor and tourist information office and are our partners in helping you all get to know the city. They will have a stall at the con; but first, if you want to do advance research their main site is <https://visitbelfast.com>. There are taster videos on this link: [VisitBelfast – YouTube](#), and all the main social media sites:

[www.facebook.com/visitbelfastcity](http://www.facebook.com/visitbelfastcity)

[www.instagram.com/visitbelfast](http://www.instagram.com/visitbelfast)

<https://www.tiktok.com/@visitbelfast>

<https://x.com/visitbelfast>

and

<https://uk.pinterest.com/visitbelfast/>.

More specific lists are below.

### Food and drink

<https://visitbelfast.com/article/foodie-guide-to-belfast/>

<https://visitbelfast.com/article/belfast-family-friendly-restaurants/>

<https://visitbelfast.com/article/traditional-pubs-in-belfast/>

Many of the Reconnect committee will have their own very well-informed opinions about Belfast pubs and would I am sure be happy to share their opinions as well as test them out further...For more information about Belfast, days out and general convention information, follow our Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1BhmaeELAY/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

### Attractions and excursions

<https://visitbelfast.com/see-do/attractions/>

<https://visitbelfast.com/ideas/belfast-plus/>

<https://visitbelfast.com/ideas/game-of-thrones-northern-ireland/>

<https://visitbelfast.com/partners/giants-causeway-tours/>

<https://visitbelfast.com/article/day-trip-to-north-down-stragford-lough-ards-peninsula/>

Some of the *Game of Thrones* and Giant's Causeway tours may be combined, which would be well worthwhile. Some suggested *Game of Thrones* related days include the Studio tour at Banbridge, Winterfell experience at Castleward (and the nearby Quoile River), and, for those with some additional time, there are 9 doors to be found in various pubs (what...it is Ireland!) carved with scenes from the show.

The North Downs and Strangford Lough tour is of special fannish interest as Scrabo Tower is not only a wonderful lookout point but the inspiration for the Tower of Trufandom in Walt Willis and Bob Shaw's classic fannish allegory *The Enchanted Duplicator*. Yes, there is a typo in the web address above; it should be Strangford not Stragford - but the address works!

---

## Code of Conduct; Listener Team; Confidentiality

In both our first and third PRs we touched on the issue of conduct, and the support we have available at the con if any interpersonal unpleasantness bothers you and you want advice. There is very detailed guidance on our website; full details of our Code of Conduct, Anti-Harassment Policy, Anti-Racism Statement, Reporting Process and Listener Team are available here: <https://easterconbelfast.org/policies-and-code-of-conduct>

**Videos, photos and confidentiality:** The three main programme streams at the con will be videoed for viewing both live and on catch-up later; but the cameras will focus on the speakers not the audience, and the videos will not be made public – they will only be available to members of the convention. If you wish not to be in someone's photo, please politely inform them at the time (simply turning away is very obvious advice, of course).

**\*Please check the Reconnect Website for all convention policies (Code of Conduct, disease mitigation, weapons etc.) in advance of attending:** <https://easterconbelfast.org/about/>

visit  
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TOURISM  
NORTHERN  
IRELAND

## Disease Mitigation

In an effort to provide the best experience for our members, Reconnect recommends that everyone follows local health advice in relation to COVID. Both venues have modern air conditioning and the ICC has a system linked to CO2 levels.

We recognise that it is not practical to require mask-wearing by all convention members. Wearing a mask is most welcome but not mandatory. The con will provide surgical masks to FFP3 (N99 equivalent) standard, available from Registration. These are an advance on N95 masks. There will also be hand sanitizers around the venues and we recommend you use the masks and sanitiser as appropriate.

## Volunteering

Conventions are complex and lively events with lots of things happening at once and all help to keep things running smoothly is hugely welcome. Volunteering is also a great way to get involved and get to know people. If you want to volunteer, email [volunteer@easterconbelfast.org](mailto:volunteer@easterconbelfast.org). Our Volunteer Coordinator is JJ Brutsman.

We are able to continue the fine tradition that volunteers at cons are rewarded in kind for their help. Groats, tokens worth £2 each, are given for you to spend on food or drink at the ICC and the Hilton. Some dealers may accept groats too.

## Fan Funds at RECONNECT

*Claire Brialey*

Give us all your money! No, that's not quite how we do it these days. Please consider giving us some of your money, in return for which we'll give you some quality merchandise, a warm glow of community goodwill, and/or the chance to participate in an SF fans' tradition of over 70 years' standing with origins in Belfast.



### THE WINDROSE CHILDREN

a fantasy series by Janet Ellicott

\*\*\*\*\*

Michael saw a ghost sometimes but Michael wasn't like other boys. He could do magic. He wasn't surprised he could see ghosts too.

The ghost never did anything and no-one else saw him. He was just there, watching Michael.

Michael didn't know who the ghost was or why it was watching him, but he wasn't frightened of it. He didn't think he was supposed to be.

The ghost was only half there, sort of misty, and Michael couldn't tell if it was a man or a woman. He tried very hard sometimes but it didn't make any difference. When he looked directly at the ghost, it moved sideways, out of his sight, and he didn't see it again for the rest of the day. Sometimes, he didn't see it again for weeks and weeks and weeks.

After a massacre which killed most of the Royal Family, Cumbrisan's Lawmaster takes the young survivors to Windrose but not just to protect them. What does Cumbrisan want them for?

**Books 1-4 are now available on Amazon in paperback and on Kindle.**





You want to know what on earth we're on about? Glad you asked. Some of you will already know that fan funds exist to bring fans together and strengthen connections across SF fandom worldwide – and you'll have heard of the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund, TAFF (that's the one that built on the fund to enable Belfast fan Walt Willis to attend the 1952 Worldcon in Chicago and travel more widely in the USA), or the Going Under Fan Fund (GUFF) or European Fan Fund (EFF) or the Corflu Fifty and other funds.

If not, here's the bluffers' guide: fan funds support fans to travel to represent fandom in their part of the world, find out more about fandom in the places they visit, and meet in person both existing and new contacts. To do that, they raise money to enable fans to attend a science fiction convention in another place and meet other members of the SF community. Many of them hold races to choose the delegate for each trip – and there's a TAFF race, to give one example, happening right now! See <https://taff.org.uk/ballots/taff2025.html> for more details; you can vote until just after Easter, including at the con. You'll be able to meet this year's Corflu Fifty delegates, Jen and Nic Farey, at Reconnect too.

Fan funds exist only through the generous support of fandom. Money for most trips comes partly from a small fee paid to vote in each race, with the rest raised by auctions at relevant conventions and online, sales of the reports written by fan fund delegates following their trips, and other activities and entertainments intended also to raise awareness of the funds.

It's mostly the fundraising we wanted to mention here. As usual at the Eastercon, there will be a fan funds auction to enable members attending in person to support the funds by buying quality merchandise (SF and fannish items: some collectable, some fun, some quite unexpected – and ideally, this year, quite light and portable). We don't yet know when it will be scheduled, but we know the lovely programme team have got that in hand. The con can't manage to make it hybrid this year, with apologies to members online.

These days we aim to make a catalogue available in advance so that people know what's on offer – and that means, although we definitely welcome donations, we'd like you to get in touch with us (ideally by the end of March) to tell us about your fabulous item and send us a photo. Email [leagueff.uk@gmail.com](mailto:leagueff.uk@gmail.com) – which is short for League of Fan Funds, the group that co-ordinates these activities for UK funds (including other fan-run good causes like the SF Encyclopedia). See <https://lff.ansible.uk/> for even more information to impress people in the bar.

Also, we won't have a table or a tombola at the convention this time. We can't easily get a wide enough selection of the

*(continued on page 14)*

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usual cornucopia of delights (technical term) along to the con, and for the same reasons can't easily take much away with us either, so can't handle very many extra donations we're not expecting. If you've got items you'd nonetheless like to contribute for the benefit of fan funds, email us soon because we might be able to work something out; there are fan funds plans afoot for the Eurocon in June (and an EFF race coming soon to take a delegate there from somewhere else in Europe) and maybe some LFF fundraising happening later in the year too.

All the fan funds are of course still very happy to accept donations of money, which is helpfully portable. (Ningis and Flanian Pobble Beads among the few currencies excepted.) We hope to see you in Belfast!

## The Current TAFF Race

**Sandra Bond**

A westbound TAFF race is under way, with three fine candidates: Zi Graves (UK), Mikołaj Kowalewski (from Poland but now living in Denmark) and Jan Vaněk jr. (Czech Republic). This is being administered by the two most recent winners in each direction (a role you assume after you travel), Sandra Bond (UK) and Sarah Gulde (USA). The most recent newsletter, voting instructions and the ballot are here:

<https://taff.org.uk/news/Taffluorescence7.pdf>

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

<https://taff.org.uk/ballots/taff2025.html>

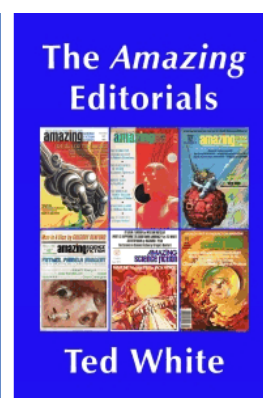
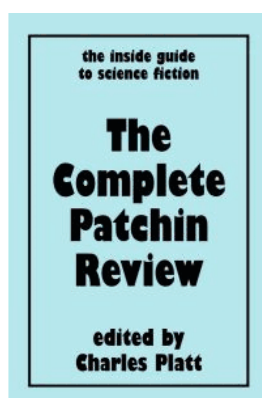
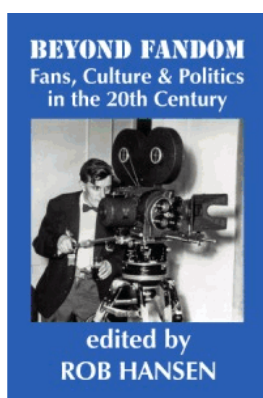
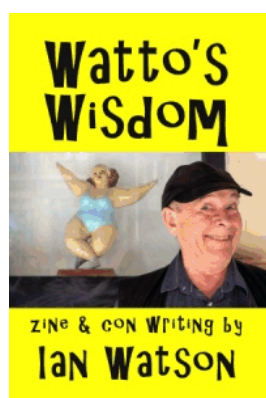
The closing date is the Wednesday after Reconnect, so vote – and donate – quickly!

## Doc Weir Award

**Claire Brialey**

Do you know someone in fandom who helps make things happen, contributing time, effort, ideas and support – often behind the scenes? That might mean that they've already won the Doc Weir Award (you can see a list of winners, and more

# TAFF Ebooks and Paperbacks



The TransAtlantic Fan Fund – SF fandom's oldest travel fund – offers a large selection of SF/fannish ebooks at **taff.org.uk**. Fan history and fan fiction; criticism, humour and polemic; travelogues including many past TAFF and GUFF trip reports; and some indescribable weirdness. All ebooks are freely downloadable: a fan fund donation is very welcome if you enjoy the read. Several titles are available as handsome trade paperbacks from Ansible Editions, with all proceeds from sales going to TAFF or related fan funds. Take a look:

**Free ebooks** – [ebook.taff.org.uk](http://ebook.taff.org.uk)

**Trade paperbacks** – as above, click the **Paperbacks** button



information what they've done, at <https://efanzines.com/DocWeir/>). But it might mean that you just think they must have done so, until you check.

Named in memory of Dr Arthur Rose 'Doc' Weir and first presented in 1963, the Award offers some recognition for the community activities that can seem to go unnoticed. It's been won by authors, booksellers and many fans: fanzine editors, convention runners, club organisers, and other people who just do stuff; winners have included specialists who contribute in a particular role at every opportunity, people who help out all over the place in a variety of ways, and most points in between. It's not necessarily an award for conrunning in general or Eastercon-running in particular, although that's often been included among a winner's activities.

As an attending, supporting or virtual member of Reconnect, you will be able to vote during the convention for the person you think deserves to win the Doc Weir Award this year. (Only one vote per member will count towards this year's award.) Votes can be cast online (the weblink will be in the ReadMe), and there will also be a ballot box at the con for those attending in person who prefer a paper form.

The 2025 winner will be announced at the closing ceremony. It's customary to try to make sure they are very surprised!

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## BSFA Awards Voting

The BSFA Awards are presented each year and are a major annual event at Eastercons. There is voting on a comprehensive selection of categories of fiction, artwork, non-fiction and spoken media (though not TV, film, games per se, or social media; fanzine activity is also not included). Though the long-list nominations and shortlist voting are open to BSFA members only, the final vote is open to Eastercon members as well as BSFA members. The final shortlist is due to be announced towards the end of February, and if the details arrive before our PR4 deadline, we will include the link for you to vote here. Details of the Awards process and the categories on which you can vote are here:

<https://www.bsfa.co.uk/about-awards>

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## What's an Eastercon?

Eastercon is the annual British National Science Fiction Convention. It has been held over the Easter weekend every year since 1955, and is the original gathering of the clans of the UK science fiction field. Eastercon attracts 800–1,200 fans of Science Fiction, Fantasy and similar genres.

Programme events usually include panels, workshops, talks, quizzes, competitions, an Art Show, a Dealers' Room selling books and other items, and gaming and crafting rooms. Events range from hard science through writing workshops to the fun and silly. People are encouraged to take part. Authors, artists, dealers and other professionals in the field attend to meet both fans and colleagues as well as appear on the programme or exhibits.

As SF has broadened its scope to encompass comics, film, TV, games, cosplay, filk and other media as well as books and magazines, Eastercon has encompassed all these new forms of artistic endeavour.

Because it is considered to be a place for fans to meet and take part, rather than sit and listen to presentations, it's a convention and not a conference. Similarly when you pay your money to take part, you buy a membership in Eastercon and not a ticket. Each year the convention is run by a different committee, made up of volunteers from the community.

If you want to find out more about Eastercons, you can start by browsing the [Eastercon Wiki](https://eastercon.fandom.com/wiki/Eastercon_Wiki) ([https://eastercon.fandom.com/wiki/Eastercon\\_Wiki](https://eastercon.fandom.com/wiki/Eastercon_Wiki)).

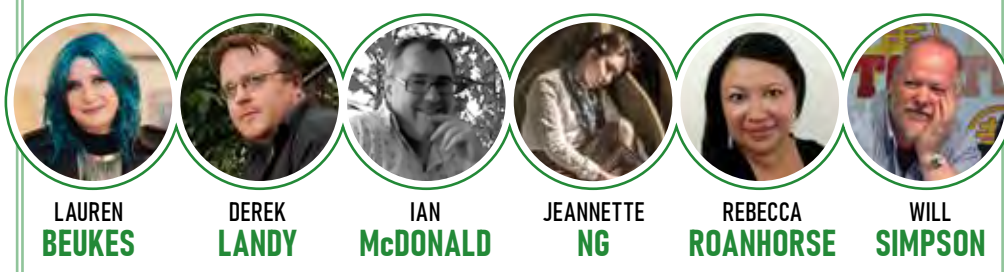
*This article uses material from the [Eastercon Wiki](https://eastercon.fandom.com/wiki/Eastercon_Wiki) and is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/).*

# RECONNECT

## New Members (2 December 2024 – 15 February 2025)

Sandra Bond (A0651)	Ben Unsworth (A0684)	D Andrews (A0717)
M V Melcer (A0652)	Helyna L. Clove (A0685)	Scarlett Ward (Scar Ward) (A0718)
ilana (S0653)	D Franklin (A0686)	Nikita Andester (A0719)
Adrian Fletcher (A0654)	Kayden Harper (A0687)	Rhody Andester (A0720)
Dan Walsh (A0655)	Ariane Ray (Ariane) (A0688)	Elliot Craggs (Elliot) (A0721)
Zebra (A0656)	Max Ramsay (Max) (A0689)	Soph W (A0722)
Fionnuala Murphy (IckleTayto) (A0657)	Jennifer Rickard (Jennifer) (A0690)	Kris (A0724)
Helena McCallum (Helena) (A0658)	Laura Domitz (A0691)	Jess Black (A0725)
Emma Newman (A0659)	Dennis Dennehy (A0692)	Roger Gammans (Roger) (V0726)
Deirdre Walsh (A0660)	Bella Pagan (A0693)	Dan Milburn (A0727)
Martin Pickett (A0661)	Luna's Lygophilia (A0694)	Aileen Meek (A0728)
Matthew Hambley (A0662)	Kathy Ayers (Kathy) (A0695)	John Doody (John) (A0729)
Arwen Greenwood (Arwen) (A0663)	Leigh Campbell (A0696)	Terry Fong (A0730)
Pippa Bull (Pippa) (A0664)	K.A.Teryna (A0698)	Tracy Scott (A0731)
Alexander Glass (A0665)	Paul Treadaway (A0699)	Lucy A. McLaren (V0732)
Ricardo Pinto (A0666)	Chris Jones (A0700)	Irina Pchelintseva (Irina) (A0733)
Kodiak Behtoui (Kodi) (A0667)	Meghan Ellis (A0701)	Ella Crean (A0734)
Mark Sinclair (A0668)	Juliet E McKenna (A0702)	Daria Leri (A0735)
Sally Sinclair (A0669)	Abigail Nussbaum (A0704)	Liz Bourke (A0736)
Rosalie Sinclair (Rosalie :D) (A0670)	Kirsty W (A0705)	Roman Orszanski (A0737)
Jess Meats (A0672)	Robert Hammond (Rob) (A0706)	Sarah Collins (Sarah) (A0738)
Karen Kay (A0673)	Peter Thompson (Peter) (A0707)	Ruth EJ Booth (A0739)
Rosanne Rabinowitz (A0674)	Els van Ooijen (A0708)	Neve O'Neill (A0740)
Alan Laird (Alan) (A0675)	Andrew Leon Hudson (A0709)	Ryan (A0741)
Zoe Wilkins (Zoe) (A0676)	James Morton (A0710)	Ritchie Smith (A0742)
Kate (A0677)	El McInerney (A0711)	David Burns (A0743)
Bec Handcock (A0678)	Everina Maxwell (A0712)	Annette Sexton-Ruiz (A0744)
Andrew Lane (A0679)	Eleanor Powers (A0713)	Aaron Taylor (A0745)
Helen Stirling (A0680)	Alyssa Macpherson (A0714)	Eóin Dooley (A0746)
Ian (A0681)	Jean Bürlesk (A0715)	
Ruby (A0682)	Maddie (A0716)	
Byddi Lee (A0683)		

## RECONNECT Guests of Honour



## Reconnect: Where To Find Us

Keep in touch via our website, our info@ email address, and our Facebook page – all here:

<https://easterconbelfast.org/>

[info@easterconbelfast.org](mailto:info@easterconbelfast.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/reconnecteastercon2025>

We do want to know if there are things we can improve on or need to change, but we also want to hear back about the good stuff we are doing to get ready for us all to have a great time at Reconnect this Easter!



# NOVACON<sup>54</sup>



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**Guest of Honour:**  
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science fiction author  
**Emily Tesh**

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