



# Novacon 45

13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Guests of Honour  
Stan and Anne Nicholls

# Read Me

## Friday

### **18:00 Opening Ceremony**

Where the convention opens.

### **18:45 Desert Island Discs**

Claire Brialey interviews Stan and Anne, with music.

### **20:00 Urban Fantasy: She Who Kicks Ass**

Is Urban Fantasy a one-trick pony?

### **21:30 Double Book launch**

Stan & Anne launch a collection of short stories each. Free wine and nibbles.

### **22:30 Fannish Stories You Can't Tell Your Daughter**

Unsuitable stories, with audience participation (this means you).

## Saturday

### **10:30 Science Talk: The Life and Death of Galaxies**

Dr Meghan Gray with a talk on galaxy ecology.

### **12:15 "There is very little decent SF being written nowadays"**

A panel discussion.

### **13:30 Transformative Fandom**

This panel and the previous panel are totally doing it.

### **14:45 What is Fandom For?**

The GoH item: Stan and Anne Nicholls, with anecdotes.

### **16:15 Workshop: Plate Tectonics and the Rock Cycle**

Audience participation style workshop on Plate Tectonics and the Rock Cycle.

### **17:30 How to Survive the End of the World in Ten Easy Steps**

The post-apocalyptic discussion.

### **18:45 I Am Groot**

How has the comic book industry changed in recent years?

### **20:00 Awards Hullabaloo: Sad Puppies**

Is it right to get angry about awards systems? Should we take it so seriously?

### **21:30 Pub Quiz**

A Novacon special SF Pub Quiz, with prizes!

## Sunday

### **10:30 Science Talk: Will We Ever Have a *Star Trek* Replicator?**

Dr Philip Moriarty with a talk on nanotech.

### **12:15 The Future of Eastercon**

Reporting back on that questionnaire.

### **13:30 Art Auction**

See, see the art! Buy it! Buy it all!

### **15:15 Boot the Reboot?**

Media panel – what value is there in redesigning the classics?

### **16:15 Starships in Science Fiction**

A talk from the Initiative for Interstellar Studies.

### **17:30 Handover Ceremony**

Who is chairing Novacon 46?

### **19:00 Beer Tasting and 19:30 Buffet Banquet**

Remember to get a beer badge and buy a food ticket from Registration.

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## Saturday Off-Piste

### **11:00 Elsewhen Book Launch**

*Sailor to a Siren*, by Zoë Sumra.

### **13:00 Pasgon Presentation**

The Cardiff Eastercon in 2017.

### **14:00 Elsewhen Book Launch**

*SmartYellow*, by J. A. Christy.

### **17:30 Workshop:**

#### **Character Building**

Anne Nicholls. Sign up early.

### **18:45 Book Party**

With small presses and authors.

### **23:00 Book Auction**

See the books! Buy them all!

## Sunday Off-Piste

### **11:00 Elsewhen Book Launch**

*Forbidden Alliance*,  
by Katrina Mountfort.

### **14:45 Workshop:**

#### **World Building**

Stan Nicolls. Sign up early.

### **15:00 Pasgon Reception**

Munchies, tea, and cake.

More comprehensive descriptions of all the programme items may be found on pages 11 to 15 of the Programme Book.

<b>Main Programme</b>			
<b>Friday</b>		<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
<p>Note that the column of times is not to scale, and therefore boxes that are the same height will not all be the same duration.</p> <p>Those gaps between items are so that you can get more beer, and so that the next item can set itself up.</p>	10:30	The Life and Death of Galaxies	Will We Ever Have a <i>Star Trek</i> Replicator?
	12:00		
	12:15	There is very little decent SF	The Future of Eastercon
	13:15		
	13:30	Transformative Fandom	Art Auction
	14:30		
	14:45	What is Fandom For?	
	15:00		
	15:15		Boot the Reboot?
	16:00		
	16:15	Plate Tectonics and the Rock Cycle	Starships in Science Fiction
	17:15		
17:30	How to Survive the End of the World	Handover Ceremony	
Opening Ceremony	18:00		
	18:30		
Desert Island Discs	18:45	I am Groot	
	19:00		Beer Tasting
	19:30		Buffet Banquet
19:45			
Urban Fantasy: She Who Kicks Ass	20:00	Awards Hullabaloo	
	21:00		
Double Book Launch	21:30	Pub Quiz	
Fannish Stories You Can't Tell Your Daughter	22:30		

<b>Off-Piste (downstairs)</b>			
<b>Saturday</b>		<b>Sunday</b>	
Book Launch: <i>Sailor to a Siren</i>	11:00	Book Launch: <i>Forbidden Alliance</i>	
Pasgon Presentation	13:00		
Book Launch: <i>Smart Yellow</i>	14:00		
	14:45		Workshop: World Building
	15:00	Pasgon Reception	
Workshop: Character Building	17:30		
Book Party	18:45		
Book Auction	23:00		

**Off-piste items are downstairs, either in the bar area or in Room Four.**  
The downstairs bar will be open on the Friday evening only, from 19:00-23:00.

### **Workshops**

In order to attend the workshops, you need to sign up at Registration in the morning on the day of your chosen workshop. Numbers are limited.

### **Art Show and Art Auction**

The Art Show is in Room Three. It is open Saturday 10:00-18:00 and Sunday 10:00-12:30. No food or drink in the Art Show room please.

Read the Art Show /Art Auction page in the main programme book page 16.

### **Dave Lally's Programme**

In addition to the highlights on the preceding pages, the Dave Lally Programme will run from Friday afternoon through to Sunday afternoon. Head down the stairs and look for a second flipchart, and the entrance to the Lally programme will be nearby.

### **Left Luggage**

This can be left in the secure Ops store in Room Six.

Ask a committee member for more information.

### **Sunday Evening Beer Tasting and Food**

As in previous years, Novacon is hosting a beer-tasting event and a meal.

We are providing some beer, but we rely on members to bring more interesting stuff. Bring three bottles of interesting beer to registration, and we will give you a beer badge which gives you access to the beer tasting.

Alternatively you can buy a beer badge at registration for £6.

Beer tasting starts at 19:00 in the Churchill Room (the former Dealers' Room).

The meal is served at 19:30 in the same room, and at the request of our GoHs will feature Italian food. Access to food is by ticket only; this year we've managed to keep the price of food tickets down to £12 once again.

Beer badges and food tickets are available from Registration.

**YOU MUST BUY YOUR FOOD TICKET BY 11:00 ON SUNDAY MORNING.**

Assorted soft drinks will be available free to everyone during the beer/food.

### **Dealers' Room**

The Dealers' Room is in the Churchill Room, through the glass doors on your left as you head from the main bar towards Reception. It will be open Friday 16:00-17:30, Saturday 10:00-14:30 and 16:00-18:00, and Sunday 10:00-16:00.

No food or drink in the Dealers' Room, please, unless you're a dealer.

### **RNIB Raffle**

Throughout the convention we will be running a raffle in aid of RNIB Talking Books for the Blind. Buy tickets. Buy some more.

### **Novacon Registration**

The Registration Desk is just outside the business office in the main foyer, and will be open at the following times:

Friday	16:00-17:45 and 18:45-22:00	for Novacon 45 registrations only
Saturday	10:00-14:30 and 16:15-18:00	for all Novacon business
Sunday	10:00-16:00	for all Novacon business

### **Operations**

We can usually be found hanging around near the Registration Desk.

There is a secure ops store in Room Six which will be used to store any books you have for the auction, Sunday evening beer, coats and bags (at the owner's risk) and various other stuff.

If you want to leave anything here, speak to the Duty Committee Member.

If you have volunteered to be a GOPHER, come and find any committee member and we'll sort you out. There are rewards! [*I am Groat – DS*]

### **Duty Committee Member**

Throughout the convention, one committee member will be acting as Duty Committee Member, and will be identified as such by their gold waistcoat.

If for any reason there is something that the convention Needs To Sort Out, then your first port of call is the Duty Committee Member.

### **Badges**

The hotel bar and leisure club are open to the public. Your Convention Badge grants you access to the convention-only areas of the hotel – programme spaces, art show, dealers' room – and the special rates for food that the convention has negotiated. Be sure to wear your Badge at all times, or you may find your access to these spaces and prices restricted.

### **Volunteering and Rewards**

The convention works because everyone involved gives their time for free.

You can offer to help and we will be very pleased to make use of your services. We might ask you to help move furniture around between one programme item and the next; we might ask you to carry some stuff from one part of the hotel to another; we might simply ask you to go and find someone for us.

We call people who help us out in this way "gophers". We like gophers. A lot. Sometimes we will offer gophers special rewards, tokens which you can use to get beer or food. Sometimes you can spend them in the dealers' room.

These Gopher Reward Tokens are called **GRoATs**. You can collect them.

### **Leisure Facilities**

We have full use of the Leisure Club which has a pool, sauna and gym. Access for disabled guests is through the main club entrance outside, reached from the bar. The Leisure Club is privately run. Please note: the pool runs some adults-only swim sessions, check times with Hotel Reception.

### **Outside the Hotel**

Across the main road outside the hotel you'll find a cashpoint and assorted shops including a newsagent and a supermarket with basic medicines. For an actual pharmacy ask Reception for directions to Boots half a mile away.

We'd like you to do all your eating and drinking inside the hotel, because we've told them that you'll be eating and drinking lots. But other pubs are available, including a very old one in the caves under Nottingham castle. Ooh. And there are other restaurants in Nottingham – the Internet is your friend – but really, eat in the hotel. It's good for our reputation.

## Food and Drink

All convention food will be served in the main bar area on the ground floor. Food orders placed at the bar are cooked to order, so there may be a wait. The wait is worth it. Please remain in the bar until you've got your food.

The main bar on the ground floor is open from 10:00 until we're all tired.

The downstairs bar will be open from 19:00 to midnight on Friday only.

Only one of the lifts serves the downstairs bar, but there are stairs.

### Friday & Saturday Evenings, Saturday & Sunday Lunchtimes Bar Food

Soup & Roll	£2.50	BBQ Chicken Melt & Chips	£5.50
Baguettes	£3.00	Cheeseburger & Chips	£6.50
Sandwiches	£2.95	Curry Of The Day & Rice	£6.50
Ham & Cheese		Fish, Chips & Mushy Peas	£6.50
Cheese & Onion Mayo		Jacket Potato, 2 fillings	£5.50
Tuna Mayo		Coleslaw	
Egg Mayo		Cheese	
9" Pizza	£5.00	Baked beans	
Cheese & Tomato		Chilli	
Pepperoni & Jalapeno		Tuna Mayo	
Chicken & Pepper		Fries, Garlic Bread, Salad	each £1.80
additional toppings	£0.50	Cheesy Chips, BBQ Wings	each £2.50

### Friday / Saturday / Sunday Late Night Butties

Late in the evening you will be able to get Bacon, Sausage or Chip Butties.

Crisps, nuts, chocolate bars and baguettes available from the bar 10:00-23:00.

**The regular bar menu** will also be available throughout the weekend.

If you want a sit-down meal in the restaurant using the regular hotel menu on Saturday, you'll want to reserve a table as it can get busy.

**Friday evening only** in the restaurant, there will a fixed-price carvery at £17.50 with meat or vegetarian options.

## DIRE WARINGS

The Park Inn is in the business of selling accommodation, food and drink.

Neither the hotel nor the Novacon committee approve of members crashing in rooms or bringing in their own supplies, so don't do it.