



Follycon

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

This is a short update on the convention, but you can find much more information on our website, follycon.org.uk, our Facebook page, facebook.com/follycon2018, or through our Twitter account, @follycon2018.

If you're at Novacon, you'll be able to find us in the dealers' room! On Sunday at 3pm we'll be holding a tea party in the downstairs bar area, and we'd love you all to come along.

Hotel Bookings and Access

Please remember that Harrogate is a popular tourist destination: it will be very difficult to get accommodation over the Easter weekend at short notice, so everyone needs to make arrangements in advance.

The convention will be held at the The Majestic Hotel, which is now fully booked, but there are many other hotels and B&Bs nearby, many listed in the accommodation section of visitharrogate.co.uk.

We have arranged special rates with some other hotels in the area, detailed at follycon.org.uk/hotels and in Factsheet 2. At the time of writing, there are still rooms available in the Crowne Plaza (formerly The Holiday Inn, tinyurl.com/FollyHoliday), The Kimberley Hotel (tinyurl.com/FollyKimberley), The Crown Hotel (tinyurl.com/FollyCrown), The Old Swan (tinyurl.com/FollySwan) and the Yorkshire Hotel (no more singles; tinyurl.com/FollyYork). The Premier Inn is now fully booked.

If you need to be in an accessible room but have not already made a booking, please contact access@follycon.org.uk as soon as possible. If you expect to need to use a wheelchair or scooter during the convention, please make arrangements to hire one in advance: we will not have mobility aids available on the day.

Guests of Honour

As you know, Follycon has four fabulous Guests who will be joining us for the convention but who are managing to keep themselves busy until then. **Kieron Gillen** will be taking over Marvel's *Star Wars* comic this autumn, beginning with *Star Wars* #38. Dr **Christina Lake** was awarded her PhD (on utopian and dystopian eugenics) in March. **Nnedi Okorafor** has a new book, *Akata Warrior*, out in the US, and *Who Fears Death* has been optioned by HBO for a forthcoming TV series. She is also working with Marvel on a new project that features a Nigerian heroine based on the kidnapped Chibok schoolgirls. **Kim Stanley Robinson** has been busy promoting *New York 2140*, which has been enthusiastically reviewed.

Fabulous Hats for Harrogate!

The Majestic is a lovely Victorian hotel, and so we're going to go a bit Lewis Carroll to celebrate one of the finest Fools of Victorian England. In particular, we will be throwing a **Mad Hatter's Tea Party**, which will provide a chance to dress up for those who want to, whether with a fancy hat or a full-on costume: something Victorian or Carroll-related would be particularly appropriate, but don't feel bound by that. We'll run a hat decorating workshop beforehand, and emergency hats will be available. (You don't have to wear fancy dress to come to the party, but we think that the hotel will be happier if you do remember to wear some clothes!)

Posters

We are planning to have a poster display on a range of non-fiction topics for people to browse. This could be something to do with SF, science, history, fandom or anything else that Follycon members might be interested to learn about.

If you think you would like to contribute a poster, and perhaps have a slot to talk to people interested in it, please let us know at posters@follycon.org.uk.

Special Events

We are delighted to be able to announce that Follycon will feature a special concert from **Jon Boden**, formerly of folk legends Bellowhead. Jon's most recent album is *Afterglow*, set around a dark street carnival in post-apocalyptic Britain, making him a great fit for an SF convention.

We are also very pleased to announce that hilarious musician/singer/storyteller/comedian/costumer/for all I know he bakes as well **Keith Donnelly** will be doing two concerts for us, one specifically family-friendly and one in the evening. Watch out for the picture guitar.

We're also planning to arrange some other musical and theatrical events, which we'll announce as soon as they're finalised.

Programme

As well as all these special items, we're working hard on the rest of the programme. There'll be more announcements about this closer to the convention, but you can expect SF criticism classes, cross-generational panels, parties, talks from all manner of experts, and maybe even a casino.

We're still looking for your programme suggestions and offers of help, though. Please get in touch, either using our online form (tinyurl.com/follyprog), by email to programme@follycon.org.uk, or by post to the address below. If you can, please get in touch by the beginning of December, as after that we are going to start pinning down the programme more tightly.

Childcare

The Follycon creche will be run by the team from Tinies, who some of you will remember from 8SquaredCon. Space in the creche must be booked in advance; please email childcare@follycon.org.uk for more information.

Volunteering

If you'd like to help out with the running of the convention, whether beforehand or on the day, see www.follycon.org.uk/whats-on/volunteering for more information. You can also send an email to volunteers@follycon.org.uk letting us know what you'd be interested in doing or if you have any questions.

We will need help with all types of tasks, some in advance and many during the con itself. Expressing interest in volunteering won't commit you to anything at this stage, and you can choose the amount of time you are willing to give and when you are available.

If you already expressed interest in helping out, thank you. If you haven't heard from us directly to say so, please get in touch again! We'll keep you up-to-date with what's going on and what specific help we need.

Getting in Touch

If you have any **access**-related questions or requirements, please email us at access@follycon.org.uk.

If you'd like to register an interest in space in the **Dealers' Room**, please email dealers@follycon.org.uk.

If you're interested in exhibiting in our **Art Show**, please email artshow@follycon.org.uk.

There's a list of these and other contact email addresses on our website, or you can send an email to info@follycon.org.uk if you're not sure who's the best person to answer your query.

If you'd prefer to contact us by post, please write to Follycon, 19 Uphall Road, Cambridge, CB3 1HX.

How to Join

If you're not already a member of the convention, you can join by visiting follycon.org.uk/join.

We hope to offer day memberships for Follycon, and details will be announced before the convention. However, we anticipate that we may have to cap membership of the convention in order to avoid overcrowding, so we recommend that you buy your memberships (whether full or day) in advance.

Our rates until 6 December 2017 are:

Adult (25+)	£70
Young Adult (18-24) / Unwaged	£45
Child (5-17)	£30
Infant (0-4)	Free
Supporting	£30

From 7 December 2017, the rates will be:

Adult (25+)	£80
Young Adult (18-24) / Unwaged	£45
Child (5-17)	£30
Infant (0-4)	Free
Supporting	£30

Ages are as at 30 March 2018.