



Follycon

Welcome to the fourth and final 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.

Does anyone have an aspidistra that we can borrow? Please email info@follycon.org.uk if you can help!

Although we're hoping for good weather, it's quite likely we won't get it. Make sure you've got clothes that will allow you to enjoy Harrogate and its surroundings if it's cold and wet.

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.

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.

How to Get to Follycon

Harrogate is in North Yorkshire. The Majestic Hotel is on Ripon Road (postcode HG1 2HU), with road access via Springfield Avenue. If you're driving, the A59 and A61 both run through Harrogate and the A661 connects to the A1(M). Parking in the hotel carpark is free for all members of the convention.

The nearest airport is Leeds Bradford, about 12 miles away; the 747 bus is an express service to Harrogate bus station, and taxis are available. Manchester airport is around two hours away from Harrogate by train via Leeds.

Harrogate is about 35 minutes on the train from Leeds or York, which are both hubs for other rail services across the UK. There is a taxi rank at the station and the bus station is nearby, with several routes stopping 2-3 minutes walk from the hotel. At average pace it takes 12-15 minutes to walk between the station and the Majestic, although Harrogate is not a flat town.

Code of Conduct

Please remember that the convention's Code of Conduct applies at all times when you are at the convention. You can find the full text of the Code of Conduct at follycon.org.uk/about-follycon/code-of-conduct/, or we can email or post you a copy on request. It will also be included in the convention Read Me: please read it!

Childcare

Space in the creche must be booked in advance; please email childcare@follycon.org.uk for more information. Please note that the creche is not located in the main hotel, so children will need suitable outdoor clothing.

pScientific Facts

This year's Eastercon newsletter, run by the Satellite 6 Committee, will endeavour to educate fans on the latest pScientific discoveries, such as perpetual motion machines and galactic travel by mushroom. We seek your contributions, in the form of drabbles (stories of exactly 100 words, with titles of up to fifteen additional words): the most amusing and outrageous will be published in the newsletter. No time wasters please, unless you are announcing a new device powered by wasted time. Please email your drabbles to newsletter@follycon.org.uk.

Special Events

Geoff Ryman will perform *Gilgamesh Reads Gilgamesh*, in a production created specially for Follycon.

We will dance with the Science Ceilidh, bringing people together through science and music. This will feature a Follycon-themed dance created for us by members of Follycon.

The Science Fiction Foundation sponsors the Hay Lecture by Dr Kevin Cowtan from the University of York. The BSFA sponsors the BSFA Lecture by Dr Sabine Clarke, also from the University of York.

The Mad Hatter's Tea Party will feature cream tea, entertainment, hall costumes and fabulous hats.

Programme

We have a programme. We have talks on Robert Heinlein, the James Webb Space Telescope, the science of toffee and Ray Harryhausen. We have panels on Utopias, cities, Victorian fantasy and future technologies. You can get out and about in Harrogate (bring walking shoes and a warm coat) and keep fit for fandom (bring loose clothing and a swimming costume). We'll celebrate Frankenstein's 200th birthday, the BSFA's 60th and the lives of Brian Aldiss and Ursula K. Le Guin. There will be a Poetry Open Mic (bring a poem) and critical workshops (see the website for set texts). You will be able to enjoy discussion of science fiction and fantasy in all their forms.

We expect to publish the programme on our website on 17 March, and recommend looking before you arrive if you can. Please note that some items will need you to sign up, either on our website or when you arrive at the con. We're still very happy to receive offers of help: please get in touch as soon as possible, either using our online form (tinyurl.com/follyprog), by email to programme@follycon.org.uk, or by post to the address below.

Posters

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 as soon as possible and we'll add you to our waiting list.

Volunteering

If you'd like to help out with the running of the convention on the day, see follycon.org.uk/whats-on/volunteering for more information. There's an online form to let us know more about what you'd be interested in doing. In particular, we always need gophers and stewards.

Thank you in advance if you have already been in touch! We'll be contacting as many volunteers as possible before the con so you'll know what help we need; it will be up to you how much time you're willing to give and when. You can also send an email to volunteers@follycon.org.uk if you have any questions.

Getting in Touch

If you have any **access**-related questions or requirements, please email us at access@follycon.org.uk. Our **Dealers' Room** and **Art Show** are now full, but if you'd like to be added to the waiting list for space then please email dealers@follycon.org.uk or 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. You can also contact us on Facebook or Twitter, but please remember that we will be very busy in the last few days before the convention.

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 will close advance membership sales on 20 March at the latest, but 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. After this time, you can join on the door at the rates listed below as long as we have availability.

Our rates for the weekend are:

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

Some day memberships will also be available, costing:

	Adult	YA	Child
Friday	£25	£15	£10
Saturday	£35	£20	£10
Sunday	£35	£20	£10
Monday	£15	£10	£5

Ages are as at 30 March 2018.