# 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!).

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## Moderator's Workshop

Coalport, Duration: 45 mins


Farah Mendlesohn

Fan Interest, Virtual, In person, Friday,

If you are moderating a panel you are invited to attend this short workshop to support your preparation.

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## Scones and Steam - Ironbridge and Industry

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 45 mins


Coralie Acheson (moderator)

Local Interest, Virtual, In person, Friday,

This year's convention is taking place in Telford – a new town created in one of Britain's former heartlands of heavy industry. 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 'counter-tourist' should you wish to take a sideways look at Telford and Ironbridge while you're here!

### Cats are real, but dragons are hard

Wenlock 3 & 4, Duration: 45 mins

 Flis Brown (moderator)

Craft, In person only, No catch-up, Sign up required, In person, Friday,

Come and crochet a little two dimensional cat and attach it to a granny square. So cute!

### Starting a skill from scratch

Atcham, Duration: 45 mins

 Alison Scott  Anna Feruglio Dal Dan
 J A Mortimore (moderator)  Mat
 Richard Stephenson

Fan Interest, Virtual, In person, Friday,

Fans are very creative and often self-taught. Find out about the challenges and rewards of starting a skill from scratch from those who have done so.

**12:00**

### Contemporary Pakistani Speculative Fiction

Coalport, Duration: 60 mins

 Aroosa Kanwal  Shazia Sadaf
 Wendrie (moderator)

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

Pakistani writers have incorporated elements from djinn mythology, Qur'anic eschatology, "*Desi*" (South Asian) traditions, local folklore, and Islamic feminisms in their narratives to encourage familiarity with alternative world views. As the first book-length study of emergent Pakistani speculative fiction 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

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

### Incorporating Myths from Different Cultures

Pattingham, Duration: 60 mins

 Maria Sjöstrand  Rhionnach (Jean Thompson)
 Allen Stroud (moderator)  Wole Talabi

Literature, Virtual, In person, Friday,

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?

### Cities in SF/F

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 60 mins

 Frasier Armitage  Janet Forbes
 Jesper Stage (moderator)  Adrian Tchaikovsky

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

The science fiction city has been the stuff of art work for decades: it gleams in the mist, shiny and new or crumbling, a symbol of a 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?

### Can SF help solve the climate emergency?

Atcham, Duration: 60 mins

 Elliot (moderator)  Ian Green  Janet Ellicott
 Vincent Docherty

Virtual, In person, Friday,

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 EJ 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**

☐ **Opening Ceremony**

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 30 mins

 Claire Brialey  Dr Srinarahari
 Elsa Sjunneson  Genevieve Cogman
 Jackie Burns  Farah Mendlesohn
 Michelle Sagara  Mike Scott  Nicholas Whyte
 Tade Thompson

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**

☐ **SF/F and the Industrial Revolution**

Atcham, Duration: 60 mins

 Aliette de Bodard  Karolina Fedyk
 Rosie Oliver (moderator)  Stew Hotston (he/him)
 Adrian Tchaikovsky

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!

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☐ **What happened to SF/F as a Force for Good?**

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 60 mins

 David Wake  Juliet Kemp  Kate Towner

 Michelle Sagara  Stephen Oram (moderator)

Literature, Virtual, In person, Friday,

In a disastrous world can science fiction show us a better way forward? Science fiction has a tendency to sit on the side lines criticising the way the world is being run, but at least some science fiction wants to show us a way through to a better place. Who is writing the most convincing paths to a better future and what kind of activism and engagement is out there?

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☐ **The Machine Without Horses**

Wenlock 3 & 4, Duration: 60 mins

 Guy Dawson  Sue Dawson (moderator)

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

The Machine Without Horses is a Scottish country dance that dates back to 1772 and is thought to represent an early steam engine. We will teach, walk through and then dance it - and if there's time and demand, move on to some modern high speed variations. Period costume optional! Gender neutral - we will use the convention of "apples" and "bananas".

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☐ **What does good look like?**

Coalport, Duration: 60 mins

 Mike Brooks  Cécile Cristofari  Helen Gould

 Niall Harrison (moderator)  Nick Hubble

Literature, Virtual, In person, Friday,

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

### Andor "Spies, Saboteurs, Assassins"

Pattingham, Duration: 60 mins

 Caroline Mersey  Fiona Moore  John Coxon
 Stephen Aryan  Tommy Ferguson (moderator)

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**

### All things Mercury

Coalport, Duration: 60 mins

 David Stokes Edward James (moderator)
 Meg MacDonald @MegInTransition Sara Norja
 Tony Keen

Literature, Virtual, In person, Friday,

The Greek god Hermes (Mercury, in the Roman pantheon) is the god of translators, messengers, and thieves. Our panellists discuss the incarnations of Mercury - ancient and modern - in myth, fiction and reality.

### Debut Spotlight

Pattingham, Duration: 60 mins

 Frasier Armitage Janet Ellicott
 Maria Sjöstrand  Terry Jackman (moderator)
 Thomas D Lee

Readings, Virtual, In person, Friday,

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

### Joan Aiken Centenary

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 60 mins

 Ali Baker  Elsa Sjunneson
 Genevieve Cogman  John Clute
 Virginia (moderator)

Literature, Virtual, In person, Friday,

Joan Aiken is perhaps best known for The Wolves of Willoughby Chase series for children. She also wrote in the genres of SF, Gothic fiction, romance and crime as well as some ver peculiar fairy tales. Come and learn about her work and why you should consider reading it.

### Launch: Newcon Press

Wenlock 3 & 4, Duration: 60 mins

 Cécile Cristofari  Ian Whates (moderator)

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

Welcome to the launch of "The Last Pantheon" by Tade Thompson and Nick Wood, "Elephants in Bloom" by Cécile Cristofari and "Human Resources" by Fiona Moore.

### GoH: Jackie Burns Paints! Live!

Atcham, Duration: 60 mins

 Jackie Burns (moderator)

Guest of Honour, Virtual, In person, Friday,

Jackie Burns will sit and paint, and we get to watch! Will be streamed.

## 17:30

### 50 yrs since Mariner 10: What now for Exploration?

Atcham, Duration: 45 mins

 Bill Ray  David M Allan (moderator)
 James Shields

Science, Virtual, In person, Friday,

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.

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### What Next: How Do You Follow Diana Wynne Jones?

Coalport, Duration: 45 mins

 Ali Baker  Flis Brown (moderator)  Kari  Sandra Unerman  Virginia

Literature, Virtual, In person, Friday,

A popular question on children's literature threads goes, "I love Diana Wynne Jones, who else would I like?" This panel, made up of Diana Wynne Jones fans, discusses all the ways she is special, and which other authors a reader should try.

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### Introduction for people new to cons/eastercon

Pattingham, Duration: 45 mins

 Maria Sjöstrand  Marguerite Smith  Soph  Vincent Docherty (moderator)

Virtual, In person, Friday,

If this is your first convention, first Eastercon, or if you just feel like cons are still a bit of a mystery, this is the session for you. Come and find out what it's all about, how to make the most of it, learn about the 5-2 rule. Meet other first-timers and make some new friends.

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### Launch: Dawn and Dave of the Dead

Wenlock 3 & 4, Duration: 45 mins

 David Wake (moderator)  F. D. Lee

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

The latest book by David Wake has been described as 'a riotous, satirical trip through undead-infested Birmingham' and as a 'hilarious zombie romantic comedy.' What's not to like? Find out more at the book launch.

### Legacies of Frankenstein

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 45 mins

Edward James, Eleanor Roberts (moderator), Kevin McVeigh, Robin, Tade Thompson

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*.

**19:00**

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

Atcham, Duration: 45 mins

Mike Brooks, Elsa Sjunneson, Heather Valentine, Sandra Bond (moderator), 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.

### Science Fiction Narratives and Science

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 45 mins

Jackie Burns, Karolina Fedyk, M V Melcer, Stephen Oram, Stew Hotston (he/him) (moderator)

 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?

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☐ **Oh no! Another award!**

Wenlock 3 & 4, Duration: 45 mins

 Claire Brialey  Niall Harrison  Steve Davies

 Allen Stroud (moderator)  Neil Williamson

Fan Interest, Virtual, In person, Friday,

This panel will discuss the proliferation of awards and award categories, the role awards play in supporting a genre (and new genres) and whether you can have too much of a good thing.

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☐ **Creating Art for Pleasure**

Coalport, Duration: 45 mins

 Giulia De Cesare  Kate Towner

 Sabine Furlong  Marguerite Smith (moderator)

 Smuzz

Art, Virtual, In person, Friday,

Not everyone wants to be a professional. This panel will discuss creating art (of many kinds) for pleasure. Why do our panellists do it? How did they get started? Do they keep it private or share? What have they learned from the experience?

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☐ **Talking About Tabletop Games**

Pattingham, Duration: 45 mins

 Alison Scott (moderator)  Chris

 John Coxon  Joss  Matt Cooper

Virtual, In person, Friday,

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

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**

### Can We Walk Away from Injustice?

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 45 mins

 Elsa Sjunneson  Ida Keogh
 Juliet Kemp (moderator)  Michelle Sagara
 Nick Hubble

Literature, Virtual, In person, Friday,

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.

### New ways to think about worldbuilding

Coalport, Duration: 45 mins

 David Stokes  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)  Pepper

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  Mike Scott

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

### SFF perspectives on Care and Caring

Atcham, Duration: 45 mins

 Ali Baker  David Green duckbunny
 Karen Furlong Caroline Mullan (moderator)

Fan Interest, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

It's clear that care and caring are massively overlooked in modern UK culture. What do SF and Fantasy have to say about these aspects of life? Are there any perspectives in SFF that can inform our discussion with the wider world? Should our writers be doing more to reflect these elements in genre storytelling?

### Scientists in the Media Imagination

Coalport, Duration: 45 mins

D.A Lascelles David M Allan
Graham Sleight Jessica Meats (moderator)
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.

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**Communities, connections, and many kinds of family**

Wenlock 3 & 4, Duration: 45 mins

Caroline Mersey Trip Galey (moderator)
Juliet Kemp Wendy Metcalfe

Guest of Honour, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

The classic sf protagonist is the lone hero, aided by companions who sometimes seem more like tools (a shovel or a pick axe) than they do like real connections.How do we write stories around and in real communities: families, shared employment or projects, or communities of faith? Who does it best and how?

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**Talk: So you're thinking about murder…**

Pattingham, Duration: 45 mins

Dr Rose Drew (moderator)

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?

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

 Bill Ray  Jackie Burns (moderator)
 John Coxon  James Shields

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

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 45 mins

 Chris Behrsin  Juliet E McKenna (moderator)
 F. D. Lee  M V Melcer  Michelle Sagara

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.

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☐ **Dangerous Charisma**

Coalport, Duration: 45 mins

 Mike Brooks  Robin C.M. Duncan (moderator)
 Emily Inkpen  Stephen Aryan  Stephen Deas

Writing, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

Which characters can make a bad idea sound like a good one? 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.

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☐ **Climate Friction: Solar Punk & Environment Justice**

Pattingham, Duration: 45 mins

 Cécile Cristofari  Alex Cochran (moderator)
 Karolina Fedyk  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.

### Around the World in Eighty Trip Reports

Wenlock 3 & 4, Duration: 45 mins

 Alison Scott (moderator)  Anna Raftery
 Johan Anglemark  Sandra Bond

Fan Interest, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

What makes a good fan fund trip? What is the objective of the fan funds? How do they benefit fans in addition to the ones on the trips? How are they funded, and is the current model sustainable? How could the fan fund trips be updated to fit the digital age?

### What is Industrial Archeology?

Atcham, Duration: 45 mins

David Hodson Elliot Marcus Streets
Farah Mendlesohn (moderator) Theo Seddon

History, In person only, No catch-up, In person, Saturday,

When people think of archeology they think of ancient ruins from prehistoric periods, or from the Vikings, Romans, Ancient Egypt or other cultures far in distance or time. But the archeological record keeps accreting, and there are fascinating things to be learned from the world around us that the written record is often unclear on. The panel will discuss their enthusiasm for industrial archeology and what you should look out for.

**11:00**

### Locked room mysteries in Space

Coalport, Duration: 45 mins

 ARTHUR CHAPPELL  Aliette de Bodard
 Mat (moderator)  M V Melcer  Allen Stroud

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?

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### The BSFA Lecture: Annals of Vandalism

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 45 mins

 John Clute  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.

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### Bodymods & Cybernetics

Wenlock 3 & 4, Duration: 45 mins

 D.A Lascelles  Ian Green
 Jackie Burns (moderator)  Karolina Fedyk
 William

Science, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

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.

### Feedback Session: Saturday

Atcham, Duration: 45 mins

Farah Mendlesohn Mike Scott

Fan Interest, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

This is your chance to raise gripes and grumbles with the Committee (we hope anything more serious will have been addressed in the moment), or to bring praise for things that have gone well.

### Soundtracks of space & time: Music in Writing SF/F

Pattingham, Duration: 45 mins

Annie (moderator) Ian Whates Kari Tricia Sullivan Neil Williamson

Music, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

Join a panel of authors to discuss their relationship with music. What music might they listen to when writing and why? Does music serve as an inspiration for their story content? This panel is part of an exciting academic research project where audience questions can also be part of the study. (Note: This panel will be audio recorded for research purposes).

## 12:00

### BSFA Awards

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 60 mins

Allen Stroud (moderator)

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,

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

### Resistance is Useless! Or is it?

Coalport, Duration: 60 mins

 Brian Nisbet (moderator)  Helen Gould
 Karen Furlong  S. J. Groenewegen
 Stew Hotston (he/him)

Literature, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

We all grew up believing that if we resisted oppression we would win. But the past thirty years seem to be undermining that. How has SF taught us to resist, given us false ideas of resistance, or offered new was to think about it?

### Launch: Beyond Cataclysm

Wenlock 3 & 4, Duration: 60 mins

 Chris (moderator)

Fan Interest, In person only, No catch-up, In person, Saturday,
A Double Launch!
**ISBN COFFEE** from Beyond Cataclysm – “The World's First Bag of Coffee with its own ISBN Number! (And a book of companion stories, poetry, games and illustration)
and **MACHINA FANTASIA** by Nathan Philpott, two warring nations of machines face extinction in this science-fantasy novel.

### Living the Nightmare

Pattingham, Duration: 60 mins

 Bridget Wilkinson  Eleanor Roberts
 Nick Hubble  Stephen Deas (moderator)
 Wole Talabi

History, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

In his essay, 'Useful Work v useless toil' William Morris (1885) wrote:

"Work makes us human and makes our lives happy and eventful.

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

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  C.L. McCartney
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.

### GoH: Jackie Burns Presents

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 60 mins

Jackie Burns  Jackie Duckworth (moderator)

Guest of Honour, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

Jackie Burns invites you to a tour of her work. The themes she explores include aerospace, astronomy and 'geek'. She will introduce you to some of her pieces and talk about her ideas behind them.

### What is the appeal of libraries for f/sf readers?

Atcham, Duration: 60 mins

Bridget Wilkinson Dr Bob  Eleanor Roberts
Emily January Genevieve Cogman (moderator)
Michelle Sagara

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.

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### Gods walk among us

Pattingham, Duration: 60 mins

 Brian Nisbet  David Green

 Meg MacDonald @MegInTransition (moderator)

 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?

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### Launch: The Dark Feather, book 3

Wenlock 3 & 4, Duration: 60 mins

 Anna Stephens (moderator)

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

Come help Anna Stephens launch *The Dark Feather*, book 3 of *Songs of the Drowned*.

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### Board game playtesting - Ashfall (Saturday)

Other, Duration: 60 mins

 Joss (moderator)

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

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.

**14:30**

### Doctor Who and the Industrial Revolution

Atcham, Duration: 60 mins

 Fiona Moore  Genevieve Cogman
 S. J. Groenewegen (moderator)  Samuel Poots
 Smuzz  Vaughan Stanger

Media, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

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.

### GoH: Tade Thompson interview

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 60 mins

 Aliette de Bodard (moderator)  Tade Thompson

Guest of Honour, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

Tade Thompson, author of the Rosewater series in addition to other SF works, will be interviewed by Aliette de Bodard.

### Speculative design

Coalport, Duration: 60 mins

 Simon Bradshaw (moderator)  eggwhite
 Jackie Burns  Jessica Meats  Rick Danforth

Science, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

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?

### Making Systemic Change

Pattingham, Duration: 60 mins

 David Green  Ida Keogh (moderator)
 Juliet E McKenna  Stew Hotston (he/him)
 Tej Turner

Literature, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

The British SF and Fantasy field is still very monocultural in terms of both authors and readership. How do we define and support the kind of systemic change we would like to see to make British SF & F more diverse?

### Launch: The Crystal Cube

Wenlock 3 & 4, Duration: 75 mins

Virtual, In person, Saturday,

**Author R E Lewin unveils her latest audiobook in The Children of Pisces Series: "The Crystal Cube".**

Her series is designed to bring the whole family together, regardless of age and gender and is deliberately inclusive. R E Lewin is delighted to launch the book 3 audio officially at Levitation. Plus, look out for 100 of each audiobook to be given away at the launch along with an exclusive cover reveal of the upcoming Part 4 in the series out this summer at Worldcon.

## 16:00

### Educational safeguarding in SF and Fantasy

Coalport, Duration: 60 mins

 Ali Baker (moderator)  Anna Stephens
 D.A Lascelles  Karen Furlong
 Marcus Rowland

Literature, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

So many schools and other educational institutions in fiction are tremendously dangerous places. Sunnydale High and UC Sunnydale, Hogwarts, the Jedi Academy, and so forth. Many of them seem to be in the business of training people to *be* evil. What would OFSTED think?

### Launch: Cybersalon anthology of applied fiction

Wenlock 3 & 4, Duration: 60 mins

Cybersalon Press (Ben Greenaway)
Cybersalon Press (Eva Pascoe) Dr. Danbee Kim
Rosie Oliver Sophie Sparham
Stephen Oram (moderator) Vaughan Stanger

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

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

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**Teamwork Makes the Dreamwork**

Pattingham, Duration: 60 mins

Frasier Armitage (moderator) J A Mortimore
Jonathan Laidlow F. D. Lee Stephen Deas

Writing, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

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.

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**Blame Canada!**

Atcham, Duration: 60 mins

Caroline Mersey (moderator) Fiona Moore
Michelle Sagara Tommy Ferguson

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?

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**GoH: Elsa Sjunesson interview**

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 60 mins

 Ed Fortune (moderator)  Elsa Sjunneson
 Farah Mendlesohn

Guest of Honour, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

Virtual GoH Elsa Sjunneson is interviewed by Ed Fortune.

**17:30**

☐ **The Good, The Bad, and the Buggy**

Coalport, Duration: 45 mins

 Graham Sleight  Mike Scott  Peter Sullivan
 Richard Stephenson (moderator)  Soph

Fan Interest, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

Technical defects, snafus, and glitches have caused varying degrees of havoc throughout history - from 'bugs' disrupting telegraph wires to Cosmic Ray assisted Mario speed-runs. What are the most interesting, amusing and noteworthy instances of real or fictional technology gone awry? Our panellists discuss.

☐ **Adaptations of Dune**

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 45 mins

 Alex Cochran  David Stokes
 Jonathan Laidlow  Vincent Docherty (moderator)

Media, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

Part 2 of Denis Villeneuve's adaptation of Dune is scheduled for release on 1 March 2024. This is the second (completed) feature film adaptation of Frank Herbert's famous 1965 novel, the first 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.

☐ **It's A Conspiracy!**

Atcham, Duration: 45 mins

 Eleanor Roberts  Elliot  Ian Green
 Pepper  Rick Danforth (moderator)

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?

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☐ **The Adaptation Game**

Wenlock 3 & 4, Duration: 45 mins

 Anna Stephens  David Hodson  James
 Mat (moderator)  Smuzz

Media, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

SF, Fantasy and Horror present rich pickings for adaptation across a wide spectrum of media, and have done for decades. Books become films, TV and comics; comics become movies; TV transfers to audio; games become films become games. Now, genre films are being remade. The panel discusses the ingredients of a good adaptation, and what IPs they'd like to see on screen next.

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☐ **Talk: Strange Worlds, Strange Games**

Pattingham, Duration: 45 mins

 Stew Hotston (he/him) (moderator)

Virtual, In person, Saturday,

Designing Games for Inclusion: In Strange Worlds, Strange Games we will explore why roleplaying and gaming has remained so White, what are the obstacles that keep it that way and how we can think about designing worlds and games that will be more inclusive and open to the broadest swathe of people.

**19:00**

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☐ **Glasgow in 2024 Pub Quiz**

Atcham, Duration: 105 mins

 Catherine Sharp (moderator)

After Dark, In person only, No catch-up, In person, Saturday,

Members of the Glasgow 2024 Worldcon team will be here to welcome you, and answers your questions about the convention that will be only four months away! Come an experience the pre-

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!

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### Trauma in Science Fiction and Fantasy

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 45 mins

 Elsa Sjunneson  Emily Inkpen
 Karen Furlong  Lucy McLaren (moderator)
 Tej Turner

Literature, Virtual, In person, Saturday,

This panel will discuss trauma and trauma-informed fiction across different SFF properties, whether that's the unbelievable trauma that's just brushed over (e.g. the Miles O'Briens, Dean Winchesters, Dana Scullys, characters who experience unbelievable traumas every other episode and basically act completely untouched by it), or stories that really dig into the impact of trauma and the way it impacts a character going forward, whether explicitly or implicitly. Trauma responses are as diverse as the human experience and this panel will discuss the many ways that has been explored in science fiction and fantasy.

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### Watching Things on Screen

Wenlock 3 & 4, Duration: 45 mins

 David Stokes  Emily January  Matt Cooper
 Russell A Smith (moderator)

Virtual, In person, Saturday,

Why do we watch people play on screen? From football, to e-games to jigsaws; what is the joy in watching instead of participating? What do we gain from this?

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### Does sf influence the decision to study science?

Pattingham, Duration: 45 mins

D.A Lascelles Ken MacLeod (moderator)
V Anne Smith Soph William

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?

### How (Not) to Become an Astronaut

Coalport, Duration: 45 mins

Emma J King (moderator)

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

### Invertebrates in Space!

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 45 mins

Dr Bob Ken MacLeod
Marcus Rowland (moderator) Sara Norja
Adrian Tchaikovsky

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

 Anna Stephens (moderator)  Cécile Cristofari
 Lucy McLaren  Tej Turner  Terry Jackman

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.

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☐ **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

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☐ **Radical kindness**

Wenlock 3 & 4, Duration: 45 mins

 Chris  J A Mortimore  Juliet Kemp
 Kari
 Meg MacDonald @MegInTransition (moderator)

Virtual, In person, Saturday,

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

### 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!

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### Feedback Session: Sunday

Atcham, Duration: 45 mins

Farah Mendlesohn  Mike Scott

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).

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### Art Materials and techniques: picturing the future

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 45 mins

 Anna Feruglio Dal Dan  Jackie Burns

 Jackie Duckworth (moderator)  Sabine Furlong

Soph

Art, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

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?

### An Easter Morning Celebration

Wenlock 3 & 4, Duration: 45 mins

Christine Michael

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

An informal ecumenical gathering for Easter Sunday with hymns and readings.

Led by Christine Davidson and Michael Davisdson

For anyone seeking a formal service, this web site is available: https://www.findachurch.co.uk/

### Exhibiting Fantasy

Pattingham, Duration: 45 mins


Anna Stephens


Carolina Gomez Lagerlöf (moderator)

Niall Harrison 
Samuel Poots

Sandra Unerman

Virtual, In person, Sunday,

*The Realms of Imagination* is the British Library's latest acclaimed exhibition, and it has a specific "take" on the fantastic. If we had rooms and time enough, what would be in our ideal exhibition of the fantastic?

## 10:00

### Business Meeting

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 45 mins

David Cooper James Farah Mendlesohn

Phil Dyson 
Tommy Ferguson

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

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

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### Disaster Queers in Castles

Pattingham, Duration: 45 mins

 Mike Brooks  Aliette de Bodard
 Heather Valentine  F. D. Lee (moderator)
 Nick Hubble

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

Queerness in all its variety is becoming more and more prevalent within Fantasy. This increased representation highlights an obligation for non-cishet characters to be more than two-dimensional villains or sweet cinnamon rolls, but as messy and complicated as any other character. Our panel discusses their favourite examples of Queer rep in genre fiction and what makes those examples work.

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### Meeting for Worship (Quakers)

Wenlock 3 & 4, Duration: 45 mins

 Wendrie (moderator)

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

Quaker Meeting for Worship - all are welcome to join us in a quiet expectant waiting.

For more information about Quakers, visit https://quaker.org.uk

In Quaker worship there are no ministers or creeds. We first gather together in silence to quiet our minds – we don't have set hymns, prayers or sermons. In the stillness we open our hearts and lives to new insights and guidance.

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### Mainstream v Indie: the perils and pleasures

Atcham, Duration: 45 mins

 Chris Behrsin  David Wake
 J A Mortimore (moderator)  Michelle Sagara
 R E Lewin

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?

### Empire and SF

Coalport, Duration: 45 mins

 Gillian Polack  Kate Towner (moderator)
 Stew Hotston (he/him)  Adrian Tchaikovsky
 Theo Seddon

In person only, Literature, No catch-up, In person, Sunday,

What is the relationship between empire and SF? The panel will examine SF works where an empire is central. How does the grandiose backdrop of an empire dovetail with the personal stories of the characters? Are empire-based stories always political? And why are SF writers repeatedly drawn to this theme?

## 11:00

### "Sorry" is the hardest word.

Coalport, Duration: 45 mins

 Anna Feruglio Dal Dan  Helen Gould
 Janet Ellicott  Rick Danforth
 S. J. Groenewegen (moderator)

Fan Interest, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

Why is apologising so hard? What are the cultural differences around the meaning of apologising? How does an apology work when you add in power differences? What does a good apology look like, and what might be the implications of a bad one? Our panel discusses notable apologies in history, myth, fiction and fan wars.

### The Muppets

Pattingham, Duration: 45 mins

 Chris  Gwen Frazer (moderator)
 Harry Payne  Robert Berg  Sabine Furlong

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.

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### Telling Stories in Different Media

Atcham, Duration: 45 mins

 David Green  Genevieve Cogman
 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.

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### Fountain pen meet and greet

Wenlock 3 & 4, Duration: 45 mins

 Aliette de Bodard (moderator)  Juliet Kemp

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

Fountain pen enthusiasts meet up. All welcome. Fountain pens optional.

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### The George Hay Lecture: Battling Cancer in 2024

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 45 mins

 Graham Sleight (moderator)  James Flanagan

Science, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

Levitation is delighted to host the Science Fiction Foundation Annual George Hay Lecture.

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.

**12:00**

☐ **The Rise and Rise of the Short Story**

Coalport, Duration: 60 mins

 Aliette de Bodard  Ian Whates (moderator)
 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?

☐ **What do we think of the 2024 Hugo Shortlist?**

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 60 mins

 Fiona Moore  Juliet Kemp
 Kevin McVeigh (moderator)  Niall Harrison
 Tommy Ferguson

Fan Interest, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

The Awards were announced at the Opening Ceremony. Here some long term award watchers will comment on what this year's list says about trends in the field.

☐ **Social Media Platforms: Which one and why?**

Atcham, Duration: 60 mins

 Anne-Louise Fortune  Jackie Burns
 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.

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☐ **Motherland Fort Salem: a complex allegory**

Pattingham, Duration: 60 mins

 Elliot  Juliet E McKenna
 Nicholas Jackson (moderator)  S. J. Groenewegen

Media, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

...about contemporary US politics.

Motherland Fort Salem is queer, women-focussed, gloriously intersectional, and complex It only lasted three seasons of 10 episodes each and is next to impossible to watch legally. Is it time to show it some Eastercon love?

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☐ **Planning! Do you love it? Want new ideas?**

Wenlock 3 & 4, Duration: 60 mins

 Melissa Taylor (moderator)

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

Melissa will introduce you to bullet journaling and other methods. Bring ideas to share.

**13:00**

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☐ **GoH: Genevieve Cogman intervew**

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 60 mins

 Eleanor Roberts (moderator)  Genevieve Cogman

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.

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**Romantasy: terrible name, good books?**

Coalport, Duration: 60 mins

 Aliette de Bodard  Trip Galey
 J A Mortimore  Kari  Kate Towner (moderator)

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

Romantasy is the newest marketing term, and refers to stories set in a fantasy world, but where the primary conflict is the romance. The panel will discuss some of the best examples of this new genre and elaborate on how it differs from fantasy novels which contain romance.

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**Meta-Fandom and Transformative Work**

Pattingham, Duration: 60 mins

duckbunny  Harry Payne  ilana Mat
 Marcus Rowland (moderator)

Media, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

When the Transformative Work is better than the Origin, do we have meta fandom? Why and how do some origin stories lead to fandoms more vital than the original? What are the consequences of the fan world acquiring a life of its own?

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**Soft Power and World Change**

Atcham, Duration: 60 mins

Elsa Sjunneson  Ken MacLeod
Marcus Streets  Nicholas Whyte Wendrie

Virtual, In person, Sunday,

For every Big Story of Change there is a lot of soft power going on: marches organised by phone networks; refugees fed by churches, hacking networks, 'railroads' facilitating refugees, co-operatives and collectives making districts better places to live.

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

### Writing for Role Play Games

Wenlock 3 & 4, Duration: 60 mins

 Chris (moderator)  D.A Lascelles

 Russell A Smith  Soph

Virtual, In person, Sunday,

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.

## 14:30

### Tomorrow's World

Coalport, Duration: 60 mins

 Bill Ray (moderator)  Jessica Meats

 Rosie Oliver  Marcus Rowland  V Anne Smith

Science, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

Sometimes SF authors get it right, and sometimes they point the way. But what promised tech miracles have failed to materialise? Will we ever have flying cars? Will an android ever serve you a drink? What are the imminent innovations and technologies that no one is writing about, yet?

### Machines Learn; Humans Thrive

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 60 mins

 Cybersalon Press (Eva Pascoe) (moderator)

 Dr. Danbee Kim  Stephen Oram

 Vaughan Stanger

Science, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

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”

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### Robes and Regalia

Atcham, Duration: 60 mins

 Anna Feruglio Dal Dan (moderator)

 Heather Valentine  Nicholas Jackson

 Paul Coxon  Penny Hill

Writing, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

Robes and other ceremonial dress and accessories form a standard part of the aesthetic of much SF and fantasy literature and media. We will look at some of the history of real-world ceremonial costume and tradition, and how it has inspired, influenced and informed the style of SF and fantasy books, films and television series.

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### This Green and Pleasant Land

Wenlock 3 & 4, Duration: 60 mins

 Juliet E McKenna  Ken MacLeod

 Thomas D Lee  Tiffani Angus

Wendrie (moderator)

History, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

Not everybody was terribly enthused by the industrial revolution. British SF & fantasy is full of alternatives to the industrial future, pastoral, communitarian, and a Britain made over for tourism.

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### Good Men Don't Need Rules: Games, Play, and Dr Who

Pattingham, Duration: 60 mins

 Esther MacCallum-Stewart (moderator)

Media, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

This talk uses recent episodes of Doctor Who to contextualise how games are represented in popular media. It looks at some of the myths, misuses and memorable moments of games in films,

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

 Gary Couzens  David Bamford (moderator)
 Helen Gould  Tiffani Angus  Neil Williamson

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?

### Talk: the Logic of Empire

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

### The Impact on Space Opera of Diverse Voices

Coalport, Duration: 60 mins

 Caroline Mersey  Trip Galey (moderator)
 Jonathan Laidlow  Allen Stroud

Literature, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

Diverse voices have reinvigorated Space Opera in recent years, bringing new perspectives to the subgenre that have been under- or

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

### GoH: Michelle Sagara interview

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 60 mins

 Kari (moderator)  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.

## 17:30

### Develop your Vocal Delivery

Wenlock 3 & 4, Duration: 45 mins

 Annie (moderator)

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).

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### It's a Pink, Pink, Pink, Pink World!

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 45 mins

 Ali Baker  Eleanor Roberts  Elsa Sjunneson
 Russell A Smith  Soph (moderator)

Media, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

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?

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### The best and worst memories of Eastercon Chairs

Pattingham, Duration: 45 mins

 Simon Bradshaw  Caroline Mullan
 Patrick McMurray (moderator)  Phil Dyson

Fan Interest, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

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

Eastercons past.

### Doctor Who in Audio

Atcham, Duration: 45 mins

ANDREW LANE, Emily Inkpen (moderator), Janet Ellicott, C.L. McCartney, Nicholas Whyte, S. J. Groenewegen

Media, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

There have been many *Doctor Who* radio broadcasts over the years. In addition to a small number of in-house BBC productions, a larger number of radio plays produced by Big Finish began to be broadcast on BBC Radio 7 from 2005. How has this audio approach fitted in with the rest of the series and what unique properties do audio stories bring to our enjoyment of *Doctor Who*?

### Sentient AI as Character

Coalport, Duration: 45 mins

Fiona Moore (moderator), Rosie Oliver, Adrian Tchaikovsky, Wendy Metcalfe

Science, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

From Iain M Banks' *Minds* to Becky Chambers *Lovelace* and Gareth L Powell's *Trouble Dog*, SF stories have often contained sentient AI as characters. How do they differ from human characters? And can writers do things with sentient AI characters which they can't do writing about humans?

## 19:00

### Fantastical Secret Histories of Real Events

Coalport, Duration: 45 mins

David Bamford (moderator), Genevieve Cogman, Kevin McVeigh, Thomas D Lee, Tiffani Angus

Writing, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

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

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

### Morrow's Isle: an opera

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 105 mins

 Bettina Carpi  Gary Lloyd  Ken MacLeod
 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 Funds Auction

Atcham, Duration: 105 mins

 Alison Scott  Claire Brialey  John Coxon
 Sandra Bond

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 Up-and-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.

### The secret of good comedy is...

Wenlock 3 & 4, Duration: 45 mins

 Alex Shvartsman (moderator)
 ARTHUR CHAPPELL  David Wake
 Donna Scott  Maria Sjöstrand

Writing, Virtual, In person, Sunday,

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

Edward James (moderator) Genevieve Cogman
 C.L. McCartney  Tiffani Angus  Tony Keen

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!

### Pets in Space!

Wenlock 3 & 4, Duration: 45 mins

 Chris Behrsin Janet Ellicott Pepper
 V Anne Smith  Virginia (moderator)

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

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

### Guest of Honour Reading: Michelle Sagara

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

### Contemporary Trek

Coalport, Duration: 45 mins

 Carolina Gomez Lagerlöf (moderator)

 Emily January  Harry Payne

 Rhionnach (Jean Thompson)  Sabine Furlong

Media, Virtual, In person, Monday,

To boldly go in many different directions at once! Discovery, Picard, Lower Decks, Prodigy, Strange New Worlds, Starfleet Academy; there are many Star Trek shows in production or new to the airwaves. Do they complement each other, or do they conflict? What are their strengths and weaknesses? Are there more opportunities, or is this proliferation a threat to the longevity of the franchise?

### Feedback Session: Monday

Atcham, Duration: 45 mins

 Farah Mendlesohn  Mike Scott

Fan Interest, Virtual, In person, Monday,

This is your chance to raise gripes and grumbles with the Committee (we hope anything more serious will have been addressed in the moment), or to bring praise for things that have gone well.

### Poetry circle

Wenlock 3 & 4, Duration: 45 mins

 ARTHUR CHAPPELL  Chris Morgan (moderator)
 Sandra Bond

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!

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☐ **Unusual Experiments in Transport**

Pattingham, Duration: 45 mins

 Bill Ray  Robin C.M. Duncan
 Richard Stephenson (moderator)  Tony Keen

History, Virtual, In person, Monday,

Come and hear about unusual ideas in the history of transport including steam-powered submarines, air-powered trains and purposely wobbly bridges.

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☐ **Bookselling: the trials and tribulations**

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 45 mins

 David Hodson  Eleanor Roberts
 Ian Whates  Michelle Sagara
 Tiffani Angus (moderator)

Guest of Honour, Virtual, In person, Monday,

What would we do without bookshops? Is running a bookshop profitable? What are favourite books shops in fact and in fiction, and why do we love them? How are books sold and marketed these days, and has the shift in the industry influenced how people read?

**10:00**

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☐ **What To Expect at a Glasgow Worldcon**

Coalport, Duration: 45 mins

 Esther MacCallum-Stewart
 Meg MacDonald @MegInTransition (moderator)
 Vincent Docherty

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.

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☐ **Detectives in Fantasy and SF**

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 45 mins

 David M Allan  Robin C.M. Duncan
Genevieve Cogman  ilana
 Virginia (moderator)

Guest of Honour, Virtual, In person, Monday,

Douglas Adams gave us Dirk Gently, Liz Williams, Inspector Chen, Terry Pratchett conjured up Captain Samuel Vimes and Juliet McKenna a Green Man. Science fiction and fantasy offer the chances at different types of crimes carried out in new and innovative ways, but luckily it also does the same for detection.

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☐ **Stitch and Chat hosted by Tim Rowe**

Wenlock 3 & 4, Duration: 45 mins

Bridget Wilkinson  Annie  Giulia De Cesare
Koren Farah Mendlesohn Penny Hill
 Tim Rowe (moderator) Marguerite Smith

Craft, In person only, No catch-up, Sign up required, In person, Monday,

Tim Rowe has cross-stitch to catch up on. Farah has some patchwork armadillos that need finishing. Come along with your project and have a natter.

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☐ **Return to the moon!**

Atcham, Duration: 45 mins

Pepper (moderator) James Shields Stuart

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

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

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**

### Faery, folkore and fairy tale in fantasy

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 45 mins

 Brian Nisbet  Juliet E McKenna (moderator)
 Michelle Sagara  Nick Hubble
 Sandra Unerman

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.

### Hand sew an 18th century pocket

Wenlock 3 & 4, Duration: 45 mins

 Flis Brown (moderator)

Craft, In person only, No catch-up, Sign up required, In person, Monday,

*Lucy Locket lost her pocket, Kitty Fisher found it.*

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.

### You've come a long way! Eastercon at 75

Atcham, Duration: 45 mins

 Bill Burns  Edward James (moderator)
 Caroline Mullan  Steve Davies
 Tommy Ferguson

Fan Interest, Virtual, In person, Monday,

Eastercon is 75 this year. We don't have anyone who has been attending quite that long but we've rounded up some old and new members to talk about what they liked then and what they like now.

### How to fill in a programme participation form

Coalport, Duration: 45 mins

 Catherine Sharp  Christine
 Farah Mendlesohn (moderator)  Marguerite Smith

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

Anyone who has ever been responsible for programming a convention using survey forms has at some point torn their hair out at the number of responses that contain statements such as "I have written three novels and two short stories and would like to be on panels about science fiction".

The Worldcon programme suggestion form is open for two more weeks. This panel will talk about all the things you could tell the programme team that will assist them in placing you on panels you would really like to participate in.

### Lost in translation

Pattingham, Duration: 45 mins

 Alex Shvartsman  Linnéa Anglemark (moderator)
 Anna Feruglio Dal Dan  Kari  Maria Sjöstrand

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

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

 Janet Forbes  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**

Pattingham, Duration: 60 mins

 Dr Srinarahari  Farah Mendlesohn (moderator)

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

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.

**14:30**

### Closing ceremony

Ironbridge 1, Duration: 60 mins

 Claire Brialey Dr Srinarahari
Elsa Sjunneson  Esther MacCallum-Stewart
Jackie Burns Farah Mendlesohn
Michelle Sagara  Mike Scott
 Tommy Ferguson

Guest of Honour, Virtual, In person, Monday,

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

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