



RECONNECT

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

PROGRESS REPORT THREE • DECEMBER 2024

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easterconbelfast.org



info@easterconbelfast.org



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RECONNECT logo: Sara Felix

Chairman's Welcome

Welcome to Progress Report 3 from Reconnect – Eastercon 76 in Belfast.

Whilst we have a lot to get through, I wanted to take a minute to reflect on what's in a name. We took a lot of time coming up with our name as we wanted it to highlight our vision for the convention.

Coming out of the dark years of the pandemic so much has changed, not only in the wider world but also with our community. People are more aware of the risks in gathering together, alternate technical solutions have been developed to allow us to continue to meet up and, sadly, some people have taken their own decisions to remain at home. We are very aware of these considerations.

That being said, we also recognise the huge importance of being together physically. Within our friends and family groups the vital social and mental health benefits of being around other people are profound. In our community Levitation, the Glasgow Worldcon and Novacon this year have shown the very real desire to gather together, in safe, airy environments can be achieved.

Eastercon in Belfast is a chance to extend that, a chance to meet up in person with over 600 other members (so far!) of our community and to reconnect with each other. We will therefore be focussing our efforts there and less on a virtual version of the convention. The main programme from the Belfast ICC will be streamed and, finances allowing, the main programme in the Belfast Hilton. All of these resources will be available to our attending and supporting members, and we won't be offering a specific virtual membership as Glasgow did.

More than that, however, it is an opportunity to reconnect with the roots of our community. Irish Fandom really kick-started a more social version of our hobby — moving away from books, magazines and 'serious and constructive' discussions about Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror. We want to reconnect with that, nodding to our past but also welcoming our future — comics, cosplay, horror and a whole range of fandoms that make up our wider community. Eastercon has proudly been a very inclusive place and we want to reflect that in our guests, our committee and in the membership.

Tommy Ferguson, Co-Chair

PLEASE CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP DETAILS!

We'd be grateful if you could check your membership details at

<https://registration.easterconbelfast.org/members/check>.

If anything needs to be updated, please make your corrections directly on the portal — or drop us an email at info@easterconbelfast.org.

visit
Belfast



TOURISM
NORTHERN
IRELAND

TL/DR

RECONNECT Eastercon 76

When:

◆ 18th–21st April 2025

Where:

- ◆ ICC (International Convention Centre)
2 Lanyon Place
Belfast BT1 3WH
<https://iccbelfast.com/>
- ◆ Hilton Belfast
4 Lanyon Place
Belfast BT1 3LP
<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/bfs-hitw-hilton-belfast/>

Notes:

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

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

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

More:

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

For further information, email info@easterconbelfast.org.

Membership Rates

We announced our current membership rates by email at the end of October:

	2024	1 Jan. 2025	At the door
Full membership	£90	£100	£120
First-timers, Irish residents (Rep. or NI)	£70	£70	£70
Concessions (under 18; on benefits)	£40	£40	£40
Supporting	£25	£25	£25

Note: We reserve the right to review these in 2025.

The discounted rates are available if you are: a resident in the island of Ireland; a first-time attendee at an Eastercon; under the age of 18; or have pressing financial reasons to need the reduced rate (no questions asked).

Membership portal: We took a lot of memberships at conventions, so may not have had the chance to take your address and country details — or may have recorded them incorrectly. **We'd therefore be grateful if you could check your membership details** at <https://registration.easterconbelfast.org/members/check>, and either correct them directly on the portal or drop us an email at info@easterconbelfast.org.

Day rates: These will be announced in the near future, and confirmed in PR4.

Hotel Bookings and Accommodation

Hotel and accommodation bookings opened in late September for those with access needs, and in early October for the main membership. We sent out an email to all members announcing this.

Hilton: Because the Hilton itself does not have enough rooms for the whole membership, demand was high, as expected. However, as of mid-November there were still some King Deluxe and King Executive rooms available, so don't give up if you particularly want to be in the Hilton. [Click here for more information.](#)

Other hotels and accommodation: Our concierge service has put together a range of options to suit all budgets here: <https://www.miceconciergeme.com/eastercon2025>

The MiceConcierge team have been really generous in holding plenty of rooms in all their hotels for us. An excellent number of you have already booked through their very clear website; you will have plenty of fellow fans for company in two hotels in particular (with a good combination of reasonable rates and closeness to the ICC), but all still have lots of space left.

Don't leave it too late, though — they won't be holding the rooms for us forever; the block bookings for us lapse on the 19th of March (except for the Maldron which will open its books to others on 5th March).

Travel Connections To and From the Convention

Belfast has a new travel hub, Grand Central Station, which opened this October. There are regular trains leaving that station for the convention station, Lanyon Place, which takes approximately 8 minutes. These also call at Botanic station, for anyone considering accommodation in the University area. Walk-through tour of newly opened Grand Central here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBqkBIWerNw>

Arriving at Belfast International Airport: the Translink 300 and 300a air coach service now connects to Belfast Grand Central station. They run every 20 minutes during office hours and up to 8 an hour at rush hours.

Arriving at Belfast City airport: there is an accessible bus, no. 600, every 20 minutes, which goes to Grand Central Station and stops at St. George's Market close to the

Hilton and ICC entrances. There is also a train service from Sydenham which will stop at Lanyon Place but this does require crossing a footbridge, and a bit of a walk. Taxis are also available.

Arriving by boat: the hotel is approximately 5 minutes' drive from the Belfast terminal and 40 minutes from Larne. Taxis are a good option for the Belfast boats, and there is a regular train service from Larne which calls at Lanyon Place three stops before terminating at Grand Central station.

Arriving from Dublin, there are a number of bus services. From the airport, the Aircoach service now connects to Belfast Upper Queen St, approximately an 8 minute walk to Grand Central Station. The Translink Goldliner service runs to and from Grand Central Station. There is also an hourly Ulsterbus express service between Grand Central Station and Dublin that calls into Dublin airport.

Dublin City Centre: There are buses as above, and the Enterprise train runs on an hourly basis to Grand Central Station from Connolly station.

Car Parking: More information on parking rates and accessible spaces will be provided closer to the event. Members can avail of £12 per day rate. Nearby car parks: [ICC Belfast Parking](#). The APCOA car parks at Oxford Street and Lanyon Place are right next to the Hilton but do not show up on a Google Maps search, nor does the Lanyon Place park and ride facility.

Round and About in Belfast and Elsewhere

Belfast, and Northern Ireland as a whole, have masses of interesting places to go and see while you are in the province. For example, a number of people have asked if we are thinking of organising a bus trip to the Giant's Causeway. We don't have the resources to organise trips ourselves, but plenty of options are available from local operators. For details, these sites give really helpful details. [VisitBelfast](#) and [Tourism Northern Ireland](#) also happen to be sponsoring us, so of course we think they will be helpful for you. They will have a stall at the convention if you want to ask further questions — or just ask the committee!

- ♦ <https://visitbelfast.com/>, including:
<https://visitbelfast.com/ideas/game-of-thrones-northern-ireland/>
<https://visitbelfast.com/article/belfast-bucket-list/>
- ♦ <https://www.tourismni.com/> (a site mainly aimed at supporting tourism businesses, not providing visitor info)
- ♦ Enthusiastic visitor's-eye view of Belfast from an experienced American travel blogger here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBqkBIWerNw>
- ♦ Wide choice of tours of Giant's Causeway here, some including Game of Thrones locations: https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attraction_Products-g209948-d189773-Giant_s_Causeway-Bushmills_County_Antrim_Northern_Ireland.html

Programme

Our Programme is now in the talented hands of David Bamford and Colleen Kitley; our thanks to Amanda Sloan who has had to take a back seat for personal reasons. The programme is now coming together but we are still really keen to hear from you if you would like to be involved, have an idea you'd like to try out, or a particular area of interest you would like to contribute to as a programme participant.

[Click here to fill out the Reconnect 2025 — Programme form.](#)

The RECONNECT Committee

Co-chair

Tommy Ferguson

Co-chair

James Bacon

Deputy Chair and Volunteers

JJ Brutsman

Communications

Jo Zebedee

Exec Committee Member

Amanda Sloan

Access

Declan Meenagh

Guest Liaison

Jackie Shaw

Programme

David Bamford and

Colleen Kitley

Horror Programme

Lynda Rucker

Green Room

Kari Maund

Dealers

Samuel Poots and

Melissa Taylor

Venue and Hotel Liaison

Lisa Macklem

Tech

JT James Turner

Tech Deputy

Keith Smith

Art Show

Serena Culfeather and

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Ops

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At Con Reg

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Membership

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IN
SUMMER 2029

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Access Information

After a full team walkthrough, our Accessibility Team (Declan Meenagh and Cinzia Savonitti) have prepared an accessibility audit. This will be available on our website in early December, by the time this Progress Report is published. Essential details are below; our thanks to the Levitation audit team for the framework. Full details of our accessibility policy are at <https://easterconbelfast.org/accessibility-policy/>; to ask for more info, email access@easterconbelfast.org.

Overview of Venues

The main venues for Eastercon Belfast are the **Hilton Lanyon Place** (Lanyon Place, Belfast BT1 3LP) and the **International Convention Centre** (ICC – Lanyon Place, Belfast, BT1 3WH) which are located back-to-back, connected by stairs or a single lift. There is also an external walking route between the hotel and convention centre, approximately 400 yards long, which includes pavements and ramps.

Estimated walking time: 5 minutes at a leisurely pace.

Mobility scooters: The external route is more suitable, although it has some uneven surfaces, slopes, and changes in surface texture. A car park entrance must be crossed on this route.

Transportation and Accessibility

See Travel Information on pages 2–3 for main details.

Taxi Services: Both venues have a nearby taxi drop-off point. However, wheelchair-accessible taxis in Belfast may be unreliable, and booking cancellations are common.

Bus Services: The **number 600 bus** from the airport stops near the Hilton at St. George's Market. It is not a kneeling bus, does not have step-free access, and lacks a dedicated wheelchair space.

Train Services: The nearby **Lanyon Place Train Station** is connected to the Hilton by a ramp and bridge, approx. 250 yards. **Irish Rail** and **Translink** offer assistance for disabled passengers. You may need to book assistance 24 hours in advance.

- ♦ **Irish Rail Assistance:** Website, Phone: +353 1 8366 222
- ♦ **Translink Assistance:** Website, Phone: +44 28 90 66 66 30

Hilton Lanyon Place Accessibility Features

Check-in: Accessible check-in desk with a hearing loop.

Restrooms: Accessible toilets are available on the ground and first floors.

Function Rooms: Located on the first floor, the **Lagan Suite** is equipped with a hearing loop.

Bars and Restaurants: The Hilton bar had loud background music, though quieter areas were available. The restaurant also featured loud music. Both gluten-free and non-alcoholic drink options are available. **Breakfast:** Buffet-style breakfast with a wide range of hot and cold foods. Staff were noted to be helpful to those with accessibility needs.

AccessAble page: <https://www.accessable.co.uk/belfast-city-council/access-guides/hilton-belfast#bbc9e318-41d9-4f45-9aea-ef1fcc962cce> (gives additional information and measurements)

(continued on page 6)

A vibrant, stylized promotional graphic for Seattle Worldcon 2025. The background is a deep blue with white and yellow starburst patterns. On the left, the text "Seattle Worldcon 2025" is written in a large, white, outlined font. To the right, a white banner reads "Building Yesterday's Future - For Everyone". Below this, another white banner says "August 13-17, 2025". Further down, a white banner reads "Seattle Convention Center". In the center, there are two columns of text. The left column, under the heading "Your Hosts", lists "K. Tempest Bradford" and "Nisi Shawl". Below this, under the heading "Poet Laureate", is "Brandon O'Brien". The right column, under the heading "Guests of Honor", lists "Martha Wells", "Donato Giancola", "Bridget Landry", and "Alexander James Adams". At the bottom left, there is a cartoon illustration of a man with dark hair, wearing a yellow shirt, orange pants, and a backpack, running towards the right. Next to him is a QR code. At the bottom right, the website "https://seattlein2025.org" is written in a white, outlined font. There are also small circular icons with stylized eyes or faces scattered throughout the graphic.

Seattle Worldcon 2025

Building Yesterday's Future - For Everyone

August 13-17, 2025

Seattle Convention Center

Your Hosts
K. Tempest Bradford
Nisi Shawl

Poet Laureate
Brandon O'Brien

Guests of Honor
Martha Wells
Donato Giancola
Bridget Landry
Alexander James Adams

<https://seattlein2025.org>

International Convention Centre Belfast (ICC) Accessibility Features

Function Rooms: Located on the first floor. All function room entrances are level and have wide, flat doorways (provided both doors are open).

Lifts: Size: 5 ft 7 in x 6 ft 3 in; capacity: 2 wheelchairs or 2 mobility scooters.

Toilets: First floor: Accessible restrooms are located next to Lift Hall 1C, with wider stalls and lower sinks available in the ladies' toilet. **Additional facilities:** A **Changing Places** facility is available in the Riverside Foyer, featuring equipment such as hoists, adult-sized changing benches, and space for carers.

Air Quality: The ICC features carbon dioxide monitoring linked to its smart air conditioning system, maintaining levels at or below 600 ppm for optimal air quality. There are no HEPA filters, but the air is filtered.

Acoustics: In rooms with high ceilings (e.g., Hall 1A/B), the sound can be difficult to hear, though curtains are installed to help reduce noise. **Hearing Assistance:** The ICC has a hearing loop system, but currently there is no Bluetooth streaming capability (e.g., Sennheiser Mobile-Connect). This may be added before the event, though it is not guaranteed.

Water Stations: Multiple water stations are located throughout the ICC.

Staff are [JAM](#) trained.

Venue Accessibility Page

<https://iccbelfast.com/plan-visit/accessibility>

Internal Route Between Venues: This starts at the Hilton Lobby, through the Hilton Bar, and up the lift to Hall 1. Hall A will serve as the Main Program Hall, with Hall B designated for dealers, and Hall C/D for the art show and exhibitions. (You can see a basic overview of the ICC facilities in this video: https://youtu.be/jWEI2kf4_R4.)

Event-Specific Information

Room Allocations: Members with accessibility requirements will be given priority at the Hilton Lanyon Place. Contact us at access@easterconbelfast.org to request the booking link. We understand that some may need to decide late, so rooms will be held regardless of immediate commitment.

Streaming and Online Content: The main program will be streamed from the ICC, and a Discord server will be available for online participation, contingent on volunteer support. We are still reviewing further, enhanced virtual offerings, but these are cost and resource dependent.

Declan Meenagh

MetropolCon

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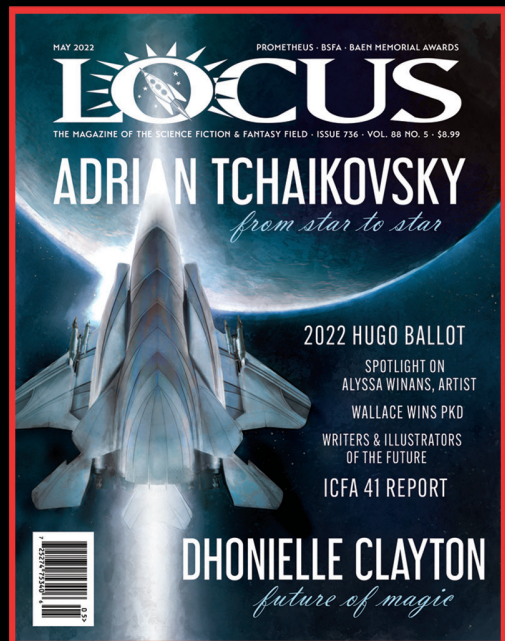
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SCAN ME

Art by Francesca Myman

PICTCON1



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

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

Cosplay

Welcome to the Reconnect Cosplay competition and masquerade. We have decided to breathe some new life into the Eastercon masquerade scene and add a cosplay competition to the mix. How will this work, you may ask? Well, here is our plan.

Competition: On Saturday we will hold a cosplay competition/masquerade hybrid event in the afternoon. If cosplay is your thing, enter the competition. There are some ground rules which are similar to other cosplay events. You need to have made OVER 75% of your entire cosplay. We will send you a sign-up sheet and you can send us pictures, a description of the character and background information. The judges will have a look at the costume and judge it in advance of the "runway" event in the afternoon. More information on this will be forthcoming. In order to entice a new generation and a variety of Eastercon attendees, especially local cosplay groups, we offer a discount price for your Eastercon membership/Saturday membership. And even more enticing, there will be cash prizes!

Runway event: If you are simply into the masquerade and are not interested in being judged, or have a mostly bought costume, you can still display your costume on stage at the "runway event" but will not be judged for a main prize if your costume is not self-made. Junior entries are more than welcome but will not be judged. There may be a small surprise for those who enter!

Hall costumes: These are also welcome and will be judged "on the hoof!" by the membership as usual. There also will be a prize in it. If you want to wear your costume at the **Disco in the Evening**, you are more than welcome. We are hoping to have a lot of fun at the cosplay and masquerade and are sure we will be blown away by your expertise.

Sabine Furlong

Commemorative T-shirts

These will be available to order online very soon. When we announce order details, do order in advance, as we will not be speculatively ordering supplies to sell at the con itself. We will also have a special commemorative item which will be exclusively available to volunteers — another reason to sign up to help out at the con!



THE WINDROSE CHILDREN a fantasy series by Janet Ellicott

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

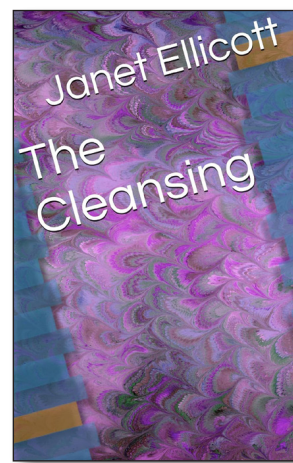
The ghost never did anything and no-one else saw him. He was just there, watching Michael.

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

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

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

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



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Timelapses
available
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ONLINE
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FANTASY MAPS

by Jog Brogzin

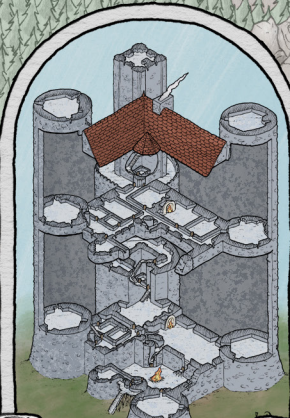
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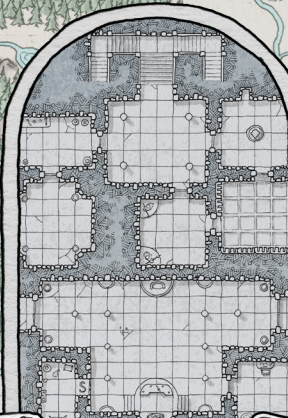
2D CITIES



3D CITIES



ISOMETRIC



DUNGEONS

WORLD MAPS

Maps for TTRPG Publishers, DMs,
Authors & Board Game Designers

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Publications and Advertising

We are now taking advertising for our final Progress Report, as well as for our Souvenir Book — which will be available at the convention. If you are interested in placing adverts, our rate card and details are available from Kees van Toorn here: keesvan.toorn@easterconbelfast.org

Souvenir Book: This will showcase our Guests of Honour with appreciations and samples of their work, as well as information about the rich traditions of Irish science fiction and fandom. Eastercons have an equally rich tradition, and we will also be featuring all the best of this as well as giving essential information about the organisation of this and past Eastercons.

Volunteers

As is natural with conventions, we are seeing some movement in the committee and we are keen for anyone who would like to help and has not yet expressed an interest, or been contacted, to write to us at volunteer@easterconbelfast.org.

Dealers' Room

We've been overwhelmed with interest in our dealers' space in the ICC. With the brilliant response we've had, we currently have no tables left for either Fans or Dealers. We may be able to open more spaces throughout the con site and if you contact us via the website or have already done so, we'll let you know if a space comes up.

There's plenty of variety and novelty to tickle your fancy, as well as everything you'd expect to find in an Eastercon Dealers' Room. Fan tables are looking great too. Upcoming cons and a few new faces will be there, hoping to welcome you into their hobbies and cons. Personally, I don't know how I'll have time for programme with all the tables I want to explore. You'd better start saving now; I'm already planning a summer diet of beans and dry toast!

A quick word of advice, though. Please remember that if you are bringing goods into the UK (including NI) from anywhere in the EU (including the Republic of Ireland) or elsewhere, you should check the UK Government's guidelines after Brexit — here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/trading-and-moving-goods-in-and-out-of-northern-ireland>



R E LEWIN
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OF
PISCES

Co

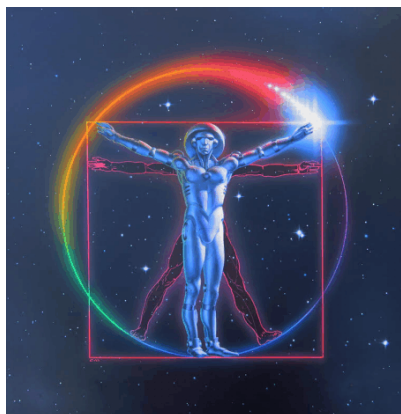
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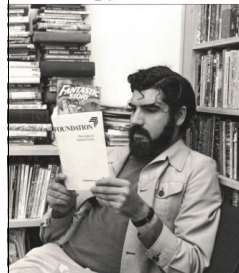
The *Encyclopedia of Science Fiction* – founded in 1979 by Peter Nicholls and John Clute – won Hugos for each of its 1979, 1993 and 2011 editions, and has been free online since 2011. With John Clute and David Langford now the principal editors, it's updated at least once a week and currently has over 20,000 entries totalling more than 7,100,000 words, plus nearly 35,000 cover scans in the Picture Gallery maintained by Roger Robinson. (At left: SFE logo by Chris Moore.)

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

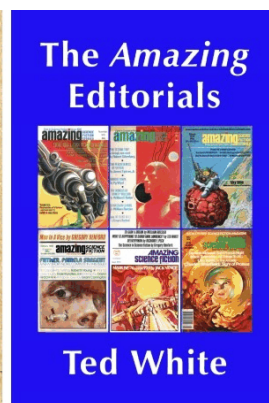
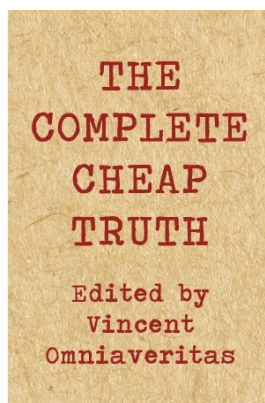
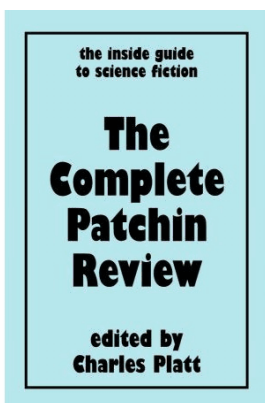
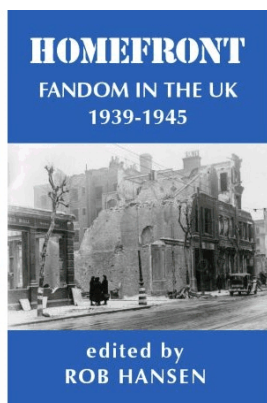
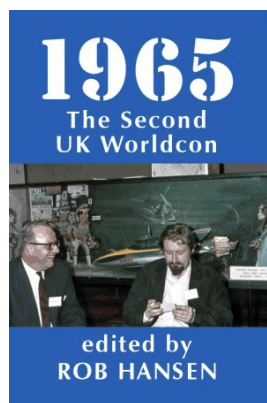
Take a look: sf-encyclopedia.com

Peter Nicholls

Genre fiction:
the roaring years



TAFF Ebooks and Paperbacks



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

Free ebooks – ebook.taff.org.uk

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

Code of Conduct

There's almost always a friendly and warm atmosphere at pretty much any SF con, and all the codes of conduct con organisers have drawn up recently on behalf of members can be summed up succinctly in five words: 'Be Decent To Each Other'. We can be and almost always are respectful and polite to each other even when we have differing viewpoints or mindsets.

To help people feel safer still, though, most cons nowadays have detailed Codes of Conduct to which we can refer as a back-up if unpleasantness does arise (thankfully rare). Eastercons certainly do have these, and to help us all feel safe, the full details of Reconnect's Code of Conduct is on our website for you to refer to beforehand so you can be confident we (the con organisers) have your back and can mediate if anything does upset you. Mediators — the Listener Team — are available at the con if things are at all difficult.

Find details online here: <https://easterconbelfast.org/policies-and-code-of-conduct/>

RECONNECT

New Members (18 July 2024 – 1 December 2024)

Holly Shipton (A0453)	Paul Van Oven (A0485)	Patrick Molloy (A0516)
Alison Campbell (A0454)	Lucy Sofian (A0486)	Steve Linton (S0517)
David Green (A0455)	Geoff Ryman (A0487)	Diana Wood (A0518)
Gareth Hanrahan (A0456)	Michelle Drayton-Harrod (A0488)	Helen Gould (A0519)
Hugh Adams (A0457)	Ralph Drayton-Harrod (A0489)	Philip Kehoe (A0520)
Pádraig Ó Méalóid (A0458)	Stuart Leitch (A0490)	Sanna Mykkänen (A0522)
Cat Taras (A0459)	David D Ellis (A0491)	Georgina Hurford (A0523)
Ellen Torunn Andresen (A0460)	Tanya Brown (A0492)	Cheryl Arvidson-Keating (A0524)
Leigh Edmonds (A0461)	Ian Taft (A0493)	Leah Arvidson (A0525)
Jonathan Laidlow (A0462)	Elizabeth Carabine (A0494)	Sofia Karlsson (A0526)
Jack Fennell (A0463)	Logan Bruce (A0495)	Roseanna Pendlebury (A0527)
Craig Macbride (A0464)	Mark Bailey (A0496)	Edward Morland (A0528)
Yoann Desgrange (A0465)	Carolyn Boyd (A0497)	Andrew Openshaw (A0529)
Alisson Guillôme (A0466)	Jennifer McCready (A0498)	shauna lawless (A0530)
Trevor Kennedy (A0467)	Rob Butler (S0499)	Charles Hefty (A0531)
Stephen Jones (A0468)	Charlotte Li (A0500)	Mark Ross (A0532)
Mandy Slater (A0469)	Mel O'LEARY (A0501)	Sam Bingham-Green (A0533)
John JC Clarke (A0470)	Gillian Madigan (A0502)	Jan Harley (A0534)
Edmund Schluessel (A0471)	Ian Brogan (A0503)	Morpho Duval (A0535)
Maura McHugh (A0472)	Wolfgang Oeller (A0504)	Kelly Luiz (A0536)
Nic Farey (A0473)	Juhani Vuorio (A0505)	Catriona Silvey (A0537)
Jen Farey (A0474)	Moira Harrison (A0506)	J Michael Cule (A0538)
Helen Grant (A0475)	Sarah Stoltze (A0507)	Stephen Oram (A0539)
Cécile Cristofari (A0476)	Katarina Kourmpeti (A0508)	Karl Ferguson (A0540)
Chad Dixon (S0477)	Lynda Rucker (A0509)	Declan Meenagh (A0541)
Martin Wisse (A0478)	Sam Thompson (A0510)	Catherine Todd (A0542)
Michael Ireland (A0479)	Paul Arvidson (A0511)	Brian Milton (A0543)
Paul Kincaid (A0480)	Jerry Kaufman (A0512)	Charlotte McCarroll (A0544)
Lesley Arrowsmith (S0481)	Suzanne Tompkins (A0513)	Robert Maughan (A0545)
Peadar Ó Guilín (A0482)	Judith Mortimore (A0514)	
Raj Bhaskar (A0483)	Ashley Stokes (A0515)	
Joshua Hanson (A0484)		

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What's an Eastercon?

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

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

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

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

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

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Janet Maughan (A0546)	Ann Smyth (A0574)	Irene O'Dowd (A0603)	Vicky Twomey-Lee (A0631)
Chris Hurley (A0547)	Gavin Smyth (A0575)	Mateusz Wadecki (A0604)	Jim Walker (A0632)
Gray Mitchell (A0548)	Kathryn Smyth (A0576)	Michal Wadecki (A0605)	Agnieszka Jasinska (A0633)
Anna Smith Spark (A0549)	Kylie Ding (A0577)	Morag Hannah (A0606)	Jo Zebedee (A0634)
Mike Brooks (A0550)	Robin Stevenson (A0578)	Erin Hardee (A0607)	Kelly Shrimpton (A0635)
Amanda Sloan (A0551)	Anna Feruglio Dal Dan (A0579)	Mary-Brigid Turner (A0608)	Ian Houston (A0636)
Thom Knight (A0552)	Jostein Nygård (A0580)	Jo Playford (A0609)	Lynn Milton (A0637)
Ida Keogh (A0553)	Laura Wheatly (A0581)	Stuart Smith (A0610)	Matthew Palmer (A0638)
Killian MacDonald (A0554)	Lisa Konrad (A0582)	Catie (CE) Murphy (A0611)	Philip Chatham (A0639)
George Budge (A0555)	Campbell Mcleay (A0583)	Ted Lee (A0612)	Lynn Reilly (A0640)
Samuel Poots (A0556)	Eddie Cochrane (A0584)	Henry (Young Indiana) Lee (A0613)	Allen Young (A0641)
Harlyn Lane (A0557)	Claire Wardell (A0585)	Martin Doherty (A0614)	Stephen McGowan (A0642)
Emily Tesh (A0558)	Spike NA (A0586)	Steve Glover (A0615)	Charles Stross (A0643)
Mike Cheater (A0559)	Tom Becker (A0587)	Jenny Glover (A0616)	Karen Hetherington (A0644)
Fiona Anderson (A0560)	SIMON KING (A0588)	Carol Connolly (A0617)	Susan Connolly (A0645)
Niall Jackson (A0561)	WENDY KING (A0589)	David Ulicsak (A0618)	Bob Smith (A0646)
Jude-Marie Green (A0562)	Cat (A0590)	Peter Roberts (A0619)	Marcelle Gomes do Nascimento (A0647)
Patrick Garvey (A0563)	Benjamin Cain (A0591)	Jessica Jones-Langley (A0620)	Torbjörn Axelsson (A0648)
Jennifer Metcalfe (A0564)	Matthew Coleman (A0592)	Amy Bechtel (A0621)	Peter Redfarn (A0649)
Sara Felix (A0565)	Cuil Short (A0593)	Kate Sheehy (A0622)	Hugo Mills (A0650)
Julie Pichon (A0566)	Cath Jackel (A0594)	Amalia Topaloudi (A0623)	
Jill Arthur (A0567)	Bill Hatelly (A0595)	Kate Soloman (A0624)	
Becky Jennings (A0568)	Shirley Lyle (A0596)	Malcolm Davies (A0625)	
Rose Mary Johnston (A0569)	sara mulryan (A0597)	Jim Walker (A0626)	
Simon Russell (A0570)	Richard Phillips (A0598)	Richard Edwards (A0627)	
Lyam Keer-Keer (A0571)	Ian Moore (A0599)	Davidf Cooper (A0628)	
Jo Catling (A0572)	Charlotte Ashley (A0600)	Jane Cooper (A0629)	
Sarah Rees Brennan (A0573)	Hebe Stanton (A0601)	Michael Twomey (A0630)	
	Topp-Mugglestone (A0602)		



Reconnect Guests of Honour



LAUREN
BEUKES



DEREK
LANDY



IAN
McDONALD



JEANNETTE
NG



REBECCA
ROANHORSE



WILL
SIMPSON

Reconnect: Where To Find Us

Our key communication tools are our website, our *info@* email address, and our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/reconnecteastercon2025>). We will still direct queries to our *info@* address; we won't be able to monitor it 24/7, but we will do our best — but importantly for us, we will push information out to fans utilising it.

This is a plan, so do consider before posting: **H-A-L-T**. (Before posting, are you **H**ungry, **A**ngry, **L**onely, **T**ired or stressed.) Email us, especially if there is some negativity that we messed up on. Inevitably, we will make mistakes, so email us, because we are happy to admit to errors, and happy to work to fix them, if we can, and to apologise, but we would like a hint of positivity, about our Facebook page, which is promotional.

<https://easterconbelfast.org/> ♦ info@easterconbelfast.org
<https://www.facebook.com/reconnecteastercon2025>

Vanessa May

Dear Members,

It is with sadness and heartfelt feeling, that today we write to you to share the sad news that previous Eastercon Chair, Vanessa May, has passed away.

Vanessa has been an active member of the SF community for some considerable time, making important and significant contributions to the Worldcons in London, Helsinki and Dublin.

Vanessa was co-chair of the Concentric Eastercon with John Dowd. Concentric was planned to be the 71st British National Science Fiction Convention in April 2020 at the Hilton Metropole Hotel, Birmingham.

As Co-Chairs, Vanessa May, John Dowd, and their team made an announcement on the 21st March and in their own words took "the hard decision in conjunction with the hotel to cancel Concentric 2020 for the health and safety of all of our members."

As conrunners ourselves, we know there can be very little as hard as having to cancel one's con, and the Covid pandemic was a situation that no one could predict or plan for. Regardless, Vanessa, John and their team facilitated the selection of an Eastercon in 2021, which Vanessa bravely committed to running.

The Eastercon team were not deterred. Eastercon continued, and in 2020 Vanessa and the Confusion team were considering a hybrid convention. In February the decision was taken that Confusion would be a fully Virtual convention. As Chairs of many conventions, we recognise that this pivot was unprecedented. The ambition and desire still to run a convention, using what were really very new and untested technologies, and try to deliver as much of an Eastercon experience as possible was admirable, and we respect that. We know how hard it is to run a con like this, to pivot and embrace so much that was different; trying to bring the community an Eastercon like this would, in all honesty be beyond us.

To run an Eastercon during the pandemic was hugely impressive, and Vanessa and her team's commitment admirable.

Confusion, the 2021 Eastercon was an ambitious undertaking. How hard 2020 had been...

the Covid pandemic, the worldwide situation, the illness, the loss — it was an incredibly difficult time; but many fans found many ways to connect and to stay in touch, and worked hard to keep being positive and looking forward.

Vanessa was undeterred by the challenges of this experience, and there were many. Yet regardless, Vanessa still wanted to Chair an in-person Eastercon; but Persistence was not to be. We hope that if she were still with us, she would have returned to see that desire and dream through.

Vanessa has supported the Belfast team throughout our time, as many have. Today we focus on Vanessa; indeed, we used Vanessa's superb presentation skills as a framework for our own bid winning presentation. Vanessa and John assisted Belfast ensuring we received funds from Concentric, sharing the situation with ourselves and other chairs as soon as we won our bid, and helping to create bursaries to encourage volunteers.

Reflecting on her commitment and dedication to Eastercon and to fandom, we say that with the full support of our whole Eastercon committee, that Vanessa's brightness, her purple, her spirit, her passion for the fantastic, Lego, fun, her loyalty, the loyalty she engendered and her dedication will be sorely missed by our community.

We will work to remember Vanessa well at Reconnect, honour her memory and let everyone know about that in our Progress Report 4, scheduled for February 2025.

— Tommy, James,
and the Reconnect committee
6 December 2024



Vanessa May's photo is from the Concentric website