



PROGRESS REPORT 1



**Guest of
Honour**

Emily Tesh

7th – 9th November 2025

Palace Hotel Buxton

COMMITTEE

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A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR



Hi everyone. I hope you are doing well, and looking forward to convention season starting up again. I'm Claire Cartwright, this year's Chair, and in addition to last year's committee we have a couple of new, but hopefully familiar faces. These include Esther MacCallum-Stewart (Programme) and David Stokes (Website). Alice & Steve Lawson (Hotel Liaison & Treasurer), Maggie Standage-Bowles (Secretary), Carol Goodwin (Publications), Helena McCallum (Social Media), Serena Culfeather & John Wilson (Art Show) have agreed to stay on in the same roles. Alex Storer who has been

a stalwart with Logos & Website Design has had to stand down for this year.

Our venue remains the wonderful Palace Hotel in Buxton, with its great location, good function space (all on the ground floor) and plenty of space for socialising. So, what can you expect this year? We intend to have all the usual, with Scientific talks, panel discussions, and a social event on Saturday night, Desert Island Books with our Guest of Honour on Friday night with wine and nibbles after, the beer tasting and guest banquet on Sunday night, and so on – but we can always do with new and interesting ideas from our members, so please contact us with any thoughts.

Novacon is a single-stream convention with a mix of serious and fannish items. We will have the art show and a dealers' room as usual. We are very pleased that this year's Guest of Honour is the Hugo Award winning Emily Tesh. Emily is an author of Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Dark Academia, with her new book *THE INCANDESCENT* due to be released this May. Emily is also a recovering secondary school teacher, with special interests in Ancient Greeks and Romans, and the works of Dianna Wynne Jones.

With her many interests, I am sure she is going to be a fascinating guest with lots of interesting things to contribute. Looking forward to hopefully seeing some of you at Eastercon in a few weeks in Belfast. All the best. *Claire.*

HOTEL & CONVENTION INFORMATION



Palace Hotel Buxton
Palace Road
Buxton
SK17 6AG

Novacon 54 will be returning to the Palace Hotel in Buxton in the Peak District. The hotel address is Palace Road Buxton SK17 6AG. For those who have not been before Buxton a thermal spa town, with lots of interesting buildings and places to visit for those who wish to venture outside the hotel. These include the Opera House, the Devonshire Dome (once the largest unsupported dome in the world), a restored Georgian crescent and the ornamental Pavilion Gardens. There are supermarkets nearby including Waitrose, & Sainsbury's Local. There are also plenty of cafés and restaurants, not forgetting the lovely real ale pubs. More information can be found at www.visitbuxton.co.uk.

For those who have not been before the whole hotel is light and airy with high ceilings and some impressive decor. And a conservatory. It also has the longest continuous wrought-iron banister in Britain. There is a swimming pool and gym/spa facilities. The hotel has a large car park and parking is included for convention guests.



As before, all the convention rooms including Programme, Off-piste, Art show and Dealers are all on the ground floor. The bars and toilets are also on the ground floor and there is plenty of seating.

Reminder or for those who haven't been before, the hotel has a lift, but as it is an old hotel some of the rooms are on "mezzanine" levels and still involve a few steps, so if this will cause you difficulties, please let the hotel know in advance and they'll do their best to accommodate you.

At the moment the hotel policy is that due to safety concerns, they do not permit Mobility Scooters in the lift. However a new lift is due to be installed before the convention and if the policy changes we will let you know.

Disabled Access:

The main entrance has a few steps. Alternatively, there is ramp access at the rear of the hotel for those with difficulty with steps. This is on the left-hand side of the hotel as you face it, near the Leisure Centre. If arriving by car, there are car parking spaces near to that entrance.

The door pictured below with the arrow next to the entrance to the bar can be used as the disabled access and takes people along the corridor rather than through the kitchen area which was the previous route.



Please note if you have specific requirements, don't hesitate to contact the hotel directly at **01298 767000**.

Food and Drink: There is a real ale pump on the bar that currently has Deepdale gluten free ale. They will also have a variety of cans and bottles. Bottles of wine will be available at £18. Baps/Butties will be available from the Rippon bar including Sausage, Bacon, Veggie sausage or chips.

Convention Room rates and Booking

The Room rates have, gone up this the year. Convention room rates are: £116 per night for a Standard Double or Twin room (i.e. £58 per person with two people sharing). Single rooms are £73pp. Rates include breakfast.

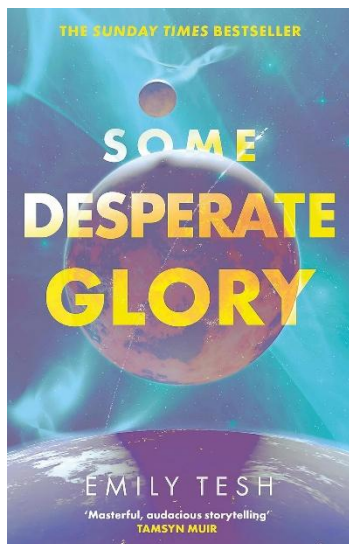
One change from previous years is that WIFI is now free throughout the hotel.

To reserve a room call **central booking 0333 323 1574** and use the code **NOVA071125** to get our rates. This number is available 8am - 8:30pm, Monday - Friday, 9am - 5:30pm Saturday.

Anyone with mobility requirements should call the hotel on **01298 767000** and use the **option 4**. This number is not available evenings and weekends.

If you have a problem getting through please email sales753@theelitevenueselection.co.uk with your contact details and someone will call you back

GUEST OF HONOUR – EMILY TESH



We are very pleased that Emily Tesh has agreed to be our Guest of Honour for Novacon 54.

Emily is a science fiction and fantasy writer, podcaster and also a Classics teacher.

She has won the 2020 World Fantasy Award for Best Novella (SILVER IN THE WOOD), the 2021 Astounding Award for Best New Writer, and the Hugo for Best Novel in 2024 (SOME DESPERATE GLORY). She has also been shortlisted for other awards including the Arthur C Clarke Award and the Locus Award for Best First Novel in 2024 for (SOME DESPERATE GLORY). Most recently she has been announced as a finalist in this year's Hugos

(2025) for Best Fancast (*Eight Days of Diane Wynne Jones* with Rebecca Fraimow).

Her latest novel, *THE INCANDESCENT* is due to be published in May by Orbit. In contrast to the SF of *SOME DESPERATE GLORY*, this is a Dark Academia fantasy featuring Dr Walden, Director of Magic at Chetwood School, as she tries to keep her school, students and its centuries-old legacy safe from demonic incursions.

Carol Goodwin

Sources:

Author website – <https://emilytesh.net>

Internet Speculative Fiction Database - www.isfdb.org

Wikipedia - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emily_Tesh

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Short Fiction Series

- *Greenhollow Duology* (Tor.com)
 - SILVER IN THE WOODS (2019)
 - DROWNED COUNTRY (2022)

Stand-alone Novels

- *SOME DESPERATE GLORY* (Orbit, 2024)
- *THE INCANDESCENT* (Orbit 2025)

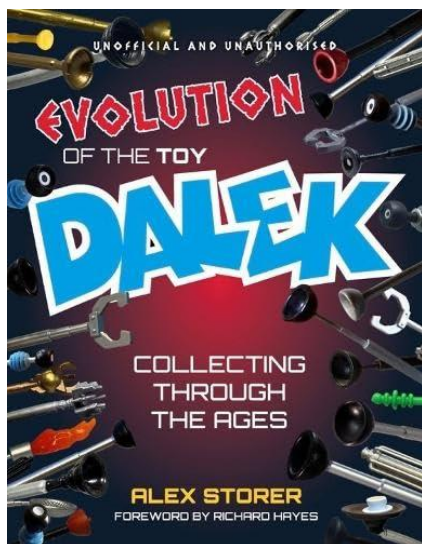
DEALERS' TABLES

Dealers' tables (6 ft) are available at £20. Dealers normally have to be a member of the convention. Also, we are open to discussion if you wish to only come for one day. Contact Tony at the email address on Page 2

ART SHOW

If you want to show your art it is free to convention members, but you will need to reserve space. So, contact us to discuss what you need and so that we can do a little planning. If you have any questions related to the art show, please contact Serena.

EVOLUTION OF THE TOY DALEK – Alex Storer



Congratulations to **Alex Storer**, previous committee member and the provider of some of the beautiful cover art on recent Novacon Specials. He has recently published (March 2025) a book, **EVOLUTION OF THE TOY DALEK: *Collecting Through the Ages***. It's a celebration of the toy Dalek through its many forms and releases and is clearly a labour of love. Described as the first book purely devoted to the history of toy and model Daleks from the

1960s to the present day, it includes over 600 photographs and interviews with some of the people who made it happen.

For those interested in checking it out, it's published by Telos Publishing and is a 164-page full cover paperback, ISBN 978-1845832360.

Info from <https://thelightdreams.wordpress.com/category/news/>

CODE OF CONDUCT

A Convention is a private event and, as such, the Committee has always had the right and the ability to remove any attendee for antisocial behaviour. Over recent years, it has become standard practice for such events to publish a Code of Conduct providing guidelines as to what that antisocial behaviour may include.

The Code of Conduct is a living document. It evolves, intending always to reflect current best practice. The version in use at each Novacon is fixed in advance of the convention, and the version for Novacon 54 will be available on the website (www.novacon.uk/n54/) and will be printed in the convention Programme book. It should be noted that the Code of Conduct governs not only behaviour at Novacon, but also in certain spaces elsewhere, including but not limited to activity online, such as in

messages or replies to Novacon accounts on social media, and posts in Novacon pages and groups.

The Novacon Code of Conduct team receives complete information from preceding Novacon Code of Conduct teams, and passes complete information to future Novacon Code of Conduct teams. It also maintains an awareness of activity which has been of concern to other conventions. For most people, the simple principle of, “Behave like a decent human being,” is enough of a guideline. However, if in any doubt, please consult the Novacon website or contact the team at CodeOfConduct@novacon.uk

One Million Times: A Science Fiction Anthology

As reported in last year’s Programme, previous Novacon attendees **Rogelio Fojo** and **R James Doyle** had been working on a science fiction anthology, ONE MILLION TIMES. It is described as stories themed around “Chronicles of time travellers among us”. This was published in April and features work from other previous Novacon members, including **Teika Marija Smits** and **Christopher Priest**. It also has a cover and illustrations by previous Guest of Honour **Chris Baker (Fangorn)**. It is published in the UK by **Elsewhen Press**, who have been regular



members of Novacon for many years. Other contributors include David Gerrold, R C Matheson, and others.

Publishing details: Elsewhen Press / 508 pages / £17.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1915304803. <https://elsewhen.press/>

DISEASE MITIGATION POLICY AT NOVACON

It has become increasingly clear that even though things have improved since the height of the pandemic, an awareness of the

potential for the spread of infectious disease in convention spaces needs to be always considered.

At this point in time, as a minimum, we would ask that:

- All attending members are **fully vaccinated** against Covid where possible.
- We request members to **take a lateral flow** test prior to attending convention.
- If you have any symptoms of an infectious respiratory infection, please do not attend the convention. If you take ill during the convention, please consider isolating yourself from other attendees.

Other specific measures may be announced nearer the convention, and the committee will continue to monitor things. We will keep members up to date with any other proposed restrictions.

CONVENTION TABLES

These are free to anyone who is running a convention. Contact Tony for reservations.

NOVACON ACCESSIBILITY POLICY

Novacon is committed to making our convention as accessible as possible for our members. We are still working with the hotel to see what is feasible given the nature and age of the Palace hotel. Once this is complete, we will publish a detailed policy, via the website and convention publications.



MEMBERSHIP LIST APRIL 2025

1 Emily Tesh	28 ½r
2 Allen Stroud	29 Morag O'Neill
3 Claire Cartwright	30 Richard Edwards
4 Tony Berry	31 Chris Stocks
5 Serena Culfeather	32 Sue Jones
6 Carol Goodwin	33 Jean Thompson
7 Alice Lawson	34 Anne Woodford
8 Steve Lawson	35 Alan Woodford
9 Esther MacCallum-Stewart	36 Paul Dormer
10 Helena McCallum	37 Claire Brialey
11 Magdalen Standage-Bowles	38 Mark Plummer
12 David Stokes	39 Bridget Wilkinson
13 Alex Storer	40 Dave Hicks
14 John Wilson	41 Cat Coast
15 Noel Collyer	42 Peter Hicks
16 Martin Smart	43 Omega
17 Douglas Spencer	44 Harry Payne
18 Karen Fishwick	45 Hal Payne
19 Simon Beresford	46 Jodie Payne
20 Chris Morgan	47 Michael Davidson
21 Pauline Morgan	48 Christine Davidson
22 Charlotte Bulmer	49 Jeffrey Wasserman
23 Steve Dunn	50 Tim Kirk
24 Neil Simpson	51 Caroline Mullan
25 Kevin Mortimer	52 Brian Ameringen
26 Marcus Rowland	53 Emjay Ameringen
27 Chris Bell	54 Roger Robinson

55 Jim Walker
56 Richard Standage
57 Helena Bowles
58 Rosie Oliver
59 Melica Smith
60 Alison Scott
61 Steven Cain
62 Ian Warner
63 Vernon Brown
64 Pat Brown
65 John Harvey
66 Hayley Canham
67 Flick
68 Steve Davies
69 Giulia DeCesare
70 Tim Stannard
71 Angela Rosin
72 Allison Ewing
73 Luke Smith
74 Jamie Scott
75 Judith Mortimore
76 Jackie Burns
77 Mike Scott
78 William Goodall
79 Ian Maughan
80 John Bray
81 Rob Jackson
82 John Dowd
83 Fran Dowd
84 Alasdair Hepburn
85 Niall Gordon
86 David Langford
87 Laura Wheatly
88 Sue Edwards
89 Alan Fleming
90 David Bamford
91 Adrian Snowdon
92 Morpho Duval
93 Virginia Preston

94 Phil Dyson
95 Neil Tomkinson
96 Alison Tomkinson
97 Chris Murphy
98 Andrew Keith Martin
99 Dave Lally
100 Ian Stewart
101 Nicholas Jackson
102 Meg Macdonald
103 Phil Nanson
104 Kari
105 Susan Peak