



YTTERBIUM

Happy New Year!

This month's PR has a round up of news items from our site visit, and a list of dealers, artists and fan tables. Programming is underway and the team will be getting in touch with potential participants from the end of February.

We will be checking all access requests at the end of February to ensure we can meet your needs. Please make sure they are logged with us access@ytterbium.org.uk

We look forward to seeing you all in April,
Farah and Phil.
Co-Chairs.

The Doc Weir Award

Regular Eastercon attendees will know that the members of the convention annually vote on who should receive the Doc Weir Award for making a significant but largely unsung contribution to fandom. Sadly, many of the earlier winners were so unsung that fans today know little or nothing about them or their fannish activities. To remind people of their contributions, a brief biography of the winners is being compiled. It will be available online but if you would like to request a printed copy then please email docweir@ytterbium.org.uk before Sunday, March 17th.

From Our Fan Guest of Honour: DC.

One of the first things the Ytterbium team asked me was what first got me into SF&F. That is no easy question to answer. When I was very small (there was such a time) the Space Race was at its height, and SF-nal influences were everywhere. There was even a silly SF-themed song in our primary school songbook. There's not the slightest chance of me remembering the first SF book I read (as I read everything I could get my hands on as soon as I was able, and a lot of that was SF) or programme or film I saw.

There was, of course, *Doctor Who*, which I watched avidly from the first time I saw it, a long time ago now. Yes, I remember when she was played by William Hartnell! It's odd thinking back to that now, because we have just seen the 13th Doctor's first series, and I find it remarkable that I am still watching, and enjoying, the same series I watched on 405-line

B&W TVs back then. It has been a breath of fresh air while maintaining the qualities the show has always had: the desire to avoid easy, explosive solutions; the urge to understand the different; above all, the humanity.

As someone for whom the Doctor *is* Hartnell even now, *Doctor Who* makes me think of Hartnell's Doctor, Ian, Barbara, and Susan and Vicki before anyone else, it was striking how much this past series reminded me of those early years. Ordinary people (I used to meet people just like them when I worked in England) drawn into adventures in time and space, meeting strange aliens and historical characters, the sense that there's a wide universe out there, even if it's done on a BBC budget (admittedly that's a lot better than it was). At the same time, it was new: Whittaker's Doctor hit the ground running (pretty much literally), grabbed the role with both hands and made it her own even while showing wee echoes of Hartnell, and Troughton, and Pertwee. I kind of envy kids for whom she is THE Doctor, because I think she's a real 21st Century Time Lord.

Maybe some—I hope a lot, but I'd take some—of those kids will move into reading SF&F, too, and I think they'll love it. One thing that is different today is there is more SF&F around now even than there was back then, and what's more, I think most of it is better than the bulk of what there was when I started reading. Today there is so much work of such quality, from such diverse voices, to explore. My personal regret is I can't read as voraciously as I used to- so many books, so little time!

Updates

Travel

We have been informed that London Euston railway station will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday for engineering works. This will affect many services on the West Coast Main Line and Virgin Trains. Please check if this will affect your journey. If possible, see if there is a route you can take that avoids Euston, or if there will be a replacement bus available. If all else fails, the convention rate is available at the hotel for Thursday and Monday nights.

Registration will be open from Thursday evening (volunteers@ytterbium.org.uk would love to hear if you can help out) and Programme promises that there will be things to do. Monday evening is the traditional Dead Dog chilling out session.

Day Rates

Day rates are now available at <https://registration.ytterbium.org.uk>. To book day memberships, select the type of membership you want to book, then checkboxes will appear for the days you wish to attend.

The full rate is now fixed until March 31st. A final price increase will take place on 1st April. This is not a joke.

Brexit

As of going to press we still don't know whether the UK will be in the European Union at Easter. The current advice to travellers is here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-outlines-no-deal-arrangements-for-eu-citizens>. Should you need support and travel advice after 29th March, please contact us.

Cloakroom facilities

We are aware that many of you will be travelling in for the day or may have to check out during the convention. There will be a semi-staffed Cloakroom available during the convention. Please note that this is in the one room in the convention not fully accessible. Please ask for assistance at the information desk.

Carer and Child Facilities

In addition to formal child care for which you should pre-register (see website) there will be a carer and child quiet room. Aimed mostly at under tens, it will have toys, colouring, and change mats.

Crowd Control:

The Park Inn Hotel has a number of very tight corridors. In addition, there are some rooms that have restricted access for entry. The Convention is adopting the following policies:

- rooms must be cleared at the end of each item (unless in access)
- being rude to people in charge of crowd control (hotel staff or convention staff) may lead to sanctions up to and including ejection from the conference.
- there is no standing or sitting on the floor permitted
- there will be an access line and people with access badges may enter first

Payments to Dealers, Art Show, Recipients of Groats.

In order to avoid the convention storing large amounts of cash, and to expedite speedy recompense, payments from the convention to traders will be by bank transfer whenever possible.

Sustainability Policy

As part of the convention's Sustainability Policy we will not be providing plastic or tote bags. Please bring your old tote bags to the convention. There will be a box in the Dealer Room to deposit them to be taken by people who need bags when shopping.

Please consider the sustainability policy if you plan to bring leaflets/post cards or other paper giveaways. The vast majority of such paper is simply abandoned by the recipients. If we find large numbers of such abandoned leaflets we will return them to the producer.

Please consider either submitting an advert for the ReadMe, or making use of the hashtag #Eastercon70 to disseminate information.

Safeguarding and Diversity:

Milena Popova is joining us as Advisor to the Committee on Safeguarding and Diversity. Milena is a writer, scholar and activist. They have worked on queer issues, sexual violence, and sexual consent. Fannishly, they're a nerd of many trades, but their heart will always be in transformative fandom. Milena and Sandra Unerman will be working with volunteers at the convention to ensure that everyone is familiar with convention policy. Our Safeguarding Policy will join the Anti-Harassment policy on the web site.

Advertising in the Read Me

B&W only

Resolution: 300 DPI (this is 1748x2480 pixels for A5)

Format: jpg, png or PDF

Full page ad £35

Half page ad £20

Quarter page ad £12

Thanks to your donations, Ytterbium is able to offer 20 low income **accommodation** bursaries.

Bursaries are worth £120

14 have been awarded so far

- Bursaries will be paid direct to the hotel.
- Recipients may make any room sharing arrangements they wish, the bursary is not affected.
- Eligibility: anyone in receipt of either universal credit, Housing/Council Tax Benefits, Job Seeker's allowance, DLA, Income Support etc (please ask if you are not sure)
- Awards will be made on a first come basis.
- (If the bursary system receives more support from members we may be able to extend the offer.)

Please contact chair@ytterbium.org.uk

Anti-harassment Policy

Eastercon is intended to be a safe place for all the diverse people in our community to spend a weekend talking, watching and interacting with all things SF&F related. We define harassment as including (but not limited to) the following:

- uninvited physical contact
- uninvited attention
- deliberate intimidation, stalking, following
- offensive verbal comments. These may be related to (but not exclusively related to) gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, age, religion.

- wearing t-shirts or badges that are well known to be offensive, or the wearer has been asked to remove in the past; refusing to remove items that are pointed out to the wearer as offensive by the committee or a representative of the committee.
- Take a photograph or recording someone without their express permission.
- sustained disruption of talks or other events
- targeting with abusive comments through social media or other electronic means

We ask you to be sensitive to the fact that what you do not see as harassing behaviour, others may view as such and you could be asked to stop what you are doing. You must do so immediately. However harmless your initial intent i.e. believing it was a mutually enjoyable joke, if you persist, then your intention is to harass.

If we receive a formal complaint, we will ask the harasser to stop. If they don't, we will take further action.

Ultimately, we ask you to please be on your best behaviour.

Where to go if you're being harassed.

If you are being harassed, or you notice that someone else is being harassed, or you have any other concerns, please contact Ops immediately. The Ops Room will be found at the front entrance of the Blue conference centre at the front of the hotel.

At the time of writing, we are working to provide some form of service whereby you can, if you want to, talk to someone about your harassment without necessarily making a report.

If your complaint is against a member of the convention committee, we intend to have a separate team, consisting of representatives of other Eastercons and British Fantasycons to whom such a report may be made.

Convention staff will be happy to help participants contact hotel security or local law enforcement, provide escorts, or otherwise assist those experiencing harassment to feel safe for the duration of the convention.

You do not have to give us details of the harassment, and can choose whether or not to report. If you wish to report, we will take details of the harassment and work with you to respond to the issue in a way that assists you in feeling safe and maintains the safety of the wider convention environment, as well as enforcing our anti-harassment policy. If you report a serious criminal matter, please be aware that we may be obliged to contact the police. We would however take into account any concerns you may have around involving them.

We expect participants to follow these rules throughout the hotel and at all social events.

Should anything come to a dispute (which we fervently hope it will not), the committee will remain the final arbiters of what is harassment. In the unlikely event that someone is asked to leave the convention because of a dispute, this will be done without refund of membership or any other costs incurred.

Social media

We're @ytterbiumcon on Twitter- keep an eye out for the #Eastercon70 hashtag as well. Any questions or issues, please email chair@ytterbium.org.uk

Call For Posters

At Ytterbium, there will be an exhibition of topic posters and we are looking for your proposals for these. We are particularly keen to have posters engaging with the work and ideas of our Guests of Honour, but also on any topics related to science, technology, history, society, art, fandom and speculative fiction. We welcome submissions from any convention member; we know that our members have a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasms, so we are keen to hear from you whatever your interest.

There will be opportunities to take part in a poster session if you would like to, where you can give a short presentation about your poster topic to convention attendees, and answer questions about your subject.

Posters usually include a summary of your subject, along with images, such as photographs or visual representations of data. There are templates and advice here to help you: <http://www.supi.manchester.ac.uk/forteachers/academicposterguidance/>

Children's Programme, a request:

We are looking for children and young people to be involved in programme. Particularly for the main programme, we need two young people (13-18 years old) to take part in a panel on young adult fiction with two authors.

We would like to revisit the successful panel we had last year on "My last best story", where three fantastic young readers talked about great stories and where they found them: in comics and graphic novels, games and novels. We could also consider films and non-fiction books, including history and science.

Please contact Ali Baker via programme@ytterbium.org.uk to express interest. Young people's full names and photos will not be used on programme.

Dealers, Artists and Fans

We are delighted to welcome the following dealers, artists and fan organisations to Ytterbiumcon. Dealers will be spread between the main Dealer Hall and several side rooms. We will have a map in the Read Me.

Books

Angry Robot: Angry Robot is your favourite independent, genrefluid fiction publisher, bringing you the very best in SF, F & WTF!?

Books on the Hill: Books on the Hill is an Independent bookshop from the South West that specialises in fantasy and sci-fi. *They have put together a pre-order page especially for EasterCon.* <https://www.booksonthehill.co.uk/eastercon-preorders/>

Browsing Cat

Coolwood Books: Finest feminist science fiction and fantasy since 2014.

Elsewhen Press: delivering outstanding new talents in speculative fiction.

Forbidden Planet: Signed books, limited editions and much more.

Guardbridge Books

Handheld Press: Handheld Press publishes marvellous sf and fantasy fiction by (for example) Ernest Bramah, John Buchan, Rose Macaulay and Sylvia Townsend Warner

James McInerney

Luna Press Publishing: Luna Press Publishing is a Scottish Award Winning Press, est. in 2015. We publish Fantasy, Dark Fantasy and Science Fiction through collections, anthologies, novels and graphic novels. Academia Lunare is the non-fiction and academic arm of Luna Press, promoting the understanding of SFF through CfP and research projects. Academia Lunare is now also open to non SFF projects.

Newcon Press: NewCon Press has been publishing high quality science fiction, fantasy and

(occasionally) horror since 2006, in paperback and as signed limited edition hardbacks. The imprint now has more than 100 titles to its credit.

New Street Authors: Dawn is launching *Deeply Meaningful Poetry for Very Serious People* with art and calligraphy by PenGwyn (Gwyneth Hibbett). David is launching a new novel, the second in the Thinkersphere series, *Atcode*. There will be other books too.

PM Press: PM publishes radical and stimulating fiction and nonfiction to educate, entertain, and inspire.

Sam Hain's Casebook

Stairwell Books: York-based press for all audiences, publishing genre and literary fiction, biography and memoir, short story and poetry collections, and children's lit; LGBTQ+ stock.

TTA Press: Publishers of Interzone and Black Static: both bimonthly magazines containing original short stories, film & book reviews, comment and interviews. The magazines contain and cover SF & Fantasy, (IZ) and Horror and Dark Fantasy, (Black Static). TTA also publish a series of novellas and Crimewave, which contains short stories and are open to new fiction, and art, in English in the SF/H fields.

Peter Wareham and Gwen Funnell: second hand books.

Pure of Heart Comics: Pure of Heart is a comic about aristocratic werewolves, human weakness and scheming siblings.

Art and Crafts

Runesmith

Stick a Few Gears on It

Geeky Clean

The Clockwork Tea Party

Resistance is Futile

Third Vault Yarns: Your geeky yarn companion

Brangle Art Jewellery: Hand crafted jewellery with genuine gemstones, precious or semi-precious metal, mixed-media.

Dark Flights (Judy Perrin): [Art](#) and [Jewellery](#). Fine fantasy art and pewter jewellery, inspired by mythology, steampunk and nature.

Jackie Duckworth Art: Original art, T shirts, cards and gifts inspired by mythology and history.

Genki Gear Ltd. Genki Gear produces original t-shirts that stand out amongst a crowd! We take our influences from Japanese culture, Anime, gaming and science fiction and add to it a dash of unique humour, which has become our trademark. All our printing is done in the UK and we print our designs across our full range of styles so there's always a Genki Gear t-shirt for you. All our ranges are ethically produced and of the highest quality so you can wear you Geek with Pride!

Artists

[Sarah Haddock](#)
Victoria Anne Stokes
[Steve Crisp](#)
[Clare Boothby](#)
[Lisa Konrad](#)
[Tom Nanson](#)
[Anne Sudworth](#)
[Geof Banyard](#)
[Margaret Walty](#)
[Jackie Duckworth](#)
[Kim Whysall](#)
[Emma Ridley](#)
[Andy Bigwood](#)
[Luke Williamson](#)
[Jackie Burns](#)

[Chris Baker](#)
[Jim Burns](#)
[David Hardy](#)
[Freda Warrington](#)
Giulia Decesare
[Sue Jones](#)
[Dominika Klimczak](#)
[Chantal Delassert](#)
[Chris Moore](#)
Sabine Furlong
[John Kaiine](#)
Meggie Glassborow
Julianne Halley
Keith Scaife

Fan Tables

[British Science Fiction Association \(BSFA\)](#)
Confact & German Fandom
[Dublin 2019 \(Worldcon\)](#)
[Milford \(writer's workshop\)](#)
[NCSF \(Dutch\)](#)
[Novacon 49](#)
[New Zealand 2020 \(Worldcon\)](#)
[Octocon](#)
[The Royal Manticoran Navy](#)
[Satellite Conventions \(#7\)](#)
[Science Fiction Writers of America \(SFWA\)](#)

WORDS OF POWER

RITCHIE VALENTINE SMITH

In a world very different to ours is a huge and cosmopolitan city, which trade and mutual tolerance has made rich. This city has mortal enemies, but on its side is a young man from the steam-powered Empire of Albion. He carries an ancient sword engraved with two true words of power: freedom and change. His enemy is entropy, and death itself. If his battle is lost, the universe is lost...

A brilliant debut, set in a version of the samurai Orient as new world powers arrive.

‘Imagine a parallel world where ancient magic and what is described as the magic of mechanics collide... First-rate fantasy!’

British Fantasy Society

‘A wonderful story, in the spirit of Robert Jordan’

David Wingrove, ‘Chung Kuo’

‘...dripping with fantasy-satisfying magic (and with) a thundering good denouement’

the BookBag.co.uk

Available through Amazon as a paperback
and with Kindle as an ebook