

# World Fantasy Convention

Pocket Programme





# Pocket Programme







## Acknowledgments and Credits

### **Programme designed by Allen Stroud**

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Allen Stroud



# Introduction

Allen Stroud

**Welcome to the pocket programme for World Fantasy Convention 2025.**

In this booklet, you will find the timetable of activities for the event, along with additional information that should be useful to you throughout the convention.

All timetable information in this booklet is accurate as of the day it went to print. For the most up to date information, please see the World Fantasy Convention 2025 website:

<http://www.worldfantasy2025.co.uk>

The convention begins at **5:00pm on Thursday 30th of October** and ends on **Sunday 2nd of November at 6:00pm.**

At the time of writing this, the convention membership numbers are approaching 1000. This makes our convention one of the largest World Fantasy Conventions and UK Fantasycon's of recent times.

Our programme contains more than 100 panels, along with a variety of launches, workshops, meet the author events, and readings. More than 300 participants have generously contributed their time and knowledge to these activities.

There are **Open Mic**, **Meet the Author** and **Workshop** activities on the Thursday which you can sign up for by following the links in this guide. Once you arrive at the event, there will be other bookable activities that you can sign up for from the **Registration Desk**.

Aside from the programme, there is plenty to see and do in Brighton. Our website has more information to help you explore the city and enjoy your time.

Throughout the convention, we will be on Discord. You can join the server by following the link below:

<https://discord.gg/enfUuvzk4b>



# Moongate Studios

Sharing stories  
and dreams

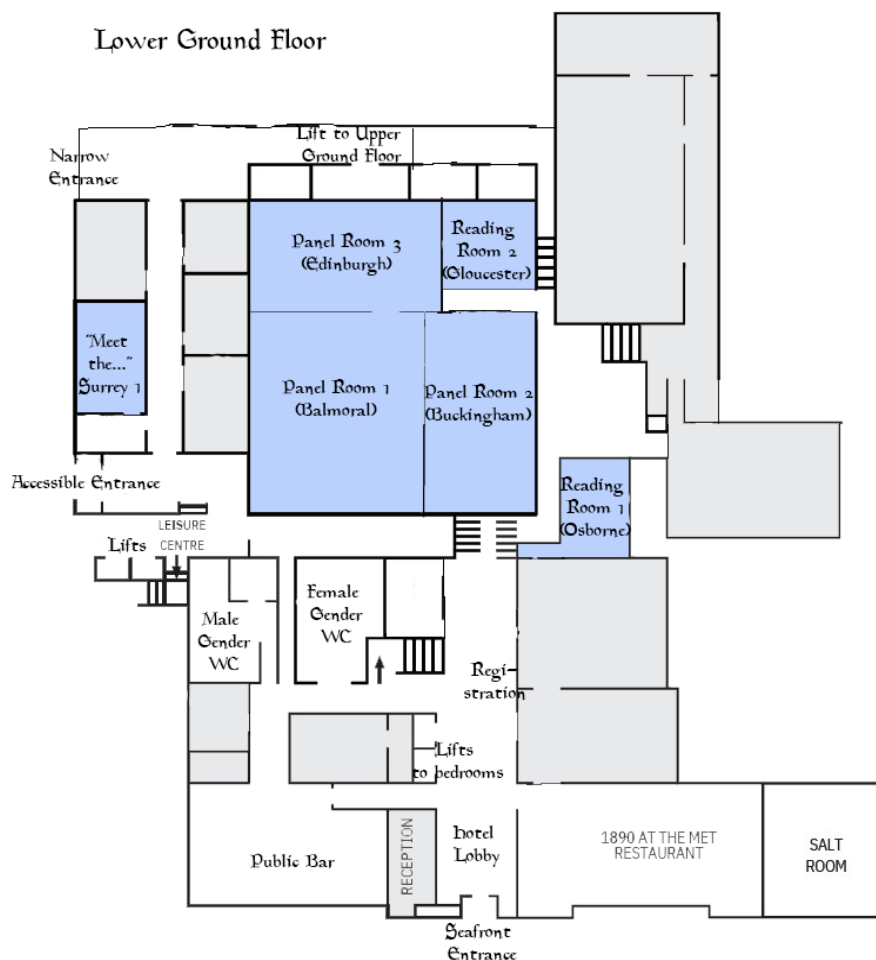
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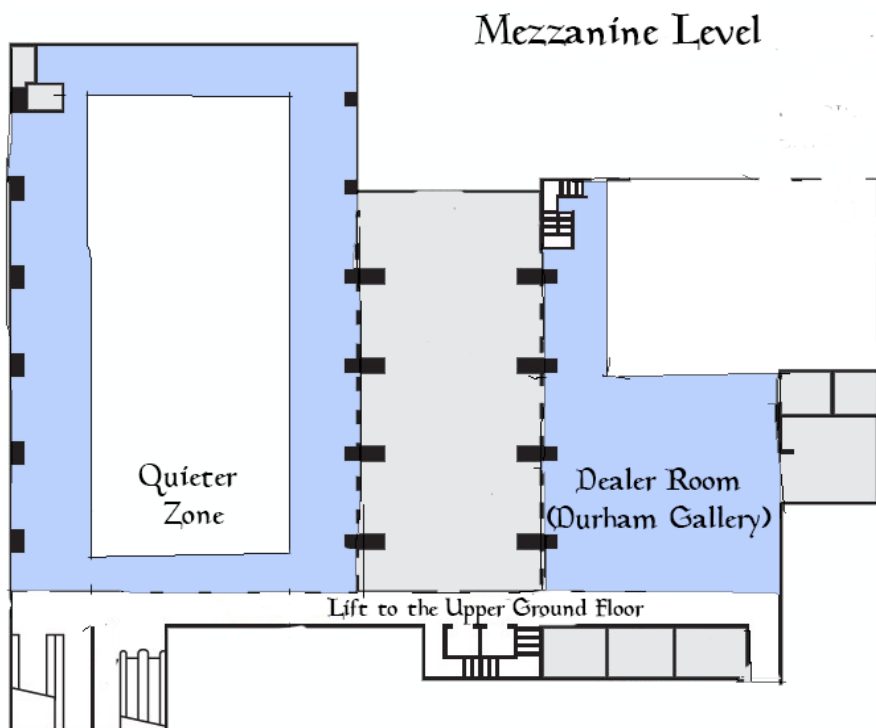
Use WFC2025 at check out  
for 20% off all ebooks!



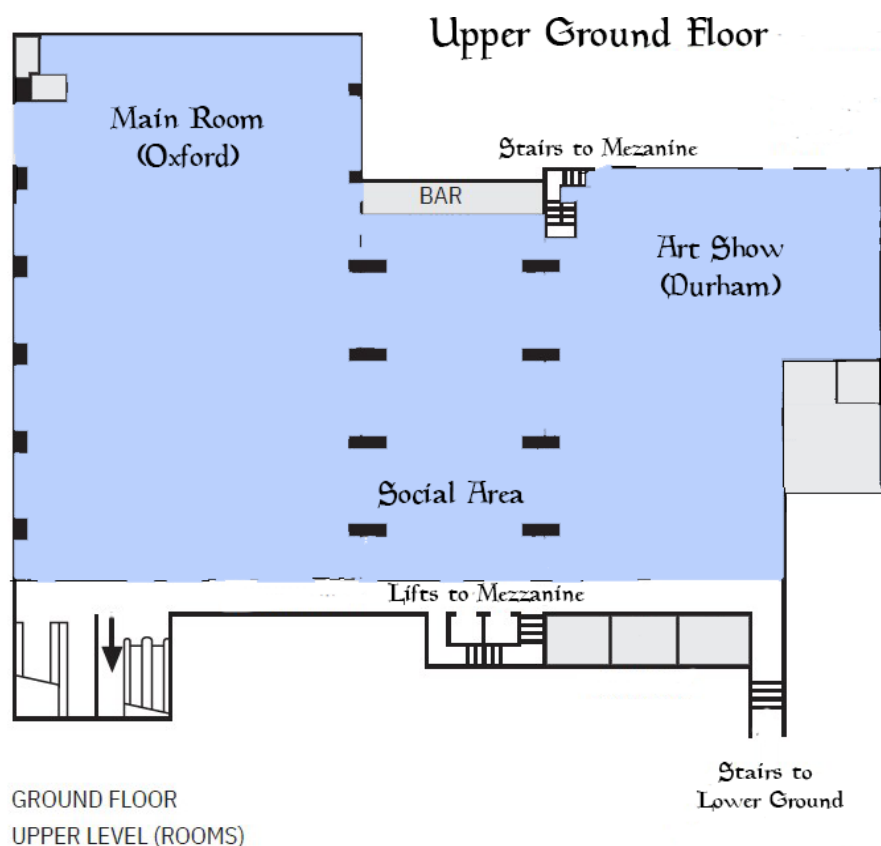
# Convention Maps



# Convention Maps



# Convention Maps





His debut fantasy novel,  
inspired by the Viking Age



A story both wondrous and dreadful.

# WFC 2025 Discord

We have a Discord server for WFC members, this is available for all Attending and Online members. It is not available for supporting memberships or day attendance.

This gives members an opportunity to socialise online, find out about dealers and artists and receive event announcements/information. We hope to have programme items listed there with details of timing and rooms, but to view recorded or streaming programme items you will need to login to the website.

It would be incredibly helpful if people who would like to use our discord could login so we can approve your access prior to us getting onsite/setting up for the event. This will also help us to iron out any issues in plenty of time.

The link for the server is: <https://discord.gg/enfUuvzk4b>

**We will need to match your details with a membership before you get full access, if you have not yet purchased your event membership, you will need to do this first.**

Need to clean up your manuscript & get it ready for publication? Or just stuck and need help?



**The writing doctor is in!**

- Developmental Editing
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- Proofreading
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Dr. Tiffani Angus, award-finalist SFF and non-fiction author, experienced editor and proofreader, and former university lecturer in Creative Writing & Publishing, offers a variety of services and support to writers of all levels! Read the testimonials online.

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Done editing and ready to publish?



**Typesetting**

We can turn your manuscript into a pdf for paperback or hardback that's ready to upload.

**eBook Conversion**

We build eBook files for Kindle or an online store.

**Cover Design**

We offer cover design and formatting in one great value package from Ken at Creative Covers: [ccovers.co.uk](http://ccovers.co.uk)



[bookpolishers.com](http://bookpolishers.com)



# WFC 2025 Thursday: Open Mic

## Sign up to our Open Mic!

On Thursday evening at the convention, we will be running an open mic for attendees to read from their work. This will be in the main room (The Oxford).

Prose or poetry, flash fiction or a piece from your novel, all is welcome, as long as it's not longer than five minutes.

Please use this form to sign up :

<https://forms.gle/bgkTxVMPPNvhSyKRA>

**Please note, this is in addition reading slots and other programme content.**



**A welcoming community for all those who love, read, write, edit, publicise - and more! - in speculative fiction**

Established in 1971 as the British Weird Fantasy Society, the British Fantasy Society (as we're now known) is dedicated to celebrating everything to do with speculative fiction from this country. Our members represent all aspects of the fantasy world (though we await our first dragon), and gather to meet, chat, share, help, debate, and create.

### Community

We connect fantasy readers, writers, and industry professionals both online and IRL.

### Promote

We offer members opportunities to promote themselves and their work, including through our weekly member profiles and guest post opportunities.

### Celebrate

Fantasycon and the British Fantasy Awards help our community to connect, network & get recognition.

### Inform

Members receive our regular publications, BFS Horizons and BFS Journal, plus our newsletter and access to our members-only Discord server.

**Annual memberships start at just £25! Details at: [www.britishfantasysociety.org](http://www.britishfantasysociety.org)**

# Thursday Timetable

| Thursday |                                    |                                                                 |                                      |                                  |
|----------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Room     | Main Room (Upper Ground floor)     | Balmoral Panel Room 1 (200)                                     | Buckingham Panel Room 2 (120)        | Edinburgh Panel Room 3 (80)      |
| Function | Big events                         | Panels/Talks                                                    | Panels/Talks                         | Panels/Talks/Readings            |
| 11am     |                                    |                                                                 |                                      |                                  |
|          |                                    |                                                                 |                                      |                                  |
| 12noon   |                                    |                                                                 |                                      |                                  |
|          |                                    |                                                                 |                                      |                                  |
| 1pm      |                                    |                                                                 |                                      |                                  |
|          |                                    |                                                                 |                                      |                                  |
| 2pm      |                                    |                                                                 |                                      |                                  |
|          |                                    |                                                                 |                                      |                                  |
| 3pm      |                                    |                                                                 |                                      |                                  |
|          |                                    |                                                                 |                                      |                                  |
| 4pm      |                                    |                                                                 |                                      |                                  |
|          |                                    |                                                                 |                                      |                                  |
| 5pm      | New to Fantasycon                  | AI and LLMs in our industry: What Can We Do? What Should We Do? | Nature writing and fantasy           | Multimedia writing               |
|          |                                    |                                                                 |                                      |                                  |
| 6pm      | Welcome to World Fantasy Reception | British and Irish Folk                                          | The Audio Panel                      | The Radical Politics of Grimdark |
|          |                                    |                                                                 |                                      |                                  |
| 7pm      |                                    | Costume, Food, Music: the Senses in Fantasy Writing             | Asexuality in Fantasy                | The Immortal Villain             |
|          |                                    |                                                                 |                                      |                                  |
| 8pm      |                                    |                                                                 |                                      |                                  |
|          | Open Mic                           | Through the Wringer                                             | Poetry and Lyricism in Fantasy Prose | The Roleplaying Games Panel      |

## Colour

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
|  | Fantasy Panel   |
|  | Horror Panel    |
|  | Universal Panel |
|  | Key events      |
|  | Launch/Party    |
|  | Workshop        |



# Thursday Timetable

| Osborne Reading Room 1 (60)                                                              | Gloucester Reading Room 2 (30)                 | Surrey 1          | Registration and info desk                                  | Dealers & Art    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Readings                                                                                 | Readings                                       | "Meet the..."     | Registration                                                | Traders          |
|                                                                                          |                                                |                   |                                                             |                  |
|                                                                                          |                                                |                   | Registration Open<br>(including sign ups for "meet the...") | open 12 till 6pm |
| Workshop: Writing a Community, Not a Lone Hero                                           | Workshop: Fountain Pens and Stationery         | Terri Windling    |                                                             |                  |
| Talk: Bleeding, Burns, and Broken Bones - a crash course to writing injuries in fantasy. | Workshop: Writing Confidence Through Curiosity | Genevieve Cogman  |                                                             |                  |
|                                                                                          |                                                | Anna Smith Spark  |                                                             |                  |
| Agent Pitching Session With Stephen Kozeniewski and Kayleigh Dobbs                       |                                                | Stephen Gallagher |                                                             |                  |

## Colour

|  |                 |
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|  | Fantasy Panel   |
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|  | Key events      |
|  | Launch/Party    |
|  | Workshop        |

# Friday Timetable

| Friday   |                                                     |                                        |                                               |                                      |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Room     | Main Room (Upper Ground floor)                      | Balmoral Panel Room 1 (200 - 5 mics)   | Buckingham Panel Room 2 (120 - 5 mics)        | Edinburgh Panel Room 3 (80 4 mics)   |
| Function | Big events                                          | Panels/Talks                           | Panels/Talks                                  | Panels/Talks/Readings                |
| 9:00 AM  |                                                     |                                        |                                               |                                      |
| 10:00 AM | GOH Interview: Nick Landau and Vivian Cheung        | Strong Female Leads Who Don't Kick Ass | Epic Pooh and the Style of Fantasy Prose      | Mapping in Fantasy                   |
| 11am     | Horror Laureate Interview: Ramsey Campbell          | Paranormal Romance to Romantasy        | Feminism and Feminist Themes in Genre Fiction | The Way We're Wired                  |
| 12noon   | After the End of the World                          | Launch: The Slab Press                 | Reading Something New                         | Fantasy and Horror in Translation    |
| 1pm      | Politics in Fantasy                                 | Launch: Brigid's Gate Press            | Inspiring the Next Generation                 | Reincarnation: A Talk by Ali Sparkes |
| 2pm      | Launch: Angry Robot                                 | Landscapes of Fantasy                  | The Cold Shiver                               | The Board Games Panel                |
| 3pm      | Andrzej Sapkowski in conversation with David French | Here be Dragons in Fantasy Fiction     | Occult and Supernatural Adventures            | Fairy Tales in Fantasy and Horror    |
| 4pm      | Launch: Caezik SF & Fantasy                         | The Agents Panel                       | Hidden Treasures                              | Remembering Tanith Lee               |
| 5pm      |                                                     | Blending the Genres                    | Scottish Fantasy and Horror                   | To Trope or Not to Trope             |
| 6pm      | Launch: Newcon Press                                | Adaptations of Fantasy and Horror      | Disability in SFFH                            | Happy Birthday, Happy Birthday!      |
| 7pm      | Launch: Flame Tree Press                            | Making Worlds                          | Publishing Demystified                        | Poetry Corner (with Allen Ashley)    |
| 8pm      | Mass Author Signing & Reception                     |                                        |                                               |                                      |
| 9pm      |                                                     |                                        |                                               |                                      |
| 10pm     | Dungeons and Disorderly                             |                                        |                                               |                                      |

## Colour

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|  | Launch/Party    |
|  | Workshop        |

# Friday Timetable

| Osborne Reading Room 1 (60 - 4 mics) | Gloucester Reading Room 2 (30)       | Surrey 1           | Registration and info desk | Dealers & Art Room                               |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Readings                             | Readings                             | "Meet the..."      | Registration               | Traders                                          |
| Flash Fiction Workshop               | Dealing with the Media Workshop      | WFC Board Meeting  | Registration Open          | Dealers and Art open 10 till 6pm                 |
| Reading Group 1 (3) Fantasy          | Reading Group 2 (3) Horror           |                    |                            |                                                  |
| Reading Group 3 (3) Fantasy          | Reading Group 4 (3) Science Fiction  | Ramsey Campbell    |                            |                                                  |
| Reading Group 5 (3) Fantasy          | Reading Group 6 (3) Horror           | Adrian Tchaikovsky |                            |                                                  |
| Reading Group 7 (3) Fantasy          | Reading Group 8 (3) Horror           | Vincent Chong      |                            |                                                  |
| Reading Group 9 (3) Fantasy          | Reading Group 10 (3) Horror          | Kristen Britain    |                            |                                                  |
| Reading Group 11 (3) Fantasy         | Reading Group 12 (3) Horror          | Garth Nix          |                            |                                                  |
| Reading Group 13 (3) Fantasy         | Reading Group 14 (3) Science Fiction | Joanne Harris      |                            |                                                  |
| Reading Group 15 (3) Fantasy         | Reading Group 16 (3) Horror          | Peter Hamilton     |                            |                                                  |
| Reading Group 17 (3) Fantasy         | Reading Group 18 (3) Science Fiction | Juliet McKenna     |                            |                                                  |
|                                      |                                      |                    |                            | Optional opening for Dealers during Mass Signing |
|                                      |                                      |                    |                            |                                                  |

## Colour

|  |                 |
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|  | Fantasy Panel   |
|  | Horror Panel    |
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|  | Key events      |
|  | Launch/Party    |
|  | Workshop        |

# Saturday Timetable

| Saturday |                                           |                                                       |                                              |                                    |
|----------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Room     | Main Room (Upper Ground floor)            | Balmoral Panel Room 1 (200 - 5 mics)                  | Buckingham Panel Room 2 (120 - 5 mics)       | Edinburgh Panel Room 3 (80 4 mics) |
| Function | Big events                                | Panels/Talks                                          | Panels/Talks                                 | Panels/Talks/Readings              |
| 9am      |                                           |                                                       |                                              |                                    |
| 10am     | GOH Interview: Vincent Chong              | An Author, an Agent and an Editor walk into a Con     | Swords and Sorcery                           | Spreadsheets and Spells            |
| 11am     | Writing Fighting!                         | Launch: Elsewhen Press                                | Marmite Characters                           | Queer in Horror                    |
| 12noon   | Launch: Maya                              | Queer in Fantasy                                      | Shapeshifting Stories                        | Do we love or do we wait?          |
| 1pm      | Launch: Black Crow & Broken Binding       | The New Frontiers                                     | Dark Academia: The Lure of Evil Institutions | Inspired by Tolkien                |
| 2pm      | GOH Interview: Suniti Namjoshi            | Creative Lives                                        | I Would Not Be a Queen for All the World     | The Computer Games Panel           |
| 3pm      | The Weird Fiction Panel                   | Launch: Wizard's Tower Press                          | The Doctor Who Panel                         | Let's Play Fantasy Ecology         |
| 4pm      | Art Show Reception (2hrs)                 | Launch: Dead Ink Books                                | Embodying the Non-Human                      | Fantasy in Contemporary Times      |
| 5pm      | Launch: Telos Publishing Ltd              | Fantasy and Horror: Playing for Laughs                | Older People in Fantasy and Horror           | It Takes a Village                 |
| 6pm      | MC Interview: Joanne Harris               | Fantasy - Beyond the Binaries of Good/Evil, Law/Chaos | Monster Vs Monster                           | Editing and Editors                |
| 7pm      | Set up                                    | Charity Raffle Draw                                   |                                              |                                    |
| 8pm      | The British Fantasy Awards & Aldiss Award |                                                       |                                              |                                    |
| 9pm      |                                           |                                                       |                                              |                                    |
| 10pm     | Karaoke                                   |                                                       |                                              |                                    |

## Colour

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|  | Key events      |
|  | Launch/Party    |
|  | Workshop        |



# Saturday Timetable

| Osborne Reading Room 1 (60 - 4 mics) | Gloucester Reading Room 2 (30)       | Surrey 1         | Registration and info desk | Artshow & Dealers Room                |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Readings                             | Readings                             | "Meet the..."    | Registration               | Traders                               |
| Reading Group 40 (3) Fantasy         |                                      | Jonathan Strahan | Registration Open          |                                       |
| Reading Group 19 (3) Fantasy         | Reading Group 20 (3) Horror          | Stephen Aryan    |                            | Art and Dealers open<br>10am till 6pm |
| Reading Group 21 (3) Fantasy         | Reading Group 22 (3) Horror          | Ellen Datlow     |                            |                                       |
| Reading Group 23 (3) Fantasy         | Reading Group 24 (3) Science Fiction | Joe Hill         |                            |                                       |
| Reading Group 25 (3) Fantasy         | Reading Group 26 (3) Horror          | Suniti Namjoshi  |                            |                                       |
| Reading Group 27 (3) Fantasy         | Reading Group 28 (3) Horror          | John Gwynne      |                            |                                       |
| Reading Group 29 (3) Fantasy         | Reading Group 30 (3) Science Fiction | Keith Rosson     |                            |                                       |
| The Role of Reviewers                | Reading Group 31 (3) Fantasy         | TJ Klune         |                            | Art Show Reception                    |
| Reading Group 33 (3) Fantasy         | The Academic Hour                    | Una McCormack    |                            |                                       |
| Reading Group 35 (3) Fantasy         | Reading Group 41 (3) Horror          | Aliya Whiteley   |                            |                                       |
|                                      |                                      |                  |                            |                                       |
| Reading Group 34 (3) Fantasy         | Reading Group 36 (3) Horror          |                  |                            |                                       |
|                                      |                                      |                  |                            |                                       |

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|  | Key events      |
|  | Launch/Party    |
|  | Workshop        |

# Sunday Timetable

| Sunday   |                                |                                              |                                |                                         |
|----------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Room     | Main Room (Upper Ground floor) | Balmoral Panel Room 1 (200)                  | Buckingham Panel Room 2 (120)  | Edinburgh Panel Room 3 (80)             |
| Function | Big events                     | Panels/Talks                                 | Panels/Talks                   | Panels/Talks/Readings                   |
| 9am      |                                |                                              |                                |                                         |
| 10am     | Solaris Party                  | Gods and Faith in Fantasy                    | BFS AGM                        | The Role of Class in Fantasy and Horror |
| 11am     | Images of Fantasy              | History inspired Horror                      | British Urban Fantasy Settings | Japanese Light Novels, Manga and Anime  |
| 12noon   | Banquet set up                 | Horror in the UK                             | Sword Lesbians: Discuss        | Fantasy Economy                         |
| 1pm      |                                | Writing for that Popular Tabletop Wargame... | Disposable Bad Guys            | Music as Expression                     |
| 2pm      | Banquet                        |                                              |                                |                                         |
| 3pm      | World Fantasy Awards           |                                              |                                |                                         |
| 4pm      |                                |                                              |                                |                                         |
| 5pm      | Judges Review Panel            |                                              |                                |                                         |
| 6pm      | Event End                      |                                              |                                |                                         |

## Colour

|  |                 |
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|  | Universal Panel |
|  | Key events      |
|  | Launch/Party    |
|  | Workshop        |

# Sunday Timetable

| Osborne Reading Room 1<br>(60)    | Gloucester Reading Room 2 (30)  | Surrey                        | Registration and info desk | Dealers Room                                |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Readings                          | Readings                        | Meet the...                   | Registration               | Traders                                     |
|                                   |                                 |                               |                            |                                             |
| War off the Battlefield           | Reading Group 38 (3)<br>Fantasy | WFC Board meeting (if needed) | Registration Open          | Artshow closed.<br>Dealers open 10am to 1pm |
| Strange Horizons Tea Party        | Reading Group 32 (3)<br>Horror  |                               |                            |                                             |
| Terry Pratchett and The Discworld | Reading Group 37 (3)<br>Fantasy | Juliet Marillier              |                            |                                             |
| Religion in Horror                | Reading Group 39 (3)<br>Fantasy |                               |                            |                                             |
|                                   |                                 |                               |                            |                                             |

## Colour

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|--|-----------------|
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|  | Key events      |
|  | Launch/Party    |
|  | Workshop        |

# Thursday Activities

Registration and the Art Show will be open from 12:00 until 18:00. Open Mic, Workshops and Meet the Author events can be booked prior to the event using the links given in their listings below.

**Charity Raffle:** Support Listening Books and Cancer Research UK in their amazing work and win! Tickets will be sold at Registration, the Fantasycon table and shamelessly plugged by the Red Cloaks. Thanks to our generous contributors for the variety of prizes.

## **17:00: New to World Fantasy Convention - Main Room**

Karen Fishwick

This is a session for those who have not attended World Fantasy Convention before and/or who would like to ask questions to help them get the most out of the event. It will be focusing on practical logistics rather than programme items.

## **17:00: AI and LLMs in our industry: What Can We Do? What Should We Do? - Balmoral Panel Room 1**

Rob Potter, Arthur H. Manners, Kim Smuga-Otto, Karin J. Robinson (Moderator)

The issues around data scraping, LLM training and human art being replaced by bots. The goalposts change every year as the software gets more advanced. Join the discussion to share the latest advice.

## **17:00: Nature Writing and Fantasy - Buckingham Panel Room 2**

E. J. Swift, Cecile Cristofari, Lynsdey Croal, Kathleen Jennings (Moderator)

In a time of climate crisis and extinction rebellion, how should fantasy engage with writing about the natural world?

## **17:00: Multimedia Writing - Edinburgh Panel Room 3**

Zain Memon, Michael Ireland, Steve Saffel, Allen Stroud (Moderator)

From character art to maps and back-of-the-book reference material to wikipages to QR codes accessing soundtracks - how can bonus content help - or hinder - the story.

**17:00: Workshop: Writing a Community, Not a Lone Hero - Osborne Reading Room 1**

Ana Sun

How we might approach writing narratives that steer away from the hero's journey?. In this workshop, we will explore techniques to handle a rich cast of characters to reflect community voices, and how to create tension and conflict without villains.

Sign up with the form link here:

<https://forms.gle/z267Nhs7P8FiXDdo9>

**17:00: Workshop: Fountain Pens and Stationery - Gloucester Reading Room 2**

Aliette de Bodard, Juliet Kemp

A meetup for lovers of fountain pens and stationery. All are welcome, we will have supplies for everyone, from those who are just starting out to the ink experts! Sign up with the form link here:

<https://forms.gle/Cx1mnDkinvMqP3XT7>

**17:00: Meet the Author: Terri Windling - Surrey 1**

Sign up with the form link here:

<https://forms.gle/4zGGhQpVumBqjjHe9>

**18:00: Welcome to World Fantasy Reception - Main Room**

Karen Fishwick, Joanne Harris, Ramsey Campbell, Vincent Chong, Suniti Namjoshi, Nick Landau, Vivian Cheung

Join us for the opening of the convention. Chair, Karen Fishwick will introduce our guests.

**18:00: British and Irish Folk - Balmoral Panel Room 1**

Maura McHugh, Pete Cox, Rhiannon A Grist, Tristan Gray (Moderator)

Folk stories fascinate us as much for the way they have been handed down as for the detail. Tales passed down through generations. Local legends reimagined into lingering horror or magical fantasy. Folktales cross genres and remain as sources of inspiration for writers. We will discuss.

**18:00: The Audio Panel - Buckingham Panel Room 2**



Ellen Kushner, Chris Hawton, John Nassari, Ed Fortune, Robin CM Duncan (Moderator)

The rise in popularity of audio books, dramas and podcasts is a phenomenon that needs to be discussed. Our panel share their experiences as readers, presenters, writers and voice actors.

**18:00: The Radical Politics of Grimdark - Edinburgh Panel Room 3**

Beth Wagner, Adri Joy, Fabienne Schwizer, Anna Smith Spark (Moderator)

An article in the Guardian in 2016 summarized what grimdark's "domination" of the fantasy genre as a "commercial imperative to win adolescent, male readers" in opposition to "a truly epic and more emotionally nuanced kind of fantasy" that delivered storytelling. Many grimdark writers and readers, however, would argue that this description is the very antithesis of the genre. Our panel will discuss the radical political and narrative complexity of grimdark fantasy.

**18:00: Meet the Author: Genevieve Cogman - Surrey 1**

Sign up with the form link here:

<https://forms.gle/AAo981ecVdXXVKPA8>

**18:30: Talk: Bleeding, Burns, and Broken Bones - A Crash Course to Writing Injuries in Fantasy - Osborne Reading Room 1**

Jenni Coutts

Ever wondered what happens when you're shot by an arrow, or catch the bubonic plague? Medicine and the macabre can elevate the stakes in any story, but it's often hard to know where to start. Join NHS doctor Jenni Coutts for a whistlestop tour of writing injuries and illnesses in fantasy fiction, with advice on common pitfalls, fun facts, and practical tips that will help you write injuries to your heart's content. Sign up with the form link here:

<https://forms.gle/BPw9hSbiBUKSDzx29>

**18:30: Writing Confidence Through Curiosity - Gloucester Reading Room 2**

Rachel Knightley

Author, writing and confidence coach, creative writing lecturer and host of The Writers' Gym Podcast Dr Rachel Knightley shares creative confidence building prompts, tools and exercises to build true confidence and joy in our writing. Suitable for all levels of experience.

Sign up with the form link here:

<https://forms.gle/VECbqmNKktFbDZs48>

### **19:00: Open Mic - Main Room**

Ann Landmann

A chance for writers to showcase short work. Your host for the open mic session will be Ann Landmann.

Sign up with the form link here:

<https://forms.gle/bgkTxVMPpNvhsyKRA>

### **19:00: Costume, Food, Music: The Senses in Fantasy Writing - Ballroom Panel Room 1**

Christian Cameron, Allen Ashley, Rebecca Treasure Ida Keogh  
(Moderator)

World building through prose: what our characters wear, eat, hear, touch can bring a wonderful depth and vividness to their world, immersing the reader in the truly fantastical. Our panel discuss the beauty of descriptive writing.

### **19:00: Asexuality in Fantasy - Buckingham Panel Room 2**

Lucy Holland, Lali Hewitson, Matthew Palmer, Wendy Metcalfe  
(Moderator)

Finding asexual characters in fantasy remains a challenge. Join our panel to discuss good depictions of asexuality in the genre.

### **19:00: The Immortal Villain - Edinburgh Panel Room 3**

Ruthanna Emrys, PS Livingstone, Christopher Caldwell, Sarah Rees Brennan (Moderator)

Sometimes evil refuses to die. The shadow lingers on, reforms and returns. The making of a villain that sticks around in the mind of the reader and survives longer than the hero is an art in itself. Join us to discuss.

**19:00: Meet the Author: Anna Smith Spark - Surrey 1**

Sign up with the form link here:

<https://forms.gle/79AYqykMPjjeGshE9>

**20:00: Through the Wringer - Balmoral Panel Room 1**

Carol Gyzander, Catherine Cavendish, Zoë Badowska, Rachel Knightley, Simon Clark (Moderator)

Many stories involve adversity. Characters struggle to achieve their goals; if they don't, do we care? Readers identify with people who overcome challenges to reach a better place. Suffering has its place in the narrative, but how do we ensure we do just enough? Our panel discusses the tough journeys characters go on in stories and how to balance adversity with readability.

**20:00: Poetry and Lyricism in Fantasy Prose - Buckingham Panel Room 2**

Rachel Vincent, Colleen Anderson, Vic James, Kathleen Jennings (Moderator)

Fantasy prose writing has a long tradition of poetry and lyricism. Our panel discuss fantasy and horror lyrical prose. AKA fantasy is high literature and always has been.

**20:00: The Roleplaying Games Panel - Edinburgh Panel Room 3**

Chris Lowry, Q. C. Terence, Silas A. Bischoff, Tao Wong (Moderator)

Since the 1970s, writers have been influenced by roleplaying games and roleplaying games have been inspired by writers. Our panel discusses the relationship between roleplaying games and writing stories. Where do the mediums work well together and where are the issues?

**20:00: Agent Pitching Session With Stephen Kozeniewski and Kayleigh Dobbs - Osborne Reading Room 1**

Stephen Kozeniewski, Kayleigh Dobbs

We are actively acquiring (completed!) novels, novellas, and collections. Sit down with one of our editors for five minutes and give us your best pitch. Check our website ([frenchpresspub.blogspot.com](http://frenchpresspub.blogspot.com)) to secure your timeslot or swing by and see if we can fit you in.

French Press Publishing has so far published 16 books, including the award-winning ‘You’re Mine’ by Somer Canon, and Kit Power’s British Fantasy Award Finalist novella, ‘Millionaires Day’.

**20:00: Meet the Author: Stephen Gallagher - Surrey 1**

Sign up with the form link here:

<https://forms.gle/J4i7N9hrb72C7BUV8>

**21:00: Visions of the Future - Balmoral Panel Room 1**

Mike Hollows, Arthur H. Manners, Allen Stroud, Gwen Frazer (Moderator)

We cannot know the future, so all of our attempts to picture it are escapes into imagined worlds. Clarke’s Third Law indicates how magic and science can be the same thing expressed in different ways. Our panel discussed the relation between speculative fiction, science fiction, fantasy and horror.

**21:00: Animals in Fantasy - Buckingham Panel Room 2**

Gunnar Theodór Eggertsson, Adrian Tchaikovsky, Jenny Hannaford Dan Walsh (Moderator)

From the anthropomorphic in the work of Brian Jacques and Richard Adams, to the contemporary amalgamations of Adrian Tchaikovsky’s *Shadows of the Apt*, or Pullman’s daemon familiars. The depiction of animals in fantasy are varied and interesting to explore. Join us in doing so.

**21:00: Satirical Fantasy - Edinburgh Panel Room 3**

Philip Irving, Mike Brooks, Karin Robinson, Caitlin Rozakis (Moderator) From Jasper Fforde’s *Thursday Next* to Diana Wynne Jones’ *Tough Guide to Fantasyland*, fantasy has a long tradition of satirising the (so-called) real world and its own genre. Together, we will send up and take apart fantasy’s satirical strands and wonder why it is so good a tool for playing with reality.

**21:00: Meet the Author: Amal El-Mohtar - Surrey 1**

Sign up with the form link here:

<https://forms.gle/qWaQMe2F1HKm9g7R6>

# Friday Activities

Registration open from 09:00 until 20:00.

Art Show open from 10:00 until 18:00.

Dealers open from 10: until 18:00 with optional opening during the Author's Mass Signing.

Workshops and Meet the Author events can be booked at Registration. Raffle tickets available from Registration.

## **9:30: Workshop: Flash Fiction - Osborne Reading Room 1**

Rebecca Treasure

Join *Apex Magazine* managing editor Rebecca E Treasure for a class on elements of flash fiction. Discuss plot, character, setting, theme, and more.

Spaces are limited. Sign up at the Registration Desk.

## **9:30: Workshop: Dealing with the Media - Gloucester Reading Room 2**

Randee Dawn

Interacting with the press as a rising creative artist or writer can be intimidating and hard to get right. In "How to be Interviewed," Randee Dawn offers a how-to in understanding the media, the role of the reporter, and how you can use the press to get your idea or project out there over, and over again.

Spaces are limited. Sign up at the Registration Desk.

## **10:00: GOH Interview: Nick Landau and Vivian Cheung - Main Room**

Our Guests of honour interviewed.

## **10:00: Strong Female Leads Who Don't Kick Ass - Balmoral Panel Room 1**

Lorraine Wilson, Kari Sperring, Morag Hannah, PS Livingstone (Moderator)

"Strong female character" has too often been a euphemism for a sword-wielding amazon battling those who wronged her. Fun and glorious though those women are, this panel will talk about the



women who lead through intelligence, charisma, patience, or other skills.

**10:00: Epic Pooh and the Style of Fantasy Prose - Buckingham Panel Room 2**

Lisa Tuttle, Lee Murray, John Clute, Farah Mendlesohn (Moderator)  
Michael Moorcock's article on Tolkien's prose and his criticism of it's childlike quality was first published by the British Fantasy Society in 1978. This raises the question, what is stylish fantasy writing? Is there a particular aesthetic to fantasy prose? Our panel discusses this.

**10:00: Mapping in Fantasy - Edinburgh Panel Room 3**

Alicia Wanstall-Burke, James Logan, Joy Sanchez-Taylor, Adrian M. Gibson (Moderator)

Writing in *Tough Guide to Fantasyland*, Diana Wynne Jones told readers to 'follow the map.' Join our panel to explore the the incredible maps of fantasy worlds and how different writers have utilised them in innovative ways.

**10:00: World Fantasy Board Meeting - Surrey 1**

**11:00: Horror Laureate Interview: Ramsey Campbell - Main Room**

Ramsey Campbell, Lisa Tuttle

Lisa Tuttle interviews Horror Laureate, Ramsey Campbell.

**11:00: Paranormal Romance to Romantasy - Balmoral Panel Room 1**

Ruth Frances Long, Amy De La Force, Annie Summerlee, Nadia El-Fassi, Sophie Jarrell (Moderator)

The phenomenon of *Twilight* changed the shelves in bookstores. Re-classification saw writers find a new niche and new audiences. Now 'cosy' is the new popular and Romantasy is on the rise. Join our panel to discuss the emerging trends.

**11:00: Feminism and Feminist Themes in Genre Fiction - Buckingham Panel Room 2**

Tasha Suri, Rosanne Rabinowitz, Jacqui Greaves, Susan Morris, Sarah Jackson (Moderator)

Whether you're considering Sigourney Weaver in *Aliens*, *The Handmaid's Tale* or the gender flipped concept in Kiersten White's *And I Darken*, finding and developing feminist themes in Fantasy, Science Fiction and Horror can be a rich source of literary criticism. Writers are creating worlds and characters that have been pivotal in moving forward understanding of women as equal humans. Our panel brings together the creative and critical perspective to get some insight into what this means what made these works so powerful.

**11:00: The Way We're Wired - Edinburgh Panel Room 3**

Rosemarie Cawkwell, Janet Forbes, Roxan Burley, David Green  
(Moderator)

Authors who are neurodiverse, characters who are neurodiverse. Widening representation in stories for readers and learning from personal experience. What are good examples in stories. Panelists share their experiences.

**11:00: Reading Group 1 (3) Fantasy - Osborne Reading Room 1**

Annabel Campbell, Meg Turville-Heitz, Richard Sparks

**11:00: Reading Group 2 (3) Horror - Gloucester Reading Room 2**

Tom Johnstone, Neil Williamson, Timothy J. Jarvis

**12:00: After the End of the World - Main Room**

Tom O'Connell, Helen Marshall, Colleen Anderson, John Laidlow  
(Moderator)

From *Shannara* to the *Broken Earth* trilogy, many fantasy worlds are anchored into a post apocalyptic crisis that we face in our future. Join our panel as we discuss the unique trappings of these fictions that are pitched as being part of an alternate future.

**12:00: Launch: The Slab Press - Balmoral Panel Room 1**

Emma Coleman, Gary Couzens, Paul Crosby, Epiphany Ferrell, Ren Graham, Rachel Henderson, Sam Hicks, Ivor K. Hill, Liam Hogan, Tom Johnstone, Frazer Lee, Emma Levin, Selina Lock, Tim Major, LJ McMenemy, Marisca Pichette, Kev Rooney, Laura Jane Round, Matt Thompson, KB Willson, Thomas Wren, Donna Scott

*Hiding Under the Leaves* is an anthology of original folk horror short

fiction, seeking beyond the boundaries of this fascinating sub-genre. From lonesome moors to dark woods, and the mysterious ocean depths, these stories explore the ghostly and the savage; the monstrous faerie and the beast within; the ritual and the obsession. New stories of unsettlingly old things. Tales of the eerie and uncanny. Dare you discover what is hiding under the leaves...?

**12:00: Reading Something New - Buckingham Panel Room 2**

Jonathan Strahan, Joy Sanchez-Taylor, Kayleigh Dobbs, Gary K. Wolfe, Mary G. Thompson (Moderator)

A delve into the myriad of published titles. Our panel looks for the undiscovered gems and treasures that you may have missed from your bookshelf. Join us for recommendations for your reading list!

**12:00: Fantasy and Horror in Translation - Edinburgh Panel Room 3**

Eliza Claudia Filimon, K.A.Teryna, Liliana Carstea, Cheryl Morgan (Moderator)

Fantasy and Horror stories are written all over the world. Our panel discusses works that have been translated into English, how those translations have been received and what more can be done to bring the rich narratives of the world to greater audiences.

**12:00: Reading Group 3 (3) Fantasy - Osborne Reading Room 1**

Roxan Burley, Eliza Chan, Susan J. Morris

**12:00: Reading Group 4 (3) Science Fiction - Gloucester Reading Room 2**

Tom O'Connell, Cécile Cristofari, Karin Robinson

**12:00: Meet the Author: Ramsey Campbell - Surrey 1**

Sign up at the Registration Desk.

**13:00: Politics in Fantasy - Main Room**

Eliza Chan, Jean Bürlesk, Thomas Lee, Holly Race. El McInerney (Moderator)

The machinations of kingdoms pitted against one another. The ways in which characters scheme and play games serving different agen-

das. Faction verses faction, cunning verses wisdom. Allegories of the real world in our escapes? Join our panel to explore politics in Fantasy.

**13:00: Launch: Brigids Gate Press - Balmoral Panel Room 1**

Alex Beaumont

*Ballad of River Bones* is the sequel to Alex Beaumont's *Dissonance of Bird Song*, which was named Distinguished Favourite in the 2025 Independent Press Awards. Join us for the launch of the sequel and hear a few of the haunting folkloric ballads that inspired the world sung by the author herself.

**13:00: Inspiring the Next Generation - Buckingham Panel Room 2**

Gillian Chan, Trent Jamieson, Kiera Nixon, Juliet E. McKenna (Moderator)

We were all children once. What was a story that you read back then? How did it spark your imagination and what part did it play in bringing you to where you are today? Join the discussion on how we inspire new generations.

**13:00: Reincarnation: A Talk by Ali Sparkes - Edinburgh Panel Room 3**

Ali Sparkes

Reincarnation as the ultimate reboot. In a world increasingly obsessed by multiple universes and intersecting time streams, maybe we should all be thinking about our next life. And what we'd like to come back as. Ali Sparkes talks about coming back as a dog (inspired by her labradoodle and her novel, *My Sister Is A Dog*).

**13:00: Reading Group 5 (3) Fantasy - Osborne Reading Room 1**

Rebecca E. Treasure, Justin Lee Anderson, Jackson Ford

**13:00: Reading Group 6 (3) Horror - Gloucester Reading Room 2**

Colleen Anderson, Ashley Stokes, Catherine Cavendish

**13:00: Meet the Author: Adrian Tchaikovsky - Surrey 1**

Sign up at the Registration Desk.

**14:00: Launch: Angry Robot - Main Room**

Stewart Hotston

Blending Indian mythology and classic space opera, *Project Hanuman* is a bold new science-fiction novel from Stewart Hotston.

**14:00: Landscapes of Fantasy - Balmoral Panel Room 1**

Tiffani Angus, Elana Gomei, Mina Ikemoto Ghosh, V L Bovalino, Brenda Carr (Moderator)

The vistas of impossible worlds that we will never see. The maps to invented places, the beautiful geography and geology that has been depicted so we can get a glimpse into the lives of the characters we journey with on their quests. Join us to discuss the role of the fantasy landscape in fiction.

**14:00: The Cold Shiver - Buckingham Panel Room 2**

Hildur Knútsdóttir, Sarah Jayne Townsend, Joanne Anderton, Eric LaRocca, Dan Hanly (Moderator)

The scare, the creeping dread. What makes you tremble and shake? A range of examples will be presented by our panel. Throw in a few of your own for the reading list.

**14:00: The Board Games Panel - Edinburgh Panel Room 3**

Ivan Caric, Alan Laird, Tristan Gray, Sarah Cole (Moderator)

The tale on the table. Stories emerge from modern board games as much as they do from other sources. The board game experience has changed with the rise of legacy games. The panel will discuss the story of the game with your friends and how board games can be a great source of inspiration for writers.

**14:00: Reading Group 7 (3) Fantasy - Osborne Reading Room 1**

Sarah Avery, Philip A. Suggars, Sophia Vahdati

**14:00: Reading Group 8 (3) Horror - Gloucester Reading Room 2**

Margaret Eve, Morag (MK Hardy), Ann Marie Wilson

**14:00: Meet the Artist: Vincent Chong - Surrey 1**

Sign up at the Registration Desk.

**15:00: Andrzej Sapkowski in Conversation with David French - Main Room**

Andrzej Sapkowski, David French

Andrzej Sapkowski's *Witcher* series is a global phenomenon with over thirty million copies sold and has been translated into over forty languages. *Crossroads of Ravens* is a new standalone novel following fantasy's most beloved monster hunter, Geralt of Rivia, on his first steps towards becoming a legend. Andrzej will be interviewed by David French, the English translator for *Crossroads of Ravens*.

**15:00: Here be Dragons in Fantasy Fiction - Balmoral Panel Room 1**

Aliette de Bodard, Michael R. Miller, Andrew Knighton, Charlotte Bond (Moderator)

From Tolkien's Smaug to the waterdragons in Eliza Chan's Fathom-folk series, why are dragons such a popular part of fantasy stories? Join our panel as they discuss their favourite dragons and how they keep them interesting and relevant for readers.

**15:00: Occult and Supernatural Adventures - Buckingham Panel Room 2**

Marisa Linton, Lauren McMenemy, Paul Woodward, Tim Major, Stephen Cox (Moderator)

The unexplained and the mysterious retain a lingering grip on the imagination of the reader. Our panelists delve into their experiences of these stories, discussing the best ways to use existing lore as a framework for new stories.

**15:00: Fairy Tales in Fantasy and Horror - Edinburgh Panel Room 3**

Teika Marija Smits, Suniti Namjoshi, Alex Beaumont, Lisa Fransson (Moderator)

Once Upon a Time... An opening that resonates throughout history, promising a simple story. Yet, many fairy tales do not deliver a happy ending, and others have become twisted by writers looking to create a new spin from old ideas. Fairy tales remain an excellent source of inspiration for new fantasy and horror. Join us to discuss the best.



**15:00: Reading Group 9 (3) Fantasy - Osborne Reading Room 1**

Ai Jiang, Christopher Caldwell, Juliet E McKenna

**15:00: Reading Group 10 (3) Horror - Gloucester Reading Room 2**

Steve Toase, Hildur Knútsdóttir, Dave Jeffery

**15:00: Meet the Author: Kristen Britain - Surrey 1**

Sign up at the Registration Desk.

**16:00: Launch: Caezik SF & Fantasy - Main Room**

Richard Sparks

Book Launch for *Not the Nine-O'Clock News* writer Richard Sparks.

This will be the third book in his fantasy series and is called *New Rock, New Rules*.

**16:00: The Agents Panel - Balmoral Panel Room 1**

Laura Bennett, Fabienne Schwizer, Juliet Mushens, Molly Ker Hawn  
Zen Cho (Moderator)

Ever wondered what an agent does, why you might want one and what they are looking for? Our panel discuss the author agent relationship, what they are looking for and what makes things work.

**16:00: Hidden Treasures - Buckingham Panel Room 2**

Sandra Unerman, AK Faulkner, Ali Sparkes, Emily H. Wilson (Moderator)

In fantasy and horror there are always experiences we have neglected or never heard of. Our panel will make some recommendations of historic works that deserve an audience, or modern content that is in danger of being missed.

**16:00: Remembering Tanith Lee - Edinburgh Panel Room 3**

Julie C. Day, Ian Whates, John Kaiine, Dan Walsh (Moderator)

The writer Tanith Lee passed away in 2015. Her writing across the genres is provocative, powerful, experimental and vivid. Now, a new generation of readers are discovering her work for the first time. Join our panel in remembering Tanith Lee and her work.

**16:00: Reading Group 11 (3) Fantasy - Osborne Reading Room 1**

David Green, Sophie Jarrell, Aliette De Bodard

**16:00: Reading Group 12 (3) Horror - Gloucester Reading Room 2**

Gunnar Theodór (G.T.) Eggertsson, Corinne Leigh Clark, Gareth Wood

**16:00: Meet the Author: Garth Nix - Surrey 1**

Sign up at the Registration Desk.

**17:00: Launch: PS Publishing - Main Room**

Marie O'Regan, James Brogden, Alison Littlewood, A.M. Muffaz, Reggie Oliver, Lavie Tidhar, Nate Pederson

PS Publishing are launching: Three new Absinthe novellas edited by Marie O'Regan, *Dwimfolk* by James Brogden, *Visions of Grace* by Alison Littlewood, *The Society of Vegetarian Cannibals* by A.M. Muffaz, *Wings of the Night* by Reggie Oliver, *New Writing of Horror and the Supernatural Volume 3* edited by Stephen Jones, *New Writings of Horror and the Supernatural Omnibus Volumes 1 & 2* edited by Dave Sutton. Also Lavie Tidhar will be available to sign copies of *No One Hears the Last Shot* and Nate Pederson, editor of *Starry Wisdom* and *The Dagon Collection* will arrive in time to be able to sign copies.

**17:00: Blending the Genres - Balmoral Panel Room 1**

Phil Williams, Stephen Aryan, Penny Hill, Matt Hill, Kate Towner (Moderator) There are stories that defy genre classification, making use of methods and techniques from a variety of different writer tool-boxes. Our panel discusses slipstream, and other compound works.

**17:00: Scottish Fantasy and Horror - Buckingham Panel Room 2**

Geoff Holder, Nicholas Binge, Maya MacGregor, Shona Kinsella (Moderator)

Scotland has a strong tradition of inspiring writers and writing, and in recent years there has been an veritable explosion of Scottish writers on bestseller lists and awards nominations. Is it something in the water? Join our panel as they discuss what makes Scotland such a great place for genre writers.

**17:00: To Trope or Not to Trope - Edinburgh Panel Room 3**

Andrea Morstabilini, Graham Austin-King, Juliet Kemp, David Cartwright (Moderator)

Tropes: love them or hate them. Do we need them? How much trope is too much trope?

**17:00: Reading Group 13 (3) Fantasy - Osborne Reading Room 1**

Alexandra Beaumont, E.D.E. Bell, Rob J Hayes

**17:00: Reading Group 14 (3) Science Fiction - Gloucester Reading Room 2**

Adrian Tchaikovsky, E. J. Swift, Raven Dane

**17:00: Meet the Author: Joanne Harris - Surrey 1**

Sign up at the Registration Desk.

**18:00: Launch: Newcon Press - Main Room**

Ana Sun, Neil Williamson, Vincent Chong, Angela Slatter, James Bennett, Tim Major, Ray Cluley, Joanna Corrance, Dan Coxon, Lyndsey Croal, James Everington, Tracy Fahey, Penny Jones, E. Saxey, Phil Sloman, Steve Toase.

Newcon Press are launching two exciting titles: *Futures to Live By* -- Ana Sun and *Blood in the Bricks* edited by Neil Williamson with cover art from Vincent Chong.

**18:00: Adaptations in Fantasy and Horror - Balmoral Panel Room 1**

Stephen Gallagher, Laura Langrish, Gavin Williams, Sophia Vahdati Richard Sparks (Moderator)

The writer writes, and just occasionally, a story attracts the interest of film or television production companies. Or maybe there's a game, or a theatre play that could be made of it? Join our panel in discussing their experiences working with adapted fantasy and horror.

**18:00: Disability in SFFH - Buckingham Panel Room 2**

Lizzie Alderdice, Susie Williamson, Katie Bruce, Kit Whitfield, Annie Summerlee (Moderator)

Disabled characters are more prevalent in our fiction than they were, but there is a long way to go. How are disabled characters portrayed in Fantasy, Horror and Science Fiction? Can we highlight some good examples? Are there writer voices we should be championing

to improve representation? This panel discusses stories that feature disabled characters.

**18:00: Happy Birthday, Happy Birthday! - Edinburgh Panel Room 3**

Ramsey Campbell, Jan Edwards, Marie O'Regan, Mike Chinn (Moderator)

It's been 50 years of the British Fantasy Convention (Fantasycon)! Many things have been and gone in that time. How has the times changed? Our panel looks at what's happened over the years and what's happening now.

**18:00: Reading Group 15 (3) Fantasy - Osborne Reading Room 1**

Kari Sperring, Randee Dawn, Krista Wallaces

**18:00: Reading Group 16 (3) Horror - Gloucester Reading Room 2**

Nate Pedersen, Rosanne Rabinowitz, Kim Smuga-Ottoe

**18:00: Meet the Author: Peter Hamilton - Surrey 1**

Sign up at the Registration Desk.

**19:00: Launch: Flame Tree Press - Main Room**

Nick Wells, Shona Kinsella, Anna Smith Spark, Ramsey Campbell, V Castro, Allen Stroud, Marie O'Regan, Paul Kane, Dave Jeffrey, Lee Murray

Come and celebrate the books, anthologies and short story collections of our wonderful authors and contributors. A chance to meet, swop stories and experiences. Drinks and bites provided!

**19:00: Making Worlds - Balmoral Panel Room 1**

Corinne Leigh Clark, Ai Jiang, Jackson Ford, Peter Hamilton, Venetia Constantine (Moderator)

We make the world of the story, but it lives in the mind of the reader. Our panel discuss the ways in which worlds of fantasy and horror are made. What are the priorities and the elements that stay long after the story is over?

**19:00: Publishing Demystified - Buckingham Panel Room 2**

Stephen Kozeniewski, Donna Scott, Amanda Rutter, David Thomas

Moore (Moderator)

The world of publishing is opaque and mysterious to writers, unless they choose to peek behind the curtain. Join our discussion where publishers share their thoughts on the current state of the industry.

**19:00: Poetry Corner - Edinburgh Panel Room 3**

Allen Ashley

In what has now become a staple of Fantasycon, Allen Ashley will once again be hosting the “Poetry Round Robin”. Bring a couple of poems to share. No stars, no guest readers, we will get round and appreciate everybody.

For further details email [allenashley-writer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:allenashley-writer@hotmail.co.uk)

**19:00: Reading Group 17 (3) Fantasy - Osborne Reading Room 1**

Josh Winning, Jean Bürlesk, Ruthanna Emrys

**19:00: Reading Group 18 (2) Science Fiction - Gloucester Reading Room 2**

Robin C.M. Duncan, SJ Groenewegen

**19:00: Meet the Author: Juliet Mckenna - Surrey 1**

Sign up at the Registration Desk.

**20:00: Mass Author Signing & Reception - Main Room**

Come and get your books signed, meet new authors. Every author, editor or artist is eligible to sign at the Mass Autograph Session. Please do let us know via the members-only section of the website if you would like a seat.

**22:00: Dungeons and Disorderly - Main Room**

Dave Thomas Moore

The UK Fantasycon favourite where crowdsourced writers roleplay and hilarity ensues! Our game is based on a healthy contempt for rules, consistency or decency. There will be alcohol. At the organisers' insistence, there will also be dice (well, one large one), but it will have no real bearing on the game. Participation encouraged!

# Saturday Activities

Registration open from 09:00 until 20:00.

Art Show and Dealers are open from 10:00 until 18:00.

Workshops and Meet the Author events can be booked at Registration. Raffle tickets available from Registration until 18:00.

## **09:00: Reading Group 40 (3) Fantasy - Osborne Reading Room 1**

Adrian M. Gibson, Maya MacGregor, Dan Hanly

## **09:00: Meet the Author: Jonathan Strahan - Surrey 1**

Sign up at the Registration Desk.

## **10:00: Guest of Honour Interview: Vincent Chong - Main Room**

Vincent Chong interviewed by Ian Whates.

## **10:00: An Author, an Agent and an Editor walk into a Con - Balmoral Panel Room 1**

Meg Davis, James Logan, Tom Lloyd, Alex Adsett, Ann Landmann (Moderator)

How do authors, agents and editors work together to bring a book from manuscript to a bookshelf? Come along to find out.

## **10:00: Swords and Sorcery - Buckingham Panel Room 2**

Silas A. Bischoff, Tej Turner, Q. C. Terence, Gavin Smith, Andy Knighton (Moderator)

The classic subgenre revisited! Who is writing in this area now and can it be compared to the works of the past? Join our panel to discuss.

## **10:00: Spreadsheets and Spells - Edinburgh Panel Room 3**

M H Ayinde, Sophia Vahdati, Annabel Campbell, Marve Michael Anson (Moderator)

Magic systems are a staple of many fantasy books. Join our panels as they discuss the pros and cons of using magic systems, and how not to get bogged down when creating and putting into action all those rules, abilities and restrictions.



**10:00: Reading Group 19 (3) Fantasy - Osborne Reading Room 1**

Clare Reader Collins, Ruth Frances Long, Kristen Britain

**10:00: Reading Group 20 (3) Horror - Gloucester Reading Room 2**

Jason Whittle, James Bennett, Genevieve Cogman

**10:00: Meet the Author: Stephen Aryan - Surrey 1**

Sign up at the Registration Desk.

**11:00: Writing Fighting! - Main Room**

Steve McHugh, Christian Cameron, Juliet E McKenna, Anna Smith Spark (Moderator)

The literary art of writing fight and battle scenes. Expert authors discuss how they approach battles and duels in their novels. Who knows? They may even act out a few?

**11:00: Launch: Elsewhen Press - Balmoral Panel Room 1**

Alex Makepeace, Andrew Hook

Two very different books from two accomplished authors, one set in a near future, the other in a distant future. Both authors will be reading excerpts and answering questions, accompanied by refreshments. Alex Makepeace will be reading from *Canaries*. Set in a credible near-future Britain. Andrew Hook will be reading from *Body and Soul*, which is set in the far-flung future.

**11:00: Marmite Characters - Buckingham Panel Room 2**

Phil Sloman, Joe Hill, Ryan Cahill, C L Clark. Samantha Lee Howe (Moderator)

Marmite - Love it or Hate it? There are a whole assortment of marmite characters - The heroes you hate, the villains who you miss when they're gone. These are individuals who divide opinion. But what is it about them that makes us react? Join us to discuss how to make love/hate characters, and what we think of them.

**11:00: Queer in Horror - Edinburgh Panel Room 3**

Heather Valentine, Laura Langrish, AK Faulkner, James Bennett, Erin Hardee (Moderator)

Horror is for everyone. Our fear of difference has never been the

same as our fear of the monstrous and evil. New takes on queer in horror bring opportunities for representation. Join the conversation about positive queer representation in the darkness.

**11:00: Reading Group 21 (3) Fantasy - Osborne Reading Room 1**

Joanne Harris, Marve Michael Anson, Garth Nix

**11:00: Reading Group 22 (3) Horror - Gloucester Reading Room 2**

Joanne Anderton, Lisa Fransson, Joanna Corrance

**11:00: Meet the Author: Ellen Datlow - Surrey 1**

Sign up at the Registration Desk.

**12:00: Launch: Maya - Main Room**

Anand Gandhi and Zain Memon

*MAYA: Seed Takes Root* is the first novel of a planned trilogy. Join Anand and Zain as they introduce the shared world multimedia concept of the Maya verse.

**12:00: Queer in Fantasy - Balmoral Panel Room 1**

Rosemarie Cawkwell, Katie Bruce, Chris McCartney, Christopher Caldwell, April Steenburgh (Moderator)

Gone are the days of fantasy as a solely heteronormative space. Queer is here, refreshing and energetic, breathing new life into the worlds of our imagination. Our panel discuss some great examples of queer fantasy and shine a light on the best of them. Bring your reading lists!

**12:00: Shapeshifting Stories - Buckingham Panel Room 2**

Abie Longstaff, Lucy Hounsom, V L Bovalino, Dr. Ceallaigh S. MacCath-Moran (Moderator)

Fairy tales, legends, and myths might well be among the most ancient of folk narratives, having their roots in the oral traditions of pre-literate societies. These stories have been reimagined, adapted, and subverted by writers for centuries, from Shakespeare to Disney to Anne Sexton. The 21st century has seen the popularity of such retellings explode, along with new academic interest in their many manifestations. Why? This panel of folk narrative experts seeks to answer this question and many more about the history, meaning, and purpose of

these narratives around the world.

**12:00: Do We Love or Do We Wait? - Edinburgh Panel Room 3**

Alexandra Beaumont, Annabel Campbell, Elian J Morgan, Catriona Silvey (Moderator)

The love scene in fantasy and/or horror. Do relationships need to be consummated or remain chaste, or somewhere in between? What are the excellent ways in which writers have considered how their characters feel about each other. Join the discussion.

**12:00: Reading Group 23 (3) Fantasy - Osborne Reading Room 1**

Lisa Tuttle, Ellen Kushner, Elizabeth Wein

**12:00: Reading Group 24 (3) Horror - Gloucester Reading Room 2**

Susan Oke, Una McCormack, Sandra Unerman

**12:00: Meet the Author: Joe Hill - Surrey 1**

Sign up at the Registration Desk.

**13:00: Launch: Black Crow & Broken Binding - Main Room**

TJ Klune, Keith Rosson

Black Crow Books and The Broken Binding Publishing invite you to celebrate and raise a glass in the Main Room at 1-2pm on Saturday, 01 November, with goodie bags (while stocks last) with each book purchase, plus signings!

**13:00: The New Frontiers - Balmoral Panel Room 1**

CL Hellisen, Erica Marks, Timothy J. Jarvis, Andrew Hook, Kim Smuga-Otto (Moderator)

Who is pushing the boundaries, being brave and experimental with their fantasy and horror? Join our panel for a tour of the borderlines.

**13:00: Dark Academia: The Lure of Evil Institutions - Buckingham Panel Room 2**

Matthew Palmer, Barbara Cottrell, Lorraine Wilson, Ellis Saxey (Moderator)

Forget exams. Here villainous teachers, treacherous classmates and other evils stand in the way of graduation. In recent years, there has been a resurgence of Dark Academia books, from R.F. Kuang's

award-winning *Babel* to Olivie Blake's *The Atlas Six* series. Why are readers and writers fascinated with this (perceived) dark side of education? And how much do these books reflect and challenge the institutions we all love, and love to hate.

**13:00: Inspired by Tolkien - Edinburgh Panel Room 3**

Carolina Gomez Lagerlöf, Zen Cho, Charlotte Goodwin, Fiona Moore (Moderator)

Writers enter the fantasy genre with Tolkien's shadow looming large over them. Many are directly influenced by his work. Join us as we explore the ways in which the stories of Middle-Earth have influenced contemporary writers.

**13:00: Reading Group 25 (3) Fantasy - Osborne Reading Room 1**

Kathleen Jennings, Brenda Carre, Elana Gomel

**13:00: Reading Group 26 (3) Horror - Gloucester Reading Room 2**

Ananda Lima, Phil Sloman, Andrea Morstabilini

**13:00: Meet the Author: Suniti Namjoshi - Surrey 1**

Sign up at the Registration Desk.

**14:00 Guest of Honour Interview: Suniti Namjoshi - Main Room**

Suniti Namjoshi, Farah Mendlesohn

Suniti Namjoshi interviewed by Farah Mendlesohn.

**14:00: Creative Lives - Balmoral Panel Room 1**

Jacey Bedford, Joe Haldeman, Nicholas Binge, Willow Woods (Moderator)

Living a life of making and imagination can be a rewarding one. Our panel discuss creativity, how it manifests and shapes the way they live.

**14:00: I Would Not Be a Queen for All the World - Buckingham Panel Room 2**

Karen Joy Fowler, Aliya Whiteley, David Green, Holly Race, Kari Sperring (Moderator)

Whether constitutional, absolute or symbolic, monarchical systems continue to fascinate readers and writers of fantasy fiction. Whether

cruel tyrants or royals in exile, benevolent queens or warmongering empresses, it seems that more fantasies have monarchies than don't. Our panellists will discuss the lure of royalty, some of their favourite examples of fantasy monarchs, good or bad, and why monarchy has had such a powerful hold on fantasy fiction.

**14:00: The Computer Games Panel - Edinburgh Panel Room 3**

Andi Ewington, Chris Wooding, Stark Holborn, Omar Kooheji  
(Moderator)

Storytelling in computer games has evolved quickly as the technology has improved. Now, many of the games we play are incredible visual feasts, but these need great stories to go along with them. Our panel will discuss impressive computer games and their stories.

**14:00: Reading Group 27 (3) Fantasy - Osborne Reading Room 1**

Trent Jamieson, Fiona Moore, Juliet Marillier

**14:00: Reading Group 28 (3) Horror & Science Fiction - Gloucester Reading Room 2**

C.C. Adams, Carol Gyzander, Ida Keogh

**14:00: Meet the Author: John Gwynne - Surrey 1**

Sign up at the Registration Desk.

**15:00: The Weird Fiction Panel - Main Room**

Steve Toase, Dan Coxon, J.S. Breukelaar, Joanna Corrance, Dave Jeffery (Moderator)

Weird fiction creates existential dread by the intrusion of the “impossible” into a representation of the real world. Could this be a horror that lingers beyond the fear? Or a fantasy that remains strange to us? Join us to discuss the unique qualities of Weird Fiction, the historical writers and the current practice.

**15:00: Launch: Wizard's Tower Press - Balmoral Panel Room 1**

Juliet E McKenna, John Jarrold, Andrew Knighton, Ruthanna Emrys, Roz Clarke, Joanne Hall, Cheryl Morgan

Wizard's Tower Press are launching: *The Green Man's Holiday* by Juliet E. McKenna, *Of the Emperor's Kindness* by Chaz Brenchley and

*Wiz Duo Book 3* by Ruthana Emrys & Andrew Knighton.

**15:00: The Doctor Who Panel - Buckingham Panel Room 2**

Gary Couzens, Una McCormack, David Howe, SJ Groenewegen  
(Moderator)

A blue police box that travels through time and space, disgorging it's pilot and assorted travelling companions into weekly peril. Doctor Who is a mainstay of British Fantasy, Horror and Science Fiction. Join our panel to share memories and discuss.

**15:00: Let's Play Fantasy Ecology - Edinburgh Panel Room 3**

Raven Dane, Susie Williamson, Ana Sun, Clare Reader Collins  
(Moderator)

Living things and the worlds they inhabit. Writers of Fantasy are not bound by reality and so can invent weird and wonderful things. Join us for a tour amidst the creatures and peoples that never existed. Exotic descriptions and prose abound! Help us invent new life and discuss how it might survive and thrive.

**15:00: Reading Group 29 (3) Fantasy - Osborne Reading Room 1**

Stephen Cox, AK Faulkner

**15:00: Reading Group 30 (3) Science Fiction - Gloucester Reading Room 2**

Anand Gandhi, EM Faulds, Allen Stroud

**15:00: Meet the Author: Keith Rosson - Surrey 1**

Sign up at the Registration Desk.

**16:00: Artshow Reception - Main Room**

A formal opportunity to visit the Art Show and discuss the works being showcased with many of the artists in attendance.

**16:00: Launch: Dead Ink Books - Balmoral Panel Room 1**

Francesco Dimitri, Hannah Kaner, RJ Barker, Kritika H. Rao, Juliet E. McKenna, Jen Williams, Jeff Noon, Alex Pheby, J.L. Worrad, Richard Strachan, Charlotte Bond, Katherine Langrish, Lucy Holland.

Join Dead Ink as they launch two new anthologies: *Writing the Magic* and *Unquiet Guests*.

**16:00: Embodying the Non-Human - Buckingham Panel Room 2**

Donna Parlbly, Keith Rosson, Sarah Avery, Kit Whitfield, Dave Watkins (Moderator)

Fantasy and horror allow authors to write from the perspective of the truly other - dragons, monsters, shape shifters, the undead. Writing the non-human can push writers to their creative limits and challenge both writers and readers to think about what it means to be human, but can also pose significant problems for the writer. Our panel discuss the perils, pitfalls and rewards of embodying fully non-human characters.

**16:00: Fantasy in Contemporary Times - Edinburgh Panel Room 3**

E.A. (Beth) Brenner, Philip A. Suggars, Megan Chee, Brian Milton (Moderator)

Mixing 21st century milieu with the trapping of fantasy is bread and butter to many writers and readers. The subgenres abound, involving all sorts of supernatural and magical. Join our exploration of modern times with a magical twist.

**16:00: The Role of Reviewers - Osborne Reading Room 1**

Ant Jones, Evan Leikam, Alex Hormann, Frasier Armitage (Moderator)

With more fantasy and horror books published every year, finding an audience can be difficult. Our panel discusses the role of reviewers and how to best manage being a reviewer in a crowded market.

**16:00: Reading Group 31 (3) Fantasy - Gloucester Reading Room 2**

Donna Scott, Q. C. Terence, Frances White

**16:00: Meet the Author: TJ Klune - Surrey 1**

Sign up at the Registration Desk.

**17:00: Launch: Telos Publishing Ltd - Main Room**

Paul Finch, Raven Dane, Sam Stone

Launching the *Terror Tales of Chaos* anthology, including the special WFC hardback edition, edited by Paul Finch. Also launching Raven Dane's new novel *Bailfire and Brimstone* and the hardback of *The Jinx*



*Chronicles* by Sam Stone. We will also have copies of the new non-fiction *Island of Terror* (SciFi/Fantasy Film Book) as well.

**17:00: Fantasy and Horror: Playing for Laughs - Balmoral Panel Room 1**

Frances White, Iain Grant, David Wragg, Heide Goody (Moderator)  
Comedy writing in fantasy, horror has always been there. Whether through satire or slapstick or a mixture of both, there is always something ridiculous to giggle about if played the right way. Our panel will explore some of the techniques of writing comedy in fantasy and horror.

**17:00: Older People in Fantasy and Horror - Buckingham Panel Room 2**

Jacqui Greaves, Juliet Marillier, Jenny Hannaford, Sarah Jayne Townsend (Moderator)

Why are many fantasy and horror novels told from the perspective of the young? Is age and experience a hindrance for characters as they try to grow and change? Or is the issue the audience. We've all been young, but have we all been old? Our panel will discuss the representation of older people in fantasy and horror.

**17:00: It Takes a Village - Edinburgh Panel Room 3**

Alison Littlewood, Tom Johnstone, Thomas Olde Heuvelt, Neil Williamson (Moderator)

In a society that is becoming ever more urban and reliant on technology, the sinister and increasingly alien nature of folk horror's rural setting and ancient traditions could explain the resurgence in its popularity in recent times. Often dealing with themes of isolation, folklore, paganism and the dark aspects of nature, folk horror provides rich soil to grow a sense of fear and foreboding. The panel will discuss what makes a novel folk horror and some of their favourite elements and examples of the genre.

**17:00: Reading Group 33 (3) Fantasy - Osborne Reading Room 1**

Anna Smith Spark, Silas A. Bischoff, Evan Leikam

**17:00: The Academic Hour - Gloucester Reading Room 2**

Alvanita, Eliza Claudia Filimon, Bianca Brăştin, Eduard Voicu Stan, Robert Marcu

A selection of short papers on Horror and Fantasy from postgraduate students. These include, "Crossing Worlds, Crossing Death: Fantasy as a Medium to Talk about Loss", "Imagined Realms, Cultural Roots - The Fabric of Romanian Fairy Tales", "Echoes of Romanian Myth and Folklore", "OMORI Video Game - Rendering Visceral Emotion in Translation into Romanian".

**17:00: Meet the Author: Una McCormack - Surrey 1**

Sign up at the Registration Desk.

**17:00: MC Interview: Joanne Harris**

Shona Kinsella, Joanne Harris

Shona Kinsella interviews our MC, Joanne Harris.

**18:00: Fantasy - Beyond the Binaries of Good/Evil, Law/Chaos - Balmoral Panel Room 1**

Amal El-Mohtar, Terri Windling, Genevieve Cogman, TJ Klune, Justin Lee Anderson (Moderator)

Some Fantasy is about simplifying the world into two sides, on a number of levels. Our panel will explore what new territory lies beyond these polarities, looking at characters, plots, morality and philosophies that take us towards new questions about the human condition.

**18:00: Monster vs Monster - Buckingham Panel Room 2**

Rob J Hayes, EM Faulds, Keith Rosson, Jackson Ford (Moderator)

Stories that involve a terrifying enemy that seems invincible and undefeatable. What if you put them against each other? Our panel will pit the Monsters of Legend against each other to determine who will win, who terrifies us the most and how had this influenced the literary scene?

**18:00: Editing and Editors - Edinburgh Panel Room 3**

Amanda Rutter, Zhui Ning Chang, Ellen Datlow, Stephen Saffel (Moderator)

Sometimes writers struggle to see what to get rid of in their drafts,

others get stuck using the same words, or don't quite deliver on a brilliant idea. The work of an editor is a subtle craft that can make a story go from bland to brilliant, or good to exceptional. Our panel explores the craft of the editor.

**18:00: Reading Group 35 (3) Fantasy - Osborne Reading Room 1**

Mina Ikemoto Ghosh, Megan Chee, Cardinal Cox

**18:00: Reading Group 41 (3) Horror - Gloucester Reading Room 2**

Peter Norris, Kit Whitfield, Thomas Olde Heuvelt

**18:00: Meet the Author: Aliya Whiteley - Surrey 1**

Sign up at the Registration Desk.

**19:00: Charity Raffle Draw - Balmoral Panel Room 1**

**19:30: The British Fantasy Awards & The Aldiss Award - Main Room**

Shona Kinsella, David Green, Tim Aldiss, Allen Stroud

Featuring the prizegiving for The Aldiss Award, The Legends of Fantasycon Award, Best Anthology, Best Artist, Best Collection, Best Comic/Graphic Novel, Best Fantasy Novel, Best Film/TV Production, Best Horror Novel, Best Independent Press, Best magazine/Periodical, Best Newcomer, Best Non-fiction, Best Novella, Best Short Fiction, Best Audio Work, and the Karl Wagner Award.

**21:00: Karaoke - Main Room**

Rebellion Publishing provide an opportunity for attendees to get their singing voices out for the evening.

**21:00: Reading Group 34 (3) Fantasy - Osborne Reading Room 1**

Amal El-Mohtar, Charlotte Goodwin, Andrew Knighton

**21:00: Reading Group 36 (3) Fantasy - Gloucester Reading Room 2**

Gary Couzens, Stephen Kozeniewski, Ivor K. Hill

# Taking the pain out of editing

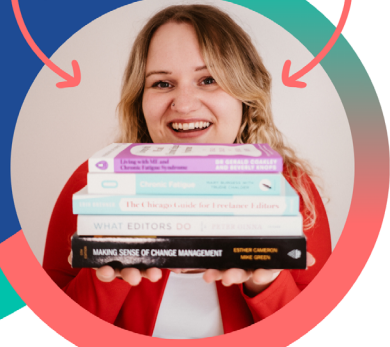
Let's face it: writing can be hard. *Really* hard.

Sometimes you can't even finish your first draft, and then, when you finally do, you realise you have to tackle editing, which is a much longer, and often painful, process.

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# Sunday Activities

Registration open from 09:30 until 12:00.

Art Show closed

Dealers open from 10:00 to 13:00.

Workshops and Meet the Author events can be booked at Registration.

## **09:30: British Fantasy Society AGM - Buckingham Panel Room 2**

Juliet Mushens, Shona Kinsella, David Green

The Annual General Meeting of the society.

## **10:00: Solaris Party - Main Room**

MK Hardy, Sam K. Horton, Lorraine Wilson

From Scottish Gothic to dark Cornish Folklore via wild science fantasy, come celebrate the launch of three fabulous new Solaris titles - The Needfire, Ragwort & The Salt Oracle. Authors MK Hardy, Sam K Horton and Lorraine Wilson, along with other Solaris authors, will be talking about their new books, and sharing bookish goodies and some necessary Sunday morning wine and cake!

## **10:00: Gods and Faith in Fantasy - Buckingham Panel Room 1**

Joanne Harris, John Gwynne, Willow Woods, Theodora Goss (Moderator)

Faith and the divine have played a huge role in fantasy, from Terry Pratchett's Small Gods to N. K. Jemisin's Inheritance Trilogy and Silvia Moreno-Garcia's Gods of Jade and Shadow. This panel will discuss the presentations and representations of the divine in fantasy, the ways writers put faith on the page, and the role of gods in story

## **10:00: The Role of Class in Fantasy and Horror**

Gareth Wood, Charlotte Goodwin, Ivor K. Hill, Juliet Kemp (Moderator)

Princesses and paupers! Merchants and muggers! CEOs and heroes! Social class (and caste) is baked into fantasy and horror, but how have writers traditionally considered class roles? Is that changing in

the face of widening economic inequality and increasing awareness of diversity?

**10:00: War Off the Battlefield - Osborne Reading Room 1**

Janet Forbes, Kristen Britain, Dev Agarwal, Krista Wallace (Moderator)

Conflict can erupt in all sorts of places. Some of the best scenes in fiction are military campaigns in the ballroom, or at the Queen's council table. Join our panel for a discussion about verbal sparring, poisonings, impromptu assassinations and more.

**10:00: Reading Group 38 (3) Fantasy - Gloucester Reading Room 2**

Miles Cameron, Suniti Namjoshi, Caitlin Rozakis

**10:00: World Fantasy Board Meeting - Surrey 1**

**11:00: Images of Fantasy - Main Room**

Jackie Duckworth, Lizzie Alderdice, Vincent Chong, Brenda Carr (Moderator)

The worlds of our imaginations manifest in art, films, games and television, but more importantly, in the mind of the reader and listener. Our panel discusses the iconic images of fantasy and how they have become part of our visual code.

**11:00: History inspired Horror - Balmoral Panel Room 1**

Ramsey Campbell, Nate Pedersen, Paul Finch, Nigel Ramsey (Moderator)

The past is dead, until it erupts into the present, ripped from our history and made into new flesh by storytellers inspired by lingering memory and legend. Join our panel to discuss the horror history that can inspire new writing.

**11:00: British Urban Fantasy Settings - Buckingham Panel Room 2**

Elizabeth Wein, Russell Smith, Jane Morecroft, Justina Robson (Moderator)

From Ben Aaronovitch's magical London to T. L. Huchu's near-future Edinburgh, cities are often a key element of the story and maybe even the central character. Come along as our panellists share their

favourite urban fantasy settings and discuss how to write about a familiar place but not as you know it!

**11:00: Japanese Light Novels, Manga and Anime - Edinburgh Panel Room 3**

Nathan Philpott, Mina Ikemoto Ghosh, Tao Wong, Joanne Anderton (Moderator)

The illustrated storytelling of this medium has a unique appeal. Most stories are fantasy and spark the imagination of readers. Join us to discuss some favourites.

**11:00: The Strange Horizons Tea Party - Osborne Reading Room 1**

Kat Kourbeti, Joyce Chng

Join the Strange Horizons Editorial Collective for a celebratory tea party to mark the magazine's 25th anniversary. Whether you are a former contributor, past volunteer, or a current reader or listener, come say hello and tell us about your favourite Strange Horizons story, poem, article, review, or podcast episode, and revive an age-old tradition that dates back to the magazine's earliest days. Tea will be procured from Bird & Blend, a Brighton-based tea company with a flare for creative and delicious blends.

**11:00: Reading Group 32 (3) Horror - Gloucester Reading Room 2**

JS Breukelaar, CL Hellisen, Alison Littlewood

**12:00: Horror in the UK - Balmoral Panel Room 1**

Kayleigh Dobbs, CC Adams, Paul Finch, Vincent Docherty (Moderator)

The dark legacy of British Horror is a proud and powerful one. A succession of writers have inspired others who have taken up the mantle. Generation after generation of scary stories, but what makes them quintessentially British?

**12:00: Sword Lesbians: Discuss - Buckingham Panel Room 2**

Ellen Kushner, Holly Race, Tasha Suri, Rebecca E. Treasure (Moderator)

Sword lesbians are a recognised and popular trope in fantasy. How do we think about heroic positions and expansive gender expression



in genre? How do queer people position ourselves in relationship to traditional masculinity and its phallus/sword continuum? Do we reclaim roles like knight/cavalier/Jedi, or do we find different ways for women/femmes to fight? Are sword lesbians also an expression of athleticism, when athleticism is often coded as masculine despite not really being tied to the masc/femme axis at all?

**12:00: Fantasy Economy - Edinburgh Panel Room 3**

Meg Turville-Heitz, Tej Turner, Stewart Hotston, E.D.E. Bell (Moderator)

Scratch the surface of some fantasy stories and you realise the worlds your heroes live in don't work. How do characters earn a living? How is food grown, transported and traded? How important is a realistic fantasy economy to you?

**12:00: Terry Pratchett and The Discworld - Osborne Reading Room 1**

Devin Martin, April Steenburgh, Rick Danforth, Catherine Mann (Moderator)

The unique writing of Terry Pratchett in one of the most popular fantasy worlds ever written. Our panel examine the prose of this exceptional series and share memories of his work and how he inspired others.

**12:00: Reading Group 37 (3) Fantasy - Gloucester Reading Room 2**

Aliya Whiteley, Susie Williamson, Teika Marija Smits

**12:00: Meet the Author: Juliet Marillier - Surrey 1**

Sign up at the Registration Desk.

**13:00: Writing for that Popular Tabletop Wargame... - Balmoral Panel Room 1**

Mike Brooks, Stark Holborn, Rob Hayes, Gav Thorpe (Moderation)  
Writing for the Black Library is a unique experience. Our panel discuss their work on Warhammer 40,000, Age of Sigmar and how Games Workshop manage to maintain the sprawling and epic narratives of their fictional worlds.

**13:00: Disposable Bad Guys - Buckingham Panel Room 2**

Ann Marie Wilson, Ananda Lima, Anna Stephens, Jason Whittle (Moderator) In folk tales, the villains were misunderstood rejects from society. Later, in Epic Fantasy, the enemy became exotic and mysterious civilisations who lived by different rules and values. Spare a thought for the henchmen and the stooge, or even the thwarted evil genius. Is there more to understand about how we make villains?

**13:00: Music as Expression - Edinburgh Panel Room 3**

Alexander Glass, Kat Kourbeti, Ruth Frances Long, Randee Dawn (Moderator)

In fantasy and horror, there are ways in which music becomes part of the creation. Our panel will discuss creative role music plays in the building of stories in the genres. Bring your creations along!

**13:00: Religion in Horror - Osborne Reading Room 1**

Jonathan Oliver, James Bennett, Sydney Paige Guerrero, Josh Winning (Moderator)

Traditionally, religion has been the tool of the priest saviour coming to banish the wicked, but new writing explores theology differently, causing us to question our assumptions for good and for evil. From *The Nightmare Girl*, to *The Boys in the Valley*, Join our panel to discuss new approaches to religion in the genre.

**13:00: Reading Group 39 (3) Fantasy - Gloucester Reading Room 2**

Ian Hunter, April Steenburgh, Tom Lloyd

**13:30: World Fantasy Banquet - Main Room**

The dinner that precedes The World Fantasy Awards.

**14:30: The World Fantasy Awards**

Ginny Logan, Ellen Datlow

The annual World Fantasy Awards. These include: Lifetime Achievement, Novel, Novella, Short Fiction, Anthology, Collection, Artist, Special Award, Professional, Special Award, Non-Professional.

**17:00 World Fantasy Awards: Judges Review Panel**

Ginny Logan, Lee Murray, Jonathan Oliver, Jessica George, James

## Brogden

The judges of the 2025 World Fantasy Awards discuss their insights and challenges in determining the recipients of this year's awards. They will reflect on their process, on standout entries they read, and trends they noticed during this months-long journey reading hundreds of submissions to honor the most compelling voices in fantasy and horror literature.



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**– Noel Megahey, To the Last Page**

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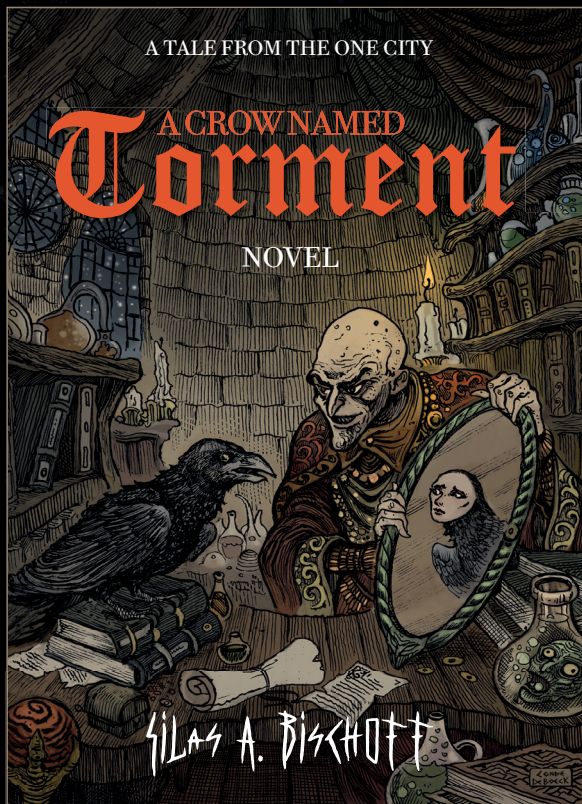
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and dreamy, bleeding from  
the page, the dialogue is often  
laced with dry wit. This is  
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savor it.”

- Yaroslav Barsukov  
(Nebula-nominated Author  
of Sleeping Worlds Have  
No Memory)

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- Dan Hanly (Author of  
The Great Leap)



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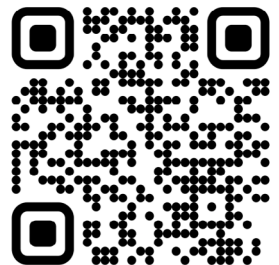


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# No Man is an Island

By Allen Stroud

It's cold.

There is something magically quiet about snow. When it falls thick and deep, the whole world's volume is turned down.

Right now, the clouds above me are swollen and grey. Big thick flakes are falling on black rocks and churning waves, out as far as the eye can see. The snow settles on the water, like white rose petals, floating, then fading and gone.

Somewhere in that endless blur is my house and my warm bed.

For the first time, right now, I realise I might die here. It's an exhilarating feeling. Making me want to laugh and shout out loud.

I've been living on Skona Isle for three months now. I moved from the city's hustle and bustle as soon as my divorce came through. I remember when I signed the cheque to buy the house, my life's burden lifting from my shoulders. The ex-wife and two kids had their piece of me. Now I could walk away, be myself, heal, and be whole. Sure, she'd have it hard, but that was what she wanted, wasn't it?

This was the life I always wanted. To be alone, to be beholden to no-one.

They say you meet yourself, your true self when you've spent long enough time alone. You can confront the darkness in your soul and face it down. Shout at the shadow and see it for what it is – self-doubt, guilt, shame and recrimination.

Yesterday, long after sunset, the sea was quiet and calm. I saw a torch light from my living room window. Regular flashes – three short, three long, three short – coming from a small scrap of rock out in the dark. Everyone knows what that means. I phoned the police, then packed up my little motorboat and drove out here.

When I arrived, I moored up on the old jetty and came ashore, with a high-powered lamp of my own, waving it around and shouting loudly, trying to find who'd been signalling for help.

No-one answered.

This island is supposed to be left to the birds. In the seventies the last inhabitants, a brother and sister, were evacuated in a storm. Their old cabin is about twenty minutes' walk across wet uneven stones. I didn't fancy it in the dark, so I hauled up my kit and pitched my tent a little way from the boat. Far enough to stay out of high-tide, but near enough to leave in a hurry if I had to.

I cooked, I tried to ring people, but got no answer. A text or two went out, so a few reliable friends would know where I'd gone.

I expected the coast guard to show up promptly, but they didn't, so I settled in, cooked some beans on the stove and went to bed in my clothes.

I didn't drop off for a long time. I was warm in the sleeping bag, but my head wouldn't settle.

When I first arrived on Skona, I got a visit from Malcolm, the local bobby, who gave me a rundown of the way they operate around here. This isn't what you're supposed to do, rushing out into the dark at night, following someone's torchlit Morse code. You're supposed to phone in anything disturbing, stay put and let the authorities deal with it. "Sometimes locals get a bit ahead of themselves," Malcolm said, sipping the tea I made him. "They start to think they're invincible, living out here on their own."

Maybe I was guilty of that last night?

This morning, when I woke up, I found the boat was gone, and the snow was starting to fall.

I'm walking along the icy rocks, picking a path towards the abandoned cabin. I've stripped the tent down and left it flat on the ground, covering my gear to keep everything dry. I need to move quickly, check the place and come back. Anyone left on this god forsaken place would make for the only available shelter.

I've done things. I've hurt the people I cared about. This is a chance to start fresh. Being here, being the hero, rescuing some poor sod, would be a new beginning. I could be a new person, a nice person. I could change.

As I walk, I'm gazing out at the water. The sea looks pretty rough,



but my house is less than half a mile away. At low tide, that'd be no more than a thirty minute swim, if I kept a good pace. Well, it would be in the pool. In the sea I don't—

There's a scream, faint and deadened by the snow, but unmistakable. Someone crying out in pain. It's coming from the cabin. There's smoke rising from the old iron chimney, there's someone there.

I'm running towards the place, my feet slipping on the stones. Any minute now I might break an ankle or worse, but I can't help myself. I'm cold and wet and I've come here to save someone.

"I'm coming!" I yell. "I'm here to help!"

I reach the path and the remains of a little garden. I skid and stumble on the ice, but keep my feet and charge through the broken gate, push open the door and...

There's an unshaven man standing there dressed in bloody rags. He's got a stained knife in his right hand. At his feet is a dying bird, a greylag, its throat slashed. The poor thing twitches, gasps and gurgles out its last.

The bird... was screaming.

The cabin is old and rotten. The blackened wood is covered in old feathers, bones and rotting corpses. There's birds, fish, and...  
...a human skull.

The man turned to me and smiles, revealing blackened teeth and gums. I recognise him.

He looks like me. He is... Me!

The man raises his left hand. He's holding a torch. He flicks the switch.

Regular flashes – three short, three long, three short.

They say you meet yourself...

I turn around and run.