

BRISTOL CON

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BRISTOLCON-2026



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BRISTOLCON 2026 – SATURDAY 24th and SUNDAY 25th OCTOBER

Hilton DoubleTree Hotel, Redcliffe Way, Bristol

PROGRESS REPORT ONE

Guests of Honor:

TRIP GALEY



CHERYL MORGAN



LEE CARTER



Greetings from BristolCon, hopefully this progress report finds you well. The first report of the year is a bit of a strange one really, the progress that's been made is pretty standard, and we send this out to all of the people on our mailing list to remind you that we are happening in October and we won't be stopped...

If you attended the 2025 closing ceremony then you will know that our Guests of Honour for 2026 are local Artist Lee Carter, Publisher and Author Cheryl Morgan, and Author Trip Galey, who we will be focussing on in this report ... don't worry though, Lee and Cheryl will feature in future reports!

The most important news from BristolCon is that memberships are now open. If you want to attend the only way to guarantee this is to buy a membership. Our prices do go up in June, so you only have a short time to grab our best available price.

Also within this report is a look back at 2025, we will be sharing some of the lovely reports and photos about last years event. These have all been found around the 'net and I've not paid anyone to be kind.

Sadly, there is some news I would rather not have to tell you. Our good friend, my friend from school, Mike Nutt, passed away the week after our 2025 event. He will be known to most of you as the guy who ran Panel Room two (downstairs) often chipping in from the sound desk and engaging with panellists after the panels and making friends in general. As a committee we have decided to rename Panel Room 2 for 2026 to Panda Room, as Mike had a very deep love of Pandas who were I suppose his Spirit animal.

I hate ending on a negative, so I couldn't be happier to tell you all that our Volunteer organiser Grace has been "promoted" to be our Operations Manager. Ops is a vital role for a Convention as it allows the Chair to delegate to someone far more adept and able to fight all the fires a convention can bring ... on that note, can I ask whoever it is starting those fires to stop, I'm told the hotel don't like it!

I hope to see you all at the 2026 Convention, if you have any input, questions, or fancy putting on an event within our event you can email me chair@bristolcon.org Much love and Pandas to you all

Bav - BristolCon Chair

LET'S WELCOME GUEST OF HONOUR TRIP GALEY!

Hello BristolCon!

As we finally get some beautiful spring weather, I find myself thinking a lot of autumn—and the coming con!

I did one of my degrees in Bristol, and I'm beyond excited to have the privilege of returning as a GoH at BristolCon!

I can't wait to see y'all and natter on about various topics (there WILL be queerness!). And I may even have some shiny new books along with me (which I will entrust to the Bona Books table).

Let's get a cider and have a chat! See you in a few months!

~Trip



Membership rates

Current rates are: £65 for full weekend (£45 for Saturday only, £30 for Sunday only); there are reduced rates for disabled or concession (low waged or young adult under 18); children under 4 – free. These will go up on **1st June**.

Link for registration: <https://signup.bristolcon.org/>

Art Show

BristolCon has always had a vibrant art show. If you are interested in exhibiting in the art show, please contact artshow@bristolcon.org.

Dealers' Room

If you want a table in the dealers' room, please contact dealers@bristolcon.org

Please note in a change from previous years dealers can book for Saturday only, Sunday only, or for both days.

Special offer!

Want to sell books at BristolCon but don't want to run a dealer's table? Sperrystone Press will carry **one or two** books per author – if no sales are made, there will be no cost. If a sale is made, we will require a contribution to cover the SumUp percentage and toward the table cost. Please supply a small notice advising the genre and tropes in the book, and the price. Any unsold books must be taken away by you at the end of the convention.

Interested? Please email Judith at jmortimore42@googlemail.com. You MUST advise us prior to the convention if you want to take up this offer, so that we can assess the space requirement.

Programme:

As in previous years, if you have a great idea for a panel or workshop, we'd love to know what you'd like to see (or take part in!). Send your suggestions to programme@bristolcon.org by 10th June.

<p>The venue and access</p> <p>As per previous years, the convention will take place at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Redcliffe Way. The hotel is fully accessible with ramps and elevators between the car park and the ground and first floors.</p>	<p>BRISTOLCON COMMITTEE</p> <p>Chair Bav</p>
<p>Hotel accommodation</p> <p>Details of a discounted hotel rate to follow – however, if you can get a good rate now, go for it, as it may well be better than what the hotel will offer.</p>	<p>Vice Chair Vacant</p>
<p>Traveling to BristolCon</p> <p>The hotel is a short walk from Bristol Temple Meads Station. If you are travelling by car, please note the hotel is within the Clean Air Zone. You can check whether you will need to pay at : https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/bristols-caz/charges-and-vehicle-checker</p>	<p>Secretary Rosie Oliver</p> <p>Treasurer Dan Pawley</p>
<p>Parking</p> <p>We will update on this nearer the date of the convention.</p>	<p>Membership, IT and Web Development Christopher Rumble</p>
<p>Volunteering</p> <p>Volunteers are the lifeblood of any fan-run convention, and ours is no exception! Without our amazing volunteers, we simply wouldn't be able to put on the event. We are working to build our crew, both before and during the con. Whether helping with registration and badge pickup, assisting with the running of the programme panels and workshops or with set-up and tear-down, our volunteers are involved in every aspect of the convention. It's their hard work and dedication that makes it all possible. If you are unsure of what area you would like to volunteer in, tick the box in your membership application and we will help you find something that you enjoy, or email volunteers@bristolcon.org. We appreciate every bit of help we can get. Whether you are a long-time attendee, or this is your first BristolCon, we would love to have you join our volunteer crew.</p>	<p>Artshow Manager Andy Bigwood</p> <p>Dealer Liaison Katie Williams</p> <p>Operations and Crew Co-ordinator Grace Picknett-Powell</p> <p>Programme Manager Dan Pawley</p>
<p>Health Advisory</p> <p>There is no mask requirement. People are welcome to bring their own and use a breathing mask if they want to, but BristolCon will not enforce its use. Should the situation change nearer to the convention date, we will update this advice.</p>	<p>Web content Judith Mortimore</p> <p>Audio/Video Tech Si Leverton</p>
<p>Code of Conduct</p> <p>The BristolCon Code of Conduct can be found on the website at: https://bristolcon.org/who-we-are/code-of-conduct</p> <p>A few paper copies will also be available at registration.</p>	

HOW WAS BRISTOLCON 2025?

A selection of reports and pictures from around the Internet.

GUEST OF HONOUR BEN JEAPES SAYS:

BristolCon always succeeds in putting on a good con. This year it had at least two unprecedented triumphs. Firstly, extending the programme to two days, without in the least appearing stretched or thinned out. The quality was uniformly good throughout, making you realise how many good ideas they must have had to turn down in the Days of One Day. Secondly, my wife enjoyed it. This was only her second con, the first being Loncon in 2014, so she is averaging once per decade of our marriage.



And it must be said that they do look after their Guests of Honour extremely well. I like to think I'm no snowflake prima donna, but even if I was, it would never have shown. There would have been no need to. The presentation bottles of beer went down pretty quickly once we were home but my Speedbird – in His Majesty's Starship colours – will be proudly displayed on

the bookshelf for years to come.

And apart from that, all the usual boxes ticked. Plenty of interesting people to talk to and panels to go to. A couple of professional contacts made. Books both bought and sold in the dealers' room (which is not just books; my wife bought a nice warm hat). Five stars, highly likely to recommend to friends. Finally, not so much a recommendation for the con as for its location – the historic and picturesque church of St Mary Redcliffe, which is bang next door, does a lovely choral mattins.

JULIET McKENNA (from her website):

BristolCon was fun as always, both taking part in my panels and sitting in the audience for others. It was also a pleasure to spend time with established friends and to make/improve other acquaintance with like-minded folk. Being surrounded by people with shared interests and enthusiasms is one of the best things about SFF conventions. The reading I offered from *The Green Man's* holiday was well received.



NICOLA ALTER from 'Thoughts on Fantasy'

BristolCon is a small SF convention with a cosy, welcoming vibe. Everything happens in the one hotel, where most attendees and participants also stay. This has many upsides, though you do sometimes realise you haven't left the hotel in two days, and need to emerge for some fresh air and sunlight before you go full vampire.

I've been going to BristolCon for about six years now, but this year was the first I participated as a panellist. I was on two panels. The moderators got in touch beforehand with details about the questions they might ask, so I was able to prepare. (con'td)



My first panel was 'Languages in Speculative Fiction' together with Piotr Swietlik, Helen Claire Gould, and Nathan Taylor-Gay, moderated by T.O. Munro. The discussion ranged from invented fantasy languages, to different languages in general, to the use of language and linguistics in driving plots in fantasy and SF.



The second panel was 'What's in a name – a ro'se by any other name would smell as sweet'. The other panellists were Adrian Tchaikovsky, Penelope Hill and Pioetr Sweitlik, and the moderator was Kevlin Henney. I found it really interesting to hear how the other panellists go about choosing names for their fictional characters and places, and what their opinions were of the naming styles in everything from Star Wars to Lord of the Rings.

I also attended a lot of other programme items, including an interview with guest of honour J.E. Hannaford, who was being interviewed by previous guest of honour Anna Smith Spark. It transpired that she is possibly the first ever self-published guest of honour at a UK SFF convention, so that was a nice milestone to be present for. Bristolcon is generally great for celebrating self-published and indie authors.

T.O. MUNRO in 'The Fantasy Hive'

As with last year, BristolCon's program of 42 events (panels, workshops, interviews and ceremonies) did mean it was impossible for any one individual to do more than sample a fraction of what was on offer. My own selection included Jenny Hannaford's guest of honour interview, 'Science Fiction as Activism', 'Languages in Speculative Fiction', 'Team Jacob and Team Nosferatu', 'A Decade of SPFBO', 'What Potions Can't Heal', 'Lost Cities and Legends', and 'What's in a name'.



The irrepressible Bav, in his first full years as official Chair, compared an entertaining and well-attended closing ceremony, with presentations, raffle prizes, and an award for the best karaoke performance. Jenny Hannaford collected the latter, having – as a Guest of Honour – been compelled to perform her set in a dinosaur costume. The event closed with the announcement of next year's Guests of Honour including well-deserved local recognition for Cheryl Morgan, CEO of Wizard Tower Books and stalwart of many a convention in the UK and abroad.

With that all that was left was the tidying up – a not substantial task given how much technical and physical apparatus goes into hosting a convention. The scale of the undertaking became most visible when some of us came along to help load up the vans and cars taking all the equipment into storage, with Si – leader of the tech-team – doing an impressive Tetris job in loading the van so snugly a mouse would have struggled to make a home.