

BRISTOLCON

BRISTOLCON 2025 – SATURDAY 25th and SUNDAY 26th OCTOBER
Hilton DoubleTree Hotel, Redcliffe Way, Bristol
PROGRESS REPORT ONE

Guests of Honour:



JOHN HIGGINS



BEN JEAPES



JE HANNAFORD

Greetings from BristolCon!

We have decided to send out progress reports. This is something most UK conventions do, and it enables us to keep you up-to-date with the latest news about the convention. The intention is to send a second Progress Report in July, and a final one just before the convention in September.

After the success of last year's two-day convention, 2025 will again be a two day event at the Hilton DoubleTree Hotel. Please see 'hotel prices' for more information and please pay particular attention to 'hotel parking'!

We are pleased to announce that our guests this year are John Higgins, Ben Jeapes and JE Hannaford. This newsletter features Ben Jeapes.

We have some committee news, with some hellos, and some goodbyes.

MEG has decided to step down from the committee after 15 amazing years, starting off as Vice Chair and programming. In 2018, she took over the role of Chair from Joey. She took the already successful convention and developed it into the event it is today. We are very sorry to see her go and wish her all the best for the future. As MEG's Vice Chair for the last six years, Bav stepped into the role of Acting Chair and was elected as our new Chair at the last committee meeting.

As well as MEG, our Ops person, Nik, has stepped down from the committee but will continue to be part of our events team.

We wish them both all the best with their newfound free time for hobbies and reducing those never-ending TBR piles.

We are very happy to welcome some new committee members. Nigel Furlong is our new Operations Manager, Judith Mortimore has become our Communications and Social Media person, and Grace Picknett-Powell will be taking on the role of looking after our volunteer crew.

FEATURING: GUEST OF HONOUR BEN JEAPES

We invited Ben to say a few words about BristolCon!

"BristolCon has been my favourite con for many years now. Mostly related to books and writing; not too long; not overwhelming; and accessible. Being asked to be a Guest of Honour was – well, an honour. And yet ...

"I used to run a small press. I gave an interview outlining my grand plans for the future – and within a month I was in voluntary liquidation.

"I was a Guest of Honour at EasterCon in 2005, marking the publication of my novel *The New World Order*, which I personally thought was my best novel yet – and I didn't have anything else published for another eight years.

"So, I am interested and just a little nervous to see what BristolCon will do for my career.

"I have been a full-time ghostwriter since 2015, a career path I could never have foreseen and yet which followed quite naturally out of all the other writing I had done. And it's a career path which I have now followed longer than I ever held down any other job. So, that will (probably) be the focus of my GoH talk: not just my writing career, but how a writing career can be leveraged."



Bibliography:

- His Majesty's Starship
- The Xenocide Mission
- Time's Chariot
- The New World Order
- Phoenicia's Worlds
- The Teen, The Witch and The Thief
- The Comeback of the King
- H.M.S. Barabbas
- Jeapes Japes (story collection)
- Ada Lovelace
- Ghostwriting novels: a guide for ghostwriters and the ghostwritten

<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. Look out for possible changes of location for the dealers, the art show and one of the programme rooms. More news to follow!</p>	<p>BRISTOLCON COMMITTEE</p> <p>Chair Bav</p> <p>Vice Chair Vacant</p> <p>Secretary Rosie Oliver</p> <p>Treasurers Dan Pawley Christopher Rumble</p> <p>Art Director Andy Bigwood</p> <p>Dealer Room Colette Reap</p> <p>Fringe Vacant</p> <p>Membership Christopher Rumble</p> <p>Operations Nigel Furlong</p> <p>Programme Dan Pawley</p> <p>Communications/ Social Media Judith Mortimore</p> <p>Volunteers Grace Picknett-Powell</p>
<p>Hotel accommodation</p> <p>You can book your hotel room through our 'block' link at a price of £131.00 per night for a twin or double. Use the below link: https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/brsrwdi-99i-95fe830a-6e08-4359-a2a5-32ca3a5f76ef/</p> <p>However we recommend you shop around - you may well get a better rate from a discount booking site, or if you are an Hilton Honors member.</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>Parking charges – important, please read!</p> <p>The hotel waives parking fees for convention attendees who are not staying overnight at the hotel. However any attendees (including dealers and artists) who are coming by car but NOT staying at the hotel MUST register their car at the hotel reception on each arrival in the car park. Failure to do so will result in the parking company charging you £100 per infraction.</p> <p>Any attendees (including dealers and artists) staying at the hotel must enter their car registration at check in. The overnight parking fee will be added to your bill at checkout.</p> <p>BristolCon cannot be held accountable for any Parking Charge Notices incurred by attendees.</p>	
<p>Membership rates</p> <p>Current rates are: £60 for full weekend (£40 for Saturday only, £25 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/</p>	
<p>Programme</p> <p>BristolCon would not be BristolCon without your ideas for panels and workshops. They can be fun, serious, entertaining, erudite, writing-related, science fiction, fantasy, or combined SFF. We will compile a list of potential panel and workshop items to send out for the membership to vote on.</p>	

<p>This is your chance to contribute to it to help shape BristolCon 2025. Please send your ideas for panels and workshops to programme@bristolcon.org or leave a comment on our social media channels by 1st June at the latest.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>Dealers' Room The dealers' room is filling up fast! If you want one of the few remaining tables, please contact dealers@bristolcon.org</p>	
<p>Self-published authors: Do you have a self-published book you would like to sell at BristolCon? Would you rather be sitting in panels, talks, the bar, or workshops? Can you bring your books and take any unsold copies away? Peachfield Press are offering to help! They can babysit/sell your books on their table, and pay you what you are owed on the day less the 1.69% transaction fee charged by SumUp.</p> <p>They can do this for £5 per title to be sold (quantity unlimited). If interested, please contact peachfieldpress@gmail.com</p> <p>BristolCon is not an agent of or paid by Peachwood Press and receives no commission from sales.</p>	
<p>Volunteering 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. We are looking for volunteers for a variety of activities. Whether helping with registration and badge pickup, assisting with the running of the programme panels and workshops, assisting 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. 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>Health Advisory 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>Code of Conduct 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>	