

BRISTOLCON

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

Guests of Honor:



JOHN HIGGINS



BEN JEAPES



JE HANNAFORD

Greetings from your BristolCon Chair:

Hello everyone, welcome to (as I call it) ProRo3!

So, here we are, the final report before the main event. And what an event it is shaping up to be! I've seen the programme draft, and it looks great. This report is enjoyed best with a hot beverage of your choice, which in my case is soup (tomato). You'll probably want to get a mug or something ...

There are some real gems in our programme: we have a great SPFBO panel, a quiz panel, some interesting talks, and as always, some great panels voted for and suggested by you folks.

Friday, we kick things off around 9pm with a welcome return of the Open Mic night. We haven't had any Fringe events this year, so this is the top spot for reading anything you've written, published or just sat on your choice of electronic writing device ... or even paper!

One thing to highlight is that unlike previous years we are not having a book launch in our Saturday "lunchtime" slot, instead myself and Joanne Hall will be leading an event to remember David Gullen. Please come along, share a memory, or just sit and listen. Join us in P1 at 14:00 on Saturday, if you'd like to discuss anything beforehand email me, chair@bristolcon.org

Saturday night is Karaoke night; we will be belting out the tunes until late into the night (when curfew kicks in) You'd be a mug to miss it! Singing is not mandatory, you can sit silent and judge.

As you may know, between conventions we lost our dear friend Pat Hawkes-Reed with Julia's blessing, we are naming the Sophie Lancaster Project as our 2025 charity, our main source of fund raising will be a raffle featuring prizes from our store of historic BristolCon gifts, some great book titles, and anything you might feel like donating, we will also be accepting cash donations and have details of how to donate directly. Tickets will be £1 each or £4 for 5 (cash preferred). The raffle will be drawn at the closing ceremony.

... Continued on page 2!

Greetings from your BristolCon Chair (continued):

I'm excited to tell you about something new we are bringing into our convention. Each year, like-minded conventions use secretive methods to select their Guest of Honour. From 2027, BristolCon will be adding an element of audience participation, and asking you, our dedicated members "who might be worthy of wearing the VIP Lanyard". This process starts this year. There will be a GOH Suggestion box where you can suggest someone you think would be a great GOH. These suggestions will then be collated, and when we summon the Daedric Dragon of Science Fiction and the Ghost of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, they will select our GOH's for 2027!

And finally... We have mugs! You can only buy them at the convention, for a mere £10, they're epic and awesome, and for some reason you already have the idea of a mug on your mind.

I look forward to seeing you at the end of the month, it's been a roller-coaster of emotions, changes, and planning wins creating this event for you good people, and your enjoyment is what makes it worth it!

All the best, see you in a short while!

Bav

Membership rates

	Current	On the door
Standard/Artist	Saturday: £45 Sunday: £30 All weekend: £65	Saturday: £50 Sunday: £35 All weekend: £70
Concession/disabled	Saturday: £35 Sunday: £20 All weekend: £50	Saturday: £40 Sunday: £25 All weekend: £55

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

For sale at BristolCon!

Get your very own BristolCon mug

Just £10 each



FEATURING: GUEST OF HONOUR JE HANNAFORD

INTRODUCING JE HANNAFORD – by David Green

JE Hannaford: teacher, Dungeon Master (the D&D type, I am unaware of any actual dungeons belonging to Jenny), writer and so much more. And, believe me, the matters making up the 'so much more' are all wonderful things.

Jenny, as she is sometimes known, is one of the most supportive and talented people I've met. We met when I first started out on this whole writing lark, with Jenny being a welcoming voice in a Facebook group for writers from the UK and Ireland. She quickly put me – a complete newbie with no idea what he was doing (still don't) – at ease, and Jenny did the same when we met in real life at BristolCon 2021.

You've probably seen her. A lover of dragons, Jenny occasionally takes on the appearance of one. A friendly, wise dragon, often drinking whisky. An able moderator and panellist, full of lively tales and witty answers, Jenny truly shines as a writer. If you haven't picked up her *Black Hind's Wake* duology, ongoing *Aulirean Gates* saga or cosy fantasy *Unfamiliar*, do so. Jenny is a master world-builder, bringing her expertise and interest in biology, marine life and ecosystems to bear to create stories that last long after the reading is done. Becoming a Guest of Honour at any convention as a self-published author (kudos to BristolCon) is some doing, and Jenny is well-deserving of the accolade. Read her work, or spend just five minutes in her company, and you'll see why.

But feed her whisky. It makes her inner dragon happy, and we must always please the dragon.
<https://www.jehannaford.com/>

BIBLIOGRAPHY

'New Hope', an Aulirean Gates prequel, in 'Through Shadows' anthology – 2021

Black Hind's Wake #1 'The Skin' – 2021

Black Hind's Wake #2 'The Pact' – 2022

'The Wanderer' in the Skybreaker anthology – 2022

Aulirean Gates #1 'Gates of Hope' – 2023

Aulirean Gates #2 'Gates of Sorrow' – 2024

Unfamiliar – 2024



Programme

The programme is live on our website! You can find it at:
<https://www.bristolcon.org/convention/whats-on>

Art Show and Dealers' Room

As usual, we have a busy dealers' room and an excellent art show – please make sure you give yourself time to enjoy both!

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.

They can do this for £5 per title to be sold (quantity unlimited). If interested, please contact peachfieldpress@gmail.com

BristolCon is not an agent of or paid by Peachfield Press and receives no commission from sales.

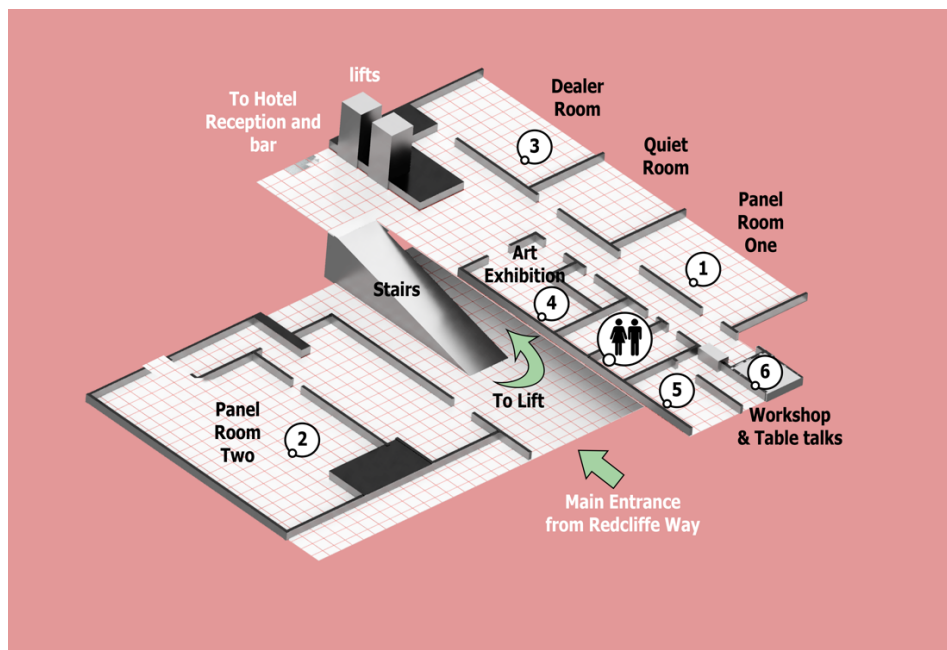
Volunteers

We would like to thank everyone who has volunteered to help at the convention! There is still time to offer to help. Please email: volunteers@BristolCon.org

The venue and access

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. If you have attended before, expect changes of location for the dealers, the art show and one of the programme rooms!

Map of venue



Traveling to BristolCon

The hotel is a short walk from Bristol Temple Meads Station. There is always a possibility of rail disruptions! Please check in advance – the best link for this is:

<https://www.gwr.com/travel-information/travel-updates/planned-engineering>

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>

Parking charges – important, please read! 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. 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. BristolCon cannot be held accountable for any Parking Charge Notices incurred by attendees.	BRISTOLCON COMMITTEE Chair Bav Vice Chair Vacant Secretary Rosie Oliver Treasurers Dan Pawley Christopher Rumble Art Director Andy Bigwood Dealer Room Colette Reap Fringe Vacant Membership Christopher Rumble Operations Nigel Furlong Programme Dan Pawley Tech Wizard Si Communications/ Social Media Judith Mortimore Volunteers Grace Picknett-Powell
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.	
Code of Conduct The BristolCon Code of Conduct can be found on the website at: https://bristolcon.org/who-we-are/code-of-conduct A few paper copies will also be available at registration.	
Staying connected There are lots of ways to stay connected with us and show your support! Follow us on our socials to see where we'll be and what we are up to as the convention continues to grow. You can find us at: Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/BristolCon Bluesky: @bristolcon.bsky.social Mastodon: @BristolCon@wanderingshop And don't forget to check out the news page on our website http://www.bristolcon.org/ to discover related events and other matters of interest in the area!	