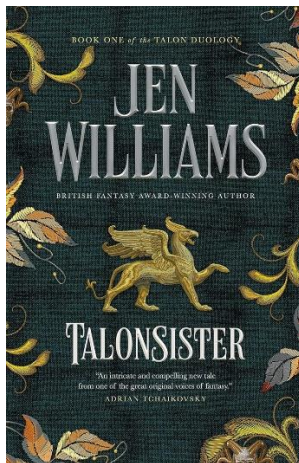


NOVA CON 52

PROGRESS REPORT 3

Guest of Honour Jen Williams



10 – 12th November 2023

Palace Hotel Buxton

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Cover Image: TALONSISTER by Jen Williams (Titan Books)

A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR



Welcome to PR3 – and time seems to speed up the nearer we get. The committee have been working hard and we hope you'll find plenty to enjoy at Novacon 52. We're looking forward to seeing and hearing people – especially from our great Guest of

Honour, **Jen Williams**.

The Programme is nearly finalised and will be full of serious and fun panels, of which there is more information below.

We will also have the usual Art and Dealers' Rooms, back again on the ground floor, (with plenty of natural light). Please pop along and see what is on offer. I'm always wowed with the talents on display.

There will also be the Real Ale Bar which this year will be in the Derby Room, unfortunately the Robert Rippon Bar which we used last year is closed for renovation. The Derby Room is just next to the Programme room.

Sunday night will feature the usual Beer Tasting and Banquet. The food (chosen by our Guest of Honour) this year will be Indian and the hotel will also offer a vegetarian option.

There will also be raffle tickets for charity available across the weekend, so please contribute to this good cause. The Novacon charity is the RNIB Talking Books. This wonderful group has been providing this valuable service for people with sight and other reading difficulties since 1935.

Please be advised that the hotel have told us that due to safety concerns Mobility Scooters are not permitted in the lift. Please make sure that the hotel is aware if you plan to bring a scooter.

Looking forward to seeing you in November. *Steve*

HOTEL & CONVENTION INFORMATION



Palace Hotel Buxton
Palace Road
Buxton
SK17 6AG

Firstly, time is marching on rapidly, so if you haven't booked your hotel room you don't have long left.

Hotel Booking System – Please note this has changed from previous years. To reserve accommodation, you need to book direct with the hotel's central booking office, the telephone number is:

0333 323 1574

Please use the Booking ref: NOVA101123

Rooms with Breakfast are: £100 per night for a Standard Double or Twin room (ie £50 per person with two people sharing).

Rooms with Breakfast: £65 for a Single room.

We have also got a reduced Room Only rate (new option this year) for anyone who can't be bothered to get up for breakfast; again, rates are per room per night.

Room Only: £92.50 per night for a Standard Double or Twin room (ie £46.25 per person with two people sharing)

Room Only: £57.50 for a Single Room

There are also a limited number of family rooms (2 adults and 2 children) and a few accessible rooms.

Please let the hotel know directly if you have any special requirements. The **Hotel number is 01298 767015**



In particular, although the hotel has a lift, as it is an old hotel some of the rooms still involve a few steps, so if this will cause you difficulties, please let them know and they'll do their best to accommodate you. Also as mentioned in the Chair's introduction above, due to safety concerns Mobility Scooters are not permitted in the lift. Please make sure that the hotel is aware if you plan to bring a scooter.

There is ramp access at the rear of the hotel for those with difficulty with steps. This is on the left-hand side of the hotel as you face it, near the Leisure Centre. If arriving by car, there are car parking spaces near to the entrance.



There will be the usual Sunday evening Banquet and Beer Tasting. The hot buffet meal is chosen by our Guest of Honour and you **MUST** buy a ticket for it by 12 noon on Sunday. If you just want to drink the beer, you can either bring 3 bottles/cans of interesting beer to registration to get

your beer badge or just buy one for £6. A selection of soft drinks will be available to everyone free of charge. **Important**, if anyone has any particular **dietary requirements**, they must tell us before the convention.

For those who didn't attend last year, the town centre is only a short walk away. There are plenty of cafes, restaurants and pubs to choose from. There are also banking facilities, pharmacies and supermarkets nearby (Waitrose, Aldi & Sainsburys Local). More information can be found at www.visitbuxton.co.uk.

CONGRATULATIONS

We were really pleased to hear that former Guest of Honour and long-time Novacon attendee **Chris Priest** and **Nina Allan** got married on 30th September at Eaglesham House, Rothesay. We're sure that many of you would like to join us in offering our congratulations.



Photo ©Garry Charnock

BERNIE EVANS RIP

We are sad to announce the death of Bernie Evans who will have been familiar to many long-term members of Novacon. She passed away peacefully in hospital on 27th September, after her COPD got the better of her.

Bernie Evans chaired two Novacons (1987 and 1990), was also involved with Eastercons and was generally active in fandom. She won the Doc Weir Award for "services to fandom."

She was also active in the Birmingham SF Group, being Chair in 1988, 1989 and 1994. She was also Publicity Officer

in 1985 and 1986 and was the 15th Anniversary Officer (1986). Apologies for the shortness - if anyone has anything they'd like to say about Bernie in more detail, please get in touch.

MEMBERSHIPS AND DAY MEMBERSHIPS

Due to Covid etc, we will not be selling memberships at the door. If you wish to attend, you need to purchase a membership in advance (see www.novacon.uk)

In advance of the convention, we will also be offering Day Rate Memberships. These will be:

Friday: £10, Saturday: £25, Sunday: £20

If you wish to purchase these, they can be found on the Memberships Tab (www.novacon.uk/memberships). Once you have completed your details you will be taken through to pay for your memberships via PayPal. Alternatively, you can print and complete a Word form, which should be posted with an accompanying cheque (made payable to Novacon) for the appropriate fee to the address on the form. Please remember if doing the latter to allow a reasonable time for post and processing times. Thanks.

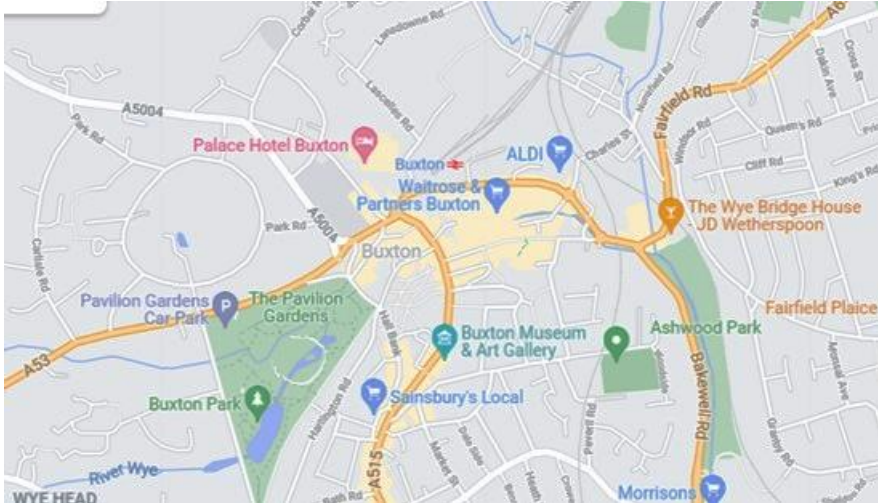
HOW TO GET THERE

The Palace Hotel Buxton is in the centre of Buxton, just off the A53. For those travelling by car, the hotel address is Palace Road, Buxton, SK17 9AG.

From Birmingham it is about a 2-hour drive by car, about 1 hour 15 minutes from central Manchester, and around 1 hour from Sheffield, Stoke or Derby.

If you are travelling by car the hotel has an on-site car park, which is normally chargeable but we have negotiated free parking. There are 180 parking spaces and 10 disabled.

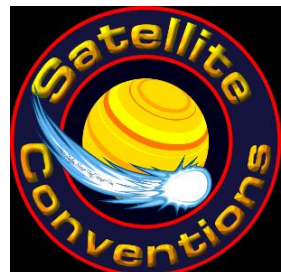
If you are travelling by public transport, the hotel was the original railway hotel, so it is a short 3-minute walk from Buxton Train Station to the hotel.



From Birmingham, rail travel usually involves two changes, Cross Country line to Stockport then Northern Line to Buxton. Alternatively, you can change at Macclesfield, then catch the 58 bus to Buxton. There are bus stops located on the A53. There is a direct trainline (Northern Line) from Manchester to Buxton. From Sheffield, it appears that a bus service may be the quickest public transport option but please check for your individual circumstances, as the best options/route will vary depending on time of day and delays between connections.

SATURDAY NIGHT IS SATELLITE!

Satellite Conventions will be returning to run one of their (in)famous pub-style quizzes on Saturday evening, featuring the usual mixture of Science Fiction, Science Fact and Science Fun. Form a team in advance, or just come along and we'll sort you into teams on the night.



As a biennial convention, Satellite Convention will not be running in 2024 but will hopefully return in 2025. For more info, check <https://satellitex.org.uk/>

PROGRAMME BIT

As I write it's only a few weeks until Novacon 52, and the programme is coming together well. It's traditional, here in Progress Report Three, for us to give you a foretaste of the heavenly banquet which is the Novacon Programme, by describing how Friday evening is going to play out with a few teasers for the remainder of the weekend.

FRIDAY

Opening ceremony – 7pm

In which the committee hold forth and introduce the GoH

Desert Island Books – 7:30 pm

Our Guest of Honour, Jen Williams introduces us to six of her favourite books that she would take with her to a desert island and tells us why.



Book Launch of Jen Williams' book TALONSISTER – 9pm

Following on from Desert Island books - Come and hear a short reading, ask some questions, hear some answers, buy some books and enjoy our modest supply of wine and nibbles.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

There will be the customary science talks, discussion panels and of course a Guest of Honour interview with **Jen Williams**.

After last year's resounding success, the Saturday night quiz is again being kindly hosted by the experienced and

popular team from **Satellite Convention** (see above). Saturday evening will also have the now traditional poetry reading session which is open to all. All those members who would like to participate are encouraged to bring poems, written by themselves, preferably paper copies rather than depending on memory or iphones. All poets will be very welcome.

Following on from last year, the Art Auction will again have an option for instant sales, and a Silent Auction. There won't be a physical in-programme auction. Instead we are very pleased that **Claire Gamble** will be talking about their artwork and their commitment to using upcycled/salvaged materials where possible.

Book Auction

If there is sufficient interest there will be a Book Auction, so why not have pre-Christmas clear-out and bring your unwanted SFF books along to Novacon.

NOVACON ART SHOW

The Novacon Art Show will be returning and once again we are in the lovely light-filled room on the Ground Floor, not hidden away in the basement.

As a reminder, we now have direct access from the car park to the room which will make things much easier. As last year, the Art Show will be located in the Chatsworth Room which is beside the Dealers' room.



We will be offering our usual mixture of originals, limited editions and prints and other interesting items. As we did last year, we will not be holding an auction in the Main Programme. Instead, there will be an option for instant sales and a Silent Auction for artists who prefer an auction.

We hope that this will allow attendees who are not around all weekend the opportunity to purchase a piece and take it away. In addition, this frees up programme space on Sunday afternoon and gives more time for the art show to be open.

ART SHOW

If you want to show your art it is free to convention members, but you will need to reserve space. So, contact us to discuss what you need and so that we can do a little planning. If you have any questions related to the art show, please contact Serena or Tony.

OUR 2023 COVID POLICY



As usual, at the time of writing, we do not know what the situation will be regarding Covid. However, the committee has decided that to keep everyone safe, (especially those who are vulnerable or who live with someone who is) we will continue with safeguards in place.

We are putting in place the following guidelines. There are limits on what we can do. The hotel will have its way of operating and we will do everything reasonably practicable in the function spaces we control.

Please take these steps in the spirit they were intended and cooperate with us. Thanks.

What we are doing with the hotel:

- The Committee is working with the hotel to ensure good spacing in the programme room to allow for some social distancing.
- There will be a separate entrance and exit in dealers and art show.
- All programme rooms apart from main programme have windows that can be opened for air flow.
- Main programme room has high ceilings and fire escape doors that we can open for air flow.

What we need from you:

- We ask that all members are **fully vaccinated** where possible.
- We require all members to **take a lateral flow** test prior to attending convention.
- **We request people to wear masks while moving around the hotel** unless sitting in bar areas. There will be a number of masks on the desk if you forget to bring one.
- **Please note that face visors are not accepted as a substitute for masks because they offer insufficient protection against virus transmission.**
- **Masks will be mandatory in the main programme** unless you are on the panel.
- Moderators will remind people to mask during programme items
- Please wear masks in the lift

- Please do not host or attend room parties.
- If you develop symptoms during the convention please self-isolate as far as possible and stay away from public convention areas for the sake of other members and hotel staff and guests.
- **PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE ANY SYMPTOMS OF COVID OR ANY OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.**
- **Please note:** that the hotel bar is open to the public.

We are looking forward to seeing you all in November.
The Novacon committee.

CONVENTION TABLES

These are free to anyone who is running a convention.
 Contact Tony for reservations.



MEMBERSHIP LIST OCTOBER 2023

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Jen Williams | 7 Helena McCallum |
| 2 Gareth Powell | 8 Alex Storer |
| 3 J Dianne Dotson | 9 Tony Berry |
| 4 Steve Lawson | 10 Serena Culfeather |
| 5 Claire Cartwright | 11 John Wilson |
| 6 Carol Goodwin | 12 Alice Lawson |

13 Noel Collyer
14 Martin Smart
15 Tim Kirk
16 Flick
17 Michael Davidson
18 Christine Davidson
19 Alan Woodford
20 Anne Woodford
21 Peter Wareham
22 Gwen Funnell
23 Omega
24 Harry Payne
25 Hal Payne
26 Jodie Payne
27 Chris Bell
28 ½r
29 Tim Stannard
30 Charlotte Bulmer
31 Pat Brown
32 Vernon Brown
33 William Goodall
34 Steve Dunn
35 Giulia DeCesare
36 Steve Davies
37 Julie McMurray
38 Pat McMurray
39 Paul Dormer
41 Morag O'Neill
42 Pauline Morgan
43 Chris Morgan
44 Hazel Ashworth West
45 Sue Jones
46 Melica Smith
47 Marcus Rowland
48 Ian Sorensen
49 Yvonne Rowse
50 Sally Rowse
51 Barbara Jane
52 Roger Robinson
53 Harpal Singh
54 Caroline Mullan

55 Brian Ameringen
56 Emjay Ameringen
57 Nick Mills
58 Bridget Wilkinson
59 Chris Stocks
60 Laura Wheatly
61 Niall Gordon
62 Nicholas Jackson
63 Tobes Valois
64 DC
65 Fran Dowd
66 John Dowd
67 Mike Scott
68 Simon Beresford
69 Alison Scott
70 Steven Cain
71 Jamie Scott
72 Jackie Burns
73 Peter Buck
74 Alison Buck
75 Claire Brialey
76 Mark Plummer
77 Adrian Snowdon
78 Pete Randall
79 Ian Maughan
80 Judith Mortimore
81 Penny Hill
82 David Cochrane
83 Claire Wardell
84 David Langford
85 John Bray
86 Peter Hicks
87 Dave Hicks
88 Cat Coast
89 Roger Perkins
90 TJ
91 Henrick Pålsson
92 Vanessa May
93 Simon Dearn
94 CL Gamble
95 David Hodson

96 Susan Peak
97 Tommy Ferguson
98 Jean Thompson
99 Phil Nanson
100 Kari
101 Peter Wilkinson
102 Kate Solomon
103 Malcolm Davies
104 Esther MacCallum-Stewart
105 Angela Rosin
106 Tony Keen
107 Peter Ellis
108 Christina Lake
109 Doug Bell
110 Stephen Oram
111 Katherine Franklin
112 Jilly Paddock
113 Dave Brzeski
114 Dave Lally
115 Luke Smith
116 Jacqueline Duckworth
117 Tim Duckworth
118 Catherine Sharp
119 Magdalen Standage-Bowles
122 Julia McLaughlin Cook
123 David Cartwright
124 Helen Gould
125 Teika Marija Smits Bellamy
126 Neil Tomkinson
127 Alison Tomkinson
128 Sue Edwards
129 Jonathan Earl
130 Stephen Burridge
131 Rogelio Fojo
132 Sofia Fojo
135 Robert Sneddon
136 Dominika Klimczak
137 Ian Stewart
138 David Cooper
139 Jane Cooper
140 Steve Holloway
141 Richard Stephenson
142 Judy Perrin
143 Margaret Walty
144 Roy Harling
145 Peter Crump
146 Douglas Spencer
147 Lesley Scott
148 Naveed Khan
149 Nigel Rowe
153 Elaine Coates
154 Mark Slater
155 James Shields
156 Fionna O'Sullivan
157 Julia Daly
158 Helena Bowles
159 Richard Standage
162 Richard J Doyle
163 Steve Lockley
164 Mark Meenan
165 Bridget Chee
166 Paul Lewis