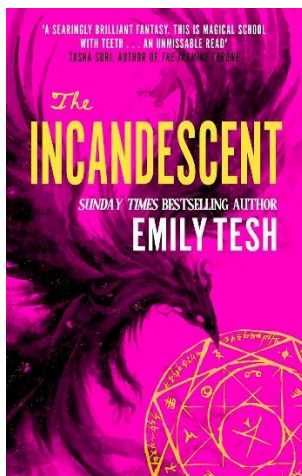
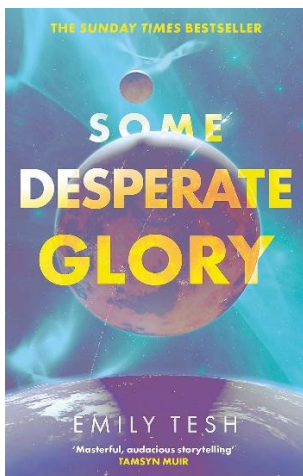




## PROGRESS REPORT 2



**Guest of Honour**

**Emily Tesh**

**7th – 9th November 2025**

**Palace Hotel Buxton**

## **COMMITTEE**

**Chair:** Claire Cartwright  
*Novacon54@outlook.com*

**Hotel Liaison:** Alice Lawson  
*Hotel\_liaison@novacon.uk*

**Memberships & Hotel Booking:** Steve Lawson  
*membership@novacon.uk*

**Treasurer:** Steve Lawson  
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**Publications:** Carol Goodwin  
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**Programme:** Esther MacCallum-Stewart  
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**Social Media:** Helena McCallum  
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**Secretary:** Maggie Standage-Bowles  
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**Art Show:** Serena Culfeather & John Wilson  
*artshow@novacon.uk*

**Website:** David Stokes  
*website@novacon.uk*

## **STAFF**

**Dealer Bookings:** Tony Berry  
*dealer\_booking@novacon.uk*

## A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR



Hi everyone. We're well into summer holiday season, so I hope you are all feeling refreshed and ready to come to another Novacon in just over 11-weeks' time. Esther, our Head of programme is hard at work to bring you an exciting programme. More on that in PR3, but we are really looking forward to it, and we're sure there will be something for everyone. Our guest Emily Tesh is looking forward to the convention and is working on an exciting short fiction for our Special. Those of

you who missed Novacon last year may not have seen the refurbishments at the Palace Hotel, but the ground floor is looking fantastic, and this year they have also refurbished the Lift! Due to the size, it is still not suitable for large scooters, but it is at least in reliable working order now (as I'm sure you'll be glad to hear!). If you haven't booked your hotel rooms yet, it's a good time to do so. Details are further on. If you would like to be a part of our art show, we would be glad to have you. Please contact John and Serena at [artshow@artistsink.uk](mailto:artshow@artistsink.uk) for more details. The committee would also like to personally congratulate John and Serena, who have been selected as Fan Guests of Honour at Iridescence (Eastercon 2026). I'm sure you'll all agree that this honour is extremely well deserved, as they work tirelessly on our art shows every year. Looking forward to seeing you all in a couple of months.

*Claire.*

*Image – Luigi Colani Office Chair 1970*

# HOTEL & CONVENTION INFORMATION



Palace Hotel Buxton  
Palace Road  
Buxton  
SK17 6AG

As before, all the convention rooms including Programme, Off-piste, Art show and Dealers are all on the ground floor. The bars and toilets are also on the ground floor and there is plenty of seating. There is ramp access at the rear of the hotel for those with difficulty with steps. Please note if you have specific requirements, don't hesitate to contact the hotel directly at 0871 221 0253.



For those of you have been to the Palace before you will be pleased to know the lift has been refurbished. It is not any faster but now remembers where it is going without having to press numerous times. Sadly they still will not allow scooters in the lift.

### Convention room rates.:

- Rooms with Breakfast are: £116 per night for a Standard Double or Twin room (i.e. £58 per person with two people sharing).
- Single rooms are £73pppn.

To reserve a room call **Central booking 0333 323 1574** and use the code **NOVA071125** to get our rates. This number is available 8am - 8:30pm, Monday - Friday, 9am - 5:30pm Saturday.

Anyone with mobility requirements should call the hotel on **01298 767000 and use the option 4**. This number is not available evenings and weekends.

If you have a problem getting through please email Sarah Shilcock with your contact details and she will call you back [sarah.shilcock@theelitevenueselection.co.uk](mailto:sarah.shilcock@theelitevenueselection.co.uk)

More information on Buxton can be found at [www.visitbuxton.co.uk](http://www.visitbuxton.co.uk).

### DEALERS' TABLES

Dealers' tables (6 ft) are available at £20. Dealers normally have to be a member of the convention. Also, we are open to discussion if you wish to only come for one day. Contact Tony at the email address on Page 2

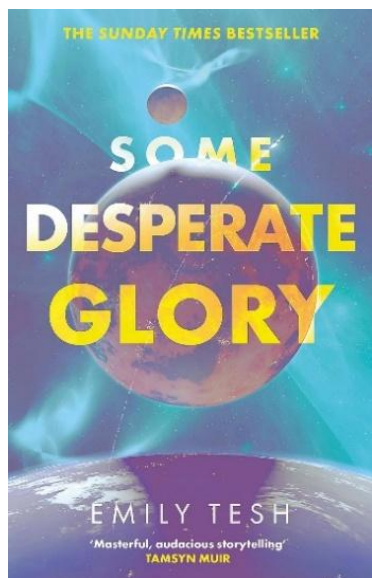
### ART SHOW

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.

### CONVENTION TABLES

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

## **SOME DESPERATE GLORY by Emily Tesh – Reviewed by Claire Cartwright**



What can I say about **SOME DESPERATE GLORY** without giving away any spoilers? This book is space opera at its finest. It richly deserved the Hugo award it won. We start by following Kyr, our main character, as she attempts a test simulation. The simulation places the cadets in a mission that would have seen them save the Earth. Outside of the test, the Earth was not saved, it was destroyed. Kyr is one of a dwindling number of humans living on Gaia station, in a militaristic society which demands that all do their part. For some, their part is combat, to defend

them from hostile alien races and take their revenge for what was done to Earth. For others, it is to produce the next generation of humans on Gaia station. The cadets are assigned their task. They do not get to choose. When Kyr's brother, the poster child of military perfection, vanishes unexpectedly, Kyr has to face up to some truths about the society she promotes and defends. A chance encounter with an alien, then a friend of her brother's she never knew about, starts to change her opinion on the military that has moulded her. We follow Kyr as she chases after her brother and finds out that the universe is much bigger and more complicated than Gaia has taught her. This is such a beautifully written story that explores some very dark themes while showing us that found family can save you from anything. Even yourself. Especially yourself.

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

A Convention is a private event and, as such, the Committee has always had the right and the ability to remove any attendee for antisocial behaviour. Over recent years, it has become standard

practice for such events to publish a Code of Conduct providing guidelines as to what that antisocial behaviour may include.

The Code of Conduct is a living document. It evolves, intending always to reflect current best practice. The version in use at each Novacon is fixed in advance of the convention, and the version for Novacon 54 will be available on the website ([www.novacon.uk/n54/](http://www.novacon.uk/n54/)) and will be printed in the convention Programme book. It should be noted that the Code of Conduct governs not only behaviour at Novacon, but also in certain spaces elsewhere, including but not limited to activity online, such as in messages or replies to Novacon accounts on social media, and posts in Novacon pages and groups.

The Novacon Code of Conduct team receives complete information from preceding Novacon Code of Conduct teams, and passes complete information to future Novacon Code of Conduct teams. It also maintains an awareness of activity which has been of concern to other conventions. For most people, the simple principle of, “Behave like a decent human being,” is enough of a guideline. However, if in any doubt, please consult the Novacon website or contact the team at [CodeOfConduct@novacon.uk](mailto:CodeOfConduct@novacon.uk)

## **BRIAN ALDISS OBE– 100 YEARS**

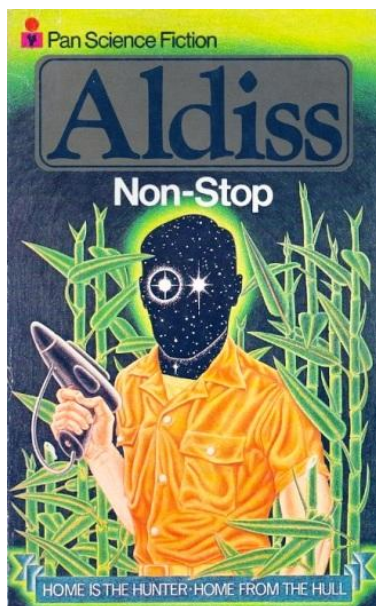
August 2025 would have been the centenary of Brian Aldiss’ birth. Brian Aldiss OBE was a hugely respected and influential writer especially in the field of science fiction. He was a frequent attendee of early Novacons and was the Guest of Honour at Novacon 10 and 25. He was also, along





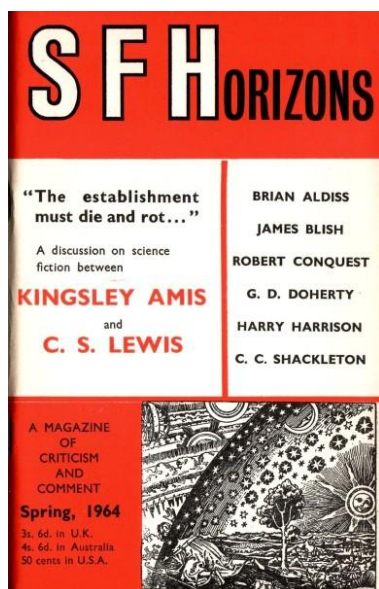
with Harry Harrison, Honorary President of the Birmingham Science Fiction Group. There will be a panel at this year's Novacon discussing his work and what he might have made of current technological changes.

For fans of science fiction who may be unaware of some of his activities, the following is a very brief summary. Although primarily known for his science fiction (novels, short stories and numerous anthologies) he also wrote poetry, plays, autobiographies and non-fiction. His first science fiction novel *NON-STOP* was published in 1958 (and is still available as a SF Masterwork). He was part of the "New Wave" which included writers such as J G Ballard, Michael Moorcock and Harry Harrison. Several of his books have been



adapted as films including *FRANKENSTEIN UNBOUND*, *BROTHERS OF THE HEAD* and the short story "Supertoys Last All Summer Long" (loosely adapted as the film *A.I: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE*).

As well as actively writing science fiction he also was influential as an editor of many anthologies including *SF Horizons* (jointly with Harry Harrison). He has also been important in the study of science fiction with his histories of the genre, *BILLION YEAR SPREE* which was subsequently updated as *TRILLION YEAR SPREE*.





He won many awards including the Hugo (HOTHOUSE and TRILLION YEAR SPREE), Nebula (THE SALIVA TREE), BSFA (THE MOMENT OF ECLIPSE, BILLION YEAR SPREE, HELLICONIA SPRING and HELLICONIA WINTER) and the John W Campbell Award (HELLICONIA SPRING). In 2000 he was elected a Grand Master by the SFWA and inducted into the Science Fiction Hall of Fame in 2004. Outside the SF field he was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Letters from Liverpool University in 2008 and was awarded an OBE in 2005 for his services to literature.



I found it interesting that this year, Project Hyperion, a competition to design a generation spaceship announced its winners, when the concept of a generation spaceship was used in Brian's first SF novel, NON-

STOP. Thus we move from science fiction towards science fact (albeit still some years away) and it would no doubt have been insightful to have Brian's opinion. The competition was hosted by the Initiative for Interstellar Studies and there was a prize fund of \$10,000. If you are interested in learning more about Project Hyperion, then check out the links below.

For those interested in learning more about Brian and his work, Brian's papers are held at the Bodleian Library in Oxford and at a supplementary archive at the Science Fiction Collection in Liverpool. Many of his works are still available as SF Masterworks or at Gollancz Gateway. Also, HarperVoyager will publish HELLO EARTH, ARE YOU THERE in December of this year, described as a new collection of twenty-seven of his short stories. Finally, a new annual award for worldbuilding in speculative fiction has been planned. The Aldiss Award will be launched in November at the World Fantasy Convention in Brighton.

## References

[www.isfdb.org](http://www.isfdb.org)

<https://brianaldiss.co.uk/about/>

<https://libguides.liverpool.ac.uk/library/sca/sfhub>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brian\\_Aldiss#Novels](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brian_Aldiss#Novels)

<https://www.universetoday.com/articles/the-winners-of-the-project-hyperion-generation-ship-competition-have-been-announced>

<https://www.projecthyperion.org/>

<https://i4is.org/>

<https://thealdissaward.com/>

*Image: Chrysalis –an award-winning design from Project Hyperion*

## **DISEASE MITIGATION POLICY AT NOVACON**

It has become increasingly clear that even though things have improved since the height of the pandemic, an awareness of the potential for the spread of infectious disease in convention spaces needs to be always considered.

At this point in time, as a minimum, we would ask that:

- All attending members are **fully vaccinated** against Covid where possible.
- We request members to **take a lateral flow** test prior to attending convention.
- If you have any symptoms of an infectious respiratory infection, please do not attend the convention. If you take ill during the convention, please consider isolating yourself from other attendees.

Other specific measures may be announced nearer the convention, and the committee will continue to monitor things. We will keep members up to date with any other proposed restrictions.

## **NOVACON ACCESSIBILITY POLICY**

Novacon is committed to making our convention as accessible as possible for our members. Details of the current policy can be found at [www.novacon.uk/policies](http://www.novacon.uk/policies).



## MEMBERSHIP LIST AUGUST 2025

- |                             |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Emily Tesh                | 31 Chris Stocks       |
| 2 Allen Stroud              | 32 Sue Jones          |
| 3 Claire Cartwright         | 33 Jean Thompson      |
| 4 Tony Berry                | 34 Anne Woodford      |
| 5 Serena Culfeather         | 35 Alan Woodford      |
| 6 Carol Goodwin             | 36 Paul Dormer        |
| 7 Alice Lawson              | 37 Claire Brialey     |
| 8 Steve Lawson              | 38 Mark Plummer       |
| 9 Esther MacCallum-Stewart  | 39 Bridget Wilkinson  |
| 10 Helena McCallum          | 40 Dave Hicks         |
| 11 Magdalen Standage-Bowles | 41 Cat Coast          |
| 12 David Stokes             | 42 Peter Hicks        |
| 13 Alex Storer              | 43 Omega              |
| 14 John Wilson              | 44 Harry Payne        |
| 15 Noel Collyer             | 45 Hal Payne          |
| 16 Martin Smart             | 46 Jodie Payne        |
| 17 Douglas Spencer          | 47 Michael Davidson   |
| 18 Karen Fishwick           | 48 Christine Davidson |
| 19 Simon Beresford          | 49 Jeffrey Wasserman  |
| 20 Chris Morgan             | 50 Tim Kirk           |
| 21 Pauline Morgan           | 51 Caroline Mullan    |
| 22 Charlotte Bulmer         | 52 Brian Ameringen    |
| 23 Steve Dunn               | 53 Emjay Ameringen    |
| 24 Neil Simpson             | 54 Roger Robinson     |
| 25 Kevin Mortimer           | 55 Jim Walker         |
| 26 Marcus Rowland           | 56 Richard Standage   |
| 27 Chris Bell               | 57 Helena Bowles      |
| 28 ½r                       | 58 Rosie Oliver       |
| 29 Morag O'Neill            | 59 Melica Smith       |
| 30 Richard Edwards          | 60 Alison Scott       |

61 Steven Cain  
62 Ian Warner  
63 Vernon Brown  
64 Pat Brown  
65 John Harvey  
66 Hayley Canham  
67 Flick  
68 Steve Davies  
69 Giulia DeCesare  
70 Tim Stannard  
71 Angela Rosin  
72 Allison Ewing  
73 Luke Smith  
74 Jamie Scott  
75 Judith Mortimore  
76 Jackie Burns  
77 Mike Scott  
78 William Goodall  
79 Ian Maughan  
80 John Bray  
81 Rob Jackson  
82 John Dowd  
83 Fran Dowd  
84 Alasdair Hepburn  
85 Niall Gordon  
86 David Langford  
87 Laura Wheatly  
88 Sue Edwards  
89 Alan Fleming  
90 David Bamford  
91 Adrian Snowdon  
92 Morpho Duval  
93 Virginia Preston  
94 Phil Dyson  
95 Neil Tomkinson  
96 Alison Tomkinson  
97 Chris Murphy  
98 Andrew Keith Martin  
99 Dave Lally  
100 Ian Stewart  
101 Nicholas Jackson

102 Meg Macdonald  
103 Phil Nanson  
104 Kari  
105 Susan Peak  
106 Tobes Valois  
107 Dominika Klimczak  
108 Felicity Brown  
109 Ben Brown  
110 Harpal Singh  
111 Ian Sorensen  
112 Yvonne Rowse  
113 Sally Rowse  
114 John Coxon  
115 Tommy Ferguson  
116 Alexander Clarke  
117 Kevan Grayson  
118 Stephen Oram  
119 Ian Jones  
120 Regina Curley  
121 Kamal Hashmi  
122 Adrian Rogerson  
123 Peter Buck  
124 Alison Buck  
125 Sandra Bond  
126 Simon Dearn  
127 David Hodson  
128 Peter Ellis  
129 David Packwood  
130 Meredith MacArdle  
131 Nicholas Whyte  
132 Helen Gould  
133 Steve Lockley  
134 James Kinsley  
135 Sarah Kinsley  
136 Paul Lewis  
137 Peter Sorensen  
138 Francis Burgess  
139 Nick Foster  
140 Cheryl Baker  
141 Sue Mason  
142 David Cartwright