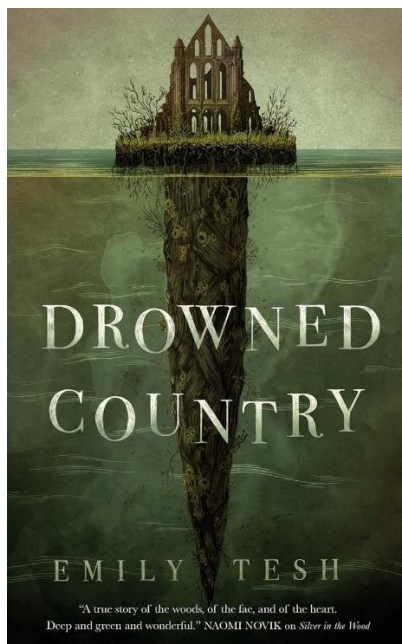
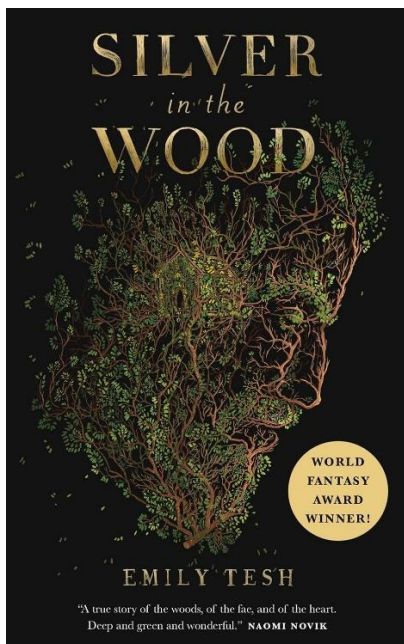




PROGRESS REPORT 3



Guest of Honour

Emily Tesh

7th – 9th November 2025

Palace Hotel, Buxton

COMMITTEE

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A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR



Novacon Company Vehicle!!

Welcome to PR3 – and we are counting down the days until Novacon! The committee have been working hard and we hope you'll find plenty to enjoy at Novacon 54. It's going to be a busy autumn, and we really appreciate our members making it up to Buxton with everything else on offer. We're looking forward to seeing you, and introducing you to our wonderful **Guest of Honour, Emily Tesh.**

The programme is finalised, (subject to last minute stuff!) and we have a great mix of fun and serious items. There is a sneak preview below.

We will also have the usual Art and Dealers' Rooms, Please do pop along and see what is on offer – there are always some incredibly talented exhibits and we need to appreciate and support the excellent creative members of our SFF community.

Sunday night will feature our usual beer tasting, but in a departure from tradition there will be no Sunday evening banquet. Instead, we will have a break in the programme for going out for dinner, then come together for 8:30pm to celebrate the end of the convention with delicious beer and an offering of soft drinks.

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 even following the lift refurbishment, due to size 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 next month! *Claire*

Image:<https://www.avionslegendaires.net/avion-militaire/piasecki-vz-8-airgeep/>

HOTEL & CONVENTION INFORMATION

Palace Hotel Buxton

Palace Road

Buxton

SK17 6AG

Please take note that since last year there have been some changes to the hotel and some of their policies which we have detailed below.

Food and Drink:

There is a real ale pump on the Main Bar (directly on the left as you enter the hotel) that currently has Deepdale gluten-free ale. They will also have a variety of cans and bottles. The prices ranged from £4.50 to £5. Bottles of wine will be available at £18. Food can also be ordered there from the hotel menu.

The Rippon Bar has been refurbished and has a fair amount of comfy seating. Baps/Butties will be available from the Rippon bar at £5.95. There will be Sausage, Bacon, Veggie sausage or chips.

There is now lots of seating outside the bar area that will be useful if the weather permits.



Rippon Bar

Disabled Access:

The main entrance has a few steps. Alternatively, 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 that entrance.

NB The door pictured with the arrow next to the entrance to the bar can be used as the disabled access and takes people along the corridor rather than through the kitchen area which was the previous route.



Reminder or for those who haven't been before, the hotel has a lift, but as it is an old hotel some of the rooms are on "mezzanine" levels and still involve a few steps, so if this will cause you difficulties, please let the hotel know in advance and they'll do their best to accommodate you. Also the hotel has indicated that due to safety concerns, they do not permit Mobility Scooters in the lift. Please make sure that the hotel is aware if you plan to bring a scooter.

The town centre with shops and restaurants is a short distance. There is a set of shallow steps down or alternatively

there is a step-free route by turning left as you leave the hotel and follow the road down the hill and bear right.

General Things to Note:

The pool has been redone and there is now a cost of £6 per day for use of the leisure area. Please enquire at Reception for details.

Room cleaning needs to be requested the night before.
We have requested towels be available at reception for people who just need towels replacing.

VERY IMPORTANT - NO CASH PAYMENTS IN THE HOTEL - CARD ONLY. (This does not apply to convention sales eg Dealers Room or Art Show etc.)

Breakfast time is 7:30 to 9:30 am Friday and Monday, and 8:00 to 10:30 am on Saturday and Sunday.

Checkout is 11:00 am.

Parking is free though you must register your vehicle on the machines at Reception.

Wi-Fi is now free in all areas.

Dogs will not be permitted in the bar or restaurant. They are allowed in the Conservatory.

Please note. The Beer Tasting will be taking place as usual, but this year there will be **no banquet** on Sunday night. If you 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 **£8**. A selection of soft drinks will be available to everyone free of charge. You will be able to take food into the Beer Tasting

Outside the hotel, 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. More information can be found at www.visitbuxton.co.uk.

Finally, if you haven't booked your hotel room you don't have long left. Details of convention rates and booking system are reprinted below and are on the website (www.novacon.uk)

Convention room rates and Booking

The **Room Rates** (given below) are per room per night. 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 £73pp.

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 sales753@theelitevenueselection.co.uk with your contact details and someone will call you back.

MEMBERSHIPS AND DAY MEMBERSHIPS

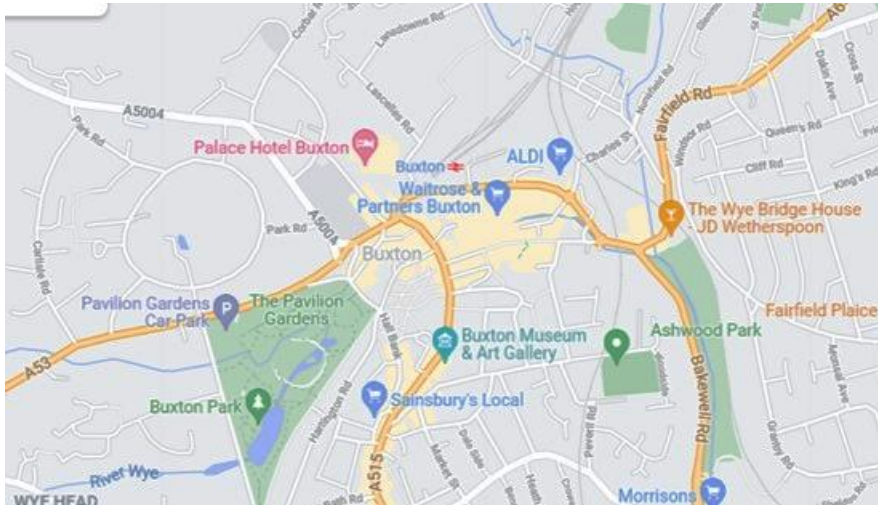
We will not be selling memberships at the door. If you wish to attend, you need to purchase a membership in advance (see www.novacon.uk)

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 now be found on the Memberships Tab on the Novacon website (www.novacon.uk/memberships). Once you have completed your details you will be taken through to pay for your memberships via PayPal.

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 make one 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.

PROGRAMME BIT

Autumn is here, and I am currently sending mails to panellists, persuading, begging, flattering, and adding in the odd bribe to get them to entertain you, as we start to arrange the programme. Here's a taste of what you can expect this year!

FRIDAY

Opening ceremony – 7pm

Meet the committee and our guest, **Emily Tesh**! Discover why it's important to pay attention to waistcoats, and get excited for the rest of the weekend.

Desert Island Books – 8 pm

Our Guest of Honour, **Emily Tesh** in conversation with author **Everina Maxwell**. Emily picks six of her favourite books (and one piece of music) to take with her on a desert island. Emily won a Hugo for her podcast *Eight Days of Diana Wynn Jones* this year, so don't be surprised if one particular author makes an appearance...

Book Launch of Emily Tesh's latest book, *The Incandescent* – 9:30 pm

Following on from Desert Island Books - Come and hear a short reading, after which Emily will be signing her books. Feel free to ask some questions, hear some answers, buy some books and enjoy our modest supply of refreshing wine. **Sponsored by Orbit Books.**

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

There will be the customary talks, discussion panels and of course a Guest of Honour interview with **Emily Tesh**, who we are keeping busy in panels about Dark Academia, Diana Wynne Jones, and Regime Change in Science Fiction.

This year our science speaker is **Professor Catherine Flick**. Catherine is a Professor of Ethics and Games Technology from the University of Staffordshire, and her talk ‘AI, Science Fiction and Ethics’ discusses some of the most pressing concerns in science technology at present.

Octothorpe Live will take place on Sunday morning. Expect a detailed breakdown of the convention, fannish news, and an appearance from the ever-mysterious **Stunt Liz**.

Saturday evening will not only have a poetry reading session which is open to all, but will be preceded by a launch of **Sandra Bond**’s *The Goblin Muse*. All those members who would like to participate are encouraged to bring their own poems to read.

Elsewhere, expect cosy, murderous, queer, political, celebratory and villainous panels! We’ll leave you to decide which is which (multiple criteria can apply). Finally, look out for terrible excuses and really, really weird doodles as this year’s games panel play ‘Brother, Sister, WHY?’.

Three times makes it a tradition, and this 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 **Jackie Burns** will be talking about their artwork in conversation with Chris Morgan.

Off-Piste Rooms

As a reminder, Off-Piste rooms are available on request (subject to availability) and free to anyone who wishes to present something they deem of interest to members. Items in the past have included Book Launches, Workshops, Podcasts and even

Drink Tastings. If you wish to present something in an Off-Piste room, you can request a booking by emailing Programme@novacon.uk or asking at registration when at the convention. Reservations are made on a first-come, first-serve basis and we already have a number of time slots reserved.

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.

As a reminder, we now have direct access from the car park to the room which will make things much easier (right hand side of hotel as you face it). 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.

Please note. We have been asked for our views on the use of AI generated works. For the avoidance of doubt, while Digital Art is welcome, however nothing created using generative AI will be allowed in the Art Show.

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 John.

ACCESSIBILITY POLICY

We commit to making our convention as accessible as possible for our members. If you have any access needs that are not answered below or you feel we may not have considered, please contact chair@novacon.uk

The Palace Hotel is suitable for wheelchairs and scooters. Ramp access is gained through a secondary entrance at the far left of the main entrance, at the end of the car park past the restaurant. There is ample parking for high-sided and accessibility vehicles. We recommend parking these in the area of the car park next to the Dovedale restaurant to be close to the ramp entrance.

The convention areas are all on the ground floor. This area is flat, and wheelchair/scooter accessible.

We will provide accessible seating at the front of the programme rooms and leave space for wheelchairs. All in-person social areas will have seating provided. Where the programme room layout is table style, we will ensure an accessible walkway is adhered to.

Accessible hotel rooms are available to book. Rather than calling the main booking line, we recommend calling the hotel direct on 01298 767015 to communicate any specific access needs.

There is a wheelchair accessible lift which goes to the 1st and 2nd floors, but not the mezzanine floors. We would remind all attendees that not all disabilities are visible, please do not ask someone why they are using the lift or suggest that they should not. We do not use the mezzanine floor as a convention space, but it is important to let the hotel know for your room booking if you are unable to stay on the mezzanine floor.

We recognise that not all disabilities are visible, and we do not require proof of any access needs. We encourage our attendees to make their needs known to the committee if any help is required.

Wider wheelchair accessibility in Buxton – The path down to the high street from the main hotel entrance has several steps, so we recommend exiting the hotel to the left and joining the pavement onto Palace Road, then Station Road, where there is step-free access.

Hearing access - We will ensure that microphones are provided for our panel items. Panellists will be invited to remove any masks if worn while on the stage to ensure that voices are not obscured. NB Microphones are not provided in Off-Piste events.

Food & Alcohol - Novacon continues to host Tasting events where alcohol is consumed. We offer a range of soft drink options as an alternative.

If you need anything else that we have not mentioned here please do contact us at chair@novacon.uk and let us know.

DEALERS' TABLES

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

OUR 2025 DISEASE MITIGATION POLICY

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 diseases in convention spaces needs to be always considered.

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

- We request members **take a lateral flow** Covid test prior to attending convention and not to attend if this is positive.
- 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.
- Masks will NOT be mandatory and will be the personal choice of individuals. We will NOT be asking people to wear them in programme items.
- Please do not host or attend room parties.

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.

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.

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 is available on the website (www.novacon.uk) 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



MEMBERSHIP LIST OCTOBER 2025

1 Emily Tesh	33 Jean Thompson
2 Allen Stroud	34 Anne Woodford
3 Claire Cartwright	35 Alan Woodford
4 Tony Berry	36 Paul Dormer
5 Serena Culfeather	37 Claire Brialey
6 Carol Goodwin	38 Mark Plummer
7 Alice Lawson	39 Bridget Wilkinson
8 Steve Lawson	40 Dave Hicks
9 Esther MacCallum-Stewart	41 Cat Coast
10 Helena McCallum	42 Peter Hicks
11 Magdalen Standage-Bowles	43 Omega
12 David Stokes	44 Harry Payne
13 Alex Storer	45 Hal Payne
14 John Wilson	46 Jodie Payne
15 Noel Collyer	47 Michael Davidson
16 Martin Smart	48 Christine Davidson
17 Douglas Spencer	49 Jeffrey Wasserman
18 Karen Fishwick	50 Tim Kirk
19 Simon Beresford	51 Caroline Mullan
20 Chris Morgan	52 Brian Ameringen
21 Pauline Morgan	53 Emjay Ameringen
22 Charlotte Bulmer	54 Roger Robinson
23 Steve Dunn	55 Jim Walker
24 Neil Simpson	56 Richard Standage
25 Kevin Mortimer	57 Helena Bowles
26 Marcus Rowland	58 Rosie Oliver
27 Chris Bell	59 Melica Smith
28 ½r	60 Alison Scott
29 Morag O'Neill	61 Steven Cain
30 Richard Edwards	62 Ian Warner
31 Chris Stocks	63 Vernon Brown
32 Sue Jones	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
143 Alison Baker
144 Margaret Walty
145 Roy Harling
146 Heidi Mounsey

147 Christina Lake
148 Doug Bell
149 Austin Benson
150 Caroline Wilson
151 Thuy Do
152 Randee Dawn Kestenbaum
153 Paddy Leahy
154 Peter Wilkinson
155 David Cooper
156 Jane Cooper
157 Spike
158 Amy Orrell
159 Richard McAllister
160 Linda McAllister
161 Nigel Rowe
162 Pat Cox
163 Robert Hepworth
164 Cherry Newton
165 Meike
166 Jim de Liscard
167 Hazel Ashworth West
168 Marguerite Smith
169 Kate Solomon
170 Malcolm Davies
171 Catherine Flick
172 Maury Kestenbaum
173 Chris Brooks
174 Nick Wells
175 Everina Maxwell
176 Lorna Lambert
177 Eleanor Powers