



PROGRESS REPORT 1
Guest of Honour



Una McCormack

6th – 8th November 2026
Palace Hotel Buxton

COMMITTEE

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A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRS



Hi everyone. I hope you are doing well, and looking forward to convention season starting up again. This year we're sharing the Chair position between myself (**Carol Goodwin**) and **Alice Lawson**. Most of last year's committee have returned so you're in experienced hands.

In addition to Alice and me as Chairs, this year's committee consists of **Esther MacCallum-Stewart** (Programme), **David Stokes** (Website), **Steve Lawson & Claire Cartwright** (Memberships), **Steve Lawson** (Treasurer), **Maggie Standage-Bowles** (Secretary), **Carol Goodwin** (Publications), **Helena McCallum** (Social Media), and **Serena Culfeather & John Wilson** (Art Show). We are also pleased to welcome **Kari** (helping **Alice Lawson** with Hotel Liaison). Kari will be familiar to many of you and we look forward to her joining us.

Our venue remains the wonderful Palace Hotel in Buxton, with its great location, good function space (all on the ground floor) and plenty of space for socialising.

So, what can you expect this year? We intend to have all the usual, with Scientific talks, panel discussions, and a social event on Saturday night, Desert Island Books with our Guest of Honour on Friday night with wine and nibbles after, the beer tasting on Sunday

night, and so on – but we can always do with new and interesting ideas from our members, so please contact us with any thoughts.

Novacon is a single-stream convention with a mix of serious and fannish items. As well as the Main Programme, we will have the art show and a dealers' room as usual.

We are very pleased that this year's Guest of Honour is **Una McCormack**. She is a *New York Times* and *USA Today* best-selling science fiction writer of more than twenty novels, plus many audio dramas and short stories. She is particularly well-known for her novels set in franchises such as *Doctor Who* and various *Star Trek* iterations. She also taught creative writing for many years in universities. Recently, she has joined the board of Gold SF, a new imprint from Goldsmiths Press aiming to publish new voices in intersectional feminist SF. With her many interests, I am sure she is going to be a fascinating guest with lots of interesting things to contribute.

And finally, huge congratulations to **Serena Culfeather & John Wilson**, our stalwart Artshow runners. They will be honoured as Fan Guests of Honour at this year's Eastercon and all of us on the committee are really pleased at this deserved recognition of their myriad contributions to SF fandom.

Looking forward to hopefully seeing some of you at Eastercon in a few weeks in Birmingham. All the best. *Carol*

HOTEL & CONVENTION INFORMATION



Palace Hotel Buxton
Palace Road
Buxton
SK17 6AG

Novacon 55 will be returning to the Palace Hotel in Buxton in the Peak District. The hotel address is Palace Road Buxton SK17 6AG. For those who have not been before Buxton is a thermal spa town, with lots of interesting buildings and places to visit for those who

wish to venture outside the hotel. These include the Opera House, the Devonshire Dome (once the largest unsupported dome in the world), a restored Georgian crescent and the ornamental Pavilion Gardens. There are supermarkets nearby including Waitrose, & Sainsbury's Local. There are also plenty of cafés and restaurants, not forgetting the lovely real ale pubs. More information can be found at www.visitbuxton.co.uk.

For those who have not been before the whole hotel is light and airy with high ceilings and some impressive decor. And a conservatory. It also has the longest continuous wrought-iron banister in Britain. There is a swimming pool and gym/spa facilities. The hotel has a large car park and parking is included for convention guests. **WIFI is free** throughout the hotel.



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.

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.

At the moment the hotel policy is that due to safety concerns, they do not permit Mobility Scooters in the lift.

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.

The door pictured below 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.



Please note if you have specific requirements, don't hesitate to contact the hotel directly at **01298 767000**.

Food and Drink: There is a real ale pump on the bar that currently has Deepdale gluten free ale. They will also have a variety of cans and bottles. Bottles of wine will be available at £21. Baps/Butties will be available from the Rippon bar including Sausage, Bacon, Veggie sausage or chips.

Convention Room rates and Booking

The Room rates have, gone up this the year and we now have two rates.

Standard room: rates are: £126 per night for a Double or Twin room (i.e. £63 per person with two people sharing).

Single rooms are £78pp. Rates include breakfast.

Executive room: rates are: £146 a Double or Twin room (i.e. £73 per person with two people sharing)

Single rooms are £98pp

To reserve a room call **central booking 0333 323 1574** and use the code **NOVA051126** to get our rates. This number is available 8am - 8:30pm, Monday - Friday, 9am - 5:30pm Saturday. **Please note** that we ran out of rooms last year so book early.

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

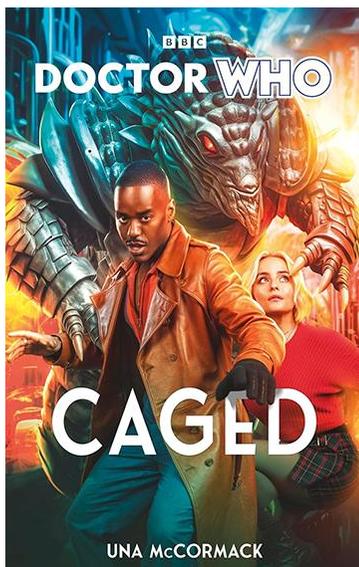
GUEST OF HONOUR – UNA MCCORMACK

We are very pleased that Una McCormack has agreed to be our Guest of Honour for Novacon 55.

Dr Una McCormack is a *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling science fiction writer of more than twenty novels, plus many audio dramas and short stories.

Una is well known for her TV tie-in work. She has published more than a dozen novels set in franchises such as *Doctor Who*, *Star Trek: Picard*, and *Star Trek: Discovery*. Her audio work with Big Finish has been set in licensed properties such as *Doctor Who*, *Torchwood*, *Blake's 7* and *Star Cops*. In 2025 her *Doctor Who* novel *Caged* won the BSFA award for Best Fiction for Younger Readers, and her *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds* novel *Asylum* won the Scribe Award for Best Original Speculative Novel.

Her shorter-form science fiction has appeared in anthologies edited by Gardner Dozois and Ian Whates. Her story 'Taking Flight' (2017) was shortlisted for the BSFA award for short fiction, and her novel *Star Trek: Discovery – The Way to the Stars* for a Dragon Con Award. In 2017, she was a judge for the Arthur C Clarke Award; in 2019 she delivered the Guest of Honour speech to the Tolkien Society AGM.





In a previous life as a university lecturer, Una taught creative writing for many years. She supervised creative writing PhDs (including a novel set in the MCU), and continues to mentor writers, particularly helping people working on their first novel-length project. She has run creative writing seminars and events at many institutions, including CERN.

Recently, she has joined the board of Gold SF, a new imprint from Goldsmiths Press aiming to publish new voices in intersectional feminist SF.

Welcome to Novacon, Una!
CG & EMS

Sources

<https://www.homerton.cam.ac.uk/people/una-mccormack>

Internet Speculative Fiction Database - www.isfdb.org

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Una_McCormack

<http://csff-anglia.co.uk/?team=dr-una-mccormack>

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Fiction Series

- *Doctor Who* Universe
 - *Doctor Who* (nonfiction)
 - Impossible Worlds, Impossible Things: Cultural Perspectives on *Doctor Who*, *Torchwood* and *The Sarah Jane Adventures* (2010) [NF] with Melissa Beattie and Ross P. Garner
 - Whotopia (2023) [NF] with Simon Guerrier and Jonathan Morris
 - *Doctor Who* (short fiction)
 - The Slave War (2008) [SF]

- Grounded (2019) [SF]
 - *Doctor Who* New Series
 - The King's Dragon (2010) also appeared as:
 - Translation: Le dragon du roi [French] (2012)
 - The Way Through the Woods (2011) also appeared as:
 - Translation: À travers bois [French] (2012)
 - Royal Blood (2015) also appeared as:
 - Translation: Sangue reale [Italian] (2016)
 - Translation: Königliches Blut [German] (2016)
 - Translation: Královská krev [Czech] (2016)
 - Molten Heart (2018)
 - Caged (2024)
 - Time Lord Victorious
 - All Flesh Is Grass (2020)
 - *Doctor Who* Target novelizations
 - Doctor Who Target novelizations: New Era
 - The Robot Revolution (2025)
- *Firefly* Universe
 - Firefly (original novels)
 - Carnival (2021)
 - Coup de Grâce (2023)
- *Star Trek* Universe
 - The Autobiography of Mr. Spock (2021)
 - Star Trek Captains (2022) with David A. Goodman
 - *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*
 - Face Value (2003) [SF]
 - Hollow Men (2005)
 - Star Trek: Deep Space Nine Relaunch
 - The Never-Ending Sacrifice (2009)

- The Missing (2014) also appeared as:
 - Translation: Misstrauen [German] (2017)
 - Enigma Tales (2017) also appeared as:
 - Translation: Mysterien [German] (2020)
 - Worlds of Deep Space Nine
 - 1 Worlds of Deep Space Nine Volume One: The Lotus Flower; Paradigm (2004) [O/2N] with Heather Jarman
 - Cardassia: The Lotus Flower (2004) also appeared as:
 - Translation: Cardassia - Die Lotusblume [German] (2012)
- *Star Trek: Voyager*
 - The Autobiography of Kathryn Janeway (2020)
- *Picard*
 - The Last Best Hope (2020) also appeared as:
 - Translation: Nejposlednější z nadějí [Czech] (2020)
 - Translation: Die letzte und einzige Hoffnung [German] (2020)
 - Second Self (2022) also appeared as:
 - Translation: Zweites Ich [German] (2023)
- *Star Trek: Discovery*
 - The Way to the Stars (2019)
 - Wonderlands (2021)
 - Star Trek: Strange New Worlds
 - Asylum (2024)
- *Star Trek: The Fall*
 - The Crimson Shadow (2013) also appeared as:

- Translation: Der karminrote Schatten [German] (2015)
- *Star Trek: Typhon Pact*
 - Brinkmanship (2012) also appeared as:
 - Translation: Risiko [German] (2014)
 - The Khitomer Accords Saga (2013) [O/5-7] with David R. George, III
- *Weird Space*
 - The Baba Yaga (2015) with Eric Brown
 - The Star of the Sea (2016)

Chapbooks

- The Greatest Story Ever Told (2018)
- The Undefeated (2019)

Nonfiction

- Biology and Manners: Essays on the Worlds and Works of Lois McMaster Bujold (2020) with Regina Yung Lee

Short Fiction Series

- *Blake's 7*
 - Blake's 7 (Big Finish)
 - Separate (2017)

Short Fiction

- Sea Change (2007)
- Torch Song (2007)
- The Great Gig in the Sky (2008)
- War Without End (2010)
- In Tauris (2012)
- Taking Flight (2016)
- The Greatest Story Ever Told (2018)
- The Undefeated (2019)
- The Little People (2019)
- Last Orders (2024)
- Paradise Shores (2025)

Essay Series

- *Dancing in the Library*

- When Hope and History Rhymed: on Ursula K. Le Guin's *The Complete Orsinia* (2025)
- A Citizen of the Universe: on Ursula K. Le Guin's *Hainish Novels and Stories, Volume One* (2025)
- True Journey is Return: on Ursula K. Le Guin's *Hainish Novels and Stories, Volume Two* (2025)

Essays

- Resist the host: Blake's 7 - a very British future (2006)
- The Exercise of Vital Powers (2010)
- He's Not the Messiah: Undermining Political and Religious Authority in New Doctor Who (2011)
- Typing in the Margins (2012)
- All True, Especially the Lies—or, How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Cardassia (2016)
- Afterword (The Exile Waiting) (2019)
- Always Coming Back — My Life Onboard Liberator (2023)
- 'Right now the building is ours': Affinities of Science Fiction and Historical Fiction (2023)
- Annotated Bibliography: The Short Fiction of Vonda N. McIntyre (2024)
- Foreword (Little Sisters and Other Stories) (2024)
- Story Notes (2024)

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.

VERNON BROWN RIP



Vernon and Pat Brown were long-time members of Novacon and the Birmingham SF Group and known to many. Vernon passed away in February after a short stay in hospital and is survived by his wife, Pat. I have not known Vernon and Pat for as long as some and others will remember him far better but here are a few thoughts.

One of the life-long loves of Vernon's life, apart from Pat of course, was science fiction literature and particularly science fiction fandom, and he was hugely influential. He had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the field and always had something of interest to add to conversations. He also enjoyed setting puzzles – many will remember his regular “O Level” and “A level” SF quiz questions in the Novacon Programme booklet and his *Red Flame* puzzles which featured in the Brum Group newsletter.

He was a member of the Aston SF Group in the late 60's and then in 1971 he was one of the founder committee members of the Birmingham Science Group in 1971. The group is still going strong today, with regular monthly meetings and guest speakers including authors, artists, scientists etc. He served regularly on the Committee in various roles. He was the first Treasurer, a Vice Chair, Newsletter Editor, and Chairman (not concurrently I hasten to add). His last role was as Chairman, a role which he held on a number of occasions with his last being from 2000 to 2018. He has continued to be a regular attendee at the group since then, and we will all miss his presence.

At the start of the 70's there was just one meetup/convention for fans annually (Eastercon). A few Brum Group members including Vernon ambitiously decided that rather than having to wait a whole year between these meetings, there was space and enthusiasm for another convention. They decided to hold it

November (halfway between Eastercons) and somewhere in the Midlands, and thus Novacon was born.

At the beginning, it was meant to be only a one-off but everyone had such a good time they did it again! and we are now here at the 55th Novacon. As well as his contributions as Novacon Chair on more than one occasion, Vernon had the distinction of being one of the few people to attend every Novacon (the second photo is him celebrating at Novacon 50).



Science fiction has been a large part of Vernon and Pat's life and they travelled and made friends through fandom across the world. The last time I saw him was at the Brum Group Christmas Social meeting in December, enjoying as usual the chance to chat with friends from fandom

Since announcing his passing there have been sympathies and commiserations from people all over the world who remember him fondly. So let's raise a glass (real ale of course!) to one of the significant contributors to UK SF Fandom.

For those who may wish to contribute, there is an online tribute page on <https://vernon-brown.muchloved.com>

LORD OF THE RINGS STAMPS

Una McCormack's very first attempt at writing was fanfiction – at the age of 9, inspired by some zines her sister brought home from a Blake's 7 convention, she produced some *Blake's 7* stickman cartoons! Since that early start, she has written many fanfiction stories in various fandoms.

She has stated that the release of the first *Lord of the Rings* film, THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING and its stunning visuals were the motivation that led to her writing a large volume of Tolkien-



inspired fanfiction. These were written both as a single author and collaboratively with others. She has also commented academically on fanfiction and in 2020 she was the annual Guest of Honour at the Tolkien Society where she lectured on “Our Secret Vice: fanfiction as a creative-critical response to the worlds and works of Tolkien”.

It is now 25 years since that first film was released, and it felt quite apposite to me to highlight the Royal Mail celebrated the anniversary by releasing a set of stamp (March 20th) featuring the iconic characters from the films. Interestingly, they also include features which only show in UV light.

https://www.unamccormack.com/index_page_id_7.html

<https://shop.royalmail.com/special-stamp-issues/the-lord-of-the-rings/the-lord-of-the-rings-stamp-set>

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 55 will be available on the website (www.novacon.uk/n55) 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

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.

CONVENTION TABLES

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

NOVACON ACCESSIBILITY POLICY

Novacon is committed to making our convention as accessible as possible for our members. The full policy is available on line (<https://novacon.uk/policies/>) and will be published in full in the Programme. If you have any specific questions about facilities please contact the hotel directly (01298 767015). Otherwise if you have any access needs that are not covered in the policy, please contact chair@novacon.uk



MEMBERSHIP LIST APRIL 2026

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Una McCormack | 13 David Stokes |
| 2 Emily Tesh | 14 John Wilson |
| 3 Allen Stroud | 15 Tony Berry |
| 4 Carol Goodwin | 16 Noel Collyer |
| 5 Alice Lawson | 17 Catherine Flick |
| 6 Serena Culfeather | 18 Douglas Spencer |
| 7 Kari | 19 Flick |
| 8 Claire Cartwright | 20 Martin Smart |
| 9 Steve Lawson | 21 Pauline Morgan |
| 10 Esther MacCallum-Stewart | 22 Chris Morgan |
| 11 Helena McCallum | 23 Charlotte Bulmer |
| 12 Magdalen Standage-Bowles | 24 Steve Dunn |

25 Keith Martin
26 Simon Beresford
27 Chris Bell
28 ½r
29 Sue Jones
30 Alan Woodford
31 Anne Woodford
32 Rob Jackson
33 Cat Coast
34 Dave Hicks
35 Peter Hicks
36 Christine Davidson
37 Michael Davidson
38 Sue Edwards
39 Alison Tomkinson
40 Neil Tomkinson
41 Alan Fleming
42 David Bamford
43 Tim Kirk
44 Niall Gordon
45 Ian Sorensen
46 Yvonne Rowse
47 Sally Rowse
48 Morag O'Neill
49 Dave Lally
50 Marcus Rowland
51 Ian Warner
52 Chris Stocks
53 Richard Standage
54 Helena Bowles
55 Roger Robinson
56 Harpal Singh
57 Omega
58 Harry Payne
59 Jodie Payne
60 Hal Payne
61 Caroline Mullan
62 Brian Ameringen
63 Emjay Ameringen
64 Alasdair Hepburn
65 Allison Ewing
66 Jackie Burns
67 Tommy Ferguson
68 Rosie Oliver
69 Mike Scott
70 Dominika Klimczak
71 Flis Brown
72 Ben Brown
73 Jean Thompson
74 Claire Brialey
75 Mark Plummer
76 Margaret Mary Macdonald
77 Laura Wheatly
78 Adrian Snowdon
79 Neil Simpson
80 Ian Maughan
81 Giulia De Cesare
82 Steve Davies
83 Sandra Bond
84 Alison Scott
85 Steven Cain
86 Angela Rosin
87 Jamie Scott
88 Fran Dowd
89 John Dowd
90 Vincent Docherty
91 Naveed Khan
92 Lesley Scott
93 Ila Khan
94 Hannah Glancy
95 Katherine Franklin
96 Alexander Clarke
97 Kevan Grayson
98 Susan Peak
99 Dave Brzeski
100 Jilly Paddock