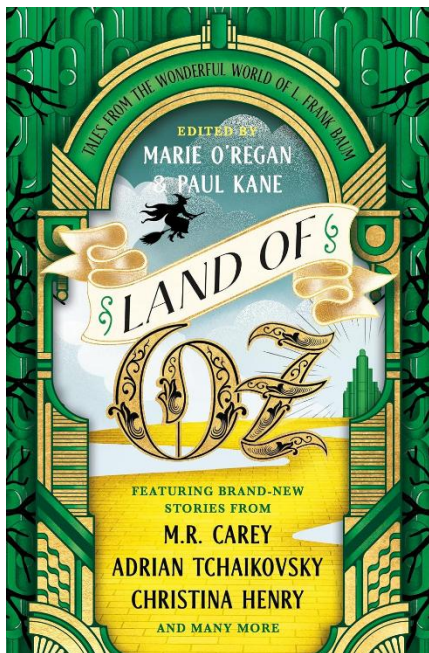




PROGRESS REPORT 3



Guest of Honour Una McCormack

6th – 8th November 2026

Palace Hotel, Buxton

COMMITTEE

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A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRS



Novacon Committee Planning!!

Welcome to PR3 – and suddenly Novacon is rapidly approaching! The committee have been working hard and we hope you'll find plenty to enjoy at Novacon 55. We're looking forward to seeing you, and introducing you to our wonderful **Guest of Honour, Una McCormack**. In addition, we are also pleased to welcome our **Science Guest, Dr Christine Davidson** who will be discussing both fascinating science and science fiction topics throughout the weekend.

The programme is finalised, (subject to last minute stuff!) and we have a great mix of fun and serious items. There is more information below (see Programme Bit).

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 as last year, 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 the usual Beer tasting 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 all soon. *Carol & Alice*

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 £5.50. Bottles of wine will be available at £21. Food can also be ordered there from the hotel menu.

Baps/Butties will be available from the Rippon bar at £5.95. There will be Sausage, Bacon, Veggie sausage or chips.

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:

- **Room cleaning** needs to be requested the night before. We have requested towels be available at reception for people who just need towels replacing.
- **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.**
- **Leisure Centre** Although use of the swimming pool is free, there is now a cost of £6 per day for use of the leisure area. Please enquire at Reception for details.

- **Dogs** will not be permitted in the bar or restaurant. They are allowed in the Conservatory.
- **VERY IMPORTANT - NO CASH PAYMENTS IN THE HOTEL - CARD ONLY.** (This does not apply to convention sales eg Dealers Room or Art Show etc.)
- 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.

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**

MEMBERSHIPS AND DAY MEMBERSHIPS

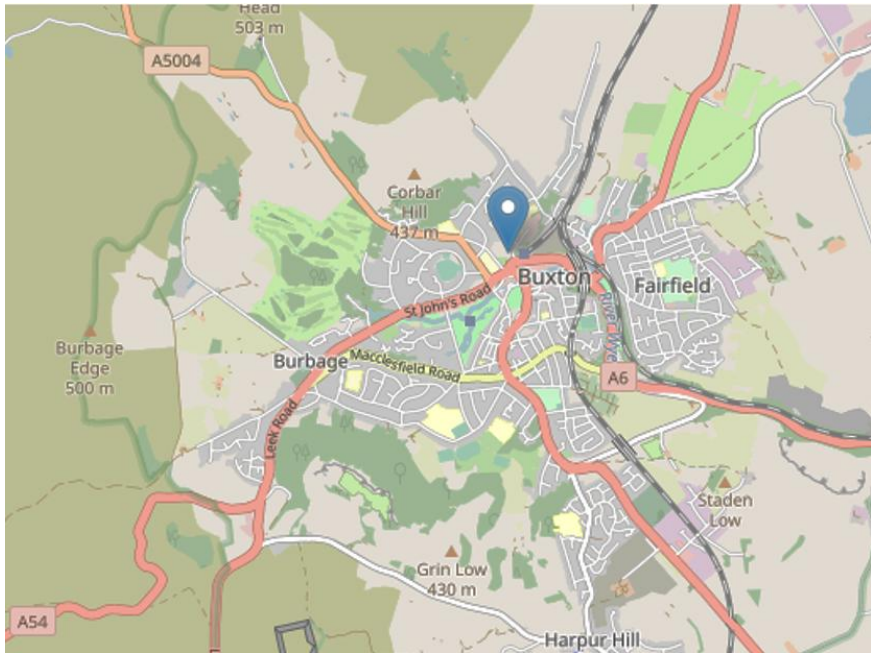
We will not be selling memberships at the door. If you wish to attend, you need to purchase a membership in advance (see www.novacon.uk)

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

Friday: £15, Saturday: £25, Sunday: £20

Due to issues with PayPal, the links to purchase these are delayed but will be shortly added to the Novacon website. Once you have completed your details you should be taken through to pay for your memberships via PayPal. Any queries should be sent via Email to membership@novacon.uk

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

This year we are trying out a theme! ‘Adapt and Sustain’ speaks to the ideas of adaptations, adapting stories and changing how we do things, and then looks at sustainability, how we keep going, and what this means to SFF fans. Our Guest of Honour, **Una McCormack** works as a teacher and a fan, writing work within and about established science fiction worlds, whereas Science Guest **Christine Davidson** focusses on scientific work which directly addresses sustainability and the effects of pollution.

We’ve got a talk about Mathmagics! Nicholas Jackson will take us through how maths can apply to magic, and magic to maths. Meanwhile, Virginia Preston will interview Una on Friday evening, and Una will also be in conversation with Nicholas Whyte on Saturday afternoon.

Panels range from serious to silly – looking at climate change, wet dystopias, *Doctor Who*, the *Star Trek* anniversary, games and fixing everything that’s broken. Over forty panellists are sharing their expertise and fannish happiness with you.

The Funcon Angry Wasps have also been busy, and they’ll be running an escape room during the daytime on Saturday! This will take between 20-30 mins to play, as you try to steal the Queen Wasp’s jam! Along with the Satellite pub quiz in the evening, we can help you find people to play alongside.

Finally, Sandra Bond and authors from Elsewhen Press will be reading from their new books, and we have two outdoor

events for the brave/foolish – the Parkrun herders will be out early to earn their breakfasts, and there will be an unofficial guided amble to Buxton on Sunday afternoon.

The convention officially opens at the **Opening Ceremony** on Friday evening at **7pm** where you get the chance to meet your committee and our excellent guests, **Una McCormack** and **Christine Davidson**.

This will be followed by **‘Desert Island Books’** at 8pm where **Una** is interviewed by **Virginia Preston** about her choice of six books and one piece of music.

This will be followed at **9 pm** by a book signing and party. Come and hear a short reading, after which Una 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. NB While you are welcome to bring your own books for signing, a limit of 3 to 4 books per person will apply.

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 - For the avoidance of doubt, while Digital Art is welcome, 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 ere 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 2026 DISEASE MITIGATION POLICY

It has become increasingly clear that even though things have improved since 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 55 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 2026

1 Una McCormack	33 Cat Coast
2 Emily Tesh	34 Dave Hicks
3 Allen Stroud	35 Peter Hicks
4 Carol Goodwin	36 Christine Davidson
5 Alice Lawson	37 Michael Davidson
6 Serena Culfeather	38 Sue Edwards
7 Kari	39 Alison Tomkinson
8 Claire Cartwright	40 Neil Tomkinson
9 Steve Lawson	41 Alan Fleming
10 Esther MacCallum-Stewart	42 David Bamford
11 Helena McCallum	43 Tim Kirk
12 Magdalen Standage-Bowles	44 Niall Gordon
13 David Stokes	45 Ian Sorensen
14 John Wilson	46 Yvonne Rowse
15 Tony Berry	47 Sally Rowse
16 Noel Collyer	48 Morag O'Neill
17 Catherine Flick	49 Dave Lally
18 Douglas Spencer	50 Marcus Rowland
19 Flick	51 Ian Warner
20 Martin Smart	52 Chris Stocks
21 Pauline Morgan	53 Richard Standage
22 Chris Morgan	54 Helena Bowles
23 Charlotte Bulmer	55 Roger Robinson
24 Steve Dunn	56 Harpal Singh
25 Keith Martin	57 Omega
26 Simon Beresford	58 Harry Payne
27 Chris Bell	59 Jodie Payne
28 ½r	60 Hal Payne
29 Sue Jones	61 Caroline Mullan
30 Alan Woodford	62 Brian Ameringen
31 Anne Woodford	63 Emjay Ameringen
32 Rob Jackson	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 Meike
75 Jim de Liscard
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 Sharan Volin
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
103 Phillip Carter
104 Christina Lake
105 Doug Bell
106 Heidi Mounsey
107 Tracy Sharples

108 Fabrizio Harley
109 Chris Murphy
110 Simon Kewin
111 Alison Johnson
112 Richard Cooper
113 Peter Buck
114 Alison Buck
115 David Hodson
116 Nicholas Jackson
117 William Goodall
118 Adrian Rogerson
119 Ian Jones
120 Regina Curley
121 Nicholas Whyte
122 Ian Stewart
123 David Cartwright
124 Geoff Landergan
125 Stephen Walters
126 Amy Orrell
127 Simon Guerrier
128 Penny Cruise
129 Simon Cruise
130 Steve Lockley
131 Paul Lewis
132 David Packwood
133 Esther Selhi
134 Jocelyn Britcher
135 Roy Gray
136 Chris Jones
137 Linda MacCallum Stewart
138 Helen Gould
139 Simon Dearn
140 Tobes Valois
141 Mike Richardson
142 James Clarke
143 Alison Clarke
144 Dermot Dobson
145 Kevin Mortimer
146 Anders Hedenlund
147 Jeanette Hedenlund
148 Cherry Newton

149 Victoria Ling
150 Jackie Duckworth
151 Tim Duckworth
152 Alistair Williams
153 Simon Mark de Wolfe
154 John Clarke
155 Brian Hill
156 Fiona Clark
157 Timothy Rowe
158 James Hart
159 Karen Fishwick
160 Patricia Cox
161 Robert Hepworth
162 Linda Krawecke
163 Nick Upson
164 Malcolm Hutchison
165 Pete Randall
166 Hazel Ashworth West
167 Phil Dyson
168 Virginia Preston
169 Nigel Rowe
170 Paddy Leahy
171 Phil Nanson
172 David Cooper
173 Jane Cooper
174 Mark Meenan
175 Jonathan Earl
176 Stephen Burrridge