

BRISTOLCON

BRISTOLCON 2025 – SATURDAY 25th and SUNDAY 26th OCTOBER
Hilton DoubleTree Hotel, Redcliffe Way, Bristol
PROGRESS REPORT TWO

Guests of Honor:



JOHN HIGGINS



BEN JEAPES



JE HANNAFORD

Greetings from your BristolCon Chair

Hi everyone, welcome to the second progress report of 2025. As you read this, the committee are busy working away on their various roles, making sure that we craft a strong and enjoyable convention for you to attend. As my first as Chair, I want to ensure that we offer the great experience as we have always done, and this is more likely to happen because of the great team that is BristolCon. I'm really pleased with how our committee old and new are getting on with the jobs at hand, and I think we have another great event on our hands. As you will see in this update, we are at the stage where it all starts coming together, the dealers room is now full, the art room is shaping up but there are still some spaces, and the programme has reached the voting stage, where everyone gets to have a say on what goes into the programme. Obviously with a democratic vote we don't know yet what it will look like, but I think the past has shown this method of creating panels is a great way of getting great input and creating a user defined event. As always, there's still time to put yourself forward for running workshops or doing table talks - we're pretty open with the subjects' parameters as long as there is some link to science fiction, fantasy, or general writing craft.

This year we have made some changes to the room layout, moving the upstairs about, but we have also invested in some easy-to-read pop-up banners that tell you where each room is. I will let discovering the changes be something you notice on the day, but registration is still in the same place, so don't worry. Talking about registration, don't forget you need to register your vehicle on arrival as a day visitor to the hotel, and if you have a "non-compliant" vehicle you need to pay £9 a day Clean Air Zone charge, we will have signs up to remind you and by the time we're done you'll be bored of reading about it... but that's better than paying fines or charges!

If you're considering coming, and want to participate don't delay - once the programme is set, your chances of being on a panel become very low and it will be a case of filling in only. I want everyone to participate as much as they want to.

Finally, if you have an idea for something, but none of our existing rooms fit the bill, please contact me chair@bristolcon.org. We have a few tricks up our imaginary sleeves for 2025 and it could be fun to see what works.

All the best, see you in October

Bav

FEATURING: GUEST OF HONOUR JOHN HIGGINS

BristolCon Chair Bav writes a few words about John Higgins

"I first met John Higgins many years ago at a local convention called Lawgiver (the predecessor to Lawless). Given his stature and body of work, he's an incredibly unassuming gent, what you might call a class act.

"Described by many (Including me) as a legend of the comic art genre, John has worked on classic strips for 2000 AD, DC Comics, as well as Dr Who, Marvel, Star Wars and even some Royal Mail Stamps, and all of this is before we mention working on Watchmen and Killing Joke.

"Whilst we haven't quite set what John will be doing at BristolCon, the discussions are quite exciting and feature things we've never done before. In addition, his art will be on display in the Art Gallery, and he will have some of his art products available for sale.

I will leave you with a quote from another great artist, Dave Gibbons:

"While a great illustration almost inevitably tells a story, John's storytelling skills extend far beyond single images."

You can see some of John's art at his website:

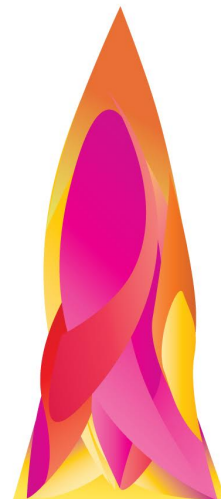
<https://artofjohnhiggins.com/>

DEALING AT BRISTOLCON

"Being a dealer gives you a very different perspective on a convention. On the one hand, you don't get to attend most of the programme. On the other, everyone knows where to find you, and you end up having a bunch of conversations that might not have happened had you been sat in programme items all day."

"While selling books is the main point of having a dealer table, the economics of going to conventions are not great. There's no way that sales ever cover the cost of the hotel and travel. But I don't count those as costs to the business because I would go to BristolCon whether I was a dealer or not. After all, lots of my friends will be there."

Cheryl Morgan, Wizard's Tower Press



WIZARD'S TOWER

The venue and access

As per previous years, the convention will take place at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Redcliffe Way. The hotel is fully accessible with ramps and elevators between the car park and the ground and first floors. If you have attended before, expect changes of location for the dealers, the art show and one of the programme rooms!

Hotel accommodation

You can book your hotel room through our 'block' link at a price of £131.00 per night for a twin or double. Use the below link:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/brsrwdi-99i-95fe830a-6e08-4359-a2a5-32ca3a5f76ef/>

However we recommend you shop around - you may well get a better rate from a discount booking site, or if you are an Hilton Honors member.

Please make sure you book the right Doubletree by Hilton – there are two in Bristol!

Traveling to BristolCon

The hotel is a short walk from Bristol Temple Meads Station.

If you are travelling by car, please note the hotel is within the Clean Air Zone.

You can check whether you will need to pay at :

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/bristols-caz/charges-and-vehicle-checker>

Parking charges – important, please read!

The hotel **waives** parking fees for convention attendees who are not staying overnight at the hotel. However any attendees (including dealers and artists) who are coming by car but **NOT** staying at the hotel **MUST** register their car at the hotel reception on each arrival in the car park. **Failure to do so will result in the parking company charging you £100 per infraction.**

Any attendees (including dealers and artists) staying at the hotel **must** enter their car registration at check in. The overnight parking fee will be added to your bill at checkout.

BristolCon cannot be held accountable for any Parking Charge Notices incurred by attendees.

Membership rates

	Current	On the door
Standard/Artist	Saturday: £45 Sunday: £30 All weekend: £65	Saturday: £50 Sunday: £35 All weekend: £70
Concession/disabled	Saturday: £35 Sunday: £20 All weekend: £50	Saturday: £40 Sunday: £25 All weekend: £55

Link for registration: <https://signup.bristolcon.org/>

Programme

We expect a draft programme to be emailed on or around mid-September.

Art Show

BristolCon has always had a vibrant art show. If you are interested in exhibiting in the art show, please contact artshow@bristolcon.org.

Dealers' Room

The dealers' room is full!

Self-published authors: Do you have a self-published book you would like to sell at BristolCon? Would you rather be sitting in panels, talks, the bar, or workshops? Can you bring your books and take any unsold copies away? Peachfield Press are offering to help! They can babysit/sell your books on their table, and pay you what you are owed on the day less the 1.69% transaction fee charged by SumUp.

They can do this for £5 per title to be sold (quantity unlimited). If interested, please contact peachfieldpress@gmail.com

BristolCon is not an agent of or paid by Peachfield Press and receives no commission from sales.

Health Advisory

There is no mask requirement. People are welcome to bring their own and use a breathing mask if they want to, but BristolCon will not enforce its use. Should the situation change nearer to the convention date, we will update this advice.

Code of Conduct

The BristolCon Code of Conduct can be found on the website at:
<https://bristolcon.org/who-we-are/code-of-conduct>

A few paper copies will also be available at registration.

Staying connected

There are lots of ways to stay connected with us and show your support! Follow us on our socials to see where we'll be and what we are up to as the convention continues to grow. You can find us at:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BristolCon>

Bluesky: @bristolcon.bsky.social

Mastodon: @BristolCon@wanderingshop

And don't forget to check out the news page on our website <http://www.bristolcon.org/> to discover related events and other matters of interest in the area!