



THE FIERY CHICKEN

The Newsletter of Iridescence, the 2026 Eastercon

Issue 1, Friday Afternoon

Welcome to Iridescence

'We are concern, we are hope despite the times': so wrote Michael Stipe in 1986.

Sometimes it seems that we are too afraid to hope. And here we are now, at a point when value and values can seem to have no value. These are difficult times. What we can hope to do here is somehow reconnect, somehow reinforce the values that we as a community have.

We called this convention Iridescence because we wanted to celebrate our diversity and creativity. It's only become more important to do so. I hope we will be able together to find and share hope for the future.

I want to thank everyone working on this convention, for everything you are doing to bring together an amazing event.

Peace, out.

—Phil Dyson

What is HaruhiCon?

HaruhiCon is an anime convention that is also taking place in the hotel this weekend, in the Monarch Suite. Members of Iridescence are welcome in these HaruhiCon spaces, but they are strictly 18+ only:

- Dealers' Room
- Games Room (it's a digital games room)

Members of HaruhiCon can visit the Iridescence art show, games room and dealers' room.

Body Count

Registration tell us that in honour our HaruhiCon neighbours, we're over 900! Of those, about 270 have still to check in.

Outrage at bar outage

Congosers arriving on Thursday evening were horrified to find the Gild Bar closed due to a technical issue, with no draught beer or cider available. Hordes of thirsty fans roamed the hotel inconsolably. We are pleased to report that the issue has been fixed and the hotel will now enthusiastically sell you beer, with a variety of finance options.



Tabletop Roleplaying at Iridescence

You may have spotted that we're continuing Reconnect's legacy of putting tabletop roleplaying games on the schedule! You can sign up for any game through the members' portal: players will be notified either way as to whether their sign-up has been successful.

—John Coxon

parkrunners assemble!

parkrun is the weekly free 5k run, with hundreds of thousands of participants worldwide. Eastercon traditionally has an outing to the parkrun, and this year runners will be going to the Brueton run. If you'd like to be one of them, please meet in the hotel lobby at 8am sharp on Saturday morning.

Spot the Fiery Chicken

The newsletter HQ is in the Windsor room, which is up the flight of stairs beyond the Fan Lounge and the signs saying 'Here be Haruhicon' with no lift access. If you have a story for us and the stairs are a problem, you can hand it in at Ops or email it to us at:

newsletter@eastercon2026.org

Why Not Be More Busy This Weekend?

This is the traditional Friday call for volunteers. We have all sorts of lovely volunteering opportunities for you around all parts of the convention. You can be set to work by going to Ops. It is, I promise, great fun and a good way to meet people.

Fiery Chicken Update #1

We have good reports of Karaage in Resort World, who sell delicious chicken for 'honourable chicken enthusiasts' (that's us!)

Fan Funds Plug #1

The League of Fan Funds is active this weekend and would love for you to donate money to support the funds. There will be an auction at 7:30pm Saturday, a hilarious gameshow at 7:30pm Sunday, and there's a table in the dealers' room. Learn more about them here (lff.ansible.uk/):



Absent Friends

We're sorry that Ian Watson and Cristina Macia cannot be with us this weekend. There's a card to sign for them at Ian Whates' table in the Dealers' Room. Ian's non-fiction book *Watto's Wisdom* is available on Sandra Bond's stall for £12 (for TAFF).

The Grand Slam

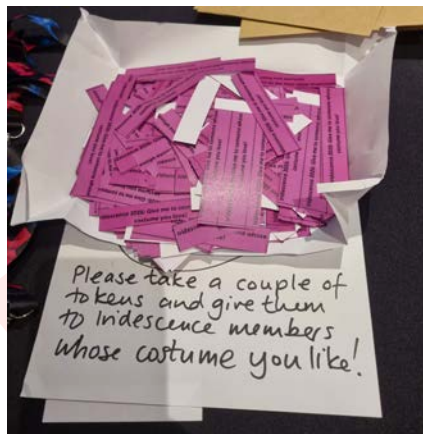
The disabled toilet nearest the hotel's main bar (Gild Bar and Lounge) and near Lift C has a broken/ill-fitting door, which needs to be slammed quite hard to shut. The nearest alternative accessible toilet is located next to the Fan Lounge (opposite the dealers' room).

20% Bar Discount!

The convention guide tells us there's a 20% discount on food and drink from the Gild condensed menu. The bar tell us 'show us your lanyard and you'll get the discount'. Nobody seems to know what exactly is discounted and how it works, so if it's working for you please tell us!

Hall Costume Tokens

There are some amazing costumes around the convention! To show your appreciation, you can collect costume tokens from Registration and give them to an Iridescence member (not a HaruhiCon member, who will just look at you blankly) whose costume you like.



Be Seeing You

The 2026 Easter Weekend is the 100th anniversary of the opening of Portmeirion in north west Wales. Originally an unlicensed hotel, it later became famous as the Village in the cult TV series "The Prisoner" and also featured in the Tom Baker era Doctor Who episode "The Masque of Mandragora".



Dave Lally has a birthday card for you to sign, which he will deliver to the Village in person at a later date.

Democracy Sausage

Democracy is in action this weekend at the fan funds table where brisk voting is underway for this year's Doc Weir Award.



You can also vote online here:



Listeners are Listening

The PDF version of the ReadMe has two listener phone numbers, but there is actually only one; to contact a listener, text or call +447404477986.

Not that sort of Subway

Mike Scott tells us that the Subway in the NEC building is currently closed, but there is an open Subway and a branch of WH Smith at Birmingham International Station half a mile away. We looked bemused, but it's sandwiches.