

oh!co



2026

PROGRAMME

OH!CON

2026



GREETINGS!

OH!CON 2026 is in two venues, An Lanntair and the Town Hall. Your wristband gives you access to both venues (so don't take it off!).

If this is your first time at OH!CON then head to the Town Hall for gaming and vendors and to An Lanntair for talks, workshops, displays and drop-in activities.

And if you've been to any previous OH!CON, thank you and welcome back!

SOME DULL STUFF, BUT STILL IMPORTANT TO KNOW: Both An Lanntair and the Town Hall have maximum capacities we cannot exceed. At peak times you may have to queue to enter one or other of the venues.

We will be taking photos and videos as a record of the day and for promotional purposes. If you'd prefer not to be photographed, please ask for a 'don't photograph me' lanyard at the OH!CON desk in the foyer.

All guests and activities are confirmed but may be subject to cancellation or alteration due to guests' sickness or professional obligations, equipment failure, venues changes, space-time continuum irregularities, alien invasion, irascible squirrels, or other circumstances beyond our control. Rest assured, we'll be doing our utmost to bring you the programme as advertised, but sometimes things happen...



DROP-IN ACTIVITIES

Drop-in activities run throughout the day - you'll find most (but not all) in An Lanntair's auditorium including:

- Make your own superhero mask
- Create a comic
- Talk like a Dalek
- Face painting (morning only)
- KT collectables display
- Plasticine monster trick photography
- Guest signing tables—meet our fabulous guests
- Props and costume displays
- Green screen photography
by Paul Nicoll Photography (charges apply)

OH!CON treasure hunt – solve the riddles to follow the trail and win a prize! Get your first clue at the OH!CON desk in An Lanntair's foyer. This activity is free, self-guided, and open to all ages.

Create Your Super Self! Join the An Lanntair team to design your very own Top Trumps style trading card. Transform yourself into a mysterious person or creature with secret superpowers. Choose your character's style, powers and stats, then draw your everyday self and reveal your hidden 'super self' using invisible UV pen. Shine a light and discover your secret powers!

WHAT'S ON

(AND WHEN!)

Talks

ALL talks are included in your day ticket. Seating is limited (first come, first served).

Workshops

Workshops are free to join if spaces are available on a first come, first served basis. Spaces are limited, so if there are workshops that you really want to attend, you can reserve your place in advance at the An Lanntair box office (£2.50 per place).

10:30am WORKSHOP Draw Ninjas! with Adam Murphy (8-12yrs)

10:30am PANEL TALK Video games panel

10:30am TALK How to create costumes and props from EVA foam

11:10am TALK KT Collectables

11:30am TALK The Darkness over OH!CON - a Gamebook Live adventure

11:30am WORKSHOP How to create cool sci-fi and fantasy worlds (8 to 12yrs)

11:30am WORKSHOP Draw Manga Vikings! (8 to 12 years)

11:30am ADULT COSPLAY MASQUERADE

12:30pm WORKSHOP Write a dead funny comic with Adam Murphy (8-12 years)

12:30pm PANEL TALK Our lives in film

12:30pm WORKSHOP Aaargh! Writing horror (teens and adults)

1.30pm CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COSPLAY MASQUERADE

1:30pm WORKSHOP Building sci-fi and fantasy worlds (teen and adults)

1:30pm TALK Roll for wellbeing: the benefits of TTRPGs

1:30pm TALK Smoke me a kipper - a Red Dwarf celebration panel (teen and adults)

2:15pm TALK All fired up – secrets of a stunt performer

2:30pm PANEL TALK Gaelic panel

2:30pm WORKSHOP BOO! Write a scary comic (8 to 12 years)

2:30pm WORKSHOP Introduction to Indie Game Development (teens and adult)

3pm: WORKSHOP How to give and take cinematic punches (8 yrs upwards)

3:30pm WORKSHOP Create your own stop motion animation (8 to 12 years)

3:30 pm WORKSHOP Miniature figure painting (beginners, 6yrs to adult)

3:30pm TALK Self-publishing your comic

Full details of all talks and workshops can be found on page 8 onwards.

HOW TO NERD

So you want to become a nerd? Nothing simpler! Pick a hobby and get ready for the deep dive: whether it's manga and anime, e-sports, trading card games, or miniature painting, there are entry points for beginners, online and local communities to ask advice from, and loads and loads of video channels to explore. Here are three of our favourite activities to try: cosplay, tabletop role-playing games (TTRPGs), and board games.



Photo: Paul Nicoll

COSPLAY

Cosplay means dressing up as a character you love, from a film, video game, book, TV series... For kids and adults alike, it's a fun way of becoming somebody else for a while and, if you're making your own costume, to learn a few skills as you go. Cosplay is older than you think. People around the world have always dressed up on occasions: carnivals, costume parties, folk festivals, rituals... Cosplay is just the newest iteration of an ancient human custom.

After starting out in sci-fi conventions and propagating with fanzines and local groups, cosplay is now a global phenomenon thanks to the internet, which gave it tremendous visibility, along with the rise of geek culture in the 2000s. The number one place to see and meet cosplayers is at conventions, small or big.

Are you ready to cosplay? The first step is to pick a character you love!

TODAY:

- Sign up for the adult or junior masquerades (11.30am and 1.30pm) and dazzle the audience with your costume! See page 19.
- Find out how to build props and costumes out of foam (talk at 10:30am). See page 9.

TABLETOP ROLE-PLAYING GAMES (TTRPGs)

Maybe you think you don't know what TTRPGs are. Heard of *Dungeons and Dragons*? Then you know TTRPGs!

Dungeons and Dragons (D&D) started out in the 1970s, kicking off a whole new kind of game played in the collective imagination of the players around a table. You act as a character with skills and personality, and along with your party of misfits, you will encounter challenges and creatures in a story orchestrated by a Dungeon Master (DM).

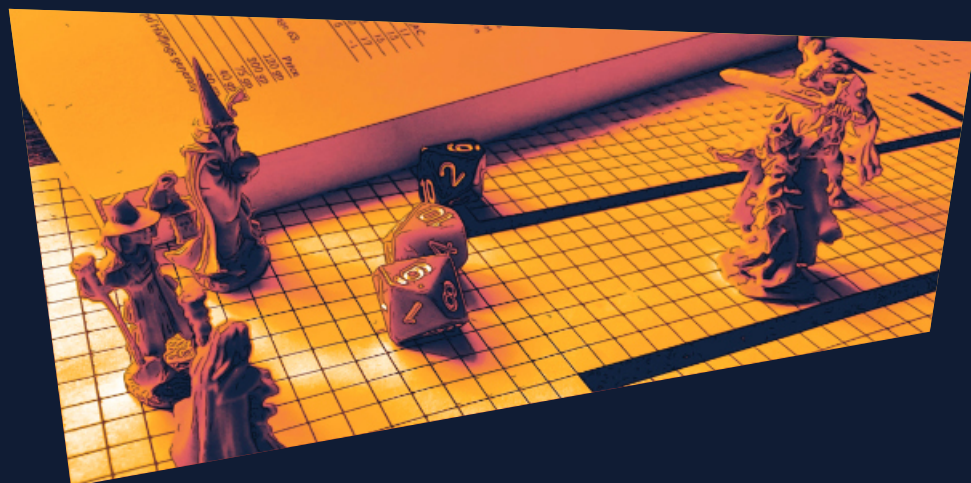
This ever-changing game is anything the players can think of. Roll dice for initiative, think out creative ways to move your campaign forward, and role-play your way out of an uncomfortable confrontation with an opponent!

Today, TTRPGs are much more than dungeon crawling: they're played online, solo, without dungeons or a single dragon; non-Western cultures brought new ways of playing; people crowdfund their games. People even play TTRPGs live in front of an audience (*Critical Role*).

Thinking of making your first foray into TTRPGs? Look for a Dungeon Master or local groups!

TODAY:

- TTRPG sessions are running at - 10:30am, 11am, 12 noon, and 1pm. Check for details and book at the info desk in the Town Hall! (12yrs+). See page 18
- Roll for Wellbeing - the social and emotional benefits of TTRPGs. Talk in the gallery at 1.30pm. See page 13





BOARD GAMES

For a long time, board games were limited to chess, *Cluedo*, *Pictionary*, *Scrabble* or *Monopoly*. Does it sound like the classic games you'd find on your grandparents' shelves? Probably. But not anymore! For the last 40 years or so, board games have been exploding, and it all started in Europe.

Post-war Germany was no longer interested in wargames and conflict-based playing. This ushered in new game mechanisms and designs, with an emphasis on collaboration and tactics. These became known as Eurogames, with strong themes and reliance on strategy over luck to win.

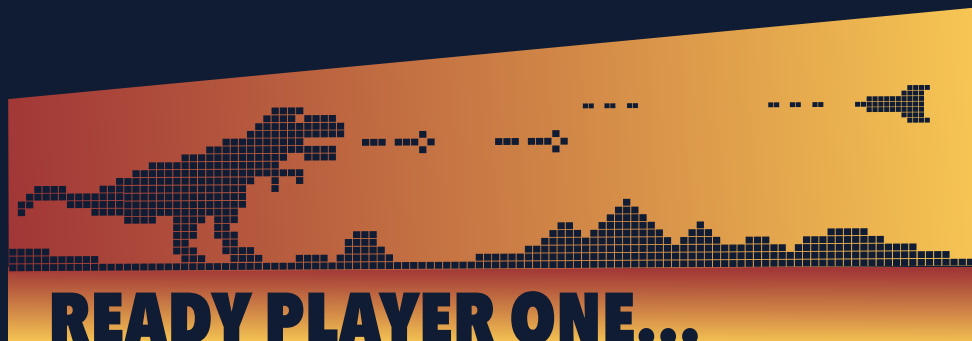
This makes board games more interesting than ever: co-operative games, where players win or lose against the game itself; asymmetrical playing, where each player follows different rules towards victory; legacy games, where each session slightly tilts the gameplay for the next time... Board games have become global, and multi-million copies-selling titles were created in the Czech Republic, Japan or France. Far from being "just for kids", board games are a full-fledged hobby, with designers catering to all ages, aesthetics, interests, and levels of complexity, with titles like *Carcassonne*, *Settlers of Catan*, *Codenames*, *Ticket to Ride*, *Splendor*, or *Wingspan*.

TODAY:

- No better place than the OH!CON Board Game Arena in the Town Hall to try one, two, or fifteen new games! (All ages)

PROGRAMME

We have a whole heap of stuff going on throughout the day – talks and workshops on everything from comics to cosplay to collectables. Read on for the details...



READY PLAYER ONE...

PANEL TALK

GALLERY (AL)

10.30am to 11.20am (50 minutes)

A panel talk on video games old and new

Whether it is old school 8-bit, classic shoot 'em ups, something casual on your phone, or the latest epic RPGs, who doesn't enjoy a good video game?

Did you spend all your pocket money on Space Invaders at the local arcade? Were you captivated by Tetris or Candy Crush? Have you spent far too many hours playing Elden Ring? Yes? Then join our guests, Des O'Gorman, Calum MacIntosh, Dave Cook, and Cal MacDonald as they chat about the eternal appeal of video games old and new.



HOW TO CREATE FOAM COSTUMES AND PROPS

TALK

COMMUNITY ROOM (AL)

10.30am to 11.00am (30 minutes)

A short introduction to building with EVA foam

You can make props and costumes out of foam? Yes, you can! Foam is one of the most popular cosplay materials and for good reason—it's light, versatile, cheap, and easy to work with.

Need a helmet? Foam can do that. Want some space armour? Foam can do that. Droids? Swords? Spell books? Yes, yes, foam can do those too! Join us to find out how.

DRAW NINJAS!

WORKSHOP

ART ROOM (AL)

10.30am to 11.20am (50 minutes)

A drawing workshop for 8-12 year olds

Flips! Kicks! Epic pranks! Learn to draw them all Ninja-style with *Corpse Talk* and *Ninja vs Ninja* creator Adam Murphy.

KT COLLECTABLES

TALK

COMMUNITY ROOM (AL)

11.10am to 11.25am (15 minutes)

Showcasing an extraordinary collection

KT Collectables specialise in vintage pop culture, nostalgia, and classic comic art. Their massive collection includes original screen-used animation cels from shows such as Batman and Masters of the Universe, original British comic artwork, and collectible toys from Doctor Who, Star Trek, Gerry Anderson shows, and more!

DRAW MANGA VIKINGS

WORKSHOP

ART ROOM (AL)

11:30am to 12:20pm (50 minutes)

A manga drawing workshop for 8 to 12 year olds

Artist Eira Richards shows you how to create your own Viking Manga character in this fun hands-on session. Discover the essentials of manga drawing including expressions, features and poses. Then design your own original Viking character with clothes, weapons, and maybe even a mythical animal companion!



THE DARKNESS OVER OH!CON

TALK

GALLERY (AL)

11:30am to 12:20pm (50 minutes)

An adventure where the audience makes the decisions!

A sinister darkness has fallen over OH!CON! Guests have vanished, volunteers have mutated, and a wicked warlock has taken over. Can you save Stornoway's finest convention?

Join author G R Jordan for a thrilling Gamebook Live adventure! In this interactive, audience-led quest, you'll make crucial choices, roll dice, cast spells, and battle bizarre enemies. Instead of reading a book alone, you and your fellow attendees will work together to navigate warped local landmarks and defeat the ultimate villain.

If you love adventure and high-stakes decisions, don't miss this! We survived 2024's "Invasion of Stornoway"—now it's time to save OH!CON itself!

HOW TO CREATE COOL SCI-FI AND FANTASY WORLDS

WORKSHOP

COMMUNITY ROOM (AL)

11.30am to 12.20pm (50 minutes)

A comic creators' workshop for 8 to 12 year olds

What makes a really cool sci-fi or fantasy world? Artist and writer Chris Baldie knows—he's created loads of them! Join him to discover how to create worlds and characters that will amaze your readers!

WRITE A DEAD FUNNY COMIC

WORKSHOP

ART ROOM (AL)

12.30pm to 1.20pm (50 minutes)

A comic-creating workshop for 8-12 year olds

Write and draw your own comic with the help of Adam Murphy, the creator of Phoenix Comic's *Corpse Talk* and *Ninja vs Ninja*. Adam will guide you on how to use your ideas to come up with a story, develop your characters, draw the action and come away with your very own dead funny comic!

AAARGH! WRITING HORROR

WORKSHOP

COMMUNITY ROOM (AL)

12.30pm to 1.20pm (50 minutes)

A writing workshop for teens and adults

Pacing, tension, a creepy ominous atmosphere....and terrifying creatures! Learn how to develop your own nightmarish tales with writer Katie Cunningham.

OUR LIVES IN FILM

PANEL TALK

GALLERY (AL)

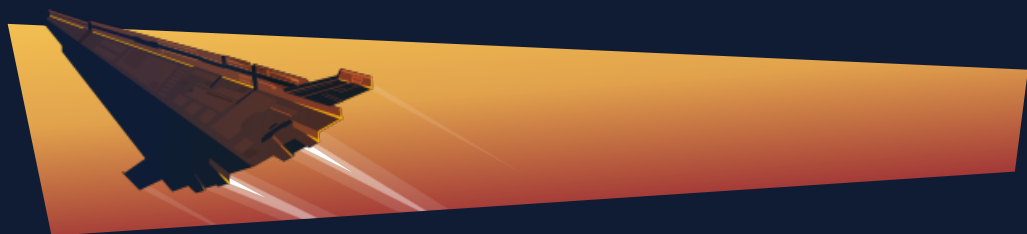
12:30pm to 1.20pm

A panel talk about working in film and TV

Andy Eadie, Sue Harvey, and Marcus Hazel-McGowan have all worked in the TV and film business.

Andy is a BSR stunt performer, appearing in high profile productions such as *The Batman*, *Game of Thrones*, and *Dungeons and Dragons*. Sue worked in the creature effects department for *Star Wars episode 1: The Phantom Menace*. Marcus is a background artist with over 300 appearances to his name in productions including *Outlander*, *The Outlaw King*, and *Mary Queen of Scots*.

In what promises to be a fascinating session, we'll be chatting about their experiences and exploring three film industry roles that don't often get to be in the spotlight.



SMOKE ME A KIPPER - A RED DWARF CELEBRATION PANEL

PANEL TALK

COMMUNITY ROOM (AL)

1:30pm to 2.20pm

From low budget sitcom to global phenomenon

Join Cal MacDonald and panel for a fast-paced dive into the humour, history, and cult legacy of *Red Dwarf*. From classic episodes to fan-favourite characters, this panel will explore what makes the boys from the Dwarf one of sci-fi comedy's most enduring icons. Smegheads welcome.

BUILDING SCI-FI AND FANTASY WORLDS

WORKSHOP

ART ROOM (AL)

1.30pm to 2.20pm (50 minutes)

Take your stories to the next level!

Whether you create books, comics, videos or games, you want your characters and worlds to capture your audience's imagination. Join artist and writer Chris Baldie as he shows you how to create sci-fi and fantasy settings and bring them to life.

ROLL FOR WELLBEING

TALK

GALLERY (AL)

1:30pm to 2.20pm

The benefits of TTRPGs

Join mental health professionals Hereward and Graeme as they discuss the social and emotional benefits of tabletop role-playing games such as Dungeons & Dragons.

ALL FIRED UP

TALK

TOWN HALL BALCONY

2:15pm to 2:45pm

Secrets of a BSR stunt performer

What's it like to perform in front of the cameras whilst being set on fire? Andy Eadie knows. Join him as he talks about his world record fire burn stunt, seen on TV classic *Game of Thrones*.

BOO! WRITE A SCARY COMIC

TALK

ART ROOM (AL)

2.30pm to 3.20pm

A scary writing workshop for 8-12 year olds

Do you like ghosts, monsters, zombies and other creepy things? Then this is the workshop for you! Top comic writer Katie Cunningham will share ideas on how to create scary characters and stories to terrify your readers.



INTRODUCTION TO INDIE GAME DEVELOPMENT

PANEL TALK

COMMUNITY ROOM (AL)

2.30pm to 3.20pm

How to get started creating video games

Have you ever dreamed of making your own game? Join Siar Interactive, an indie game studio from the Outer Hebrides, for an introduction to the creative and technical world of indie game development. Find out how you can start making your own game, no experience required.

Explore the journey from initial idea to playable game, and discover the many different skills involved in bringing a game to life. Suitable for teens and adults interested in developing video games.

“‘S IOMADH AON A MHEALL MI DON BHRUGH LE BINNEAS MO CHIÙIL”

A' CRUTHACHADH SGEULACHDAN TUAIRMEASACH GÀIDHLIG DHAN 21MH LINN

PANEL TALK

GALLERY (AL)

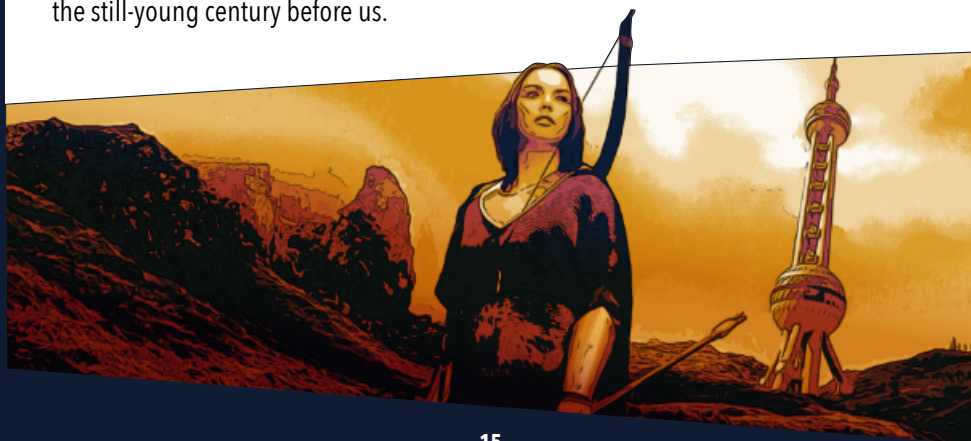
2:30pm to 3.20pm

A Gaelic panel with simultaneous English translation

Ann an comaigean, nobhailean grafaig, geamaichean cluich-riochda, geamaichean bhideo, nobhailean fantasachd agus ficsean-saidheans, tha cothroman gu leòr aig luchd na Gàidhlig a-nis a bhith a' tadhal air iomadh saoghal mac-meanmnach anns a' chànan aca fhèin. Thigibh còmhla rinn, agus treòraichidh trìuir sgeulaiche Gàidhlig sinn tron tìr ùir, annsaich seo, is sinn a' beachdachadh air an àite aig sgeulachdan tuairmeasach ann an cultar nan Gàidheal, an dà chuid anns an t-seann linn a dh'aom agus anns an linn òg a tha romhainn.

“‘Tis many I enticed into the underworld with the sweetness of my song”: Speculative Gaelic storytelling for the 21st century.

In comics, graphic novels, role-playing games, video games, fantasy and science-fiction novels, Gaelic speakers today have a wealth of opportunities to visit imaginative worlds in their own language. Come along with us as three Gaelic storytellers guide us on a journey through this strange new landscape, and consider with us the place of speculative fiction in Gaelic culture both in the last century and in the still-young century before us.



HOW TO GIVE AND TAKE CINEMATIC PUNCHES

WORKSHOP

TOWN HALL BALCONY

3pm to 3.30pm

A stunt workshop for 8yrs and up

Fight scenes have been part of action films since the earliest days of cinema. That's a lot of punches, so how do all those performers avoid getting hurt?

Join professional stunt performer Andy Eadie to discover the techniques used to make it look like you are giving or taking a punch, whilst remaining safe. This workshop will involve some supervised mild physical activity.

CREATE YOUR OWN STOP MOTION ANIMATION

WORKSHOP

COMMUNITY ROOM (AL)

3:30pm to 4.20pm (50 minutes)

Tricks with bricks – animating Lego!

Join us for a hands-on stop-motion workshop using Lego! Discover the basics of stop-motion and learn how to bring your Lego to life. This workshop is suitable for beginners and experienced animators.



SELF-PUBLISHING YOUR COMIC

WORKSHOP

GALLERY (AL)

3:30pm to 4.20pm

Created a comic or want to get into the comic industry?

Dave Cook has been writing and crowdfunding comic books since 2014. His cyberpunk comic series *Killtopia* raised over £120,000 on Kickstarter, sold thousands of copies, and won multiple awards.

Join Dave to discover how self-publishing works, how you can do it, and how it can act as a stepping stone into the industry.



PAINTING MINIATURE FIGURES WORKSHOP

TALK

ART ROOM (AL)

3.30pm to 4.40pm

Paint a figure and take it home with you!

A fun and friendly introduction to miniature painting! Perfect for anyone new to the hobby, this workshop covers the basics of painting and everyone can take home their own painted figure. No experience needed. Suitable for all beginners, 6 to 99 years.

GAMING

Head to the **Town Hall** for gaming goodness! Whether you prefer games with pixels or games with dice, we have something for you. And if you've never played before, our friendly crew can help you find something you'll like and get you started.

All gaming is included in your day ticket, but some games have time limits or must be booked at the info desk in the Town Hall.

VIDEO GAMES

Enjoy a range of classics on our arcade machines.

SIMULATORS

Race a car like a pro or have an (hopefully) relaxing time trucking along on our simulation rigs.

VR

(From 10am to 3pm, 8yrs+) Try out our VR games. 20 minute session per person.

BOARD GAMES

All a-board(game) the Nerd Express! OH!CON's gaming team are back again to spread the greatness of board games!

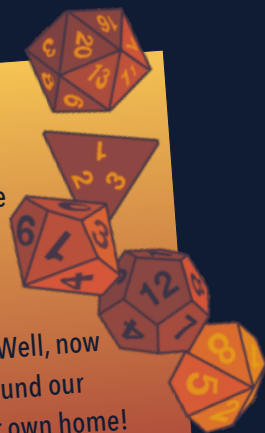
DON'T MISS:

GOOSEDRA

Only a single noise echoes in the vacuum of space... "HONK!" The Goosedra returns once again to initiate you into war-gaming. Dare you face this hulking monstrosity of a space trumpet?

MARIO KART GASLANDS

Ever wanted to bring the fun of Mario Kart to the gaming table? Well, now you can with this adaptation of *Gaslands*, *Ready Set Go!* Race around our recreation of Mario Circuit 3 and learn how to replicate it in your own home!



TTRPG (suitable for 12yrs+)

Limited spaces - sign up at the Town Hall info desk. Game full? Spectators are welcome!

10.30am (1hr) Sneaksie: Work alongside your fellow thieves to pull off impossible and wacky heists with your characters' skills and your own improv!

11am (2hrs) Into the Odd: Theseus has failed and now the Minotaur stalks you through the labyrinth. Can you escape through skill and cunning?

12 noon (2hrs) Dungeons & Dragons: Want to help the barkeeper or steal his lucky die? Want to slay a fearsome dragon or befriend them to terrorise the local villagers? The choice is yours—come along and have an adventure!

1pm (1hr) Sneaksie: Work alongside your fellow thieves to pull off impossible and wacky heists with your characters' skills and your own improv!

COSPLAY MASQUERADES

- 11:30am: Adults (16 yrs+)
- 1:30pm: Children (0-15yrs) and families

The masquerades will take place in the An Lanntair auditorium. You can enter for free, but there are limited spaces so **you must register at the OH!CON table** in the foyer **at least 20 minutes before** the start of the masquerade.

OH!CONEERS ASSEMBLE! GROUP PHOTO SHOOTS

We'd love to capture some photos of all the fabulous characters at this year's OH!CON. Whether you're entering the masquerades or not, if you've come in costume do join us on the An Lanntair stage for some themed group photos.

PHOTO SHOOT TIMES

12.30pm Superheroes

12.45pm Manga & anime characters

1pm Fantasy and sci-fi costumes

1.15pm Original character creations



QUIET SPACE

Need to get away for a few minutes from the hustle and bustle of OH!CON? Visit the quiet space in An Lanntair's drum room next to the bar area. Equipped with jigsaws, colouring books, and peace!

Need ear defenders? Ask at the OH!CON desk in An Lanntair's foyer.

CHARITY

Proceeds of the OH!CON quiz and vendor fees will be donated to this year's supported charity, Catch 23. If you'd like to donate, there's a collection bucket on the OH!CON desk in An Lanntair's foyer.

Find out more about Catch 23 at: <https://www.facebook.com/WIAMH23/>

SPONSORS AND DONORS

OH!CON 2026 has been made possible through grants from:

Creative Scotland (creativescotland.com)

Scottish Book Trust (scottishbooktrust.com)

Maoin nan Ealan Gàidhlig (feisean.org/meg)

And support from:

An Lanntair (lanntair.com)

Gateway Nerds (linktr.ee/gatewaynerds)

Castle View self-catering (stayinstornoway.co.uk)

Stornoway Business Hub (stornowaybusinesshub.co.uk)

Kijach (kijach.com)



SPECIAL THANKS TO: The staff of An Lanntair and Stornoway Town Hall, all of the OH!CON volunteers, and also to **you** for coming and continuing to support us.

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