

# NOVA CON 36

Programme Book



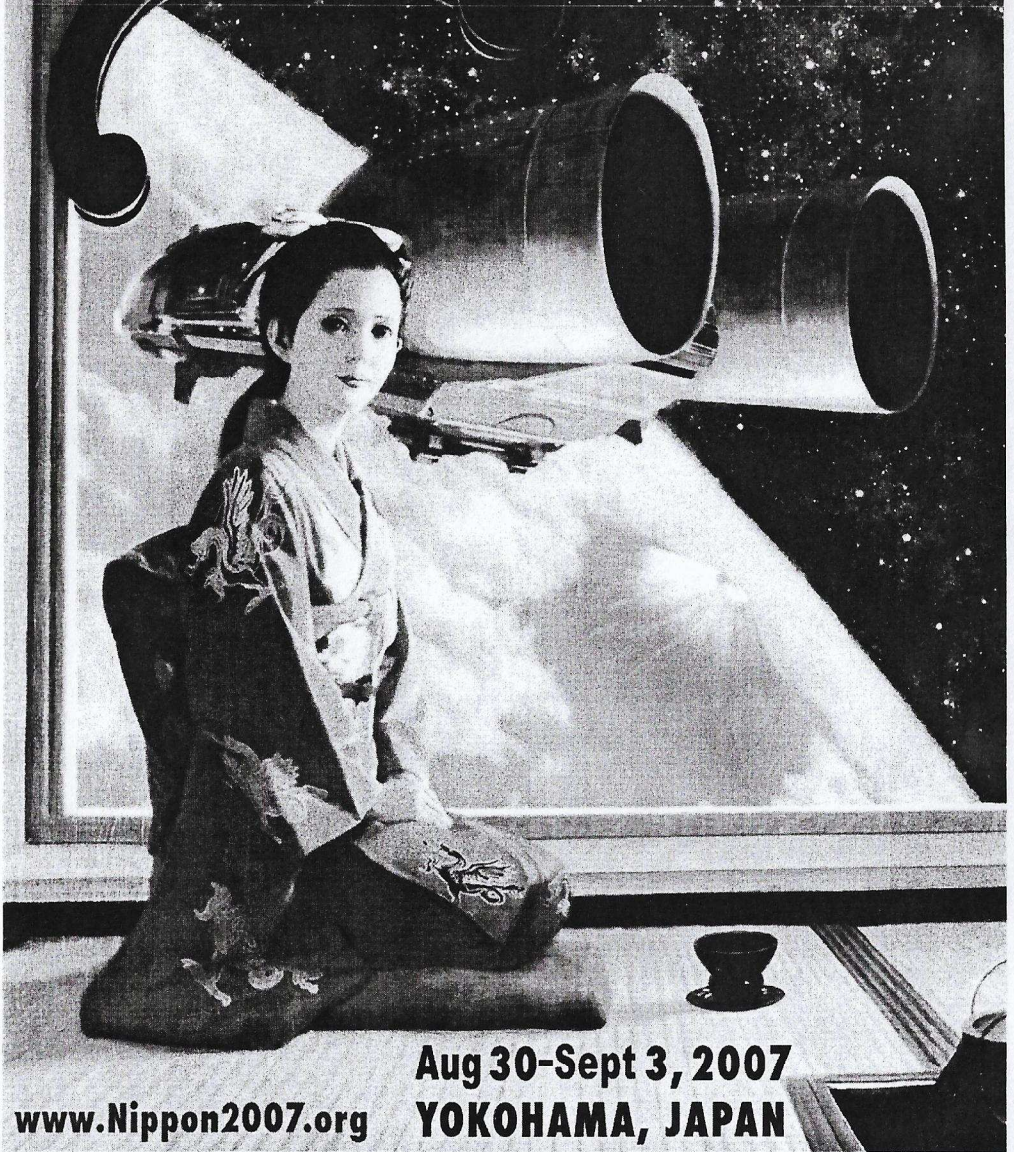
*Guest of Honour*

# KEN MACLEOD

10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> November  
Quality Hotel, Walsall

# Nippon 2007

the 65<sup>th</sup> World Science Fiction Convention



Aug 30-Sept 3, 2007

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN

[www.Nippon2007.org](http://www.Nippon2007.org)

# NOVACON 36

## Programme Book

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Committee: **CHAIR**: Tony Berry; **Programme**: Dave Hicks; **Registrations**: Steve Lawson; **Treasurer**: Alice Lawson; **Publications**: Helena Bowles; **Secretary/publicity**: Vicky Cook.

Staff: **Operations**: Chris Murphy **Art Show**: Vicky Cook; **Tech Ops**: Martin Hoare & Noel Collyer; **Dave Lally Programme**: Dave Lally; **Transport**: Al Johnston; **Dealers' Room**: Tony Berry/Steve Lawson.

10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> November 2006

Quality Hotel

Bentley

Walsall

Guest of Honour: **KEN MACLEOD**

## WELCOME TO NOVACON 36.

*by*

Tony Berry - Chairman.

Something old, something new, something borrowed... Ok I'd be straining to find the blue bit, but the rest fits Novacon pretty well. We have the "traditional" stuff like the Artshow and auction, the book auction and the Beer Tasting and Hot Food which form our Sunday night wind-down bash (make sure you buy your tickets). You know that these will be present and correct, but each year we ensure that the majority of the Programme is either new or follows on from something done at another con, which we think needs more airtime. Although Novacons are fairly laid-back with only a single stream Programme we try and pack a lot in, and because we all like the written word, we put great emphasis on the Dealers' Room, where impoverished booksellers will fight each other to relieve you of a few pennies, enough for them to buy a packet of crisps and a soft drink when they stagger out at the end of the day.

The Programme contains a mix of serious, lightweight and downright silly items which I'm sure will keep you out of the bar for hours at a time. A Programme grid is in the Read Me, with more detailed notes later in this publication. Also well worth checking out is the Dave Lally programme, which is guaranteed to have something weird that you haven't seen before, or had forgotten you'd seen 25 years ago.

Guest of Honour is Ken MacLeod, whose first novel, *The Star Fraction*, arrived in 1995. This was the beginning of the "Fall Revolution" series, followed by the "Engines Of Light" trilogy. The standalone novel *Newton's Wake* followed, and his last, *Learning The World*, won the Prometheus Award at this year's Worldcon. Ken has strong political views, and these are

reflected in his work, where he explores the way the major powers of the world are likely to shift in the future, and who'll be running (ruining?) our lives (usually Something Bad happens to England, while Scotland becomes independent!).

Once again we will be running a raffle for the RNIB Talking Books For the Blind project, which enables us to nominate SF and Fantasy books to be recorded, so buy loads of tickets. The draw will be made at the Awards Ceremony on Sunday. It's not too late to volunteer to be a Gopher and help to make the convention run smoothly. Efforts will be rewarded with tokens which can be spent at the bar.

I'd better thank the rest of my committee or they'll moan: Dave Hicks (Programme), Helena Bowles (Publications), Steve Lawson (Registrations), Vicky Cook (Publicity, Secretarial duties and the Artshow), and Alice Lawson (Treasurer). Also thanks to Cat Coast and Chris Murphy (Operations), Martin Hoare and Noel Collyer (Tech), Dave Lally (Media Studies) and Al Johnston (Transport). Special thanks to Dave Hardy for an excellent cover for the Special and Ray Bradbury for producing the Nova Awards.

# **Novacon 36**

## SPACE AND TIDE:

### **the Shifting Sands of Ken MacLeod's Science Fiction**

*By*

PETE YOUNG

It is hard to say something about the writing of Ken MacLeod that has not already been said better elsewhere, by more learned commentators the world over. So I'll begin by risking a statement of the obvious: for anyone who has not been paying attention there is one thing that must by now be pretty certain: Ken McLeod could never become just 'part of the furniture' in the very wide world of science fiction literature. His books, portable physical objects though they are, possess different complex internal dynamics each of their own, internally restless and excitable tales that exhibit a creative mind unable to settle for formulaic storytelling structures that don't allow for some radical reinterpretation to accommodate what drives him to write in the first place. Very noticeably, as we all know, his fiction is always politically experimental, never going for the predictable punch that simply confirms or denies personal (and often received) political opinions and prejudices. Instead his intention is to get us – any of us, even those who may have read just one or two of his novels – thinking for ourselves, as well as talking, debating, speculating, wondering about this technology-driven political landscape of our own immediate future and the inevitable seismic ideological shifts our world will very likely experience in our own lifetimes. In the eleven years McLeod has been published he has almost become, like his good friend Iain Banks, a British science

fiction author that you really ought to read whatever your politics, simply because he will always challenge you to think differently, or at least wider, than you currently are.

In the opening acknowledgements to his debut *The Star Fraction*, MacLeod introduced us to a slightly formless, crypto-anarchic concept that is gradually taking on a more solid social form: Libertaria, describing it as “that fey country of the mind”. It is a word with a fine aesthetic shape yet it also suggests that dangerous word, utopia. Though libertarian socialism may date back to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, the expanding freedom offered by today’s technological developments means that cyberspace is, it often seems, currently the only place where Libertaria is best expressed in any modern sense, hopefully with its eventual emergence into actual societal structures slowly gaining ground in the real world as a viable and balanced political amalgamation of all that is best about humanity. For Ken MacLeod, nothing less will do. But when MacLeod extrapolates these emerging futures, technology and its application to human needs invariably underpins all the human drama, to act as a kind of pivot on which the ever-changing, unequal weights of freedom and equality can find a common, shifting centre of gravity. His future fictions are loaded with extrapolated science on which the stories, always more important than the science itself, are deftly played out.

MacLeod’s own solutions for the political questions he sets up lie in the uncertainties engendered by his own explorations of the world’s constantly shifting spectrum of emerging political ideologies. There are no simple answers – explanations, yes, dubious motives, certainly – but MacLeod

is simply too canny to offer simplistic solutions to such problems as what will happen when irresistible forces meet immovable objects, without also having the wisdom to open the door to the nature of what may unexpectedly happen after.

But thankfully speculative politics is not all as dry as sand, and we are lucky to live in the place and time we do, when there is now this fully functioning, ready-made medium called science fiction in which we can cultivate a rich source of positive, life-affirming political ideas for the future, and Ken MacLeod is at the forefront of those writers attempting this. I can imagine that if every speculation of the years ahead had to read like the dire warnings of *1984* or *Brave New World* or, dare I say it, even *The Sheep Look Up*, literary and media scholars of an alternative future would be picking over the bones of this once promising imaginative trend and asking "so just where was the *fun* in all this?", and they may then mourn the loss of another brief art movement that had to die out to give way to the future itself (like, say, the Russian Futurists), after taking itself far too seriously and suffering an early self-asphyxiation. Science fiction would similarly have had a much shorter time of it if our genre didn't also know how to have a good time with the future along with all the warnings of doom, danger and uncertainty. Without the romance in 'scientific romances', the future would not be the comparatively fun place it is today. To stay alive and vital and popular there also has to be a measure of giving the public what it wants, the "bread and circuses", and science fiction surely does that as well as any other thriving creative movement. Both cleverly and cunningly, MacLeod also practices this ethos to the hilt and



always appears to be having a very good time peppering his political speculations with a liberal (or should that read libertarian?) measure of wit and fun, to the point of him almost being deliberately crowd-pleasing at times: his 'Engines of Light' trilogy gave us our sacrosanct talking squids in outer space *and* our spliff-smoking Greys. *Newton's Wake* gave us a Glaswegian Lara Croft and a *Stargate*-like network of instantaneous interstellar travel. MacLeod may often like to dress his science fiction in populist clothes, but the reader is immediately in on the joke because we know he will always provide far more important and satisfying substance beneath.

For example, with the easy momentum his last full novel, the Hugo-nominated *Learning the World*, it felt from the beginning like a deliberate switching on of the cruise control in a vehicle that MacLeod had designed to give himself time and space in which to play and freely speculate. A very pleasing 'first contact' story that coasted comfortably from first page to last, it is always engaging but never too demanding, like a night drive along a beach road far from home with the tide conveniently out, a vast expanse of sand on one side while the road ahead is surrounded by the enigmatic clues to the cultures you are in the midst of discovering. MacLeod made *Ground*, one of the two 'alien' worlds we were learning about, identifiable and sociologically easy to understand; paradoxically the human future he envisages in the approaching generation starship *But the Sky, My Lady, the Sky!* was a strange and fragile one of complexity and risk, a culture materially comfortable but also on edge, somehow spiritually hollow and dissatisfied. How the two societies eventually come up against each

other, with the final unexpected payoff, exhibited with great clarity a writer's thought processes that were addressing hopes for both our future and our present in equal measure.

MacLeod's latest novella *The Highway Men* moves onto altogether more familiar ground, being set in the bleak Scottish Highlands in the near future. It is a small story about how big wars are started; his writing is particularly direct and energetic and yet he loses none of his trademark ability to illuminate his setting with wit and an economy of words. Similarly, his next full length novel *The Execution Channel* is also set closer to home, tackling the intertwining subjects of terrorism and oil dependency.

With MacLeod there is always the sense of a man who knows his own mind and who enjoys teasing us into pre-figuring not just the end-game to which each book leads but also how far he will take his readers into Libertaria, which is part of the 'game' of reading Ken MacLeod. And he probably, knowingly, makes it a game, but always an enjoyable and rewarding one. His weblog 'The Early Days of a Better Nation' always casts light into a mind actively engaged with the world of sociology as expressed by political thought and humane activity. The ingredients that make up our political world may give us a single cake of varying colours, layers, textures and tastes, and to varying degrees this is what we have learned to expect in all MacLeod's science fiction, but he never just settles for seeing how many different ways he can cut that same cake. I expect MacLeod will always feel there is more fun to be had by continually searching, questioning, arguing and, thankfully, writing.

## KEN MACLEOD

*By*  
IAIN BANKS

I remember Ken MacLeod well. "Doc Thunder" - that was the name we called him back then. Well, one of the names - most of the rest were too fearsome to be repeated in a publication like this that young folks might read. I first met Ken in a bar called the Gringo's Revenge in Valparaiso - not the famous one - somewhere in South America. I can't be more specific about the location for on-going security reasons - suffice to say it may have been in the shadow of the volcano Chuahuahualtapecapac. Ken was smoking a Castro Stubby Hi-Tar and drinking from a bottle of hundred-proof La Merceneria Rum while he stripped down his Margoline Vostok .77 - an elegant, vicious weapon much favoured by people in certain lines of work at the time. He was on what passed for the porch of the Gringo's Revenge, sitting atop a prised-open crate of recently forged Krugerrands and keeping one eye on the dirt street, where mean but nervous-looking pistoleros attempted to avoid his gaze and dark-eyed señoritas tried to catch it. I pulled up a seat and told him Mr Piranho wanted the gold back - the Doc had only been supposed to take his usual fee from the loot after relieving the Existencia Brothers of their ill-gotten hoard and teaching them a lesson they'd never forget. Or, for that matter, remember.

Well, we got to talking, taking turns pulling on the bottle of Rum, and it turned out the Doc was an even crazier critter than I'd been led to believe; he'd convinced himself some dude called Bertie Bassett had stolen his girl from him back in Limey Land, seducing her with some weird and frankly obscene offer that involved eating various parts of this Bassett guy. Ken - Doc Thunder - wanted to go after his rival in the guise of The Red String (this was going to be both his new name and his disguise, apparently - he thought Bertie

B. would never suspect) and needed the Krugerrands for the trip to Tangier and the operation.

I told him I couldn't go back to Mr Piranho with a plum loco tale like that, but then we talked some more, he asked how my writing was going - I had a pretty neat side-line in counterfeit Star Trek spin-offs and was working on a new novel-length tale entitled The Warp Factor Eight - and he was able to help me with both the title and the story, which distraction, along with the rum and the heat, must have fuddled my brain-box, I guess, because from what little I recall I kind of drifted off at some point during that long afternoon of drinking and plotting.

When I woke up the gold was gone and Ken was president of Venezuela, but that's another story.

**2-4 November 2007**

**NOVACON 37**  
[www.novacon.org](http://www.novacon.org)

**Guest of Honour**

**Charles Stross**

**Venue: Quality Hotel, Bentley, nr. Walsall**

**Membership: £35.00 (34.00 at Novacon 36)**

**Contact: 379 Myrtle Road, Sheffield, S2 3HQ**

## KEN MACLEOD BIBLIOGRAPHY

### The Fall Revolution:

The Star Fraction	1995
The Stone Canal	1996
The Cassini Division	1997
The Sky Road	1999

### Engines of Light:

Cosmonaut Keep	2000
Dark Light	2001
Engine City	2002

### Other Novels:

Newton's Wake	2004
Learning The World	2005

### Collection:

Giant Lizards From Another Star	2006
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### Chap Books:

The Light Company	1998
The Highway Men	2006

## COMMITTEE BIOGRAPHIES

### TONY BERRY - CHAIR

I discovered Fandom at Leeds University in 1977 when I joined the LUUSFS. This led me to the Leeds Group, containing such reprobates as Mike Dickinson, David Pringle and Simon Ounsley, which met in town. I was roped into my first convention, Yorcon 1, and from then things just went downhill. Attended lots of Unicons, Silicons, Rubicons, Mexicons, and cons with even dafter names, finally hitting rock-bottom when I became a Conrunner. Since then I have run or helped to run more Novacons than I care to remember, three MiSCons, one Worldcon and an Eastercon. I've published 10 issues of a (very) occasional fanzine. After this year I intend to become a Grumpy Old Fan who sits in the corner of the bar and mumbles incoherently about how it was all different when I was a lad, and fans these days have never had it so good. It's all Alan Dorey's fault

### HELENA BOWLES: PUBLICATIONS

I found Fandom in 1984 becoming the youngest member of the BSFG enabling me to start my Fannish training at a suitably tender age ("DON'T CALL IT SCI-FI!") though also becoming the occasion of some risk to older fans by once or twice turning up in school uniform. My post-graduate education occurred as a boarder at that famous Fannish institute Cape Hill (affectionately known to all as *the Gestetner Graveyard*) under Professor of All Matters Fannish Martin Tudor and Senior Lecturer Tony Berry.

Here I mastered such integral fannish skills as collating, bag-stuffing, the intricacies of the Amstrad Word-processor, how to survive the heady smell of toner as well as the arts of staying up for several nights armed only with coffee and toast, planning and running a party that lasts at least 36 hours and the courses in fanzine appreciation which led to my final thesis being published in *Critical Wave* as a Fanzine Review column. I also published papers on various matters in several fannish journals of greater or lesser repute.

Having served with distinction on several Novacon Committees I assisted my superiors in the organisation of the renowned fannish events that came to be known as the MiSCons. After the birth of my two children I was forced into the Glades of Gafia for a decade but now the sprogs are old enough to stuff an envelope without attempting to eat it I feel that my Fannish career could be resurrected. Improved, even, as I now have three pairs of hands to command... Bwahahaha....!

### **VICKY COOK - SECRETARY**

Vicky Cook - N36 Secretary, also dabbling in artshow and publicity... I was dumped into SF at the deep end about 6 years ago when I turned up at a Brum Group meeting, showed some enthusiasm and promptly got offered the vacant position of Secretary. I then lurked about a bit before being asked to join the Novacon committee a couple of years ago (presumably nobody else would minute the meetings). Before this I had the university SF background of drinking lots and not knowing an awful lot about the genre, so I had a lot to catch up on. This I have been doing in between attempting to get onto any

committee going (I now co-organise FantasyCon as well as doing Novacon, and various non-SF bits and bobs). I have been born into a media-obsessed era so like anything film-related, though I do like to read when I get a chance.

### **DAVE HICKS: PROGRAMME**

I discovered fandom in 1981 at Yorcon 2, two years later than Tony or Steve. I published several fanzines including *Moriarty's Revenge* and *Idiosyncrasy* and have won a couple of Fanart Novas. I met Cat Coast (frequent Ops runner) at art college and we now have a child. I've been running Programme intermittently ever since Martin Tudor pinned me in a corner and persuaded me to leave the bar, get off my backside and bring to Novacon my winning combination of procrastination and last minute panic improvisation.

### **ALICE LAWSON: TREASURER**

I have been around fandom since 1988. Since then I have worked on various Novacon committees and some Eastercon committees including the first Paragon, which I chaired. I have also been on two worldcon committees and at one stage was involved in all three committees during the same year. Not recommended however as it will affect your sanity.

Helping to organise conventions is something I enjoy, possibly because I tend to be bossy, but also because I get to meet lots of interesting people including many of you. I would recommend anyone to try being on a committee at least once, or volunteer for some gopher shifts. It really is



a great way to meet people. But I warn you it can be addictive.....

### STEVE LAWSON: REGISTRATIONS

Ok. I've been interested in science fiction, ever since I can remember, starting with Kemlo, Hugh Walters books etc. I soon ran out of science fiction books in the Junior Library in Carlisle where I was brought up. I was not allowed to join the Adult Library until I was 11, I think I was 8 or 9 at the time. Luckily the Adult Library had all it's Science Fiction in one section so I was able to send the assistants through to procure me more reading matter, the Gollancz range in its distinctive yellow dust jackets were nice and easy for them to find. Eventually I was able to explore the shelves myself; of course by then I had read a good proportion of the available selection already. Soon after that however I discovered the delights of Second Hand Bookshops, and I never looked back.

I still have all the books I have ever bought, I can't seem to get rid of any, even my Gor books, (only the first five), or my Perry Rhodan, (only the first twenty seven), all books I will probably never read again.

I've been going to conventions since 1977. I found that I liked to help and run the things so I've been doing that for some considerable time now.

Now I spend to much time helping to run Conventions to find time to read much, or maybe I'm just getting old and tired, nahh if that was the case I wouldn't be helping to run Con's would I?

## THE PROGRAMME

*by*

Dave Hicks

**Note:** At time of writing, we don't expect any major changes to the programme. Last minute amendments will be announced at the opening ceremony and/or widely publicised both via notices and by the tried and tested method of a man shouting in the bar.

### Friday

#### **7.00 pm: Opening Ceremony**

Meet the Guest of Honour and the Committee. Last minute announcements. Followed by...

#### **7.30 pm: Space Opera - Ask not what you can do to the universe, ask what the universe will do to you**

There's a lot of older SF about how much the universe will be changed by "late-stage" technological civilisations to meet their needs, but when we get out amongst the universe will it change us, rather than us it. Pace Haldane's dictum, will *we* become not just stranger than we imagine, but stranger than we *can* imagine?

#### **9.00 pm: Book Launch**

Drop in to sample the free wine and take advantage of the free nibbles and maybe even get some books signed as we celebrate the re-release of **Storm Constantine's** *Stalking Tender Prey* and *Mythanima*, **Ian Watson's** *Alien Embassy* and the latest issue of *Visionary Tongues*.

### **10.30 pm: Room 101**

Ken MacLeod attempts to persuade Steve Green to consign his pet hates to oblivion

### **Late: Films: Eddie Loves You/Call of Cthulhu**

The first tranche of Steve Green's "unusual" presentations for the weekend. Eddie Loves You is funnier than it is horrific (although still quite horrific).

## **Saturday**

### **10.00 am: The Cult of Science**

Are we too reverent and uncomprehending of real science? Is there an "idea" of science that's more attractive than the petty-politicking, corporate-endowed reality? After all, many of the most highly regarded "hard" SF writers use science that is internally consistent to the plots of their books but (to be polite) "unrealistic".

### **11.30 pm: Book Auction**

From bargain prices for doorstep trilogies to gems that haven't been in print for years, your chance to pick up something special and unexpected.

### **1.30 pm: Conventions: what do we do next?**

Not just about next Easter, although Convoy have said they will be making an announcement this weekend about the future of the 2007 Eastercon. After a successful Worldcon, but with problems organising other conventions, where should fandom put its resources for the best conventions in the next few years?

### **3.00 pm: Guest Of Honour - Ken MacLeod**

#### **5.00 pm: Television - anything to do with us?**

Someone from the Dr Who team recently repeated the old line about its success being because "it's not really science fiction". So is SF on television anything to do with SF fan culture, and why do we have this "proprietary" feeling about say, Dr Who or Buffy, that we somehow "get it" more than general population?

#### **6.30 pm: So what were fanzines, grandpa?**

Is there still a particular satisfaction from a paper fanzine that's different from web publishing? Is fanac (for those of you who still use the jargon) still distinct from so much else that's going on? What will the talented writers, artists and *editors* in fandom be doing with their time a few years from now?

#### **8.00 pm: Film: By kind permission of George Lucas... The Pink Five Trilogy**

Yes, really - Mr Green had to get permission from *the* Mr Lucas for us to show these valley girl Star Wars spin-offs.

#### **9.30 pm Science Fiction Pub Quiz**

Your quizmasters - The Committee. Prizes you'll want to win now the treasurer's assured us we can afford it. Start thinking *now* of the wacky name for your team. The questions won't be too hard, there's the SF GCSE in the programme book for that.

### **Sunday**

#### **11.00 am: Chernobyl Revisited**

Two decades after the tragedy at the Chernobyl nuclear power station, Martin Hoare, Dave Lally and Jim Walker visited the site.

They describe what they found and has become of the region, with video presentations and slides.

**12.30 pm: Art Auction**

An opportunity to bid for some of the fine work that's been on display over the weekend.

**2.00 pm: Greek Theatre 101**

As part of his project to stage Aristophanes for an SF audience, Tony Keen gives an introduction to the conventions of Greek drama. May include audience participation. You have been warned...

**3.30 pm: People Who Bought This Also Read...**

There are endless conversations at conventions about books, but many of the works discussed aren't science fiction. Do we have *other* writers in common? What else do SF fans read? What else enhances the reading & writing of SF?

**5.00 pm : Awards Ceremony**

The Nova Awards will be presented. Our Guest of Honour and all those who've made the convention possible will be thanked. The raffle will be drawn with meticulous efficiency (a full list of all winning tickets will be displayed in the lobby outside the main programme). Next year's committee will make themselves known.

**7.00 pm: Beer Tasting and meal**

The beer tasting accompanied by Scottish Food.  
BEER BADGES and MEAL TICKETS must be purchased from the registration desk beforehand.

## General Certificate of Science-fiction Education

### AND DRAW

Compiled by: **Vernon Brown**

On the next few pages you will find a GCSE Question Paper. You should also find a loose A4 sized Answer Paper - if not please contact Registration.

This is a multiple choice quiz. Each question has been given several "outline" answers, which are often abbreviated because giving them in full would make things much too easy. You have to match your answer to one of the outline ones. It's a bit like being given specifications for making a key, together with five different locks. If the key is made correctly it will fit one of the locks, if it is not it won't.

### Instructions

1. Each question on the paper has several answers.
2. Mark the answer that you think is correct.
3. Decide which answers you will submit for marking. There are three sections - Section B is easy, Section A is medium and Section C has harder questions. You have to submit two sections which must include Section A. If you submit Sections A&B you will obtain an Ordinary Level GCSE if you pass, if you submit Sections A&C you will gain an Advanced Level GCSE if you pass. Pass mark is 40% and each certificate is graded.
4. Having decided which sections to submit ignore the other one.
5. The answer paper has lettered and numbered squares that correspond to the questions and answers on the question paper. Carefully BLOCK OUT with black or blue ink, ballpoint or felt tip the squares corresponding to your chosen answers. Do not circle, cross or otherwise mark the squares, or use pencil because the marking system cannot cope with anything else and your paper will be rejected. If you should make a mistake put a large X through the incorrect square.
6. Block out the square corresponding to the sections you are submitting i.e. A&B or A&C and print your name and address, which will be used as an address label if you do not collect your certificate during NOVACON.
7. Post your answer paper in the GCSE box at REGISTRATION on SATURDAY evening by 6.00pm but watch the GCSE posters for any alteration to this deadline.
8. All answer papers submitted will be entered into a free draw.
9. Collect your certificate from me on Saturday evening/Sunday and find out whether you have also won a prize.
10. Finally, no one else will know how you have done unless you tell them, so please have a go, you may do better than you think.

## SECTION A

1. What planet was being attacked in "This Island Earth"?  
a) Barsoom b) Earth c) Metaluna d) Ultra e) Venus
2. Who was the first editor of "Amazing Stories"?  
a) HG b) HW c) JC d) JV e) TP
3. What caused "The Death of Grass"?  
a) Disease b) Drought c) Heat d) Radiation e) War
4. When was the film "Metropolis" originally released, to the nearest year?  
a) 1920 b) 1923 c) 1926 d) 1929 e) 1932
5. "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep" was filmed as ?  
a) BR b) ET c) JD d) TC e) TT
6. What book title is the temperature of burning paper?  
a) C233 b) F451 c) K506 d) P900 e) R186
7. In which decade was Welles radio broadcast of "War of the Worlds"?  
a) 20s b) 30s c) 40s d) 50s e) 60s
8. In "Omnilingual" (Piper) what table is the key to Martian?  
a) Geological b) Genealogical c) Log b) Multiplication e) Periodic
9. How many names has God?  
a) 1 million b) 9 million c) 1 billion d) 9 billion e) 90 billion

10. Who wrote the Ifworld novel "What Mad Universe"?
- a) FB b) JB c) HH d) IA e) FL
11. "Tiger Tiger" has what other title?
- a) SIASL b) EA c) TSMD d) F e) TTM
12. In which story is there mass panic at the stars appearance?
- a) Darkness b) Daybreak c) Midnight d) Nightfall  
e) Sunset
13. What "allegorical" writing tells of a fans progress?
- a) ADITL b) E c) PAAA d) PP e) TED
14. How did the heroes get "From the Earth to the Moon" (JV)?
- a) Balloon b) Cannon c) Cavorite d) Kite e) Swans
15. What novel was a sequel to "Lord Kalvan of Otherwhen"?
- a) APFT b) GKW c) LF d) MITG e) TATA
16. Shelley wrote the novel usually known as "Frankenstein" What is its correct title?
- a) FOATOT b) FOTMP c) TCOF d) TFM e) TTOF
17. In "The Time Machine (Film 1960) with what did the Time Traveler return to the future?
- a) Books b) Lights c) Medicines d) Tools e) Weapons



## SECTION B

18. What did the "Predator" want humans for?  
a) Cyborgs b) Food c) Pets d) Slaves e) Trophies
19. On which planet are Anne McCaffrey's "Dragon" stories set?  
a) Darkover b) Dune c) New Terra d) Odyssey e) Pern
20. Who are the "Hugo" awards named after?  
a) HE b) HG c) HH d) JB e) JC
21. Who wrote "The Time Machine"?  
a) BS b) HGW c) IA d) JSB e) JV
22. In "Earth Abides" what becomes a religious symbol?  
a) TV set b) Noose c) Hammer d) ICBM e) Sword
23. Which author created "slow glass"?  
a) BA b) HGW c) JV d) BS e) SD
24. Who wrote the novel "On The Beach"?  
a) GH b) NS c) JB d) ER e) ERB
25. In what publication did Dan Dare appear in 1950?  
a) Eagle b) Hawk c) Kestrel d) Robin e) Swift
26. What kind of organisms are Triffids (JW)?  
a) Crystals b) Fish c) Octopi d) Plants e) Spores
27. What is Cavorite?  
a) Drink b) Drug c) Food d) Gravity shield e) High explosive

28. Who was the captain in the radio serial "Journey into Space"?

a) Captain Marvel b) Captain Thunder c) Fly Bird d) Jet Morgan e) Steel Mann

29. "All animals are equal but some are more equal than others" is from ?

a) AF b) FW c) TOF d) WD e) WITW

30. "The Forbidden Planet" is a film. What is "Return to The Forbidden Planet"?

a) Book b) Film sequel c) Musical d) Play e) Pop Group

31. In what was the word "Robot" first used?

a) MM b) R c) ROTR c) RUR d) TWLM

32. Who organized the first NOVACON?

a) ASFG b) BSFA c) BSFG d) LC e) OUSFG

33. In which of the following films does a DeLorean star?

a) BFTP b) BTTF c) MITM d) TTC e) TTFI

## SECTION C

18. What was AC Clarkes first professionally published SF story?

a) Empire b) Loophole c) Mistake d) Sandstorm  
e) Sentinel

19. In "A Martian Odyssey" (SG) what is the Martians name?  
a) Black b) Dravit c) G'Ruth d) Toiler e) Tweel
20. What was "The Forbidden Planet" called?  
a) Virgo 2 b) Rigel 3 c) Vespa 3 d) Altair 4 e) Sirius 4
21. Which SF artist designed the Skylab 1 patch?  
a) CF b) DH c) FF d) KF e) KT
22. In which SF series does a Tormal appear?  
a) Draka b) Foundation c) Medship d) Sector General  
e) Wander
23. A Subway Named (what ?)" by A J Deutsch?  
a) Adam b) Desire c) Metropolis d) Mobius  
e) Wrongly
24. What is the "Magic Mimeograph"?  
a) AMMEDRA b) FNHAMFBYLM c) TANSTAAFL  
d) TEMMARDS e) TMMITOWATFATH
25. What was Winston Churchill's 1931 short SF story based around?  
a) American Revolution b) American Civil War  
c) English Civil War d) French Revolution e) Norman Conquest
26. What is the British title of the USA novel "Out of the Deeps"?  
a) TKW b) DOTT c) C d) MC e) MD

27. The "Eagle" comic, in which Dan Dare originally appeared, was the idea of what type of person?  
a) Astronomer b) Explorer c) Policeman d) Politician  
e) Vicar

28. Of what are "The Currents of Space" (IA) composed?  
a) Carbon atoms b) Electrons c) Gravity waves  
d) Ionised matter e) Light pressure

29. "Soylent Green" is to MRMR as "No Blade of Grass" is to what?  
a) CATS b) SW c) TBOF d) TDOG e) WWC

30. In "Under The Yoke" (Stirling) a pair of "Le Matts" is a wedding gift. What are they?  
a) Earrings b) Paintings c) Sculptures d) Serfs  
e) Weapons

31. In which decade was Jules Verne's last published SF story first published?  
a) 1870s b) 1900s c) 1930s d) 1960s e) 1990s

32. The "Maison d'Ailleurs" is an SF museum in which country?  
a) Andorra b) Belgium c) Canada d) France  
e) Switzerland

33. "Aelita" is a film set on where?  
a) Earth b) Mars c) Mercury d) The Moon e) Venus

## NOVA AWARDS

by

Steve Green, Administrator

In 1973, Novacon instituted the annual Nova Awards to celebrate achievement in British science fiction fanzines. Originally handed down by a panel of judges, these accolades are now decided by Novacon members who can demonstrate a basic knowledge of current fanzines.

Following Novacon 32, the three categories - best fanzine, best fanzine writer, best fanzine artist - were extended to cover fanzines produced in Eire. In addition, electronic fanzines are now eligible, provided a file copy is lodged with the current administrator at the address below.

### Previous Winners

- 1973: *Speculation* #32, ed. Peter Weston (best fanzine). [1]  
1974: *Zimri*, ed. Lisa Conesa; *Big Scab*, ed. John Brosnan. [2]  
1975: *Maya* #8, ed. Rob Jackson.  
1976: *Maya*, ed. Rob Jackson.  
1977: *Twill-Ddu*, ed. Dave Langford.  
1978: *Gross Encounters*, ed. Alan Dorey.  
1979: *Seamonsters*, ed. Simone Walsh.  
1980: *One-Off*, ed. Dave Bridges.  
1981: *Tappen*, ed. Malcolm Edwards (best fanzine); Chris Atkinson (new award: best fanzine writer); Pete Lyon (new award: best fanzine artist).  
1982: *Epsilon*, ed. Rob Hansen; Chris Atkinson; Rob Hansen.  
1983: *A Cool Head*, ed. Dave Bridges; Dave Bridges; Margaret Welbank. [3]  
1984: *Xyster*, ed. Dave Wood; Anne Hammill; D West.  
1985: *Prevert*, ed. John Jarrold; Abi Frost; Ros Calverly.  
1986: *Pink Bedsocks*, ed. Owen Whiteoak; Owen Whiteoak; Atom.  
1987: *Lip*, ed. Hazel Ashworth; D West; D West.  
1988: *Lip*, ed. Hazel Ashworth; Michael Ashley; D West.  
1989: *VSOP*, ed. Jan Orys; Simon Polley; Dave Mooring.  
1990: *FTT*, ed. Joseph Nicholas & Judith Hanna; Dave Langford; Dave Mooring. [4]  
1991: *Saliromania*, ed. Michael Ashley; Michael Ashley; D West.  
1992: *Bob?*, ed. Ian Sorensen; Michael Ashley; Dave Mooring.  
1993: *Lagoon*, ed. Simon Ounsley; Simon Ounsley; Dave Mooring.  
1994: *Rastus Johnson's Cakewalk*, ed. Greg Pickersgill; Greg Pickersgill; D West.  
1995: *Attitude*, ed. Michael Abbott, John Dallman & Pam Wells; Simon Ounsley; D West. [5]  
1996: *Banana Wings*, ed. Claire Briailey & Mark Plummer; Alison Freebairn; D West. [6]

1997: *Banana Wings*, ed. Claire Brialey & Mark Plummer; Mark Plummer; Sue Mason.

1998: *Banana Wings*, ed. Claire Brialey & Mark Plummer; Maureen Kincaid Speller; D West.

1999: *Barmaid*, ed. Yvonne Rowse; Yvonne Rowse; Sue Mason.

2000: *Plokta*, ed. Alison Scott, Steve Davies & Mike Scott; Yvonne Rowse; Sue Mason.

2001: *Head*, ed. Doug Bell & Christina Lake; Alison Freebairn; Dave Hicks.

2002: *Plokta*, ed. Alison Scott, Steve Davies & Mike Scott; Claire Brialey; Dave Hicks.

2003: *Zoo Nation*, ed. Pete Scott; Claire Brialey; Sue Mason.

2004: *Zoo Nation*, ed. Pete Scott; Claire Brialey; Sue Mason.

2005: *Banana Wings*, ed. Claire Brialey & Mark Plummer; Claire Brialey; Alison Scott.

Notes: [1] At this point, the award was decided by a panel of "worthy fans"; also nominated were Peter Roberts' *Egg* #6, Arthur Cruttenden's *Idiocy Couchant* #2, Ian Maule's *Maya* #5, Ian Williams' *Siddhartha* #3, Kevin Smith's *Sfinx* #7, Dave Sutton's *Shadow* #19 and Lisa Conesa's *Zinri* #5. The initial judges were Ken Bulmer, Jim Linwood, Phil Rogers and Tony Walsh; Linwood wrote in *C#6* that an open vote "would lead to partisan voting, accusations of undue pressure and ballot rigging, and faneds wanting the award might tend to play to the gallery". There were mutterings that *Speculation* won due to pressure from the Birmingham SF Group, which had taken over the organisation of Novacon in 1972, but it was in fact nominated by Surrey-based fanzine editor Gray Boak. [2] This was the first - and, so far, only - occasion when two fanzines tied for the Nova. [3] This was the first occasion one fan received two Novas in the same year. It had occurred seven more times as of 2005. [4] The winning fanzine took its title from an acronym for *Fuck the Tories*. [5] *Attitude* was intended both as a fanzine and a thematic progress report for the eponymous 1996 convention. [6] *Banana Wings* was a partnership of two initially separate titles, *Waxen Wings* and *Banana Skins*.

### Nova Award Rules

[The original Nova Award was created in 1973 by the late Gillon Field. Initial rules were drawn up in March 1978 by Dave Langford, and revised by him in September 1983. These were further revised in February 1987 by Martin Tudor, then expanded and revised in late November 2002 by Steve Green.

[Past administrators: Tony Berry, Sandra Bond, Dave Langford, Martin Tudor, Paul Vincent, Pam Wells. The current awards are designed and constructed for Novacon by Ray Bradbury.]

1. The Nova Awards celebrate fanzines, fanzine writing and fanzine artwork produced by science fiction fans resident in the UK or Ireland, providing a friendly pat on the back to those whose efforts gave the greatest pleasure to Novacon members during the previous year. They have no vast cosmic

- significance. Should any difficulties arise in interpreting the rules governing the Nova Awards (henceforth referred to as the Novas), those concerned are urged to follow the course most in keeping with this spirit.
2. The Novas shall be announced at Novacon, the convention organised annually by the Birmingham Science Fiction Group.
  3. The categories shall be "Best Fanzine", "Best Fan Writer" and "Best Fan Artist".
  4. A trophy shall be supplied in each category by the Novacon committee, for presentation at the awards ceremony on Sunday afternoon.
  5. The trophies shall be presented by Novacon's guest(s) of honour (or, if unavailable, by the Novacon committee chair), on behalf of the convention membership.
  6. In the event of a tie, the joint recipients shall be asked to share the trophy unless the Novacon committee is willing and able to fund a duplicate trophy.
  7. As the Novas are awarded by popular vote, there is no mechanism for eligible editors, writers or artists to withdraw their work or themselves from consideration. A winner determined not to be honoured can always refuse to accept his or her award.
  8. In the event that Novacon should not be held in any given year, the Birmingham Science Fiction Group shall be requested to underwrite a ballot in early October of the preceding Novacon's membership, using established criteria and deadlines. Winners shall be notified by e-mail and post, with the full results publicised through fanzines and electronic noticeboards. If the Birmingham Science Fiction Group is willing and able to fund trophies, these shall be presented at the next Eastercon or similarly major event.
  9. Should Novacon be cancelled for a second year in succession, the Nova Award Administrator (henceforth referred to as the Administrator) shall meet with the committee of the Birmingham Science Fiction Group to decide as a matter of urgency whether to discontinue the Novas or allow another convention to take over Novacon's role.
  10. For the purposes of the Novas, a fanzine shall be defined as an amateur publication concerned with science fiction and / or fantasy, fans of science fiction and / or fantasy, and / or related subjects, copies of which may be obtained in exchange for other such publications or in response to letters of comment. In the event that eligibility is unclear, the decision of the Administrator shall be final.
  11. The "Best Fanzine" category shall be open to any fanzine published in the UK or Ireland, provided at least one issue has been published between 1 October of the preceding year and 30 September of the current year. In cases where a fanzine has two or more editors, at least one must be resident in the UK or Ireland.
  12. Electronic fanzines ("e-zines") shall be eligible in the "Best Fanzine" category, provided each issue is a distinct entity and a printed copy is available if preferred. A file copy must also lodged with the Administrator, whose decision on eligibility shall be final.

13. The "Best Fan Writer" category shall be open to anyone resident in the UK or Ireland who has contributed a piece of writing to an eligible fanzine published between 1 October of the preceding year and 30 September of the current year.
14. The "Best Fan Artist" category shall be open to anyone resident in the UK or Ireland who has contributed a piece of artwork to an eligible fanzine published between 1 October of the preceding year and 30 September of the current year.
15. Voting shall be open to any member of that year's Novacon, provided he or she has received at least six different fanzines published in the UK or Ireland between 1 October of the preceding year and 30 September of the current year (separate issues of an individual fanzine or various organs of a group / society shall not be considered as different fanzines for the purposes of this total). Voters are not required to be resident in the UK or Ireland.
16. Ballot forms shall be circulated with the final Novacon progress report each year, to facilitate voting by post or e-mail prior to Novacon. The deadline for postal and electronic votes shall be 23:59 GMT on the Saturday prior to Novacon; the deadline for voting in person shall be 23:59 GMT on the Saturday of Novacon.
17. Only one ballot form shall be accepted from each member, and votes for themselves or their own fanzines will be disallowed (should a duplicate form be received, it should be clearly marked "Invalid" and exempt from the count).
18. Valid ballots should include the voter's name, address and Novacon membership number, plus the titles of six different fanzines published in the UK or Ireland between 1 October of the preceding year and 30 September of the current year (separate issues of an individual fanzine or various organs of a group / society shall not be considered as different fanzines for the purposes of this total).
19. Ballots sent by post or handed in at the convention should be signed. Those sent electronically should emanate from the voter's known e-mail address.
20. Production of ballot forms, organisation of the count and general promotion of the Novas shall be the responsibility of the Administrator, appointed by the preceding year's Novacon committee. The Administrator should have a good basic knowledge of British fanzines but, to prevent dispute, it is preferable he or she should not edit a fanzine likely to qualify.
21. The Administrator shall in turn nominate two Novacon members to assist with the count on the Sunday of the convention; again, they should have a wide knowledge of fanzines but preferably not edit a fanzine likely to qualify. During the count, they shall also assist the Administrator with issues of eligibility and ballot validity. The decision of this group shall be final.
22. First-, second- and third-place votes shall be available in each category. First-place votes shall be allocated three points, second-place votes two points and third-place votes one point.
23. In the event of a tie on points, the Nova in that category shall be awarded to the nominee with most first-place votes. In the event of a tie on first-place votes, the



- award shall be made to the nominee with most second-place votes. Only in the case of identical voting patterns shall a formal tie be announced.
24. The identity and choices of individual voters, as well as any discussions during the count, shall remain confidential. A complete breakdown of nominees and points received shall be released within one month of the announcement of the winners.
  25. The Nova Awards ballot form shall comprise a short introduction to the aims of the award and appropriate footnotes on definitions and eligibility, plus space for the voter to identify themselves and indicate their receipt of at least six different fanzines published in the UK or Ireland between 1 October of the preceding year and 30 September of the current year (separate issues of an individual fanzine or various organs of a group / society shall not be considered as different fanzines for the purposes of this total).
  26. Further, the ballot form shall list the three categories, "Best Fanzine", "Best Fan Writer" and "Best Fan Artist"; in each case, space will be allotted for first-, second- and third-place votes.
  27. Finally, if he or she wishes, the Administrator shall include a shortlist of known eligible fanzines, making clear this is intended as an *aide memoire* and is in no sense definitive.
  28. Once the winners in all three categories have been decided, the ballot forms and any related notes shall be placed into an envelope and sealed, to be retained by the Administrator for one calendar month in the event the results are challenged. If no such query is raised during this period, the envelope and its contents shall be destroyed. Should the results be called into question, the envelope – still sealed – shall be handed over to the chair of the relevant Novacon committee for further investigation.
  29. The rules shall be posted on the Novacon website and hardcopies made available for a reasonable fee (covering printing and postage) upon request from the Administrator.
  30. Any amendments to the above rules shall be made by the current Administrator in conjunction with the committee of that year's Novacon.

## 2005 Results

Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer's *Banana Wings* was presented with its fourth Nova Award for best fanzine by guest of honour Alastair Reynolds. Claire Brialey was also named best fanwriter for the fourth year running, whilst Alison Scott received the fan artist Nova in an extremely close race with last year's winner, Sue Mason. A total of 42 ballot forms were submitted, 50% up on 2004.

**Best Fanzine:** *Banana Wings*, ed. Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer (72 points); 2<sup>nd</sup>, *Zoo Nation*, ed. Pete Young (45); 3<sup>rd</sup>, *Plokta*, ed. Steve Davies, Alison Scott and Mike Scott (21); 4<sup>th</sup>, *Meta*, ed. Geneva Melzack (18); 5<sup>th</sup>, *Tortoise*, ed. Sue Jones (17); 6<sup>th</sup>, *Shiny!*, ed. Flick (13); 7<sup>th</sup>, *YAFA Staffer and the Worldcon of 2005*, ed. Max (12); 8<sup>th</sup> =, *Floss*, ed. Lilian Edwards (6); 8<sup>th</sup> =, *Halo of Flies*, ed. Tony Keen (6); 8<sup>th</sup> =, *Thought Experiments*, ed. Geneva Melzack (6); 11<sup>th</sup> =, *Cosmic Hairdryer*, ed. Max (4); 11<sup>th</sup> =,

*High Viz Girl*, ed. Yvonne Rowse (4); 11<sup>th</sup>=, *Owl Soup*, ed. "Captain Buggernuts", aka Clarrie O'Callaghan (4); 14<sup>th</sup>=, *Album*, ed. John Dallman (3); 14<sup>th</sup>=, *The Convertible Bus*, ed. Tony Keen (3); 14<sup>th</sup>=, *More Balls*, ed. Ang Rosin (3); 14<sup>th</sup>=, *YAFazine*, ed. various (3); 18<sup>th</sup>=, *Ansible*, ed. Dave Langford (2); 18<sup>th</sup>=, *The Banksonian*, ed. David Haddock (2); 18<sup>th</sup>=, *Snapshot*, ed. Ian Sorensen (2); 21<sup>st</sup>, *Grunt Grunt*, ed. "Captain Buggernuts", aka Clarrie O'Callaghan (1). **Best Fan Writer:** Claire Brialey (44 points); 2<sup>nd</sup>, Tony Keen (37); 3<sup>rd</sup>, Geneva Melzack (33); 4<sup>th</sup>, Max (31); 5<sup>th</sup>, Mark Plummer (26); 6<sup>th</sup>, Dave Langford (14); 7<sup>th</sup>, Niall Harrison (13); 8<sup>th</sup>, James Bacon (11); 9<sup>th</sup>, Pete Young (7); 10<sup>th</sup>, Yvonne Rowse (6); 11<sup>th</sup>, Sue Jones (5); 12<sup>th</sup>=, Lilian Edwards, Cheryl Morgan, Alison Scott (3); 15<sup>th</sup>=, Greg Pickersgill, Ian Sorensen (2); 17<sup>th</sup>=, Giulia De Cesare, Steve Davies, Flick, Ang Rosin (1). **Best Fan Artist:** Alison Scott (51 points, 14 first-place votes); 2<sup>nd</sup>, Sue Mason (51, seven first-place votes); 3<sup>rd</sup>=, Dave Hicks, Pete Young (24); 5<sup>th</sup>, Arthur "Atom" Thomson (16); 6<sup>th</sup>, Graham Higgins (10); 7<sup>th</sup>=, Sue Jones, Feorag NicBhríde (5); 9<sup>th</sup>, D West (4); 10<sup>th</sup>=, Jim Barker, Steve Jeffery (3); 12<sup>th</sup>, Flick (2).

In addition, the ballot form included a straw poll on whether the Nova Awards should be open to non-Novacon members who met the existing "informed electorate" criterion (receiving at least six different UK or Irish fanzines during the relevant year). Of the 35 who expressed a preference, 32 (91%) were in favour of expanding the electorate. A decision is expected from next year's Novacon committee.

## 2006 Nova Awards

The following fanzines were received by the Nova Awards administrator between 1 October 2005 and 30 September 2006, and are eligible for the 2006 awards, which will be presented at Novacon 36

- *A Cry for Help* #1 [16pp, A5], John Toon, 118 Great Meadow Road, Bristol, BS32 8DA, <fivemagicbeans@gmail.com>
- *Ansible* #219 [10/05], #220 [11/05], #221 [12/05], #222 [1/06] #223 [2/03], #224 [3/06], #225 [4/06], #226 [5/06], #227 [6/06], #228 [7/06], #229 [8/06], #230 [9/06]; all 2pp, all A4] Dave Langford, 94 London Road, Reading, RG1 5AU, downloadable from <http://www.ansible.co.uk>
- *Banana Wings* #24 [40pp], #25, #26 [both 36pp], #27 [32pp; all A4], Claire Brialey & Mark Plummer, 59 Shirley Road, Croydon, CR0 7ES, <banana@fishlifter.demon.co.uk>
- *The Banksonian* #8 [8pp], #9, #10 [12pp, all A5], David Haddock, 84 Foxhollow, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB3 8ES, <banksonian@yahoo.co.uk>
- *Brum Group News* #409 [10/05, 12pp], #410 [11/05; 12pp], #411 [12/05, 16pp] #412 [1/06, 12pp], #413 [2/06, 12pp], #414 [3/06, 12pp], #415 [4/06, 16pp], #416 [5/06, 12pp], #417 [6/06, 8pp], #418 [7/06, 8pp], #419 [8/06, 8pp], #420 [9/06, 12pp; all A5], Rog Peyton (for the Birmingham SF Group), 19 Eves Croft, Bartley Green, Birmingham, B32 3QL, <rog@rogpeyton.fsnet.co.uk>

- *Bug For TAFF* [18pp, A5], Tony Keen, 48 Priory Street, Tonbridge, TN9 2AN, <keentony@yahoo.co.uk>, & Tom Becker, 2034 San Luis Avenue #1, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA
- *Concussed* [8pp, A4], Keith Walker, 6 Vine Street, Greaves, Lancaster, LA1 4UF
- *FAFIA #1* [3pp], #2 [5pp], #3 [4pp], #4 [2pp; all A4], Peter Sullivan, 1 Englemann Way, Burdon Vale, Sunderland, SR3 2NY, <peter@burdonvale.co.uk>
- *League of Fan Funds Newsletter #2* [2pp, A4], <www.astralpole.org>
- *Outlaw Mutation Boogie #63* [10pp, A4], Mark Plummer, address as above
- *Procrastinations #1* [12pp, A5], John Coxon, 14 Chapel Lane, Peterborough, PE4 6RS, <john.coxon@gmail.com>
- *Shiny #3* [20pp, A6], Flick, 13 Collette Court, Eleanor Close, London, SE16 6PW, <shiny@internet-fairy.org>
- *Snapshot #7* [6pp, A4], Ian Sorensen, 3 Portia Place, Motherwell, ML1 1EL, <ian@soren.demon.co.uk>
- *Tortoise #22* [20pp, A5], Sue Jones, Flat 5, 32-33 Castle Street, Shrewsbury, SY1 2BQ, <sue.tortoise@btinternet.com>
- *Zoo Nation #7* [32pp, A5], Pete Young, 62 Walmer Road, Woodley, RG5 4PN, <peter.a.young@macunlimited.net>

In addition, a new issue of *Plokta* was reportedly published in May, but does not appear to have been distributed outside London as yet.

The following have also been received since 1 October 2005, but are ineligible:

- *The Anatomic Air Review #1, #2* [both 28pp, quarter-quarto], Sinoun Chea, 2090a Highway 317 #239, Suwanee, GA 30024, USA, <nuonis@gmail.com>
- *Bento #18* [32pp, quarter-quarto], David Levine & Kate Yule, 1905 SE 43rd Avenue, Portland, OR 97215, <david@bentopress.com>
- *Chunga #11* [34pp], #12 [32pp, both quarto], Andy Hooper, Randy Byers & Carl Juarez, 1013 North 36<sup>th</sup> Street, Seattle, WA 98103, USA, <fringefaan@yahoo.com>
- *Concussed* [48pp, A4], Bridget Bradshaw, Farah Mendlesohn & Peter Young for Concussion, the 57th British National Science Fiction Convention
- *Concussion Programme Book* [68pp, A4], Bridget Bradshaw, Farah Mendlesohn & Martin McGrath for Concussion, the 57th British National Science Fiction Convention
- *Data Dump #93, #94, #96-98, #100* [all 4pp, A5], 70p (or US\$2.00) from Steve Sneyd, 4 Nowell Place, Almondbury, Huddersfield, HD5 8PB
- *Eye Candy: Summer 2006* [39pp, half-quarto], Sage Adderley, PO Box 37988, Philadelphia, PA 19148, USA, <eyecandyzine@gmail.com>
- *Fanzine Fanatique* [4pp, A4], Keith & Rosemary Walker, address as above [this issue is dated "autumn 2005" and appears to have been published prior to 1 October]

- *Festival of Fantastic Films Vol.17 #1* [16pp], *Vol.17 #2* [8pp; both A5], Tony Edwards (for the 17th Festival of Fantastic Films)
- *The 17<sup>th</sup> Festival of Fantastic Films Programme* [20pp including programme insert, A4], Tony Edwards (for the 17th Festival of Fantastic Films, <fantastic-films.com/festival/>)
- *Hold Back a Glacier* [6pp, approx 12.5cm x 19cm], M Brianna Stallings <embryonic\_publications@yahoo.com>
- *I Must Be Nuts* [4pp, quarto], Colin Hinz, 148 Howland Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M5R 3B5, Canada, <asfi@eol.ca> or <asfi235@gmail.com>
- *It Takes All Kinds #2* [20pp, half-legal], #3 [24pp, half-quarto], Misty O'Brien, 740 14th Street South #23, St Cloud, MN 56301, USA, <misty@bravegirlstudio.net>
- *No Award #16* [20pp, quarto], Marty Cantor, 11825 Gilmore Street #105, North Hollywood, CA 91606, USA, <hooahapus@earthlink.net>
- *Littlebrook #5* [18pp, quarto], Jerry Kaufman & Suzanne Tompkins, PO Box 25075, Seattle, WA 98165, USA,
- *Novacon 35 Programme Book* [39pp, A5], Helena Bowles (for Novacon 35)
- *Novacon 35 Progress Report #3* [20pp, A5], Helena Bowles (for Novacon 35)
- *Novacon 36 Progress Report #1* [19pp], #2 [18pp; both A5], Helena Bowles (for Novacon 36), <www.novacon.org>
- *Opuntia #59.3, #59.5, #60, #60.1* [16pp, half-quarto], Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7, Canada
- *Twenty-Three Skidoo #1* [4pp, quarto], Catherine Crockett & Colin Hinz (for Corflu 23), <www.corflu.org>
- *Two Year TAFF-Life #1* [4pp, quarto], Suzanne Tompkins (for the TransAtlantic Fan Fund), address as above
- *Vanamonde #608 - 652* [all 2pp, all quarto], John Hertz, 236 S. Coronado Street #409, Los Angeles, CA 90057, USA
- *Watershed #1* [8pp], #2 [6pp, both quarto; the latter is wrongly dated 2006], Andrew Hooper & Carrie Root, 11032 30th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98125, USA, <fanmailaph@aol.com> or <carrieroot@excite.com>

Material for listing in future Novacon progress reports and on the Nova Awards ballot form should be sent to: 33 Scott Road, Olton, Solihull, B92 7LQ.

The 24<sup>th</sup> annual Nova Awards will be presented at Novacon 36 on Sunday afternoon. Ballot forms were included both in the final progress report and with this programme book; additional copies are available next to the ballot box, which is located by Registrations (immediately outside the main programme). Votes must be cast by 12 midnight on Saturday, either via the ballot box or by handing them to the administrator.

## THE HISTORY OF NOVACON

The first Novacon was organised in 1971 as a one-off event by the Aston University Science Fiction Group, but its success led to the convention being adopted by the neighbouring Birmingham SF Group from 1972 onwards. For the first seven years, the choice of guest of honour alternated between pro authors and leading fans.

In the list below, the figure in brackets relates to membership numbers at the time each programme book went to press, rather than the final attendance (in addition, problems with the printing of Novacon 14's programme book meant an entire month's new members were effectively excluded). Committee details appear beneath the guest(s) of honour. Note: the Excelsior changed its name to the Forte Post House.

Novacon, 1971 (144)	Imperial Centre Birmingham	James White Chairman: Vernon Brown
Committee: Ray Bradbury, Alan Denham, Alan Donnelly, Pauline Dungate.		
Novacon 2, 1972 (144)	Imperial Centre Birmingham	Doreen Rogers Chairman: Pauline Dungate
Committee: Stan Eling, Jeffrey Hacker, Richard Newnham, Meg Palmer, Hazel Reynolds.		
Novacon 3, 1973 (146)	Imperial Centre Birmingham	Ken Bulmer Chairman: Hazel Reynolds
Committee: Stan Eling, Gillon Field, Meg Palmer, Geoff Winterman.		
Novacon 4, 1974 (211)	Imperial Centre Birmingham	Ken Slater Chairman: Dr Jack Cohen
Committee: Pauline Dungate, Stan Eling, Gillon Field, Robert Hoffman, Arline Peyton, Rog Peyton, Hazel Reynolds.		

Novacon 5, 1975 (272)	Royal Angus Birmingham	Dan Morgan Chairman: Rog Peyton
Committee: Ray Bradbury, Pauline Dungate, Robert Hoffman, Laurence Miller, Arline Peyton.		
Novacon 6, 1976 (317)	Royal Angus Birmingham	David Kyle Chairman: Stan Eling
Committee: Helen Eling, Laurence Miller, Arline Peyton, Rog Peyton.		
Novacon 7, 1977 (278)	Royal Angus Birmingham	John Brunner Chairman: Stan Eling
Committee: Liese Hoare, Martin Hoare, Ian Maule, Janice Maule, Dave Langford.		
Novacon 8, 1978 (309)	Holiday Inn Birmingham	Anne McCaffrey Chairman: Laurence Miller
Committee: Dave Holmes, Kathy Holmes, Chris Walton, Jackie Wright.		
Novacon 9, 1979 (290)	Royal Angus Birmingham	Christopher Priest Chairman: Rog Peyton
Committee: Helen Eling, Stan Eling, Chris Morgan, Pauline Morgan, Paul Oldroyd.		
Novacon 10, 1980 (495)	Royal Angus Birmingham	Brian W Aldiss Chairman: Rog Peyton
Committee: Joseph Nicholas, Keith Oborn, Krystyna Oborn, Paul Oldroyd, Chris Walton.		
Novacon 11, 1981 (362)	Royal Angus Birmingham	Bob Shaw Chairman : Paul Oldroyd
Committee: Helen Eling, Stan Eling, Joseph Nicholas, Phil Probert.		

<b>Novacon 12,</b> 1982	Royal Angus	<b>Harry Harrison</b>
(373)	Birmingham	Chairman: Rog Peyton
Committee: Chris Baker, Dave Hardy, Eunice Pearson, Phil Probert.		
<b>Novacon 13,</b> 1983	Royal Angus	<b>Lisa Tuttle</b>
(339)	Birmingham	Chairman: Phil Probert
Committee: Chris Donaldson, Eunice Pearson, Steve Green, Dave Haden, Jan Huxley, Paul Oldroyd, Paul Vincent, John Wilkes.		
<b>Novacon 14,</b> 1984	Grand	<b>Robert Holdstock</b>
(333)	Birmingham	Chairman: Steve Green
Committee: Kevin Clarke, Ann Green, Dave Haden, Eunice Pearson, Phil Probert, Martin Tudor, Paul Vincent.		
<b>Novacon 15,</b> 1985	De Vere	<b>James White</b>
(340)	Coventry	<b>Dave Langford</b>
		Chairman: Phil Probert
Committee: Tony Berry, Carol Pearson, Eunice Pearson, Graham Poole, Martin Tudor.		
<b>Novacon 16,</b> 1986	De Vere	<b>E C Tubb</b>
(257)	Coventry	<b>Chris Evans</b>
		Chairman: Tony Berry
Committee: Nick Mills, Darroll Pardoe, Rosemary Pardoe, Graham Poole, Maureen Porter.		
<b>Novacon 17,</b> 1987	Royal Angus	<b>Iain M Banks</b>
(315)	Birmingham	Chairman: Bernie Evans
Committee: Mick Evans, Dave Hardy, Graham Poole, Stephen Rogers, Geoff Williams.		

<p>Novacon 18, 1988 (336)</p>	<p>Royal Angus Birmingham</p>	<p>Garry Kilworth Chairman: Tony Berry</p>
<p>Committee: Bernie Evans, Rog Peyton, Greg Pickersgill, Linda Pickersgill, Martin Tudor.</p>		
<p>Novacon 19, 1989 (426)</p>	<p>Excelsior Solihull</p>	<p>Geoff Ryman Chairman: Martin Tudor</p>
<p>Committee: Tony Berry, Helena Bowles, Bernie Evans, Nick Mills, Pam Wells.</p>		
<p>Novacon 20, 1990 (330)</p>	<p>Excelsior Solihull</p>	<p>Dr Jack Cohen Chairman: Bernie Evans</p>
<p>Committee: Al Johnston, Alice Lawson, Steve Lawson, Nick Mills, Richard Standage.</p>		
<p>Novacon 21, 1991 (200)</p>	<p>Forte Post House Ex. Excelsior Solihull</p>	<p>Colin Greenland Chairman: Nick Mills</p>
<p>Committee: David T Cooper, Bernie Evans, Al Johnston, Alice Lawson, Steve Lawson, Chris Murphy.</p>		
<p>Novacon 22, 1992 (300)</p>	<p>Royal Angus Birmingham</p>	<p>Storm Constantine Chairman: Helena Bowles</p>
<p>Committee: Tony Berry, Bernie Evans, Jenny Glover, Steve Glover, Carol Morton, Richard Standage.</p>		
<p>Novacon 23, 1993 (350)</p>	<p>Royal Angus Birmingham</p>	<p>Stephen Baxter Chairman: Carol Morton</p>
<p>Committee: Helena Bowles, Bernie Evans, Tony Morton, Richard Standage.</p>		



<p>Novacon 24, 1994 (214)</p>	<p>Royal Angus Birmingham</p>	<p>Graham Joyce Chairman: Richard Standage</p>
<p>Committee: Helena Bowles, Sarah Freakley, Carol Morton, Tony Morton, Chris Murphy, Martin Tudor.</p>		
<p>Novacon 25, 1995 (338)</p>	<p>Chamberlain Birmingham</p>	<p>Brian W Aldiss Harry Harrison Bob Shaw</p>
<p>Special guest: Iain M Banks</p>		
<p>Chairman; Tony Morton</p>		
<p>Committee: Tony Berry, Carol Morton, Chris Murphy, Richard Standage, Martin Tudor.</p>		
<p>Novacon 26, 1996 (281)</p>	<p>Ibis Birmingham</p>	<p>David Gemmell Chairman: Carol Morton</p>
<p>Committee: Sarah Freakley, Tony Morton, Chris Murphy, Richard Standage, Martin Tudor.</p>		
<p>Novacon 27, 1997</p>	<p>Abbey Great Malvern</p>	<p>Peter F Hamilton Chairman: Martin Tudor</p>
<p>Committee: Carol &amp; Tony Morton, Chris Murphy, Mike Siddall.</p>		
<p>Novacon 28, 1998 (265)</p>	<p>Britannia Birmingham</p>	<p>Paul J McAuley Chairman: Martin Tudor</p>
<p>Committee: Steve Lawson, Pat McMurray, Carol &amp; Tony Morton, Chris Murphy.</p>		
<p>Novacon 29, 1999 (239)</p>	<p>Britannia Birmingham</p>	<p>Ian Stewart Chairman: Carol Morton</p>
<p>Committee: Maureen Kincaid Speller, Steve Lawson, Pat McMurray, Tony Morton, Chris Murphy, Martin Tudor.</p>		

Novacon 30, 2000 Britannia Christopher Priest

(224) Birmingham

Special guest: Rog Peyton

Guest artist: David A Hardy

Chairman: Tony Berry

Committee: Maureen Kincaid Speller, Steve Lawson, Pat McMurray, David Cooper, Chris Murphy, Martin Tudor.

Novacon 31, 2001 Quality Gwyneth Jones

(219) Walsall Chairman: Tony Berry

Committee: Cat Coast, David Cooper, Dave Hicks, Alice & Steve Lawson, Martin Tudor.

Novacon 32, 2002 Quality Ian McDonald

(252) Walsall Chairman: Martin Tudor

Committee: Cat Coast, David Cooper, Steve Green, Dave Hicks, Alice & Steve Lawson.

Novacon 33, 2003 Quality Jon Courtenay Grimwood

(203) Walsall Chairman: Martin Tudor

Committee: Cat Coast, Steve Green, Dave Hicks, Alice & Steve Lawson.

Novacon 34, 2004 Quality Ian Watson

(227) Walsall Chairman: Martin Tudor

Committee: Cat Coast, Vicky Cook, Steve & Ann Green, Dave Hicks, Alice & Steve Lawson, Yvonne Rowse.

Novacon 35, 2005 Quality Alastair Reynolds

(216) Walsall Chairman: Tony Berry

Committee: Vicky Cook, Alice Lawson, Steve Lawson, Yvonne Rowse, Helena Bowles and Cat Coast.

## MEMBERSHIP LIST

*at*

OCTOBER 31<sup>st</sup> 2006

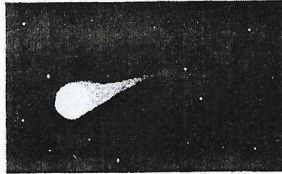
1 Ken MacLeod	25 Gwen Funnell
2 Alastair Reynolds	26 Tony Rogers
3 Ian Watson	27 Chris Bell
4 Jon Courtenay Grimwood	28 ½r
5 Tony Berry	29 Miriam Moss
6 Helena Bowles	30 Farah Mendlesohn
7 Vicky Cook	31 Paul Dormer
8 Dave Hicks	32 Niall Gordon
9 Alice Lawson	33 Dave Tompkins
10 Steve Lawson	34 Pete Young
11 Paul Treadaway	35 Chris Stocks
12 Anne Woodford	36 Roger Robinson
13 Alan Woodford	37 Brian Ameringen
14 Pauline Morgan	38 Meriol Ameringen
15 Chris Morgan	39 Caroline Mullan
16 Claire Briailey	40 Jim Walker
17 Mark Plummer	41 Douglas Spencer
18 Ina Shorrock	42 Kate Solomon
19 Gavin Shorrock	43 Malcolm Davies
20 Simon Bradshaw	44 Stephen Dunn
21 Bridget Bradshaw	45 Julian Headlong
22 Peter Mabey	46 Vernon Brown
23 Chris O'Shea	47 Pat Brown
24 Peter Wareham	48 Neil Summerfield

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 49 Sue Jones           | 77 Vincent Docherty      |
| 50 Julia Daly          | 78 Steve Davies          |
| 51 Dave Cox            | 79 Giulia De Cesare      |
| 52 Noel Collyer        | 80 Adrian Snowdon        |
| 53 Gerry Webb          | 81 Bridget Wilkinson     |
| 54 Alan Webb           | 82 Cat Coast             |
| 55 Mali Perera         | 83 Penny Hicks           |
| 56 Kostya Milayev      | 84 Al Johnston           |
| 57 William Keith       | 85 Dave Holmes           |
| 58 Eve Harvey          | 86 Dave Lally            |
| 59 John Harvey         | 87 Martin Hoare          |
| 60 Andrew A. Adams     | 88 Rog Peyton            |
| 61 Neil Tomkinson      | 89 Steve Green           |
| 62 Alison Tomkinson    | 90 Ann Green             |
| 63 Rachel Tomkinson    | 91 Peter Harrow          |
| 64 Stephanie Tomkinson | 92 Dave Hardy            |
| 65 Deborah Tomkinson   | 93 Chris Murphy          |
| 66 David Thomas        | 94 Iain Banks            |
| 67 Laura Wheatly       | 95 Jim Mowatt            |
| 68 Sue Mason           | 96 Carrie Gillespie      |
| 69 Yvonne Rowse        | 97 Jane-Louise Cracknell |
| 70 Caroline Loveridge  | 98 Steve Cooper          |
| 71 Gavin Long          | 99 Stuart Widdows        |
| 72 Thomas Recktenwald  | 100 Chris Amies          |
| 73 James Odell         | 101 David Symes          |
| 74 Roger Burton West   | 102 Fay Symes            |
| 75 Judith Proctor      | 103 John Dowd            |
| 76 Tara Dowling-Hussey | 104 Fran Dowd            |

105 John O'Donnell	133 Alex Holden
106 June O'Donnell	134 John Wilson
107 Jonti O'Donnell	135 Robert Day
108 Dawn Adams	136 Marcus Rowland
109 Chris Dunk	137 Gary Starr
110 George Ternent	138 Mark Sinclair
111 Linda Ternent	139 Sally Sinclair
112 Calvin Ternent	140 Christopher Brooks
113 Roderick O'Hanlon	141 Mark Slater
114 John Dallman	142 Tim Stock
115 Iain Emsley	143 Jenny O'Donnell
116 Eddie Cochrane	144 Serena Culfeather
117 Anna Feruglio Daldan	145 Mike Ford
118 Sue Edwards	146 Wendy Graham
119 Michael Abbott	147 Traci Whitehead
120 Anne Wilson	148 Jeremy Maiden
121 Erhard Leder	149 Robert Sneddon
122 Lennart Uhlin	150 Henry Balen
123 Pat McMurray	151 Ian Warner
124 Julie Faith Rigby	152 Eddie Stachelski
125 Margaret Croad	153 Greg Pickersgill
126 Austin Benson	154 Catherine Pickersgill
127 Caro Wilson	155 Tony Keen
128 Peter Wilkinson	156 Kate Bodley
129 Ian Whates	157 Penny Cruise
130 Renée Sieber	158 Simon Cruise
131 Ewan Chrystal	159 Krystyna Oborn
132 Mark W Waller	160 Dave Langford

- 161 Doug Bell  
162 Christina Lake  
163 Phillip Collins  
164 Steve Jeffery  
165 Vikki Lee France  
166 Lilian Edwards  
167 John Richards  
168 Jennifer Swift  
169 Peter Weston  
170 Eileen Weston  
171 Dave Hutchinson  
172 Bogna Hutchinson  
173 Jamie Scott  
174 Margaret Austin  
175 Martin Easterbrook  
176 Ian Sorensen  
177 Naomi Saunders  
178 Alan Cash  
179 Charles Stross  
180 Karen Hetherington  
181 Helen Hall  
182 Steve Jones  
183 Donna Scott  
184 Jamie Spracklen  
185 Sarah Hicks  
186 Philip Nye  
187 Pat Curzon  
188 Lynne Dunn  
189 Fatima Ahad  
190 Mark Bukumunhe  
191 Sabine Furlong  
192 Nigel Furlong  
193 Karen Furlong  
194 Ped Badlan  
195 June Strachan  
196 Nick Mills  
197 Phil Nanson  
198 Kari  
199 Paul Skevington  
200 Sam Moffat  
201 Allen Baum  
202 Donya White  
203 Martin Tudor  
204 Ray Bradbury  
205 Storm Constantine  
206 Jim Hibbert  
207 Steve Barnes  
208 Adam Gregory  
209 Linda Bergin  
210 Angela Goodfellow  
211 Richard Bruce Clay  
212 Shana Worthen

# Birmingham Science Fiction Group



THE BIRMINGHAM SCIENCE FICTION GROUP was founded in 1971 to enable local and not so local fans to get together to discuss science fiction and related topics.

We meet on the second Friday of every month, 7:45pm at the Britannia Hotel. Just 5 Minutes from New Street Station and handy for all bus routes. We usually start the evening with a guest speaker, often a professional in the field such as Brian Aldiss, Terry Pratchett or Peter F. Hamilton.

If you live anywhere in or around the West Midlands, the BSFG is the Group for you. For further information, and a copy of our monthly newsletter, please:

email

[bhamsfgroup@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bhamsfgroup@yahoo.co.uk)

Also, do visit our website at:

[www.bsfg.freesevers.com](http://www.bsfg.freesevers.com)