

FANDOM ETC. CONT.....

At our last committee meeting, we tentatively discussed the possibility of having a fan-room. Should we have one? No doubt many people would be very upset if Novacon began to 'look' like a fully-fledged Eastercon. Novacon is supposed to be an informal affair. A week-end long drinking boute with a few added distractions. However; and this is a big 'but'; there many people who not like getting very drunk and/or who like lots of programme items. This means that, almost evey year, the committee is harangued with complaints that there were too many items, and that there were not enough!

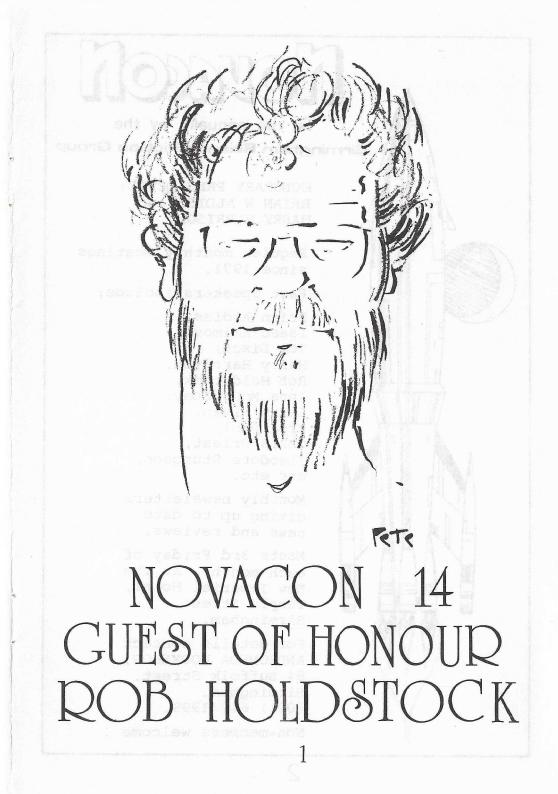
So this year we propose to have a fan-room. Or rather, it will be called <u>Not</u> The Fan-Room! It will be run by Steve Green and his cohorts, as an informal drop-in centre. There may or may not be an actual programme, we leave that up to Steve. So if you have any ideas for that, get in touch with him.

WanTed:

<u>GOPHERS</u>: Every year it seems the same people volenteer for gopher duties. So isn't about time you volenteerd this year? Your duties won't take up very much time, so don't worry about spending the whole con working. And gophers get a rather nice reward for their efforts.

<u>AUCTION</u>: Once again we do need auction material. Any unwanted posters, fanzines, books, that old FTL ship gathering dust in your garage...... So start digging!!





hovacon run annually by the IS Birmingham Science Fiction Group HONORARY PRESIDENTS: BRIAN W ALDISS and HARRY HARRTSON. Regular monthly meetings since 1971. Past speakers include; Brian Aldiss, Isaac Asimov, Tom Disch, Harry Harrison, Rob Holdstock, Anne McCaffrey, Larry Niven, Fred Pohl, Chris Priest, Theodore Sturgeon, etc etc. Monthly newsletters giving up to date news and reviews. Meets 3rd Friday of each month - at The New Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham. For details contact ANDROMEDA BOOKSHOP, 84 Suffolk Street, Birmingham.

(021) 643 1999.

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Non-members welcome :

ORGANISED BY THE BIRMINGHAM SCIENCE FICTION GROUP

NOVACON 14 9--11 November 1984 Grand Hotel Birmingham

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CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

Cue soundtrack, roll titles, action.....

NOVACON FOURTEEN

A BSFG/Disunited Artists Production

Starring: (In alphabetical order)

KEVIN CLARKE DAVE HADEN ANN GREEN STEVE GREEN EUNICE PEARSON PHILL PROBERT MARTIN TUDOR PAUL VINCENT

Guest Star;

ROB HOLDSTOCK as The Worried Man In The False Beard

Special thanks to:

KEVIN DIXON, ROG PEYTON, YE GERBISH, VINØ CLARKE, TIM ILLINGWORTH, JOHN DALLMAN, CHRIS EVANS, MALCOLM EDWARDS, GARRY KILWORTH, DAVE LANGFORD, JOHN BROSNAN, PETE LYON, ALEX STEWART, JOHN BRUNNER, IAN SORENSEN & THE ALBACON COMMITTEE, ANNE PAGE, CATH EASTHOPE, DAVE BRIDGES, MATT BROOKER, RUTH WILSON & THE STAFF OF THE GRAND HOTEL, AND EVERYONE ELSE JOINING IN THE FUN OF THE DAY EITHER AS A GOPHER, GUEST SPEAKER OR BY BUYING THE COMMITTEE A DRINK.

Music by FREE FALL and IZZY THE PUSH Filmed on location in Birmingham

Course, if it's a roaring success there'll have to be a sequel.....

THE COMMITTEE by themselves

MARTIN TUDOR by Paul Vincent

Currently a callow youth of some fifteen summers, MT is a fan of the hyperactive persuasion. His whirlwind enthusiasm for EVERYTHING, together with his complete inability to say "no", portend a future whose milestones will include reaching retirement age around 1987, whereupon he will culminate his fannish career by expiring at the British Worldcon in order to be melted down and sold as amphetamines. Since entering fandom in early 1983, Martin's activities have included: helping to run Seacon '84 (no-one's perfect), insanely increasing circulation of his 'Empties' fanzine to the 400+ mark, falling into cataleptic trances whilst eating curry, demolishing hotel bedrooms at increasingly manic convention parties, leaping headlong into the Britain in '87 Worldcon bid, terrorising vicious rabbits, founding the MiSFiTs whilst allowing PV to take the credit, drinking to triple-excess, signing the pledge, then drinking to quadruple-excess..... Clearly this man needs help. so if you espy a harassed-looking dustcloud moving through the con at Mach II, thrust a drink inot its hand, give it a rubdown with a wet towel, and Martin will be your friend for life.....if he can keep still long enough, that it!

PAUL VINCENT by Eunice Pearson.

It's difficult to know what to say about Paul. I know him as a fan, but as an ordinary human being I know him not at all. He is very good at keeping himself to himself, yet can write excellent articles about himself. What a confusing person! Paul is definately the quieter one of the Tudor-Vincent duo. He gives the impression of being merely dragged along in Martin's manic wake. But its all a disguise. He waits until people are overcome by Martin's energy, and slips 'em a copy of 'Abdump' beofre they've had time to draw a breath. Then he's off, clutching a pint glass (preferably a full one) to fool the next victim. Paul says he is very, very fond of this 'real ale' stuff, but I ve never seen him any the worse for wear. So either he's got hollow legs, or its all just part of his disguise! Because he is so quiet-minded, he is likely to be around in fandom for a long, long, long time yet, thank goodness!

ANN GREEN by Dave Haden

Ann's interesting organizational abilities first came to my attention in a small and somewhat dingy marguee at the annual Merthyr Hampster Trials. After idenifying her from behind as a giant variety of the aforsaid furry mammal, I realized my mistake and proceeded to enquire in an embarr--assed manner about her interest in hampsters. She replied with an interesting and lengthy discourse on the training and organization of hampsters to do simple manual work and to overcome cats with a combination of karate and readings from Lionel L Fanthorpe. Suffice to say, I was astounded by the originality and insight that her conversation afforded me into the hidden life of the common hampster. I managed to persuade her to have her ideas printed in booklet form, and "Liberation And Self Defence For Hampsters" is soon to enter it's fifteenth printing. She has since married Steven J Green and lives in a small hampster/human co-operative in Acocks Green.

EUNICE PEARSON BY Kevin Clarke

"Squirrel" is known for her bright red rosey cheeks (I don't know why she is called that -- perhaps it's an oblique reference to her predilection for muts (I always wondered what she saw in Phill)). She almost perpetually wears a broad smile, framed by those cheeks, creating an image which irresistably reminds me of the cheerful, homeloving charac--ters employed in clotted-cream commercials. It is an effect which makes it hard to believe that she is in fact, one of the most wanted characters in Brum fandom. Yes, it must at last be revealed that she has, during her editing career, been the brains behind many of the more heinous examples of fan fiction this decade. She is also wanted for her voluptous body, a fact of which no secret has been made by one Steve "Mr Big One" Green which accounts for the dents in his head, corresponding to the knuckles of his moll, Ann.

KEVIN CLARKE by Ann Green

Over the last year I have become increasingly fond of Kevin. A rather compact and not un-furry chap, he has endeared himself to many in his short career. Kevin has a wry sense of humour calculated to mislead people to the impression that he's thick. Not so, I tell you. He is a person of rare and wonderful talent. How I miss Kevin at weekends; his abcence makes even the juciest Jaffa less sweet, even the cracklier of pops less snappy. Still I guess he and Roland have to spend some times away from the cameras to re-charge their sparkling wit. (Whaddya mean, Kevin Clarke? Look, you said write something about 'Kevin', so I did. I know gerbils aint guite hampsters, but I'm no racist.)

PHILL PROBERT by Steve Green

Although a relative newcomer to the Novacon 14 committee in title, Phill has been involved with the organization of the event both in an advisory and more recently logistical capacity since stepping down as chairman of its predecessor; indeed, if Phill hadn't drafted me onto Novacon 13's alternative programme I probably wouldn't have ended up his successor, so know you know who to blame. Dubious charac-ter judgement apart, Phill is an imaginative and energetic aide, bringing to this committee the accumulated experience of three Novacons and a valuable talent for spotting the potential flaws in any argument whenever his colleagues get carried away. Phill is also the proud father of two cats, which undoubtedly came as a great surprise to Eunice.

DAVE HADEN by Steve Green

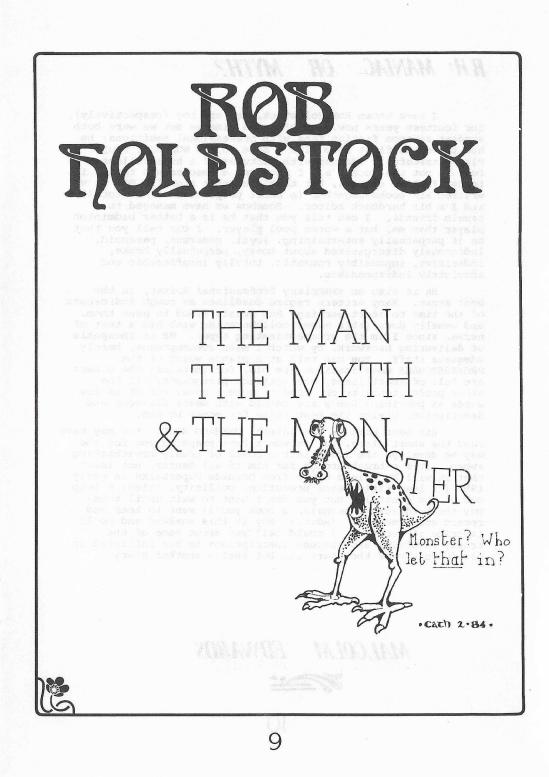
How best to illustrate my deep regard for Dave Haden? To recall perhaps the occasion he brightened one dark day during the Falklands Fiasco by anonymously dispatching forged draft papers calling me up for service in the South Atlantic ("you are asked to provide your own penguin suit"). Or maybe the time he invited me on a "short walk" across the countryside near his Warwickshire home and proceeded to lead me on a three-month circumnavigation of the British coastline. Well, perhaps I do exaggerate, but both incidents serve as evidence of Dave's unpredictability and bizarre sense of humour, elements also noticeable in his artwork. Equally, the fact that I took both with a grin rather than a grimace is proof of the tolerant loyalty he engenders in his friends.

And last but not at least in this rather different committee introduction is our great chairman,

STEVE GREEN by Phill Probert

What can be said about Steve Green that someone hasn't already said? Well, I could tell you about the time I first met him, but that has already been done. I could tell you all of some deep insight into Steve that only I know about. But he probably has something the same to be said about me. I could even tell you what a really great and wonderful guy he is, but you know that already. So in the end I am forced to write about what I don't know about Steve. For instance, I didn't meet him at school and had never even heard of him until his name was mentioned on Police 5. And I didn't know until a few days ago that he has a pet anaconda called Norman, who he likes to use as a door stop. Or even that his home in Acocks Green is the Birmingham location of the super secret organization, TerraHawks. (I always wondered why he walked funny, but I thought it was the drink.) And as for his fannish exploits, he was the first fan to say the word "Splosh" in the literal and gratuitous sense of the word. Or even that he was going to launch a manned mission to the sun. He was going to take off at night so he wouldn't get burnt. In any case, he didn't go because he couldn't light the blue touch paper. And there you have it. Everything I don't know about Steve. Go and buy him a drink, he deserves it!





RH: MANIAC OR MYTH?

I have known Rob Holdstock, man and boy (respectively), for fourteen years now. At the same time we met we were both student science fiction fans with professional ambitions; he had taken the first step with a sale to NEW WORLDS ("Pauper's Plot", tastefully adorned with pictures of a huge calloused foot -- not the author's. I once met a teacher who taught it in her English classes, but that's another story). Now we've written six books together (a small proportion of his total), and I'm his hardback editor. Somehow we have managed to remain friends. I can tell you that he is a better badminton player than me, but a worse pool player. I can tell you that he is perpetually entertaining, loyal, generous, paranoid, ludicrously disorganized about money, perpetually broke, indecisive, impossibly romantic, totally insufferable and absolutely indispensable.

He is also an exemplary Professional Writer, in the best sense. Many writers regard deadlines as rough indicators of the time to start working; Rob sweats blood to meet them, and usually does (this makes collaborating with him a test of nerve, since I am the procrastinating type). He is incapable of delivering hackwork, by which I mean contemptuous, barely adequate stuff. You can tell at a glance which of the PROFESSIONALS novelizations are his, for instance: the others are full of short lines, one sentence paragraphs, all the other professional tricks used to make a novel out of as few words as possible; Rob's are packed with meaty dialogue and description, giving the best value for money he can.

His best work is his latest, MYTHAGO WOOD. You may have read the short story, but it won't have prepared you for the way he develops the ideas into a novel of truely breathtaking sweep. It's a breakthrough for him in all senses, not least that it will be a lead title from Granada Paperbacks in early 1986 (a lead title means promotion, publicity, sales: a leap out of the ghetto). But you don't want to wait until then: buy the hardback, a bargain, a book you'll want to keep and reread and treasure. (Advt.) Buy it this weekend and he'll inscribe it for you. I could tell you about some of the truely revolting and obscene inscriptions he has inflicted on his friends over the years ... but that's another story.

MALCOLM EDWARDS

1

THE LEGEND OF ROBERT P. HOLDSTOCK BY M. WOOD

The research that Mr. Wood has carried out on that mythological character Robert 'The Celt' Holdstock has been both thorough and revealing. That Robert Holdstock was a man of almost limitless energy, who filled the landscape of his period with his tall, broad frame, who wielded a pen like a warrior flourishes his broadsword, who burned his way into folk literature with the fire of his prose, is common knowledge. What is less evident in the myth and magic surrounding this teller of tales, this campfire weaver of spellbinding stories, is that apart from being a language-bearer of dreamlike qualities, he was always kind to his cat Finnigan, and sometimes to his friend Garry KilWorth.

Mr. Wood says of him, "One has only to analyse the mag--nificent poetry of stories like 'Earth and Stone' and novels like 'Earthwind' to realise that here was a man who could translate the elements into something beyond mere substance; who could infuse inanimates with a life and magic of their own; whose characters cast tall shadows on the backdrop of fantasti--cal scenery; who was kind to his cat and occasionally....."

There are other darker pieces of information which emerge of course, which barely seem credible given the type of manmyth Mr. Wood describes in the early part of his book. I think we can discount the tales that Holdstock was supposed to have been a wassailer of boundless depth and that his mere presence would cause waternymphs to submerge in an ecstasy of delightful terror. What <u>is</u> apparent is that 'The Celt' produced works which remain indelibly printed in the subconscious to be thrown up into the conscious at awkward moments, like when one is walking through a forest at midnight, while the wind is winding dark clouds into the branches of trees, and accidentily treads on a sleeping cat....

GARRY KILWORTH

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THE <u>REAL</u> ROB HOLDSTOCK **&**

1. HAVE YOU GOT A NICKNAME?

"In a way, <u>Rob</u> is my nickname. At school I was Holdie, or Hollyock a reference to my immense height, compared to my weedy, waist high colleagues). I notice that when my female intimates becom.....what shall we say?...very 'cosy' with me, they call me Robbie. I don't know why. My last brief flingette called me 'Boobetta', and that thoroughly confused me, indeed still does. "Why on earth did you call me that?" I asked her and she shrugged and said, "I don't know. I suppose it's just that you're my very special Boobie". I think my response was "Good Grief", followed by a sigh of complete bemusement. All this is true. I seem to be the sort of person who attract brief 'nicknames', but always ends up being called Holdstock. My lady of the moment refers to me as 'Gorgeous' and I have no complaints!"

2. WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST EXTRAVAGANCE?

"What a question to ask me. My entire life is one long extravagance. How can I pick a special example? One of my favourite extravagances is to buy and consume an entire half leg of pork or lamb (usually inspired by reading Asterix the Gaul, and getting hungry at the sight of them eating roast boar). I'm extravagant with my time, the perennial writer's problem. I'm extravagant on the 'phone (£200 a quater). I'm certainly extravagant in the indulging of my passions, espec--ially music."

3. WHAT DO YOUR SLIPPERS LOOK LIKE?

"I don't wear slippers. I do a lot of hiking and walking and have accumulated several pairs of long, woollen socks. When I get up in the morning I pull on the floppy gray pair. If it's a very cold day I pull the knee length green pair over the top of them. These winter days I pull a second pair of gray floppies over them, tuck my jeans into the green pair and walk around looking foolish but warm. The hell of this 'graded slipper substitute' is that when I want to go out I either have to put on size-thirteen walking boots, or strip the layers down and tug on ordinary thin socks. It gets very fussy."

4. DO YOU BELIEVE IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT?

"No. Lust at first sight, yes. A recognition of potential love at first sight, yes. But love at first sight, no. My longest, at the moment deepest love, began because she thought I was a doctor, and she got hooked on the image and the idea. By the end of the evening she was disillusioned on that score, but had fallen for the lazy, good-for-nothing zoologist she'd found beneath."

5. DO YOU BELIEVE THERE IS LIFE AFTER DEATH?

"Someone dies, everyone else lives on. I suppose, therefore, there is life after death. I certainly believe that some aspects of some people who die, lives one, restless spirits, etc. I very much believe in 'ghosts'. My current conviction, unshakeable even if unprovable, is that the Hindus have it right, and the life-spirit is reborn soon after passing from the body."

6. WHAT DO YOU FEEL ABOUT DYING?

"I'm far too young to have feelings about dying. I'd like to be able to choose the moment, and be surrounded by cheerful family and friends. I'd also like to reincarnate backwards, and return as a Celtic Warlord, turning back the tide of the Romans. I'd restructure history."

7. DO YOU THINK THERE IS LIFE ON OTHER WORLDS?

"Yes. During the recent Genesis versus Evolution in schools trial in America, an Asian astronomer said that the chances of 'life forming' were the same as creating a Boeing 727 out of a lot of scrap metal blown about by a high wind in an air-craft hanger. I was rather frightened by that thought at the time until I realized that if it could happen once, it can certainly happen a million times, and any planet with Boeing 727's flying around has to have life -- the passengers -- otherwise what's the point?"

8. WHAT DO YOU WEAR IN BED?

"Nothing. Absolutely nothing. (If you don't believe me....) Except that I put on three pairs of hiking socks. One on my feet of course."

9. IF THERE IS SUCH A PLACE AS HEAVEN, WHAT DO YOU THINK IT IS LIKE?

"I <u>know</u> what it's like, and you're far too young and I'm far too shy to tell you just yet!"

10. WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE BEEN BORN FEMALE INSTEAD OF MALE? "Good grief no. I love to be dominated."

11. WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF MUSIC OR SONG?

"This changes all the time. At the moment I play excessively: Vivaldi's Gloria, Mozart's C minor Mass, and Horslip's Tain bo Cuilgne."

12. WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF ART?

"I don't have such a thing. I love English landscapes, most of Turner, and particularly the Pre-Raphaelites. The only pictures I have up in my bedroom are sketches by Rossetti of two women. They're fabulous, totally absorbing sketches."

the doorlow delibition test on records are assessed

13. WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURLITE BOOK OR STORY?

"Naoni Mitcheson's The Conquered. It's the only book to really have moved ms, and to have affected me. I became passionately keen on other books, novels, stories occasionally, but that one stands out. I don't know why. It's raw, uneven, ragged in pieces, but it has a verve and an emotional edge that is instan--tly recognisable as 'a young, new writer's voice' (she was twenty when she wrote it) writing about a subject of passionate interest."

14. DO YOU PREFER CATS OR DOGS?

"Cats. Small, cuddly cats that feed themselves, and don 't become a nuisance. I hate dogs."

15. IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME, WHAT ERA WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

"The late Bronze Age in England (or whatever they called it at the time). I'd love to be there when the Celts began their migrations. I'd fight in the battles, make love to the princesses and priestesses, and become a folk hero: Robert Ironankles or somesuch. Nothing frustrates me more than not knowing what it was like in those days. They were diseasefree, hardy, romantic and artistic in those days. I'd sneak a camera back of course, steal a few souls."

16. IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE ASPECT OF YOURSELF, WHICH WOULD IT BE?

"My shortsightedness. Maybe my left hip. Maybe my memory. Odd bits and pieces could do with a slight restructuring. I could do with a few extra charisma cells, but I'm not complaining."

17. IF YOU COULD CHANGE PLACES WITH A FAMOUS PERSON, WHO WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

"Vercingetorix, the Gaulish warrior. Or are you bored with all this Celtic stuff? Ok. Clint Eastwood. But it would have to be a temporary change and he'd have to be filming a Western. But if I had any chance at all of changing places with someone, it would be my Aunt Mary (who's 84), just so I could bask in her family memories for a few hours and see what it was like in Kent, at the turn of the century and onwards."

18. WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE SOAP OPERA? "Soap. Honest."

19. WHAT DO YOU REALLY THINK OF CHRISTMAS?

20. DO YOU REMEMBER THE FIRST TOY YOU EVER HAD?

"Rupert Bear. I have a photograph of me at the age of six months, chewing him. I remember Rupert very clearly. He's locked away in my parent's attic now, and no doubt slimy fungeses are growing on that childish Hollyock saliva." ROB HOLDSTOCK:

anaw CMITA TO EMIT A bas GOD MARCAR SHT is bas & alov isfee

RAVEN 2: A TIME OF GHOSTS (COSCI 1978) Novel RAVEN 4: LORDER CI THE SHADOWS (Curgl 1978) Novel

written by Andria Weil

THE OFFICIAL

BIBLIOGRAPHY

by the real Robert Holdstock:-EARTHWIND (Faber & Faber 1977) Novel EYE AMONG THE BLIND (Faber & Faber 1976) Novel IN THE VALLEY OF THE STATUES (Faber & Faber 1982) Collection MYTHAGO WOOD (Gollancz 1984) Novel NECROMANCER (Futura 1978) Novel WHERE TIME WINDS BLOW (Faber & Faber 1981) Novel

with MURRAY SMITH (scriptwriter):-BULMAN 1 (Futura -- forthcoming) Novelisation BULMAN 2: ONE OF OUR PIGEONS IS MISSING (Futura -- forthcoming) Novelisation

as Robert Faulcon:-

NIGHT HUNTER 1: THE STALKING (Arrow 1983) Novel NIGHT HUNTER 2: THE TALISMAN (Arrow 1983) Novel NIGHT HUNTER 3: THE GHOST DANCE (Arrow 1984) Novel NIGHT HUNTER 4: THE SHRINE (Arrow 1984) Novel NIGHT HUNTER 5: THE HEXING (Arrow -- forthcoming) Novel NIGHT HUNTER 6: THE LABYRINTH (Arrow -- forthcoming) Novel

as Chris Carlsen:-

BERSERKER 1: THE SHADOW OF THE WOLF (Sphere 1977) Novel BERSERKER 2: THE BULL CHIEF (Sphere 1977) Novel BERSERKER 3: THE HORNED WARRIOR (Sphere 1979) Novel <u>as Richard Kirk</u>:-RAVEN 1: SWORDSMISTRESS OF CHAOS (Corgi 1978) Novel, with Angus Wells

RAVEN 2: A TIME OF GHOSTS (Corgi 1978) Novel RAVEN 4: LORDS OF THE SHADOWS (Corgi 1979) Novel (Note: Vols 3 and 5, THE FROZEN GOD and A TIME OF DYING were written by Angus Wells.)

as Robert Black :-

LEGEND OF THE WAREWOLF (Sphere 1976) Novelisation THE SATANISTS (Futura 1978) Novelisation

as Ken Blake :-

PROFESSIONALS 10: CRY WOLF (Sphere 1981) Novelisation PROFESSIONALS 13: THE UNTOUCHABLES (Sphere 1982) Novelisation PROFESSIONALS 14: OPERATION SUSIE (Sphere 1982) Novelisation PROFESSIONALS 15: YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT (Sphere 1982) Novelisation

With Christopher Priest (edited):-

illustrated books

with MALCOLM EDWARDS :-

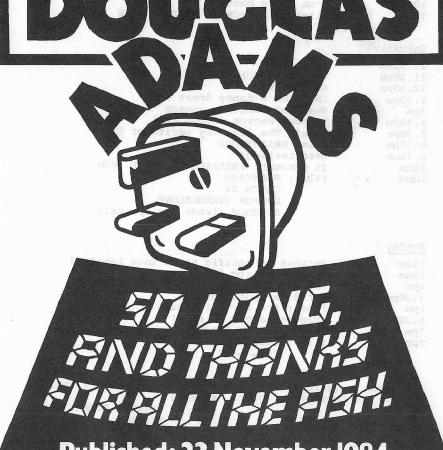
ALIEN LANDSCAPES (Pierror 1979) LOST REALMS OF FANTASY (Dragon's World -- forthcoming) MAGICIAN (Dragon's World 1982) REALMS OF FANTASY (Dragon's World 1983) TOUR OF THE UNIVERSE (Pierrot 1980)

as Steven Eisler:-THE ALIEN WORLD (Octopus 1980) SPACE WARS, WORLDS AND WEAPONS (Octopus 1979)

In addition to the above there is a novella titles THE DARK WHEEL included in the computor game ELITE (Acornsoft 1984).

16

THIS IS A PLUG FOR THE FOURTH BOOK IN THE HITCH HIKER TRILOGY



Published: 23 November 1984



The Programme 🔊 🕜

FRIDAY:

6 p.m	Film: SILENT RUNNING
8.30pm	Opening ceremony
9pm	Krapton Factor (Round one)
10pm	Brum Group party*
12md	Film: ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW

SATURDAY :

10.30am	Speaker				
11.30am	University Challenge				
12.30pm	Book auction				
2.30pm	Children's fancy dress				
3pm	Guest of Honour's speech				
4.30pm	Krapton Factor (Round two)				
5.30pm	Panel: The literary merits of SF				
6.30pm	Film: BRAINSTORM				
8.30pm	Beer tasting**				
10pm	In concert: FREEFALL/IZZY THE PUSH				
12md	Films: PHANTASM				
	CATCH 22				
	DOCTOR STRANGELOVE				
	SECONDS (ends 8am approx.)				

SUNDAY:

11am	Serious scientific talk: Dave Langford					
12nn	Panel: Writing for a living					
1pm	Art auction					
3.30pm	Worldcon spotlight					
4pm	Panel: Art for art's sake?					
5.30pm	Krapton Factor (Finals)					
7pm	Nova Awards / Closing ceremony					
9pm	Films: THEM:					
	FAIL SAFE					

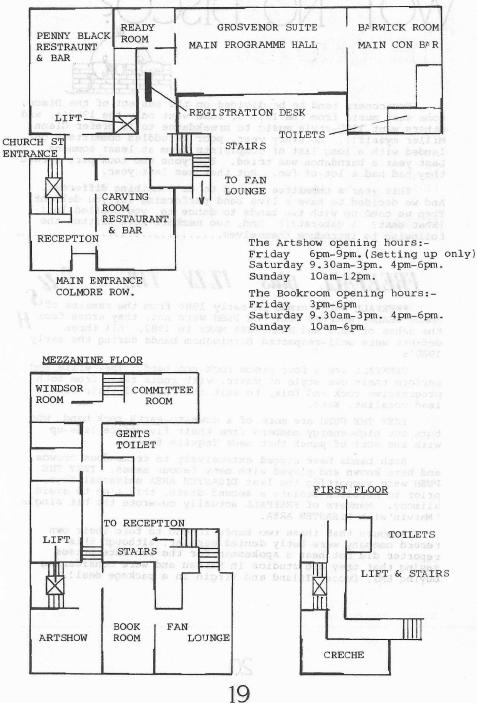
All times provisional and subject to change; events will be held in the Grosnovenor Suite, except: * Barwick.Room ** Windsor 1

Pan Bloks

Events in the Fan Lounge and access facility will be announced.

GRAND HOTEL

GROUND FLOOR.





Novaconers tend to be divided on the subject of the Disco: some want music from the 1950's, some want only the 1960's, and others want 1980-style music to breakdance to (I prefer Glenn Miller myself!). So every year, poor befuddled committees get landed with a long list of complaints from at least someone. Last year a barndance was tried. Everyone who took part agreed they had had a lot of fun. But that was last year.

This year's committee wanted to do something different. And we decided to have a live band performing for you delight. Then we came up with two bands to dance to, you spoiled lot! (What next? A cabaret?!) And, two members have written the following to introduce themselves.....

FREEFALL plus IZZY THE P2

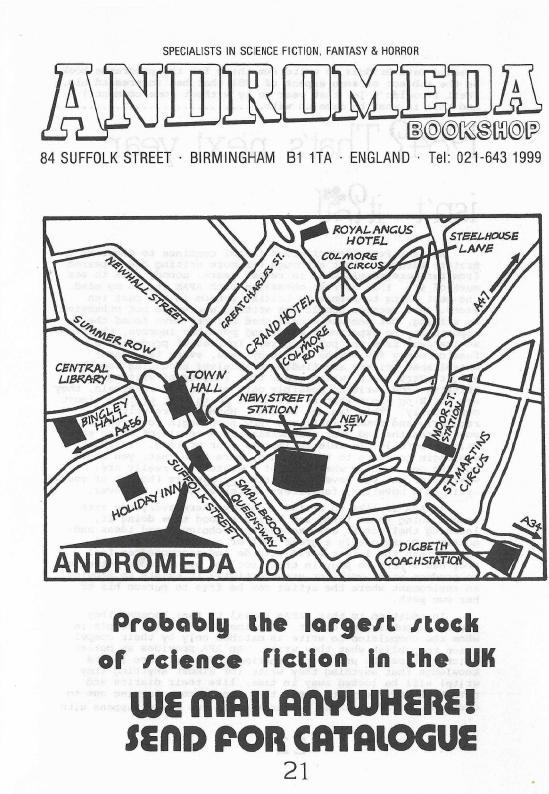
FREEFALL were formed in early 1984 from the remains of O' SHADY DEALS, whereas IZZY THE PUSH were not; they arose from H the ashes of ABOW and HAMBURGER MARY in 1982. All three defunts were well-respected Birmingham bands during the early 1980's.

FREEFALL are a four piece rock-pop band. They write and perform their own style of music, with roots taken from both progressive rock and folk, to suit the range of their female lead vocalist, Kate.

IZZY THE PUSH are more of a down-to-earth rock band, who turn out high-energy numbers from their five piece line-up with the sort of punch that made Tequila famous.

Both bands have gigged extensively to tremendous crowds, and have known and played with many famous names. IZZY THE PUSH were supporting the last DISASTER AREA universal Tour, prior to Hotblack Desiata's second death, this time to avoid alimony. Members of FREEFALL actually co-wrote the hit single 'Marvin'with DISASTER AREA.

Rumours that these two bands intend to form their own record company were hotly denied earlier, although this reporter did not hear a spokesman for the two enterprises sayjng that they had studios in Nassau and were considering buying EMI, Decca, Island and Virgin in a package deal!



and the reaction with the states of 2001 Adding

I asked Dave Bridges to write something for the programme book on the subject of some aspect of 1984 that had interested him. (Well I couldn't let that year go by without some comment.) And this is what he came up with.....

1984? That's next year

isn't it?

Amateur Press Associations (APAs) continue to flourish in British fandom so that although far more writing has appeared from far more people than in recent years, nobody gets to see much of it. This current obsession with APAs is, to my mind, the best thing to happen to British fandom in the past ten years. Not because people are writing who would not otherwise be writing, but because established writers have found the opportunity to experiment with, and possibly improve, their styles away from the public gaze. Instead of producing a fanzine every few months (or in my case, every few years) established writers are finding themselves producing something almost every month, which means that instead of writing and thinking about writing possibly only at lengthy intervals, they are thinking about what to write and <u>doing that writing</u> almost continually. This can not be bad. When you are writing regularly and consistantly you very soon begin to recognize your strengths and your weaknesses, as a result of which you will (hopefully) be able to improve your writing. In short, you begin to learn to WRITE. And, more than that, you begin to find out exactly what sort of a writer you really are; whether or not you have previously incorrectly thought of your--self as a novelist, fanwriter, letter writer or whatever.

An APA is like an artist's colony where everybody sits around doing their thing and having a good time doing it, learning their craft and exchanging techniques and ideas and gossip. Occasionally a great work or a great artist will emerge into the larger world outside and everyone can feel they had a part to play in that, but the colony does not exist to produce great works or great artists: it exists to provide an enviroment where the artist can be free to pursue his or her own path.

In addition to this, APAs appeal to fans because they provide a publishing outlet. Fanzine fans are the people in whom the compulsion to write is matched only by their compul--sion to publish what they write. An APA provides an outlet which enables the writer to experiment freely, sure in the knowledge that anything they write (or almost anything they write) will be locked away in time, like their diaries and note-books of the past, where they cannot come leaping out to confront the embarrassed author (as all too often happens with fanzines we once did and now wish we hadn't. All right. Fanzines that I once did that I now wish I hadn't.) And of course, fans being their own best friends, anything which they think is worthy of a wider audience will find its way out of the APA in one way or another. My own next fanzine, for example, will undoubtedly contain a fair amount of material which saw its first draft in an APA.

APAs do tend to remove writers from circulation for a while, but this is good because it not only gives someone else a chance to fill the gap, but it also enables the writer to come back to the wider world refreshed with new thoughts and new methods. And of course we must not overlook the number of writers who have come to fandom, and the fans who have come to writing, as a result of their involvement with APAs. Naturally there will be people who fall into the APA world and never emerge, simply because they have found their speciality and that speciality is writing for APAs, but then you get other people leaving the wider world of fandom for other enclaves all the time anyway, and so long as you are happy doing what you do, it doesn't matter that you no longer do it publically. Besides, if you feel that your life has become poorer because your favourite writer has joined an APA that you have not joined, there is nothing to prevent you asking that writer if they would kindly consider letting you read some of their stuff. I mean, most fans would be bowled over to think you regard their work so highly, and you'd make a friend for life. If they are not already friends for life anyway, that is.

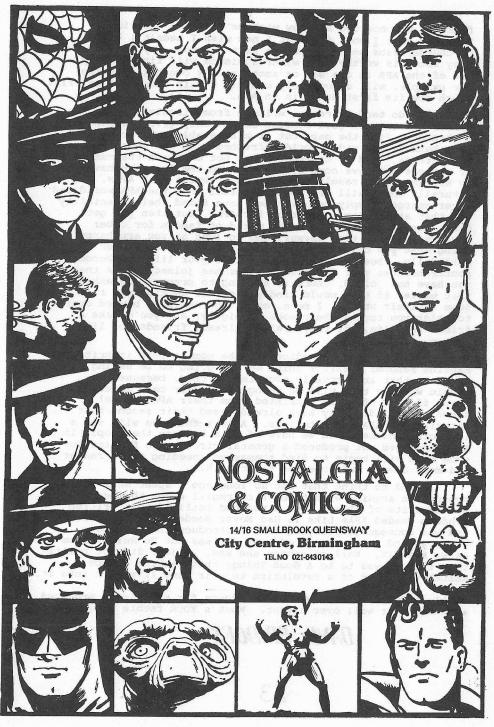
So, what would I predict for the coming year in British Fanzine Fandom? Well, I think we are going to be seeing fanzines that are actually exciting to read, because the people writing them will be using only their best material (even if some of it IS reprinted from their APA pieces) since undoubtedly they have already used their second-best material for APA contributions. Also I think we will see a lot more fanzines than we have of late because the people in APAs who have not produced a general circulation fanzine for some time will begin to find themselves needing that greater and more divers audience for their work.

...And to think that not so long ago I spent most of a convention arguing with Linda Pickersgill about the merits and demerits of APAs. Now, Linda had realized that British Fandomm Needed APAs Like It Had Never Needed Anything Before, and was consequently trying to re-introduce them to the country, and I was convinced that she was Out To Ruin Fandom As We Knew It. Well of course she was. I just did not realize then that it was to be A Good Thing; that fanzine fandom NEEDED this kind of a revolution to stir some life back into it.

(Well, anyway, this is MY feeble excuse for not having produced a fanzine for well over a year. What's YOUR feeble excuse?)

DAVE BRIDGES

23



The Nova Awards 🕱

Started in 1973 by the late Gillon Field, and presented annually by the Birmingham Science Fiction Group, the NOVA award was, until 1981, given to the editor of the fanzine voted 'Best Of The Year'. As from that year, the single award was joined by two further NOVA awards, these being for Best Fan Writer and Best Fan Artist.

Initially, the winner of the award was determined by a panel of judges consisting of experienced fanzine fans, but in recent years all this has changed; the current system enables all active fanzine fans (this means YOU!) to vote for their favourites in each category. Voting forms are available at the registration desk, where you will also find a ballot box into which all completed forms should be placed. If you are eligible to vote, according to the simple criteria given on the voting form, then please USE YOUR VOTE! By doing so, you will help to make the awards as representative as possible of fandom-at-large.

As for the awards themselves, every year has seen a different design. The first year's award was created by Gillon Field, and since then, design and construction has been by the Brum Group's very own Ray Bradbury.

PAUL VINCENT

- 1973 PETER WESTON for Speculation
- 1974 LISA CONESA for Zimri JOHN BROSNAN for Big Scab (Tie)
- 1975 ROB JACKSON for Maya
- 1976 ROB JACKSON for Maya
- 1977 DAVE LANGFORD for Twll-Ddu
- 1978 ALAN DOREY for Gross Encounters
- 1979 SIMONE WALSH for <u>Seamonsters</u>
- 1980 DAVE BRIDGES for One-Off
- 1981 Best Fanzine = MALCOLM EDWARDS for Tappen Best Writer = CHRIS ATKINSON Best Artist = PETE LYON
- 1982 Best Fanzine = ROB HANSEN for Epsilon Best Writer = CHRIS ATKINSON Best Artist = ROB HANSEN
- 1983 Best Fanzine = DAVE BRIDGES for <u>A Cool Head</u> Best Writer = DAVE BRIDGES Best Artist = MARGARET WELBANK

The Coff Award

In a dark and dingy little pub on the outskirts of Solihull, Kev Clarke put down his beer and gazed levelly round the crowded table.

"Let's give Stave Green an award " he said. We all looked horrified. "For best writer?" Steve prompted. "No, a concrete overcoat for your services to fandom" Kev said, with an evil look in his eyes. Steve looked hurt as Kev continued; "There should be a new award. With TAFF and GUFF you vote for the people you like the best. Yet nothing is done for a person who is a real pain in the duplicators." "How would one vote?" some fascinated person said. "Simple! All votes would cost 10p and you could vote as often as you like for whoever you don't like!"

With that, COFF began. The essence of COFF is that it goes to the fan judged by fandom as most deserving to be embessed in a concrete overcoat and thrown into the nearest canal. However, since no one has come up with a practical way of shifting half-a-ton of concrete, the award will be a symbolic presentation at Novacon.

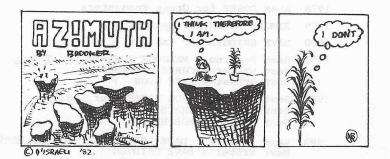
So far, the winners (losers?) have been:

1982 The Fake Bob Shaw 1983 Simon Polley

Remember, to come second in this award means that you are a faliure even at being a faliure!

PS. Steve Green still hasn't won it!

PHILL PROBERT



THE HISTORY

OF NOVACON

NOVACON	HOTEL	GUEST OF HONOUR	CHAIRMAN	ATTENDENCE*
Im	perial Centre	JAMES WHITE	Vernon Brown	144
(Committee:	Ray Bradbury, Ala Pauline Dungate)			s.: (*) (damanal)
2 Imp	perial Centre	DOREEN ROGERS	Pauline Dungate	
(Committee:	Sten Eling, Jeff Meg Palmer, Haze		ard Newham,	
3 Imp	perial Centre	KEN BULMER	Hazel Reynolds	146
(Committee:	Stan Eling, Gille Winterman)	on Field, Meg Pal	lmer, Geoff	
4 Imp	perial Centre	KEN SLATER	Dr Jack Cohen	211
(Committee:	Pauline Dungate, Robert Hoffman, Hazel Reynolds)			
5 Roy	yal Angus	DAN MORGAN	Rog Peyton	272
(Committee:	Ray Bradbury, Par Laurence Miller,	uline Dungate, Ro Arline Peyton)	obert Hoffman,	
6 Roy	yal Angus	DAVE KYLE	Stan Eling	317
(Committee:	Helen Eling, Lau Rog Peyton)	rence Miller, Ari	line Peyton,	
7 Roy	yal Angus	JOHN BRUNNER	Stan Eling	278
(Committee:	Liese Hoare, Mar Maule, Dave Lang	tin Hoare, Ian Ma ford)	aule, Janice	
8 Ho	liday Inn	ANNE MCCAFFREY	Laurence Mille	r 309
(Committee:	Dave Holmes, Kat Wright)	hy Holmes, Chris	Watson, Jackie	
9 Roy	yal Angus	CHRIS PRIEST	Rog Peyton	290
(Committee:	Helen Eling, Sta Morgan, Paul Old		organ, Pauline	

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BRIAN ALDISS Rog Peyton 495 10 Royal Angus Joseph Nicholas, Keith Oborn, Krystyna Oborn, (Committee: Paul Oldroyd, Chris Walton) 362 Roval Angus Paul Oldroyd 11 BOB SHAW (Committee: Helen Eling, Stan Eling, Joseph Nichlas, Phill Probert) Royal Angus HARRY HARRISON Rog Peyton 373 12 Chris Baker, Dave Hardy, Eunice Pearson, (Committee: Phill Probert) Phill Probert 339 13 Royal Angus LISA TUTTLE (Committee: Chris Donaldson, Steve Green, Dave Haden, Jan Huxley, Paul Oldroyd, Eunice Pearson, Paul Vincent, John Wilkes) 333 Grand Hotel ROB HOLDSTOCK 14 Steve Green (Committee: Kevin Clarke, Ann Green, Dave Haden, Eunice Pearson, Phill Probert, Martin Tudor, Paul Vincent)

*Numbers taken from each programme book. This is not necessarily the complete total.



THE ORGANIZATION

(AKA APA-B)

The Organization began in june 1983 and was then known as apa-B. It was thought that since a few Brum group members were already producing fanzines, it would be a good idea to encourage those less experienced in the fan-publishing world. As the thenchairman, Pete Weston, wrote for the june newsletter, "Writing and publishing is a splendid creative activity, that sharpens the intellect and quickens the wits."

Cathryn Easthope was the apa's first administrator. And she did an excellent job, despite a few teething troubles. It is due to her good work that we're still around today, even though our membership has dropped to ten! For all we're a small group, we all try to produce something regularly. The results are often a little unusual, but always interesting! Especially since each mailing is collated at the monthly MiSFiTs meeting. It can get crowded in the General Wolfe, what with the Aston university crowd and we more vocal people! So the administra--tor needs a firm way with them to get the apa put together among the pints and the gossip.

Even though there are a lot of advantages to being a small group, we are interested in getting in some more members. We certainly don't want to get stale! So if anyone is interested in joing a friendly apa, (especially after reading Dave Bridge's article on apas elsewhere in this book) why not send a £5 to me at 32 Digby House, Colletts Grove, Kingshurst, Birmingham B37 6JE. That entitles you to membership of The Organization for a year, plus a membership of the Brum group for a year. For that you get our newsletters every month and reduced entrance fees when you come to our meetings.

We do have one distinct advantage over other apas -- we have no waiting list. So there's no hanging around while some--one decides to leave. If you're new to fanzines, and perhaps to fandom in general, there's no better way to get some experience at putting together something and in handling other people's comments. And since you need only do two pages every other month (and please make 15 copies) it won't really hurt that much. If you do decide to do more we'll be very pleased to read your work. Who knows, you could end up being a potential Nova award winner!

EUNICE PEARSON

ONVENTION MEMBEDSI

1 ROB HOLDSTOCK 2 STEVE GREEN 3 MARTIN TUDOR 4 ANN GREEN 5 EUNICE PEARSON 6 PAUL VINCENT 7 DAVE HADEN 8KEVIN CLARKE57Brian Amering9PHILL PROBERT58Duncan Booth10Ving Clarke59Paul Stewart11Joy Hibbert60Pam Wells12Device Powley61Roy Macinski 12 Dave Rowley 13 Allan Boyd-Newton 18 Steve Davies 19 Bob Shaw (Glasgow) 26 George Ternet 27 Linda Bagler 27 Linda Baglei77 Mike Demoster28 Helen Eling78 Mike Walshe29 Stan Eling78 Mike Walshe30 Mickey Poland79 John Wilkes80 Ye Gerbish80 Ye Gerbish 37 Roger Perkins 38 Owen Whiteoak 87 Su Worrall 47 Colin Fine 48 Marcus Rowland 49 Caroline Mullan

50 James Steel 51 Kathy Westhead 52 Mike Westhead 53 Peter Tyers 54 Chris Davenport 55 Peter Wareham 56 Animal 57 Brian Ameringen 58 Duncan Booth 60 Pam Wells 61 Roy Macinski 62 Dave Ellis 14 Charles Mawdsley63 Eric Bentcliffe15 Tobm Styles64 Katie Davies 16 Margaret Austin65 Joyce Slater17 Martin Easterbrook66 Ken Slater 67 Christine Ward 68 Edward Ward 20 T. M. Henir69 Jack Cohen21 Chris Southern70 Martin Smith 21 Ghrifs Southern70 Marien22 Jenny Southern71 Urban Gunnarsson23 S. Booth72 Marion van der Voort24 J. Sheward73 Richard van der Voort 25 K. H. Allan 74 Rory McLean 75 Roger Peyton 76 Bruce MacDonald 77 Mike Damesick 30 Mickey Polanu31 Dai Price32 Roger Robinson33 Jonathon Cowie34 Tim Illingworth35 Watie Hoare36 Rob Hansen 35 Katie Hoare 84 KOD Hansen 85 Ken Worrall 86 Peter Worrall
 39 Alex Stewart
 88 Greg Pickersgill

 40 Dave Symes
 89 Linda Pickersgill

 41 Fay Symes
 90 Howard Rosenblum
42 Andrew Hall 91 June Rosenblum

 42 Andrew Hall
 92 Gwen Funnell

 43 Martin Stallard
 92 Gwen Funnell

 44 Tony Rogers
 93 James White

 45 Bernie Evans
 94 Peggy White

 65 David Development
 95 David Development

46 Maureen Porter 95 Paul Dormer 96 John Steward 97 Pete Weston 98 Kev Williams

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159 Pete Wright 160 Robert Sneddon 161 Mike Ford 162 Chris Mayers 163 Dave Thomas 164 Wendy Glover 165 Henry John Landis 166 Sylvia Starshine 167 Chris Donaldson 168 Paul Oldroyd 169 Neil Hepple 170 Sue Hepple 171 Eleanor Alexander 172 John Lang 173 Mike Molloy 174 Mike Gould 175 Nigel Robson 176 Ian Sorensen 177 Tibs 178 Dave Caton 179 Patrick Curzon 180 Neil Robinson 181 Christina Lake 182 Peter-Fred Thompson 183 Judy Booth 184 Graham Stulie 185 Dave French 186 Shirley French 187 Steve Devaney 188 Fiona Anderson 189 Lawrence Lambourne 190 Michael Bernardi 191 Niall Gordon 192 Tim Broadribb 193 Katherine Wright 194 Ken Bulmer 195 Alex Armsrtong 196 Frances-Jane Nelson 197 Margaret Hall 198 Chuck Conner 199 Hazel Ashworth 200 Mal Ashworth 201 David H. Walters 202 Ros Calverley 203 Barry Alan Denning 204 Liz Burak 205 Nick Mills 206 Ian Williams 207 Simon Bailey 208 Anne Warren 209 Jimmy Robertson 210 Sue Harrison 211 Rachel Dickinson 212 Aian Wilson 213 Clive Warren 214 Jeanette Warren 215 Simon Ounsley 216 Robert Meades 217 Helen Conner 218 Michael Day

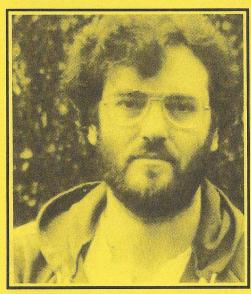
219 Peter Smith 275 Phil Rogers 220 Mike Tebby 221 Shelley Hollingsworth 222 Moira Shearman 223 Edmund Jackson 224 Alexander Clarke 225 Abi Frost 226 Philip Dawson 227 Chris Jennings 228 David Wake 229 Brian Aldiss 230 Harry Harrison 231 Nigel Pearson 232 Alison Cook 233 Bruce MacSonald 234 Nigel E. Richardson 235 Malcolm Davies 236 Joe Gibbons 237 Ian McKeer 238 Richard Harris 239 Trevor Mendham 240 Joyce Cluett 241 David Cluett 241¼Adam Cluett 241½Tricia Cluett 2413Daniel Cluett 242 J. Perry 243 Simon Beresford 244 Peter Colley 245 Cath Easthope 246 Ann-Droid 247 Larry Dart 247 Larry Dart 248 Mike Horsfield 249 Mary Horsfield 250 Lil 251 Bacchus 252 Ann Looker 253 Ian Bambro 254 Jacqueline Bexon 255 Paul Schofield 256 Robin Levy 257 Rowena Levy 258 Alan Eales 259 Val Wood 260 Stuart Hall 261 M. Hall 262 Gary Sharman 263 Richard Osbourne 26 Brian Haunton 265 John McKeown 266 Ian McKeown 267 Lilian Edwards 268 Mark Caldwell 269 Steve Prosser 270 Joan S. Patterson 271 Dave Langford 272 Ian Warner 273 John Ledson 274 Mark Hansen

276 Doreen Rogers 277 Susan Sharp 278 Anne Cumberlin 279 Colin Smith 280 Lee Montgomerie 281 Tim Smith 282 S. S. Khera 283 Neil Thompson 284 Simon J. Bennett 285 Cardinal P. D. Cox 286 Simon Green 287 Mike White 288 Boz 288 Boz 289 Phil Collins 290 Bob Shaw 291 Sarah Shaw 292 Hazel Langford 293 D West 294 Elizabeth Sourbut 295 Jean Maudsley 296 John Brosnan 297 Eta De Cicco 298 Pauline Morgan 299 Chris Morgan 300 Jon Wilkes 301 Geoffrey Pitchford 302 Steve Higgins 303 Kim Whysall 304 Tony Hammond 305 Tom Shippey 306 Louise Savage 307 Mark Greener 308 Rosemary Tracey 309 Anne Wilson 310 Andy Challis 311 Rod Milner 312 Lisa Tuttle 313 Mike Meara 314 Pat Meara 315 David Dunn 316 Nigel Dresser 317 Mark Fletcher 318 Tim Breslain 319 Tom Harris 320 Lisanne Norman 321 Stu Andrews 322 Justin Rogers 323 Alec Lewis 324 G. L. Lewis 325 Eileen Weston 326 Graham Poole 327 Jan Poole 328 Anne Page 329 Dave Holmes 330 Helen Holmes 331 Sue Atkin 332 Lynn Edwards 333 Tim Stannard

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