

Novacon 35



Guest of Honour: Alastair Reynolds

**11th–13th November 2005
at the Quality Hotel, Bentley, Walsall**

**For further information call 0114 281 1572, e-mail
xl5@zoom.co.uk or check www.novacon.org**

WHAT IS NOVACON?

Novacon is the Birmingham Science Fiction Group's annual convention, held every autumn in the Midlands since 1971. It's the UK's largest regional sf / fannish convention, second in size only to the national event held each Easter.

WHAT HAPPENS THERE?

Novacon is renowned for its combination of laid-back ambience with strong programming, the latter placing the emphasis both on written sf and cutting-edge science.

WHERE IS NOVACON?

Walsall's **Quality Hotel** has proven hugely popular – great facilities, excellent staff and management – and is delighted to have us back for a fourth year. Just off the M6, it's ideally sized, with a central lounge bar perfect for finding your friends easily, or making new ones; programme, bar, art show, bar, dealers' room and bar are all on one level (that's right: no lifts, no stairs).

WHO'S GUEST OF HONOUR?

Astrophysicist **Alastair Reynolds**, one of the most exciting new authors in British science fiction, who has been selling short fiction since 1989, is best known for his loosely linked dark-tinged space opera series "Revelation Space", comprising the novels REVELATION SPACE, CHASM CITY, REDEMPTION ARK, and ABSOLUTION GAP, along with the two novellas "Diamond Dogs" and Turquoise Days".

His latest novel, CENTURY RAIN, is set in a totally different universe featuring alternate history, time travel and two versions of Paris... We are delighted to welcome Alastair to Novacon!

ANYONE ELSE ATTENDING I MIGHT RECOGNISE?

Novacon is a popular haunt for writers and artists, with **Iain Banks**, **David Langford**, **Ian Watson**, **Jon Courtenay Grimwood**, **Ian McDonald**, **Gwyneth Jones**, **Ken MacLeod**, **Charles Stross**, **Diana Wynne Jones**, **Storm Constantine**, **Prof Jack Cohen**, **Colin P Langefeld** and **David A Hardy** among those you're likely to bump into in the bar.

WHO'S RUNNING NOVACON?

Following a well-earned rest **Tony Berry** returns as our chairman; joined by such (all too) familiar faces as: **Steve Lawson**, **Alice Lawson**, **Cat Coast Yvonne Rowse** and **Vicky Cook** who are this year joined by one-time Novacon chair **Helena Bowles**.

BUT I LIKE TO LOOK AT PICTURES AS WELL...

Glad you mentioned it. Our innovative CD gallery will return by popular request, providing a bold new way for artists to display their work. It complements the traditional art show, where Europe's top artists have been invited to exhibit. For information, contact **Steve Lawson** at x15@zoom.co.uk or to 379 Myrtle Road, Sheffield, S2 3HQ.

WHAT ABOUT AWARDS?

First presented in 1973, the Nova Awards are the UK's only prizes for fanzines, fan writing and fan art. These coveted trophies are decided by the Novacon membership and presented on Sunday evening (just before we wander off to the beer tasting).

DID I HEAR “FANZINES”?

More so than any other UK convention, Novacon is famous as a gathering of fanzine editors, artists and editors – the bar on Friday is often a frenzied blur of paper, as fans hand out their latest issues. Why not join in the fun by publishing your own?

SHOULD I BRING MONEY?

There'll be a busy dealers' room (nearly as large as the programme room) for you to hand over your spare change to those impoverished booksellers (not forgetting those whose tables are stacked high with jewellery, models and crafts); go on, you know they need it more than you. Last year's auctions were also a great success – so don't forget to bring along books, artwork, videos, and all those *truly weird* items people only buy when it's in aid of a cash-strapped fan fund.

WHAT'S A BEER TASTING?

And you call yourself a sf fan. Once again, we plan to finish the weekend with some more exotic beers and return to a bit more *tasting* and a bit less *quaffing*.

Back in the lounge bar, we'll also have the highly popular Black Sheep real ale throughout the weekend, as well as the famous Addestones real cider.

HOW DO I KEEP IN TOUCH?

As a member of Novacon, you'll receive regular progress reports, then pick up a programme book, limited-edition souvenir booklet by our guest of honour and helpful guides when you check in. Before the convention, check <www.novacon.org> for the latest developments. If you give us your e-mail address overleaf, we can add you to our mailing list for regular updates.

WHO ARE THE BSFG?

Founded in 1971, the Birmingham Science Fiction Group meets on the second Friday of each month at the Britannia Hotel in central Birmingham. Its honorary presidents are Brian Aldiss and Harry Harrison, whilst past speakers include Iain Banks, Douglas Adams, Alan Moore, Peter F Hamilton, Christopher Priest, Greg Bear, Bob Shaw, Terry Pratchett, Joe Haldeman, Shaun Hutson, Kim Stanley Robinson, Ian Watson, Jon Courtenay Grimwood, Gwyneth Jones, Graham Joyce, Brian Stableford, Simon Clark and Dan Simmons. For details, contact Pat Brown at 106 Green Lanes, Wylde Green, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B73 5JH, e-mail <bhamsfgroup@yahoo.co.uk> or visit <www.bsfg.freesevers.com>.

CRIKEY, THIS SOUNDS LIKE MY KIND OF CONVENTION – HOW DO I JOIN?

Just fill in the form on the back of this flyer and send it, along with some of your hard-earned money, to the address overpage.

**Join
Novacon 35
at Novacon 34
for a mere
£30.00!**

Novacon 35 Membership Form

Date: 11th to 13th November 2005.

Guest of Honour: Alastair Reynolds.

Venue: Quality Hotel, Bentley, Walsall.

Full attending membership (which includes a copy of the numbered, limited edition, Special Booklet by Alastair Reynolds and the souvenir Programme Book) costs only £30.00 if you join at Novacon 34! Rising to £33 if you join after Novacon 34 but before the end of Eastercon. It is then £36.00 until postal registrations close on 30th October 2005, after which it costs £40 on the door. Daily rates are £10 Friday, £20 Saturday and £15 Sunday. Cheques/Postal Orders should be made payable to "Novacon 35" and either passed to us at the Novacon Hatch at the con or sent with your completed form to 379 Myrtle Road, Sheffield, S2 3HQ. Membership enquiries via e-mail x15@zoom.co.uk or call Steve Lawson on 0114-281-1572.

Membership

I enclose £ for Full membership(s) of Novacon 35 @ £ each

Name(s): Phone No:

Address:

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..... E-mail:

Badge Please complete this section if you want a fannish name on your badge. We would prefer to use your real name for sending items through the post.

Name: Badge Name:

Name: Badge Name:

Gophers: I am willing to volunteer as a gopher YES/NO (delete as applicable)

I have experience in/with (please specify)

Queries, Suggestions, Ideas, Requests etc. We can only act on your ideas/problems if you tell us about them, so this is what this section is for. (Please continue on a separate sheet of paper if needed.)