

# NOVA47 CON

10 - 12 November 2017

Hey Steve..... get off the toilet... I think the maid  
REALLY wants to clean the room RIGHT NOW!



GUEST  
OF HONOUR **ADRIAN TCHAIKOVSKY**

THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
BIRMINGHAM SCIENCE FICTION GROUP





JOINT CHAIR AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Helena Bowles.....socialmedia@novacon.org.uk

JOINT CHAIR

Alice Lawson.....co-chair@novacon.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP AND HOTEL ROOMS

Steve Lawson.....membership@novacon.org.uk  
379 Myrtle Road, Sheffield. S2 3HQ

HOTEL LIAISON

Tony Berry.....dealer\_booking@novacon.org.uk

SECRETARY

Cat Coast.....secretary@novacon.org.uk

PROGRAMME

Richard Standage.....programme@novacon.org.uk

TREASURER

Eve Harvey.....treasurer@novacon.org.uk

WEBSITE

John Harvey.....website@novacon.org.uk

PUBLICATIONS

Gary Starr.....publications@novacon.org.uk

STAFF MEMBERS

Doug Spencer, Dave Hicks.

Editorial.....

It is said that things get easier as time goes by, and while it is easier now to cross a beach in France than it was 70 years ago, writing this doesn't appear to follow that rule.

Still, the important thing is to stay calm and find a way to relax. Personally, I like to download, and listen to, Ordinance Survey Maps as Spoken Word Books... I'm listening to one now... ah, the Brecon Beacons... Ooooo, church with a steeple.

Anyway, welcome to PR2. I have had the committee staked over hot coals - not to write stuff for this, but purely for the pleasure it brings me - and I think you will find this PR both interesting and entertaining - or at least soft and absorbent.

Enjoy

All material is copyright Novacon and the stated authors. Any attempt to copy this material will result in you being sent to stand at the back of the classroom. It's only your time you're wasting you know!

It's that difficult second

## Progress

**Report...** The first **PR** tells you all the wonderful dreams we have, and the third is a business issue – how to get to the con, etc. The problem, at this stage in the proceedings, is finding things to tell you that are already firmed up enough rather than the things which are still in a delicate stage of planning.

However, we do have things to report. Alice and I have met our esteemed guest, Adrian, a couple of times now. We touched base at **Eastercon**, and later, at Adrian's appearance at the **BSFG**.

Having talked to him, and heard him speak publicly, we can say he is going to be an intelligent, engaging, and original **Guest of Honour**. Elsewhere in this **PR**, you can check out a review of Adrian's **Clarke Award** winning book, *Children of Time*.

Richard will be updating you on the programme which is shaping up to be both unusual and interesting. Go check out his description of what we have and what we are still organising.

So, what else can I tell you? That our committee is brilliant, hard-working, imaginative, and fun (and large. Let us not forget large....) How do we organise ourselves? Our meetings are long, loud, and a little like herding cats. We meet either in Birmingham or Sheffield, to take advantage of the people with the largest living rooms (Doug in Sheffield, Tony in Birmingham). We settle ourselves around a table, crack open the beer, and the meeting goes downhill from there... no, it doesn't honestly! Though the herding cats feeling does tend to increase in step with the empty bottles filling the recycling bin. Alice and I ride herd on the cats and occasionally apply the whip: Usually to Steve and Tony who have a habit of breaking away into private conversation. This is *sometimes* relevant to the official discussion. Dave amuses himself, and the rest of us, by casually throwing out brilliant cartoons related to our deliberations. Doug Knows Everything (and cooks a mean garlic bread, we have discovered). Richard and Gary quietly roll their eyes at Steve and Tony, whilst being frighteningly competent with absolutely no fuss whatsoever, and Cat takes the minutes which, as we all know, makes her the most important and powerful person on the committee.... She wears the authority with grace.

They're a talented bunch and we're delighted to be working with them.



Remember, we have a **Facebook** page where we share items we think will interest our members. If you have a **FB** account, just type, “**Novacon 47**”, into the search field and there we are. We also make Programme announcements – or requests - and answer questions (usually within twenty-four hours). If you have something you think would interest other **Novacon** attendees then feel free to post it to our page.

Here’s looking forward to seeing you at Novacon, this year.

Helena & Alice



Mansfield Road, Nottingham  
 NG5 2TB



**T**he Park Inn hotel is filling up, so if you haven’t booked a room yet get that hotel form filled in and sent off to Steve Lawson (see page 2 for address).

The form can be downloaded from the website and you have to be a member of the convention to book a room.

Room Rates: **£47 pppn for a double/twin**

**£65 pppn for a single.**

There is a limited number of **family rooms (2 adults and 2 children) at £110** per night. Things like cots can be put in on request.

Children under 4 yrs are free, 4-12 yrs half-price, over 12 yrs full price.

Remember, if you are arriving on Friday evening the hotel get edgy about late arrivals so you will need to ring the hotel direct and reserve your room with a credit card. The number is **0115-935-9988**.

So, don’t just sit there, reserve your room now!

On Sunday evening, there will be the usual Banquet and Beer Tasting. This year, the full title for the beer tasting is, “**The Dave Holmes Memorial Beer Tasting**”, in honour of our mate, who procured and looked after the real ale, who passed away earlier this year.

Dave was a staple of the Beer Tasting for many years: he arranged the supply of real ales we had at the back of the bar, looked after it (taking several samples over the weekend just to make sure it was OK), and then helped to serve the beers on the night. Of course, he also ran his own table for his shop, Magic Labyrinth, in the dealers’ room where many of you would have found him when he was still relatively sober.

It won't be the same without him moaning about having to share the ale table with non-alcoholic drinks. He will certainly be missed.

Beer Tasting tickets can be obtained either by bring 3 bottles of interesting beer to, or buying a badge for £6 from, Registration. The food, this year, will be Chinese, as per our guest's request, and the price will be announced at the con. You MUST buy a ticket for these events before 12noon on Sunday.

Tony



## DEALERS TABLES

Dealers' tables are available for £20 for the weekend your usual 6 ft jobbies (I have to let that go 'cause the Committee won't let me say anything, but my puerile mind is fighting them....must...fight... urge!). If you want a table, but don't wish to attend the convention, we can talk about this too. Either way, contact Steve or Tony at the email addresses on page 2.

## ART SHOW

If you want to show your art (took me ages to spell that right) it is free but you will need to reserve space. So, if you need half a table, a whole table, a wall or, God forbid, you are planning to bring a whole installation, then it might be a good idea to let us know so that we can do a little planning (I know, why start now right?). Contact Tony or Steve (see inside cover) and tell them what you need.... then you can talk about the Art Show..... ah, ha, ha, I crack me up!

## CONVENTION TABLES

These are free to any poor suffering souls who are also running a convention. God help you. Contact Tony or Steve for reservations, help, support, drink... whatever you need.





# PROGRAMME

I will follow in the long tradition of programme pieces for PR2 by declaring that the programme is definitely taking shape. This has the dual advantage of being a good (if clichéd) opening line and also essentially true – at least to the extent that the second half of all our committee meetings, so far, have been given over to a free for all, and frankly alcohol assisted brain storm of ideas, which I have attempted to write down... Then tried to make sense of the next day... Then endeavored to actually act on them....

You should be aware that I am keeping a very close eye on the membership list for interesting and talented people whom I can co-opt on to panels, talks, games and other stuff that we would like to do. If you have a burning desire to be involved then please sign up, if you don't... hide....

If you are following our social media pages you will be aware that some items are already as firm as they can be (oo-er), at this stage. Chris and Pauline Morgan will be hosting an open mic poetry session for example, so bring your deathless odes along to share. Other items will be similarly announced, as they are sorted, so keep a look out.

Much of the rest is still, of course, very a much work in progress - or if I am being honest, barely decipherable notes that I will be working through over the next few weeks to knock into some kind of shape.

I can promise all the usual: Science talks, panels, beer tasting, silly games... and a few unusual items with which we will attempt to surprise you. All-in-all, we are hoping to bring you an enjoyable weekend with the least amount of blood being spilt.

And, of course, don't forget we have the excellent **Adrian Tchaikovsky** as our G.o.H who promises to be fun and entertaining.

As always, if you have any ideas, or any desire to be a part of all this, please do get in touch.

Richard

“THE THING YOU CALL GOD IS NOT EVEN ALONE IN THE SKY...AND I HAVE SEEN IT, HOW SMALL IT IS.”

# CHILDREN OF TIME

By  
ADRIAN TCHAIKOVSKY

Review By  
Dave Hicks

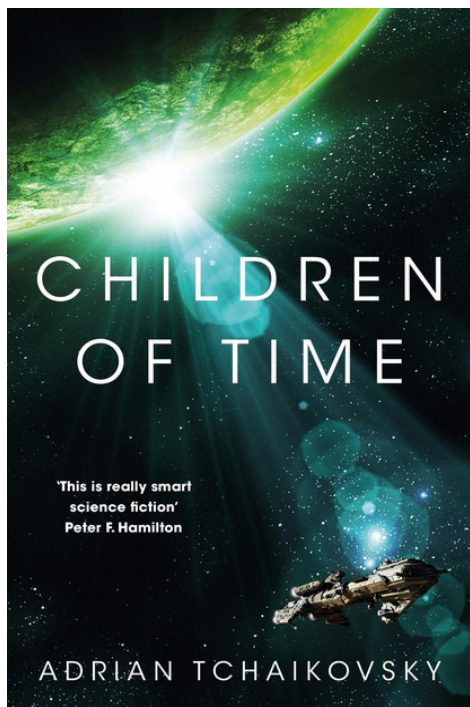
Now *that's* what I call Science Fiction. Okay, you'd probably like a bit more...

I knew of Adrian Tchaikovsky only by reputation when I agreed to serve, this year, as *Committee Member: Responsible For The Holding Of The Bottle Opener And Dispensing Of The Emergency Twiglets* but hadn't read anything by him. I suspect

this may happen from time to time on convention committees. In extremis, I once wrote an overview of an unfamiliar author's life's work, cribbed quickly from reviews and blogs, with such conviction that he complemented me on it. But much as I enjoy winging it (I don't really, con-running just seems to end up that way) there's a limit. So, I bought the book and read it, and I'm glad I did.

I've also proposed the idea, more than once, that SF fandom has no, or at least very many fewer books that form a 'core' body of literature that is shared between us any more. No 'canon' of Science Fiction works that bind our sensibilities in a way that was commonplace when I first started attending conventions so very many years ago.

If there was still such a canon, then this would definitely be a part of it.



P  
R  
2

N  
O  
V  
A  
C  
O  
N  
7



The broad themes are all here: the ideas that made me love science fiction and have kept me reading it for decades. The refinements are here too, the subtle evolution of technologies that can have so many different consequences. What I mean is...

He has a gentle, new, and different riff on a story about generation star ships. This may be one of the “blues standards” of modern SF. Here, it’s not about stunning new twists so much as how stylish and interesting is the inevitable narrative of successive generations struggling with their progenitors

Parallel evolution: if you haven’t read James P Hogan’s *Code of the Life Maker* (he couldn’t come up with catchy titles to save his life) then please track it down, but first check out Tchaikovsky’s take on the rise of a new sentient species; one that it would be all too convenient for humans to reject as an equal.

A story concerning competition for viable habitats and old, mad artificial intelligences with a God-complex have all been done before but there’s a vigour and a style in the way it’s done here that’s refreshing and engaging.

The creation and description of the development of a new and different civilisation is here too; creating the opportunity to describe the emergence of religion, reformation, enlightenment and beyond. Tchaikovsky uses the clever and engaging device of two key viewpoint characters: the leader/warrior and the scientist. Both sides clash and learn from each other over successive generations as the new life form builds its civilisation to bringing this story to life and keeping the reader engaged.

And, as I’m sure you may have heard, this story contains spiders. Large, clever spiders.

It is not, however, a novel that looks to exploit arachnophobia. If anything, it’s the reverse. The ideas we have about creatures that seem alien to us, even when they inhabit our own homes, means that we can be distanced from some of the story and from the motivations of characters whose civilisation and values start as the product of that “alien” biology. But as that society develops you get drawn in, take sides between their ideologies, see the inevitable parallels between them and, well, us, as competition for resources and power develops alongside that of knowledge and understanding.

There are of course people, as well.

The spiders need a “first cause” and, while I don’t aim to serve up a plot description that spoils the book, the other half of the story, running in parallel to the development of this new and different civilisation, is people, of two kinds (I’m not going to spoil anything by explaining this).

The whole thing is set in motion by people who strive to meet the challenge of our long-term survival by seeding other “viable” planets with advanced biology.

“This is where we become gods,” thinks a character right at the beginning. You just know that’s going to end well.



The drama is driven by specific people later in the book. Grumpy, put-upon people saddled with the technical problems of long-term space travel, the passing of time, the burdens of history, and of diminishing options. All the stuff that makes it so hard to remain moral and considerate of others around you, let alone an entirely different species.

Inevitably, the spiders will have to confront the space-faring humans.

I should mention that I enjoyed *how* this story is written. It is a common, modern technique to switch between locations, times and characters. If this isn't done well the reader just skips to the next bit of the viewpoint character, or plot thread, they've become attached to. I didn't do this here because the variations of tone, dialogue, and pace between the different species and points in time, draw you easily and quickly into each new scene.

If I haven't been clear up till now then I really think this is a dead good science fiction novel that you, dear Novacon member, should think about buying. Maybe even getting the author to sign it this November when we will (probably) have a nice boozy book launch on Friday night for you to meet the guy himself.

Finally: Oh, my Ghod! - there's a spider dangling just above YOUR head right now, above your left ear! I didn't say / wasn't going to exploit your arachnophobia.





**E**arly evening on Saturday, we will be opening up the main room to poetry. You would think that we would do this late Sunday to clear the room but I am told that quite a lot of you enjoy this sort of thing, and that I am in a minority. I have been in one all my life.

Anyway, the point is that all you budding **poetryists... poetics... poets** can bring along pieces of your own work (no stealing) to read out in front of, for want of a better word, other artists to what will not doubt be rapturous applause.

Personally, if it doesn't start with "*There was a young lady from...*" then it's all kind of lost on me.

Seriously though, if poetry is your bag, either listening or performing, then this will be for you. We would like to encourage as many people as possible to take part. We did it last year and it worked pretty well so we thought that if we give everyone enough time to prepare we can get more people involved.

So, thinking caps on, quill at the ready, and be creative.

I personally have prepared several limericks which, having heard them, the committee have banned me from not only not performing them at the con, but from ever repeating them again.

Taste, it seems, is a very personal thing.

See you there.





# IT'S ART!

**N**ovember seems far, far off yet as we cool down after one of the hottest weeks I can remember (yes, all the way back to 1976 and the sharing of baths etc.) (*I shared mine with my dog – not an erotic experience – ED*).

However, it's never too soon to plan for **Novacon** and I need to tell you about the Art Show

So, what will be in the art show this year? *ART* will be in the Art Show, there will definitely be art.

There will probably also be music and postcards and whatever interesting thing Dave Hardy has turned his art into recently – maybe some calendars again, some mugs or coasters or perhaps something entirely new.

There will be old favourites and some new artists to get to know and there is still space to sign up to display your work. **Novacon** is a great place to try out art for the first time or try out some new medium; art comes in many forms. We have space and displays for 3D art, textile art, and any form you might come up with. Some artists bring items ready to hang, others un-framed or sketch pieces. We have no rules and we are able to help you get the best out of any pieces you bring.

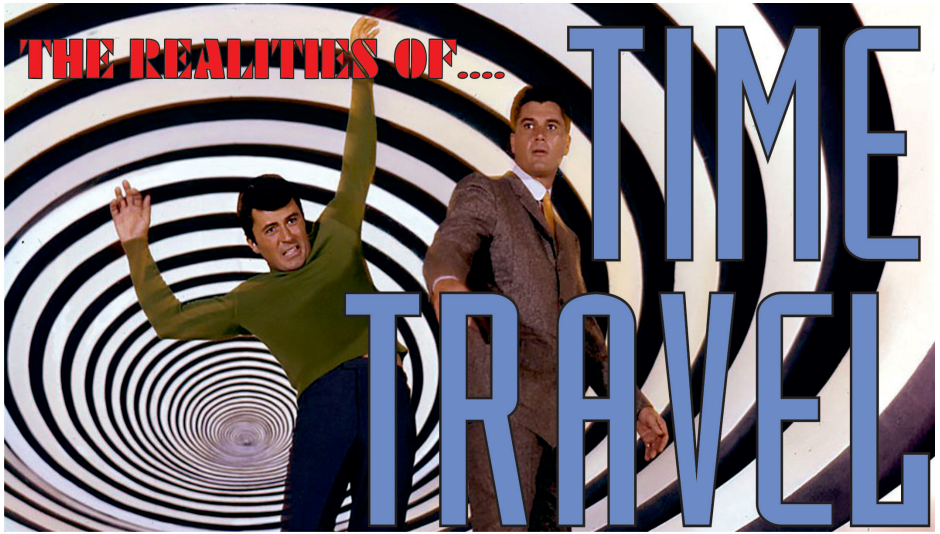
The art show is free for displays, but should you wish to auction your work then a 10% commission is taken from the sale to put back into the **Novacon** coffers for next year. This helps pay for the room, the display equipment, tea, gin... whatever.

I don't mind having a pre-loved section. If you have art that's been hanging around (pardon the pun), and you wish to sell it on then please let me know ahead of time (i.e. any time before the weekend. This will make our art show look all pre-planned and highly efficient), and we can sort something out.

I can't imagine **Novacon** without any art, so please sign up. This is a display of art from many different levels of talent, and it is all appreciated by those who view it. Don't be shy. Everyone has to exhibit themselves for the first time somewhere; indeed, most of the Committee have criminal records for doing just that, so what are you waiting for?



See you in the Art Show - Serena



**B**etween 1905 and 1915 Albert Einstein published his *Theory of Special Relativity* and *Theory of General Relativity* to rapturous applause and shouts of “well done you”. The scientific world took to these new equations like hamsters to a blender then eventually settled down and started to accept that these equations were probably the best description of the state of things that we have so far come up with.

They quickly rewrote the reference books (again) and got on with physics-y stuff, but one quirky footnote to these theories proposes that time travel may, in fact, be possible.

Few paid this much attention.

Every Genius is allowed a little bit of crazy.

100-odd years later and time travel is now something of a hot topic. Time Travel has definitively been proven to exist, and it is now a given that the rate at which time passes is not fixed. It depends upon many factors of which one is the point from which you are observing it.

In fact I’m travelling through time right now... ok, I’m doing it at a rate of one second per second, but still... Wheeeeeeeeeee! Travelling into the future is easy, and while you may not be surprised to know most of us do it all of the time, you may be surprised to know we don’t all do it at the same rate.

But back to the definitive proof statement that I began with. In 1971, half a century after Albert Einstein published his ground-breaking theories, two scientist set out to prove, or disprove, the time travel aspect. They



were't SF geeks, it just so happens that proving this part of the theory would support many other parts of the theories that could be less easily proved. It had taken half a century for technology to get to the point where accurate measurement of time, by the newly developed caesium-beam atomic clocks, and the cheapness of commercial jet flights, had all fallen into the realms that strapped-for-cash scientists could take a crack at it.

They spent \$7,600 on six seats: four for them and two in the name of Mr.Clock. Joseph C. Hafele (Physicist) and Richard E. Keating (Astronomer) then travelled with 'Mr.Clock' around the world twice; first eastward, then westward. Checking the time on their clock with one that had been left behind for reference, they showed that time had slowed down with increased speed. A later re-enactment of their initial experiment with more sophisticated atomic clocks gave much better agreement with this theory.

The faster you go the more time is dilated. For instance, the International Space Station orbits around the Earth at 7.66 km/s (17,150 miles per hour). Serial ISS resident, Gennady Padalka, holds the record for the longest amount of accumulated time spent in space with 879 days under his belt. Due to the high speed and length of time which he spent in space, the cosmonaut actually arrived back on his last trip 0.035 of a second younger than he would have been if he'd never left the surface of the Earth.

To see a bigger difference you have to go much, much faster. Currently, the fastest matter, propelled by human technology, are the hydrogen ions which we shoot through the 27 km circumference of the Large Hadron Collider at 99.9999991 per cent of the speed of light. Their time slows down by a factor of 27,777,778. One single second for these protons represents almost 11 months for us. There isn't time to ask what the protons think of this.





If you were to build a space ship that can travel at the speed of light and you were to head out into space for a one year round trip then time for you would pass normally; Pasta would cook at the same rate, a kettle would still take to a bloody eternity to boil, and Michael McIntyre would still be unfunny.

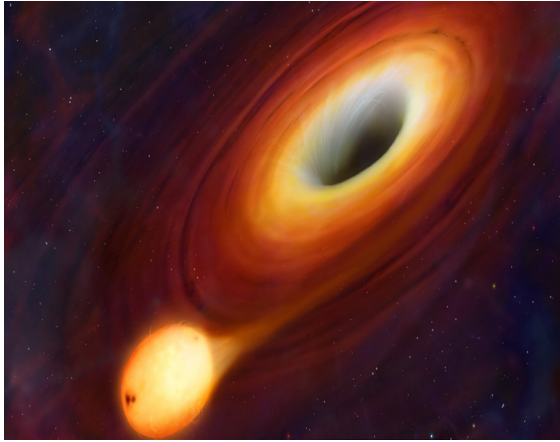
However, for those observing you from Earth it would seem like you were moving in very slow motion due to the time dilation effect. Communication would be impossible, we wouldn't know how long it takes for a kettle to boil.... Michael McIntyre, however, would still be unfunny.

By the time you returned and stepped out of your ship then you're one year older but Earth has gone through many, many years. It could have gone through 10,000, 100,000 or a million years depending on how close to the speed of light you travelled, and through all this time Michael McIntyre would have been unfunny.

The only problem is that any machine we build to travel at such speeds would require an unimaginable amount of energy (based on our current level of technology). The closer you get to the speed of light the more energy you require to accelerate. Meanwhile, the stresses caused by travelling at that speed would most likely prove fatal to you. The other problem is that apes will probably be ruling the world.... Different apes (who will also find Michael McIntyre unfunny).

It's not just speed that slows down the passage of time; gravity does too, and in 2010 clock technology reached the point where this could be demonstrated. Two clocks were placed only a few horizontal feet apart. Each clock was accurate to 1 second in about 3.7 billion years based on the "ticking" of a single aluminium ion vibrating between two energy levels over a million billion times per second. The lower clock, being closer to the Earth and therefore in a slightly stronger gravitational field, did, indeed, tick very, very, very slightly slower

Much higher gravity fields distort time even more and if you want to talk powerful gravitational fields, then you are talking black holes. There is an enormous one at the centre of our galaxy, but there's a much smaller one only 3,000 light years away. There are many theories about what might happen when you approach or enter a black hole and these are mostly based on Einstein's work (Disney's *Black Hole* should not be used as a reference), but quite difficult to prove in an experiment. If you can think of a way to artificially create enough gravity to prove any of these theories, then you should probably tell someone before turning it on.



However, it is agreed that if you were to approach a black hole, the closer you approached to its Event Horizon, the more time would distort. Again, for you time would slow down. Some theories even suggest that it may slow to the point of virtually stopping; just like during all the weeks the Football World Cup goes on and on for.

Another creator of high gravit fields are Cosmic Strings. Described as one-dimensional “cracks in the universe”, and some of the strangest structures in cosmology, cosmic strings could help us navigate through time. They are thought to have formed billions of years ago, moments after the Big Bang, and because they contain such large amounts of mass some scientists believe they could potentially “warp” space-time around them. The approach of two such strings parallel to each other will bend space-time so vigorously, and in such a particular configuration, that it might make time travel possible. The problem “again” is that cosmic strings only exist on paper. Apart from some really impressive math, and the occasional punch up between physicists at staff parties, there is absolutely no proof of their existence.

If gravity isn't your thing, you may like to try Wormholes.

In 1916, the Austrian physicist Ludwig Flamm, was looking over Karl Schwarzschild's solution to Einstein's field equations (which describe a particular form of black hole known as a Schwarzschild black hole). He noticed that another solution was also possible - a phenomenon which later came to be known as a white hole.

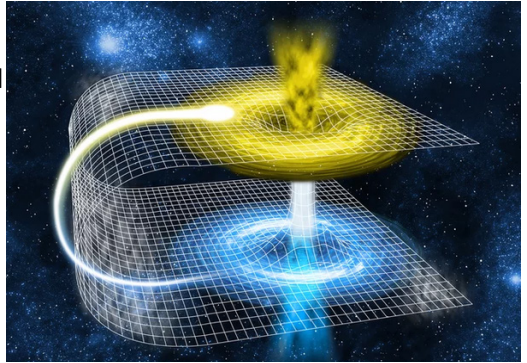
A white hole is the theoretical reversal of a black hole and, while a black hole acts as a vacuum drawing in any matter that crosses the event horizon, a white hole acts as a source that ejects matter from its event horizon. Some have even speculated that a “white hole” exists on the “other side” of every black hole. Matter sucked in by a black hole is then ejected by its corresponding white hole; possibly even into an alternate universe. It is even speculated that the Big Bang might, in fact, have been the result of just such a phenomenon.





Einstein himself explored these ideas further in 1935, along with Nathan Rosen, and the two achieved a solution known as a Einstein-Rosen bridge (also known as a Lorentzian wormhole or a Schwarzschild wormhole depending upon which team you support... again, office punch-ups).

To better visualize a wormhole, consider the analogy of a piece of paper with two pencil marks drawn on it to represent two points in space-time. The line between them shows the distance from one point to the other in normal space-time. If the paper is now bent and folded over almost double (the equivalent of drastically warping space-time which high gravity will do), then poking the pencil through the paper provides a much shorter way of linking the two points, or a short-cut through space-time. We've all seen this demonstrated on many TV shows and it tends to ruin a perfectly good piece of paper..



Whilst this is all theoretical, some scientists are encouraged to think that real counterparts may eventually be found, or fabricated and, perhaps, used as a tunnel ,or short-cut, for high-speed space travel between distant planets.

These theories have been further developed by numerous physicists, including Kip Thorne, and the TV series *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, albeit in the latter case, badly.



Because a wormhole is a conduit through 4-dimensional space-time, and not just through space, Stephen Hawking and others have also posited that wormholes might, theoretically, be utilized for time travel.

The problem is that, because of the high levels of radiation ,and the exotic matter necessary to create a wormhole, it would pose a significant health risk. There is also the threat of sudden collapse, which is a bit of a hazard if you are about to pass through it.



If wormholes were actually discovered, theory suggests that they would be wildly unstable because of the feedback created by the inherent radiation. In the same way that excessive feedback between a microphone and a speaker will fry the equipment, a wormhole is damaged by the radiation feedback it generates. So, although tiny wormholes may theoretically exist, and it may be theoretically possible to inflate one someday far, far in the future, it won't last long enough to be of any use as a time machine and would probably cook us as we tried to pass through it.

Travelling to the past is a little more complicated but, according to theory, not impossible. It's just that we don't know how we would do it. Not a clue. The details of how one might go about it are right at the edge of the known laws of physics, and a spinning wheel on the back of a bath-chair isn't going to cut it.



Back in the year 2009, Stephen Hawking hosted a party for time travellers. One year later in 2010, he sent out the invitations. He wasn't surprised when no one showed up, but he had ordered extra sausage rolls just in case.

Does this prove that time travel into the past is impossible, or just that time travellers don't do parties? Or maybe it proves that time travellers don't attend parties they already know no one is going to turn up at?

"But what's the point of all this?" I hear you ask. Theoretical time travel, gravity, Deep Space Nine? All we've really managed to do is come up with a few theories, and in the experiments we can do all we've managed to do is record tiny differences. Isn't all this insignificant daydreaming?

Well, no. Developing and proving these theories has allowed us to programme the clocks on our satellites. Allowing for the difference they experience as they orbit at high speed has allowed for the development of satellite navigation; without taking this time difference into account, satellite and ground based communication would be slightly out of sync. If just travelling at a few hundred miles an hour can make a difference, albeit small, just imagine the equation necessary to tell you where you are on a planet revolving at a thousand miles an hour as seen from several satellites each





travelling at thousands of miles an hour. A thousandth of a second could make a difference of many miles which would make your satnav useless... but your journey a tad more exciting. It allows us to communicate with each other, using this same technology, all over the world.

So, time travel; not only do we do it every day but we also take it into account in many ways. Still, however, this isn't the time travel of SF fame.

It seems that if we do, one day, discover a way to travel in time then it will probably only be forwards, which is disappointing.

For a start, we will have to take the word of the scientists who send people that they have actually travelled forward in time and not just been disintegrated; After all, they can't come back to tell anyone about it. Unless you only go a couple of days into the future, which is pointless, and may mean you miss paying an important bill.

Going into the future also means that, wherever you end up, you are going to be seriously out of date, and not just fashionably either. Imagine someone appearing today from only a few hundred years ago. They wouldn't understand anything of our lives, cars, technology, our mannerisms or our mode of speaking. Even our language has changed over even such a short time. Just imagine coming back in a few thousand years; would you even be able to communicate with your own species? Would even their thought processes be recognisable? I doubt very much that you could just step out of your pod and begin a conversation, apart from talking about the weather if you happen to land in a future Britain where, I imagine, it will always be a topic of conversation. In any interaction you have with friends now there are so many phrases common only to our time that you use and cultural touchstones that you call upon to get your point across. None of that would be available.

Travelling in time would probably have to take place in space anyway. You couldn't do it planet-side because you would be travelling in time and not space so unless you travelled in exactly one year increments you might find your planet isn't there when you arrive as it would be elsewhere in its orbit.

No matter how we do it, time travel is going to be difficult, dangerous, and probably pointless and not nearly as much fun as watching it on television.

So what is the point of this article? Beats me, just thought it might create some interesting conversations.

# NOVACON

10 - 12 November 2017

# 47

## MEMBERSHIP LIST JULY 2017

- |                       |                           |                        |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Adrian Tchaikovsky | 37. Steve Dunn            | 75. Steve Jones        |
| 2. Juliet McKenna     | 38. Michael Abbott        | 76. DC                 |
| 3. Stan Nicholls      | 39. Anne Wilson           | 77. A C Baker          |
| 4. Anne Nicholls      | 40. Greg Pickersgill      | 78. Bridget Wilkinson  |
| 5. Brian Aldiss       | 41. Catherine Pickersgill | 79. Peter Wilkinson    |
| 6. Helena Bowles      | 42. Sally Rowse           | 80. Brian Ameringen    |
| 7. Alice Lawson       | 43. Steve Davies          | 81. Emjay Ameringen    |
| 8. Tony Berry         | 44. Giulia de Cesare      | 82. Caroline Mullan    |
| 9. Cat Coast          | 45. Martin Smart          | 83. Peter Mabey        |
| 10. John Harvey       | 46. Melica Smith          | 84. Barbara-Jane       |
| 11. Eve Harvey        | 47. Roger Robinson        | 85. Markus Thierstein  |
| 12. Steve Lawson      | 48. Pauline Morgan        | 86. Laura Wheatly      |
| 13. Douglas Spencer   | 49. Chris Morgan          | 87. Roger Earnshaw     |
| 14. Richard Standage  | 50. Niall Gordon          | 88. James Odell        |
| 15. Gary Starr        | 51. Paul Dormer           | 89. Steve Rogerson     |
| 16. Harpal Singh      | 52. Dave Hardy            | 90. Steven Cain        |
| 17. Tim Stannard      | 53. Hazel Ashworth        | 91. Alison Scott       |
| 18. Claire Brialey    | 54. Tony Rogers           | 92. Dave Holmes        |
| 19. Mark Plummer      | 55. Mike Scott            | 93. Sue Jones          |
| 20. Tim Kirk          | 56. Flick                 | 94. Julia Daly         |
| 21. Dave Langford     | 59. Harry Payne           | 95. Stephen Cooper     |
| 22. Vernon Brown      | 60. Omega                 | 96. William Armitage   |
| 23. Pat. Brown        | 61. Hal Payne             | 97. Vanessa May        |
| 24. Simon Dearn       | 62. Jodie Payne           | 98. Robert Day         |
| 25. Julian Headlong   | 63. Sue Edwards           | 99. John Mottershead   |
| 26. Al Johnston       | 64. Chris Stocks          | 100. Luke Smith        |
| 27. Chris Bell        | 65. Adrian Snowdon        | 101. Dave Hicks        |
| 28. Arthur Cruttenden | 66. Yvonne Rowse          | 102. Penny Hicks       |
| 29. Marcus Rowland    | 67. Ian Sorensen          | 103. Peter Harrow      |
| 30. Dave Tompkins     | 68. Peter Wareham         | 104. Serena Culfeather |
| 31. Martin Hoare      | 69. Gwen Funnell          | 105. John Wilson       |
| 32. Gerry Webb        | 70. Anne Woodford         | 106. Paul Treadaway    |
| 33. Mali Perera       | 71. Alan Woodford         | 107. Ron Gemmell       |
| 34. Alan Webb         | 72. Morag O'Neill         | 108. Josh Gemmell      |
| 35. Alexey Locktianov | 73. Christine Davidson    |                        |
| 36. Neil Summerfield  | 74. Michael Davidson      |                        |



P  
R  
2

N  
O  
V  
A  
C  
O  
N



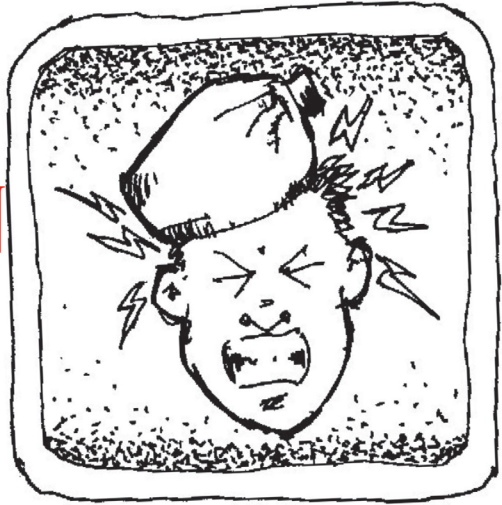
- 109. Karl Jackson
- 110. Anthony Smith
- 111. Wendy Smith
- 112. John Collick
- 113. Henrick Palsson
- 114. Ang Rosin
- 115. David Thomas
- 116. Margaret Croad
- 117. David Cooper
- 118. Jane Cooper

- 119. Libby Cooper
- 120. Robert Hummerstone
- 121. Clive Shortell
- 122. Ian Maughan
- 123. Julian Heathcock
- 124. Carol Goodwin
- 125. Peter Cohen
- 126. Theresa Derwin
- 127. Dave Kirkby
- 128. Alex Larke

- 129. Rob Jackson
- 130. Doug Bell
- 131. Christina Lake
- 132. Andy Sawyer
- 133. Kirsti Van Wessel
- 134. Stuart Jenkins
- 135. Dave Lally
- 136. Jamie Scott

CAN'T MAKE IT TO  
**NOVA CON**  
THIS YEAR?

**NO PROBLEM!**



Now you can **DOWNLOAD** your hangover direct from the Novacon website! No need to miss out on the dull thumping pain you enjoyed so much last year, plus if you download this we are throwing in a download of embarrassing anecdotes about what is was you did last night for you to share with all your friends!

**Available in:**

**Microsoft Lager Hangover (this falls over for you)**  
**Android Real Ale Hangover**  
**IOS Prosecco Hangover**

**These downloads will be available in November only.**  
**So pre-order yours today!**