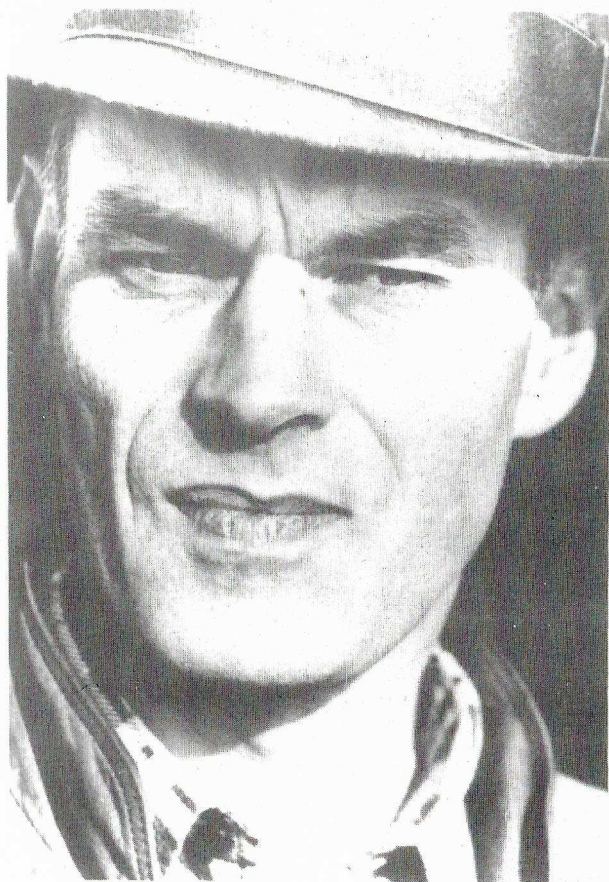


# PROGRAMME BOOK



NOVACON 26

## Chairman's Piece by Carol Morton

Another November another Novacon. I can't believe it's been a year since the last Novacon.

Another Novacon and yet another hotel. We have yet to find a permanent 'home' for Novacon, but the Ibis have been pretty good to us, and we think you'll enjoy the con here.

At this point I must thank several people for their work and help this year. I must thank David Gemmell for agreeing to be the GoH as he doesn't usually go to cons, my committee who have worked hard this year in trying to produce a con for you in quite trying circumstances they are: Tony, my hubby for taking on the registrations even though he has been elected a local Councillor and that job has turned out to be far more work than even he imagined, Martin Tudor, for the excellent publications and hotel liaison, Sarah Freakley for the programme that was not so easy to produce this year, but she has done a wonderful job, Chris Murphy for the Ops and for being willing to travel to committee meetings from Manchester and lastly Richard Standage who has managed to keep the con solvent. I must also thank Nic Farey for agreeing to take on Tech Ops.

(At this point this piece is beginning to sound like an Oscar acceptance speech, but without these people Novacon would just not have happened.)

Two non-Novacon people also deserve thanks, they are Lucy Harrison from the Ibis, who put up with my nagging/begging for more rooms in the hotel, and Rachel from the Chamberlain who at very short notice found me more than 30 rooms as we needed an overflow hotel.

By the end of the con you will have noticed that we have had to limit the numbers of con attendees, this was not some whim on our part, it was due to the fire regulations imposed on the hotel. So if you know of anyone who is complaining about this or you are reading this in someone else's copy after being turned away from the con, please believe us we didn't want to do this but we were constrained by the safety aspects, all I can suggest is that you (and they) join Novacon 27 early to guarantee a place next year.

Finally all I now have to say is thanks to you for attending, and I hope you have a good con - enjoy!

**Novacon 27**  
**14th to 16th November 1997,**  
**the De Vere Abbey Hotel, Great Malvern,**  
**Guest of Honour Peter F Hamilton.**

Attending membership costs just £23.00  
at Novacon 26, rising to £25.00 after the  
con and rising again after Easter 1997.

**JOIN**  
**EARLY**  
**BOOK**  
**your**  
**hotel room**  
**early**  
**or else!**

**Don't Forget**  
**we know where**  
**you live!**

For further details consult your  
programme package, speak to Carol  
Morton on the Novacon registration desk  
or write to: Novacon 27, 14 Park Street,  
Lye, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY9 8SS.

# Novacon 26 Programme of Events

## Friday 8th November

- 6pm            The Dave Lally show begins in the Flying Scotsman  
(see notices in the room for details)
- 8pm            The Alternate History Panel
- 10.30pm       The Birmingham Science Fiction Group - A Retrospective
- 11.30pm       Farberella: The Rock Opera - Ian Sorensen and Company

## Saturday 9th November

- 10am           If the Swan Sunk: Life without Shakespeare - Peter Wareham
- 11.30am       Book Auction
- 1.30pm        What If Britain Wanted to Host Another Worldcon?  
Moderator: Gary Farber.  
Panel: KIM Campbell, Pat McMurray, Pam Wells
- 3pm            Guest of Honour Speech: David Gemmell
- 4.30pm        What If Magic Existed  
Panel: Storm Constantine, Sue Mason, Freda Warrington
- 6pm            Siddall and Hicks' Shooting Stars
- 8pm            What If Beer Had Never Been Invented?  
Panel: Iain Banks, Julian Headlong, Greg Pickersgill
- 10pm           Pam Wells' WipeOut
- 11.30pm       The band "Bad" - half the members of the popular four-piece "Bad  
Influence" present an acoustic set or two in the bar.

## Sunday 10th November

- 10am           What If...?  
Dr Jack Cohen talks about alternate ecologies
- 11.30am       Art Auction



- 1.30pm      The Library of Alternate Worlds - Andy Sawyer
- 3pm          TALES OF THE LEGION  
Sandman Productions present their new film
- 4.30pm      Awards Ceremony
- 7pm          Mike Siddall Rants On, and On  
Featuring the TAFF Auction, Big Spiders, Pam Wells and Team

## The Axe-Man Cometh to Novacon by Stan Nicholls

Born in 1948, David Andrew Gemmell grew up in a part of West London where survival depended on being handy with your fists, the ability to run fast, or possessing a tongue glib enough to talk your way out of trouble. Although he employed all three at various times, it's perhaps meaningful that the latter became the most finely honed weapon in his armoury.

He left school with little in the way of vocational skills and drifted through a number of casual jobs. His mother, known affectionately to all as Lady Woodford, despaired at this waste of potential. Recognising an embryonic talent in her son he wasn't aware of himself, she arranged for him to be interviewed for a vacancy with a local newspaper. He wasn't keen and went just to please her. The fact that he was one of a hundred applicants, and almost certainly the least qualified, virtually guaranteed he wouldn't be picked.

At the interview, his behaviour lengthened the odds even further. He viewed the dingy office with disdain, leaned back in his chair and plonked his feet on the Editor's desk.

This harassed individual asked, 'Where do you see yourself in five years' time?'

'How much do you earn?' Gemmell replied.

Taken aback, the Editor told him.

'Then that's where I see myself,' Gemmell said, jabbing a thumb in his direction. 'Sitting where you are.'

He went home satisfied that he'd talked himself out of a job he didn't really want.

Then fate took a hand.

A couple of days later, the Editor lost his briefcase on a train. It contained the only copies of the notes he'd taken on all hundred applicants, and there was no time to interview them again. 'Don't worry,' his secretary assured him, 'I've still got a list of their names. Look down it and see if you remember any in particular. The ones you recall were obviously candidates who stood out.'

Thus began Gemmell's career in journalism.

He rose to become Editor-in-Chief of five South Coast newspapers and a stringer for several nationals. But somehow it wasn't what he wanted.

It took another intervention from the gods of fortune to change his life.

The extraordinary circumstances surrounding the writing of his first book have been related before, but are worth repeating. Gemmell fell prey to a mystery illness. He passed blood, suffered from exhaustion and rapidly lost two stone in weight; symptoms indicating a cancerous growth. His doctor ordered tests. The prognosis looked grim.

Convinced there was little time left, Gemmell decided to tackle the novel long in the back of his mind but which he'd never got around to. He powered out the manuscript of *The Siege of Dros Delnoch* in two weeks.

No one wanted to publish it.

In the event, the growth had been misdiagnosed. He didn't have cancer. The book was forgotten.

A friend visiting his home a couple of years later chanced upon the manuscript and read it. Fortunately this friend had an incisive, critical eye, and pointed out the novel's strengths and weaknesses. Enthusiasm rekindled, Gemmell made one last attempt at getting it right. Retitled *Legend*, it was published in 1984 and has never been out of print.

*Legend* is set in the twilight of the Drenai empire, whose complacent rulers fail to respond decisively when the warrior tribes of the Nadir unite against them. Inspired by their charismatic leader Ulric, the only barrier between the Nadir and the empire's soft underbelly is Delnoch Pass. This is protected by a massive dros, or fortress, but its defenders are vastly outnumbered, poorly trained and badly lead. It falls to a ragbag of individuals, many far from being heroic initially, to hold the pass and deny Ulric his triumph.

It wasn't until after the book's publication that Gemmell realised his plot was unconsciously analogous to the cancer he thought he had. The fortress was his body; the significantly named Nadir were the malignant cells.

Legend's central character, Druss the Axeman, is near the end of his active life. Of almost mythic stature - the book's title is as applicable to him as the events depicted - Druss' reputation as a warrior is awesome. In his sixties, and suffering depredations advancing age brings, time and his declining powers are as big a threat to him as the Nadir. The contradictions of his personality, embracing honour, stubbornness, decency and a homicidal bloodlust when roused, combined with the onset of physical frailty, makes him an extremely plausible character. Druss was definitely not your usual fantasy hero. And in presenting an old man as central to this kind of story, Gemmell displayed an audaciousness verging on downright cheek. But it works perfectly. Our empathy is instantly engaged.

Speaking of this most popular of his heroes, and one for whom he has obvious fondness, Gemmell says, 'Writing about him is a real treat. He's one of those characters the author never has to work on. Put him in a situation and he handles it. I love the old boy! He's a force of nature; indomitable and ultimately undefeatable.'

Fine characterisation is one of Legend's major achievements, and a skill the author has consistently demonstrated in his succeeding novels. But the book also contained themes that continue to colour his work - the aforementioned tyranny of ageing; lone heroes, often tortured by doubt; the achievement of redemption by both 'good' and 'bad' characters; the dogged pursuit of seemingly lost causes; complex villains with believable motivations; elite groups steeped in mysticism and the martial arts; a good grasp of military strategy and the authentic depiction of combat.

The novel contains some magic, but that aspect is almost minimal. 'When I started out I decided I'd stay as far from Tolkien style fantasy as possible,' he explains. 'No elves, no dwarves, no dragons. I thought I'd concentrate on characterisation, basing the heroes on real people.'

The King Beyond the Gate continued the Drenai Saga instigated by Legend. It takes place a century later and features Tenaka Khan, an outcast of mixed Drenai and Nadir parentage. Again we have the concept of strength in unity, an interesting villain in mad Emperor Ceska, and several mystical groups, including one whose members are past their prime. The premise of the third in the Drenai Saga, Waylander, is that only Waylander the Slayer can prevent genocide at the hands of invading Vagrians following the murder of the Drenai king. Ironically, killer-for-hire Waylander was the King's assassin. Its deftly paced, compelling narrative contains a series of well constructed cliff-hangers, and further polish was added to the naturalistic dialogue.

His next offering, Wolf in Shadow, was the first of his novels to provide a completely satisfying unity of style and content. Launching the Sipstrassi series, it introduced Jon Shannow. Obsessed with seeking Jerusalem, and his own salvation, Shannow melancholically wanders the chaotic landscape of a world where civilisation was destroyed three hundred years before, when the Earth tilted on its axis. He is soon pitted against immortal Satanist Abaddon's Hellborn army. Sipstrassi stones, fragments of meteorites conferring regenerative and magical powers, act as an ingenious McGuffin. Wolf in Shadow is a terrifically entertaining piece of speculative



fiction. Ghost King, the second Sipstrassi tale, is set during the Roman occupation. Its young hero, Thurso, becomes entangled in the plots of an evil witch. Thurso's relationship with elderly wise man Culain has echoes of that between Arthur and Merlin, and there is an Excalibur-like Sword of Power. Ghost King reworks the Arthurian myth in a truly imaginative fashion. In the third Sipstrassi title, Last Sword of Power, the Roman Empire is in decline, but Britannia faces a new threat from Goth chieftain Wotan and his black sorcery. Roman-born Uther's alliance of tribes offers the only hope of salvation. True to form, Uther is an ageing warrior, struggling to hold together his disintegrating kingdom.

Knights of Dark Renown is a stand alone novel. A brotherhood of warriors, the Knights of the Gabala, enter a portal to a parallel world. But one of their number, Manannan, stays behind and is derided as the Coward Knight. He restores his pride in a battle with evil. The Last Guardian returned to the Sipstrassi and Jon Shannow, who had proved a particular favourite with readers. In a succession of impressive action sequences, Shannow faces a reptilian army that has gained entry to his present via a gateway from the past. Fourth Drenai Saga Quest for Lost Heroes features farm boy Kiall and Chareos the Blademaster, who join forces with a colourful band of adventurers to rescue a peasant slave girl.

The two volume Macedon series, Lion of Macedon and Dark Prince, may be Gemmell's most elegantly expressed, accomplished offerings to date. Based in an alternate Greece, they tell of military genius Parmenion and his protégé the young Alexander, future ruler of the ancient world's greatest empire. Alexander's driving force is an inner spirit that feeds on death and destruction. The Macedon sequence is one of the finest heroic fantasies of recent years. Non-series Morningstar is as near to standard sword and sorcery as this author gets; heroes Jarek Mace, a bandit, and bard Owen Odell are impressive creations. Latterly, Gemmell has revived Waylander, with In the Realm of the Wolf, and Jon Shannow, with Bloodstone; while Ironhand's Daughter and The Hawk Eternal, featuring a female protagonist, comprise the Pallides Saga. And he has begun to fill in the life history of his most remarkable character in The First and Second Chronicles of Druss the Legend, and The Legend of Deathwalker. The latest novel, non-series Dark Moon, was published in October. Written with the wonderfully clear, crisp brevity we've come to expect, it's a further demonstration, if one were needed, that Gemmell has few peers when it comes to a facility with characters and ability to inject his stories with a genuinely mythic quality.

Some critics have tagged his work "macho". He insists they've missed the point. "There is no gratuitous violence in my books. I tend to concentrate on courage, loyalty, love and redemption. I believe in these things. I refuse to be cynical about the world, and I won't join the sneerers or the defeatists.

Throughout history, societies have used fantasy to teach the young about right and wrong, good and evil. Good fantasy answers a deep need in young people. They're the ones with romantic dreams; a generation in search of ideals. The world's cynicism hasn't corrupted them yet. But as they grow older some of them will get sucked into the sickness. They stop questioning why rape crisis centres tell women to shout "Fire!"



when they're attacked because if they shout "Rape!" no one's going to help them. They start using phrases like, "It's not my problem" and "Don't get involved." Fantasy's not about passing the buck, or living for share options. It's not about fat cats and shady politicians.'

So what is it about? 'It's about heroes; people who do the right thing regardless of the cost to themselves. Fantasy's about absolutes. It's the antithesis of compromise. If there's anything I'd like my books to achieve, it would be to increase the desire of people to do good. To increase the desire to say "No" when it comes to something that's evil. What I'm saying in my books is that heroes don't compromise. They just don't. It doesn't matter how colossal the evil is. My heroes are people who say, "Let's do something about it."'

This spiritual aspect, the sense that moral choices have to be made, is at the heart of Gemmell's work. It could be described as the soul of his novels. It's what gives his stories direction and what forms his characters. In knowing that David Gemmell's books are suffused with a basic decency, that his characters strive to act honourably and do the right thing no matter how the odds are stacked, you know the essence of the man.

So if you see a lean figure towering over most other guests at Novacon, probably sporting a leather jacket and that hat, don't panic. It's not a lone avenger come to spread bloodshed and death. It's a warm-hearted author who's brought something original and enthralling to the business of fantasy. Not to mention a ready wit that will have you in stitches.

He'll enjoy meeting you.

And I know you'll enjoy meeting him.

## A Bibliography by Phil Stephensen-Payne

DAVID A GEMMELL  
(Born: 1-Aug-1948; London)

Pseudonyms: ROSS HARDING

A. Prose Fiction Books

- AGAINST THE HORDE {see under LEGEND}

A1. BLOODSTONE

Legend (UK hb) 9-94  
Legend (UK pb) 2-95  
in THE COMPLETE CHRONICLES OF THE JERUSALEM MAN (1995)

A2. THE COMPLETE CHRONICLES OF THE JERUSALEM MAN [C-3:

WOLF IN SHADOW,  
THE LAST GUARDIAN,  
BLOODSTONE]

Legend (UK hb & tp) 12-95

A3. DARK PRINCE

Legend (UK hb & tp) 9-91

Legend (UK pb) 10-92

Del Rey (US tp) 2-93

A4. DRENAI TALES [C-4:

WAYLANDER,  
Druss the Legend,  
LEGEND,  
THE KING BEYOND THE GATE]

Legend (UK hb & tp) 3-91

A5. THE FIRST CHRONICLES OF DRUSS THE LEGEND [C-4:

Birth of a Legend,  
The Demon in the Axe,  
The Chaos Warrior,  
Druss the Legend]

Legend (UK hb) 10-93

Legend (UK pb) 9-94

A6. GHOST KING

Century (UK hb & tp) 3-88

Legend (UK pb) 10-88

in STONES OF POWER (1992)

Del Rey (US pb) 1-96

A7. THE HAWK ETERNAL

Legend (UK hb) 10-95

Legend (UK pb) 2-96

A8. IRONHAND'S DAUGHTER

Legend (UK hb) 2-95

Legend (UK pb) 10-95

- THE JERUSALEM MAN (see under WOLF IN SHADOW)

A9. THE KING BEYOND THE GATE

Century (UK hb) 8-85

Arrow (UK tp) 8-86  
New Infinities (US pb) 9-88  
Legend (UK pb) 5-89  
in DRENAI TALES (1991)  
Del Rey (US pb) 2-95  
in LEGENDS OF THE DRENAI (1995)

A10. KNIGHTS OF DARK RENOWN

Legend (UK hb & tp) 5-89  
Legend (UK pb) 11-89  
Del Rey (US pb) 6-93

A11. THE LAST GUARDIAN

Legend (UK hb & tp) 11-89  
Legend (UK pb) 4-90  
in STONES OF POWER (1992)  
in THE COMPLETE CHRONICLES OF THE JERUSALEM MAN (1995)

A12. LAST SWORD OF POWER

Legend (UK hb & tp) 10-88  
Legend (UK pb) 5-89  
in STONES OF POWER (1992)  
Del Rey (US pb) due 9-96

A13. LEGEND

Century (UK tp) 5-84  
Century (UK hb) 8-86  
Arrow (UK tp) 8-86  
New Infinities (US pb) 5-88 {as AGAINST THE HORDE}  
Legend (UK pb) 5-89  
in DRENAI TALES (1991)  
Del Rey (US pb) 11-94  
in LEGENDS OF THE DRENAI (1995)

A14. THE LEGEND OF DEATHWALKER

Bantam Press (UK hb) 2-96  
Corgi (UK pb) due 10-96

A15. LEGENDS OF THE DRENAI [C-3:

LEGEND,  
THE KING BEYOND THE GATE,  
QUEST FOR LOST HEROES]  
SFBC (US hb) 12-95

A16. LION OF MACEDON

Legend (UK hb & tp) 3-91  
Legend (UK pb) 3-92

Del Rey (US tp) 9-92

A17. MORNINGSTAR

Legend (UK hb & tp) 3-92

Legend (UK pb) 4-93

Del Rey (US pb) 10-93

A18. QUEST FOR LOST HEROES

Legend (UK hb & tp) 4-90

Legend (UK pb) 11-90

Del Rey (US pb) 7-95

in LEGENDS OF THE DRENAI (1995)

A19. STONES OF POWER: THE SI'STRASSI OMNIBUS [C4:

GHOST KING,

LAST SWORD OF POWER,

WOLF IN SHADOW,

THE LAST GUARDIAN]

Legend (UK hb & tp) 10-92

A20. WAYLANDER

Century (UK hb) 8-86

Arrow (UK pb) 8-86

New Infinities (US pb) 7-88

Legend (UK pb) 5-89

in DRENAI TALES (1991)

Del Rey (US pb) 11-95

A21. WAYLANDER II: IN THE REALM OF THE WOLF

Legend (UK hb & tp) 10-92

Legend (UK pb) 10-93

A22. WHITE KNIGHT, BLACK SWAN

Arrow (UK pb) 1993 {as by Ross Harding}

A23. WOLF IN SHADOW

Century (UK hb & tp) 8-87

Legend (UK tp) 12-87

Legend (UK pb) 10-88

Baen (US pb) 7-88 {as THE JERUSALEM MAN}

in STONES OF POWER (1992)

in THE COMPLETE CHRONICLES OF THE JERUSALEM MAN (1995)

Del Rey (US pb) due 2-97

B. Graphic Novels

B1. LEGEND - A GRAPHIC NOVEL {adapted by Stan Nicholls;



illustrated by Fangorn}  
Legend (UK lp & hb) 10-93

B2. WOLF IN SHADOW: THE GRAPHIC NOVEL {adapted by Stan Nicholls;  
illustrated by Fangorn}  
Legend (UK lp) 9-94

## THE COMMITTEE

### by Chris Murphy

#### **Carol Morton, Chair**

Carol became an active fan in 1984. Since then she has served on the Brum Group committee as Secretary and Newsletter Editor, and handled Registrations for several Novacons. She lives in Stourbridge with her husband Tony (see below) and son Iain.

Last year she made the supreme sacrifice. In the knowledge that most of those who had previously held the post were now broken shadows of their former selves, Carol agreed to be Chair of the Group. Amazingly, she survived this ordeal apparently unscathed. Awed by such heroism, the members immediately punished Carol by making her chair this convention as well.

#### **Tony Morton, Registrations**

After years of quietly reading sf and minding his own business, Tony was drawn into fandom by his wife Carol (see above). This led inevitably to sentences periods on Brum Group and Novacon committees. Only later was it discovered that mild-mannered Tony has no less than two secret identities.

One of these was revealed quite recently, when it emerged that through the will of the people and a lot of hard work he had won a seat on Dudley council. The other has been public knowledge for much longer: Councillor Morton is a member of rock phenomenon BAD INFLUENCE. Their performances at Novacons have reduced audiences to headbanging party animals. The band also play weddings, eg Martin and Helena Tudor's, and presumably bar mitzvahs.

#### **Sarah Freakley, Programme**

In a previous existence Sarah was a Goth. However she denies any responsibility for the Fall of the Roman Empire, describing it as "just one of those things." She lives in Birmingham (somebody has to). A Brum Group member since 1989, she was eventually drawn moth-like to the flame of the committee, serving in the post of Publicity Officer.

The experience did not deter her from taking on the Programme for Novacon 24 and again for this one. But then after selling raffle tickets to the Group, you can probably cope with anything.

### **Chris Murphy, Operations**

I was introduced to Novacons when - look, you don't really want me to go through all that stuff, do you? Here's the truth. Like many fans I am a biomechanical entity, controlled by a small grey creature from Zeta Reticuli which lives in my abdomen. People assume that my spreading girth is due to an excessive intake of booze and Chinese take-aways. Little do they know that I have expanded to accommodate the crew of two needed to operate me in the harsh environment of Manchester. But where does all the beer and junk food I consume actually go? It is teleported to a dump on the planet Mars, three billion years into the past.

Recently a fragment from the dump was found to have reached Earth, and hailed as evidence of extra-terrestrial life. Whatever you may have heard about this, the secret NASA are sitting on is that their Martian meteorite is full of fossilised residue from Boddingtons and Special Foo Yung.

### **Richard Standage, Treasurer**

Both his past and present careers have prepared Richard for the post of Treasurer. As a former accountant he understands the mysterious art of book-keeping, and as a nurse he is able to deal with the trauma inflicted on him by those who don't.

He lives in Smethwick with his partner Helena and their son Danesh. Fandom first lured him into its grasp in 1988. While staying at the notorious location known as "Cape Hill" he was forced to photocopy CRITICAL WAVE by Martin Tudor (of whom more below). Before long he was on the path to Brum Group and Novacon committees, just like all the other unfortunates listed here.

Despite years of exposure to other male fans, Richard has resolutely refused to grow a beard, wear glasses or gain spectacular amounts of weight. His resistance to rotundity is even more impressive given his reputation for serious eating. (You know that feeling you get when you gaze at what's left of a Set Meal for Five Persons, and decide enough is enough? Richard doesn't.) Sadly it is rumoured that his gastronomic powers are failing, and Danesh is being groomed to inherit his father's crown.

### **Martin Tudor, Publications and Hotel Liaison**

Martin has been involved in sf fandom since 1980. He now lives in Willenhall with his wife Helena and a killer cat. Easily recognisable by his enormous shoulder bag, he was joint editor of CRITICAL WAVE with Steve Green. Martin's favourite fannish pursuit is photocopier wrestling. Yet another veteran of Brum Group and Novacon committees, he publishes the fanzine EMPTIES and won the 1996 TAFF race.

He has been known to enjoy the odd pint and fag. By the time this appears it will be known how he managed to survive in the USA, a land notoriously hostile to cigarettes

and largely indifferent to real ale. It is rumoured that Martin is to be seen on OPRAH WINFREY, seated behind the caption "DRINKS WARM BEER AND SMOKES".

## General Certificate of Science-fiction Education by Vernon Brown

On the next few pages you will find a GCSE Question Paper. You should also find a loose A4 sized Answer Paper. If you don't have one, please check with Registration.

Most questions in this quiz require a short answer, but for various reasons this cannot be a written one. So each question has been given several "outline answers" which can be in full or abbreviated. The idea is that you match your answer to one of the "outline" ones. It's a bit like being given specifications for making a key, together with five different locks. If the key is made correctly, it will fit one of the locks, if it is not, it won't. However, to make the instructions simpler, the terms "question" and "answer" are used, although, strictly speaking, these terms are incorrect.

### Instructions

1. Each question on the Paper has several answers.
2. Mark the answer that you think is correct. Each correctly answered question is worth one mark. Many answers are given as acronyms, ie initials of words (eg VB = Vernon Brown). This is because giving answers in full often makes things much too easy.
3. Now choose which answers you will submit for marking. There are three sections - Section B is easy, Section A is medium and Section C has harder questions. You have to submit two sections which must include Section A. If you submit Sections A and B you will obtain a GCSE Ordinary Certificate if you pass, if you submit Section A and C you will gain a GCSE Advanced Certificate if you pass. Pass mark is 40%. Depending on how well you do, you will obtain a Pass or Credit at "O" level, or Pass, Credit or Distinction at "A" level.
4. Having decided which two sections to submit ignore the other.
5. The Answer Paper has numbered and lettered squares corresponding to the questions and answers in your Question Paper. The idea is that you carefully block out with blue or black ink, biro or felt tip the squares corresponding to the answers you think are correct. Do not circle or cross the squares or do anything else, or use pencil, as your paper will not be marked if you do. This is because marking will be done by placing a card mark over your Answer Paper with holes cut in it corresponding with the correct answer square. Squares that show through are correctly answered. Signs, pencils, etc, are unsuitable for this type of marking. If you make a mistake put a large X through the incorrect square.
6. Now complete your Answer Paper. Block out the square corresponding to the sections you have submitted, ie A and B or A and C, and print your name and address, which we will use as an address label to send you your certificate if you are unable to collect it on the Sunday of the convention.

7. Check that all is completed properly and post your Answer Paper only in the box at Registration. Please only fold it once. Make sure that it is posted by 6pm on the Saturday of the convention.
8. As an incentive, all Answer Papers submitted will be entered in a free prize draw.
9. I will have certificates with me on the Sunday - please contact me for them and find out whether you have a prize as well.
10. Finally, no one else will know how well you have done unless you tell them, so please have a go; you may do better than you think.

#### Section A

- 1 Which of the following novel series did ERB not write?  
a) Barsoom    b) Gojira    c) Pellucidar    d) Tarzan    e) Venus
- 2 Which novel was a sequel to Lord Kalvan of Otherwhen?  
a) APFT    b) GKW    c) LF    d) MITG    e) TATA
- 3 What is considered to be the first true sf magazine?  
a) BBM    b) AS    c) ASF    d) F&SF    e) WT
- 4 What was ANALOG called before it became ANALOG?  
a) BBM    b) AS    c) ASF    d) F&SF    e) WT
- 5 Shelley wrote the novel usually known as Frankenstein. What is its full title?  
a) FOATOT    b) FOTMP    c) TCOF    d) TFM    e) TTOF
- 6 In the 1963 film Day of the Triffids what destroys the Triffids?  
a) Beer    b) Cold    c) Oil    d) Seawater    e) Virus
- 7 On what short story was 2001: A Space Odyssey based?  
a) CE    b) ETE    c) FP    d) TS    e) TT
- 8 In the 1960 film The Time Machine with what did the Time Traveller return to the future?  
a) Books    b) Lights    c) Medicines    d) Tools    e) Weapons
- 9 In X-Files what is the number of Mulder's apartment?  
a) 3    b) 5    c) 27    d) 42    e) 2001
- 10 What was the title of the Star Trek pilot?  
a) STO    b) TC    c) TFF    d) TIS    e) TM
- 11 Which sf artist designed the Skylab 1 patch?  
a) CF    b) DH    c) FF    d) KF    e) KT
- 12 How many names has God?  
a) 1 million    b) 1 billion    c) 6 million    d) 9 million    e) 12 million



- 13 Who originated the word "robot"?  
a) ACC      b) HH      c) LA      d) JV      e) KC
- 14 In The Day of the Triffids what is the name of the hero's lover?  
a) Barbara      b) Catherine      c) Cicely      d) Josella      e) Penny
- 15 Mark Twain was the pseudonym of?  
a) HGW      b) MWS      c) RLS      d) SLC      e) WS
- 16 Who wrote The Time Ships, the authorised sequel to The Time Machine?  
a) CS      b) HH      c) HT      d) LB      e) SB
- 17 In Stirlings Drakon what travel "mecanism" goes wrong?  
a) Blackhole      b) Matter      c) Molehole      d) Superstring      e) Wormhole transmitter

### Section B

- 18 In X-Files which relative of Mulders was abducted?  
a) Brother      b) Cousin      c) Father      d) Mother      e) Sister
- 19 Of what is Jetan a Martian form?  
a) Chess      b) Draughts      c) self-defence      d) Speech      e) Travel
- 20 Which children's sf series was commemorated on a postage stamp this year?  
a) T      b) TC      c) TMM      d) TW      e) TZ
- 21 In which year is the current Channel 4 Babylon 5 series set?  
a) 2220      b) 2225      c) 2240      d) 2260      e) 2275
- 22 What is Cavorite?  
a) Drink      b) Drug      c) Food      d) Gravity Shield      e) High Explosive
- 23 Where was the last British Worldcon held?  
a) Aberdeen      b) Glasgow      c) London      d) Portsmouth      e) Torquay
- 24 In the Alien Nation series, on what do Tenctonese get drunk?  
a) Bananas      b) Cream      c) Honey      d) Soda water      e) Sour Milk
- 25 At what temperature does paper burn?  
a) 100C      b) 451F      c) 273K      d) 80R      e) 212T
- 26 How many years ago was Andromeda (the shop) founded?  
a) 10      b) 15      c) 20      d) 25      e) 30

- 27 In Turtledove's Worldwar series, who are the Tosevites?  
 a) Dolphins    b) Friendly Aliens    c) Humans    d) Neutral Aliens    e) Unfriendly Aliens
- 28 In Brin's Sundiver which of the following races are not known to have been nurtured to intelligence?  
 a) Chimpanzee    b) Dolphin    c) Human    d) Pila    e) Pring
- 29 How many Laws of Robotics are there?  
 a) 2    b) 3    c) 5    d) 6    e) 9
- 30 Who was the captain in the radio serial Journey into Space?  
 a) Captain Marvel    b) Captain Thunder    c) Fly Bird    d) Jet Morgan    e) Steel Mann
- 31 Ray Harryhausen is best known for his what?  
 a) Fanzines    b) Novelizations    c) Painting    d) Plays    e) Special Effects
- 32 From where did Jules Verne shoot his spaceship to the Moon in 1865?  
 a) Florida    b) France    c) Gobi Desert    d) Peru    e) Woomera
- 33 How many years ago did H G Wells die?  
 a) 25    b) 30    c) 40    d) 50    e) 65

### Section C

- 18 Harry Harrison's The Hammer and the Cross is set in which century?  
 a) 5th    b) 7th    c) 9th    d) 11th    e) 13th
- 19 In Dreyfuss's The Two Georges what event never took place?  
 a) American Revolution    b) English Civil War    c) Prohibition    d) Third Crusade    e) World War I
- 20 Blish's DIRAC was used to communicate through?  
 a) Space    b) Telepathy    c) Time    d) Both a) & b)    e) Both b) & c)    f) Both a) & c)
- 21 Who wrote the John Grimes/Rim Worlds novels?  
 a) ABC    b) HIJ    c) NOP    d) RST    e) UVW
- 22 The EAGLE comic, in which Dan Dare originally appeared, was the idea of what type of person?  
 a) Astronomer    b) Explorer    c) Policeman    d) Politician    e) Vicar
- 23 What came from the woodwork out?  
 a) Gnurrs    b) Humans    c) Mouses    d) Time Travellers    e) Ydrill

- 24 How did Slans differ physically from humans?  
a) Forked tongue b) 6 fingers c) Tendrils d) Tentacles e) Third eye
- 25 Where was the first national convention held?  
a) Boston b) Leeds c) London d) New Orleans e) Washington
- 26 Which of the Tarzan books was written by Leiber?  
a) TATAM b) TATFC c) TATLE d) TTT e) TATVOG
- 27 How many stigmata has Palmer Eldritch?  
a) 2 b) 3 c) 4 d) 5 e) 6
- 28 Who is the Blind Singer of the Spaceways (Heinlein)?  
a) Damon b) D'Chanson c) Rhysling d) The Drifter e) Wyoming Smith Beer
- 29 In The Enchanted Duplicator what is the magic mimeograph?  
a) AMMIAGT b) TANSTAAFL c) TEDITMM d) TMMIAWT  
e) TMMITOWITFATH
- 30 In which film was the following said - "All the universe - or nothingness... Which shall it be, Passworthy?"  
a) M b) TDTWSS c) TTC d) TTM e) WOTW
- 31 Of what are The Currents of Space (Asimov) comprised?  
a) Carbon atoms b) Electrons c) Gravity waves d) Ionised matter e) Light pressure
- 32 In which novel is it said "It is lovely to watch the coloured shadows on the planets of eternal light"?  
a) LAFM b) TCATS c) TDM d) TLWH e) TTTS
33. What is the language of the Viagens (de Camp)?  
a) Asper b) French c) Middle English d) Portugese e) Welsh

## The Nova Awards by Tony Berry

Originally created in 1973 by the late Gillon Field, the Nova Awards are presented annually by the Birmingham Science Fiction Group for work in fanzines. Until 1981 only one award was presented, to "Best Fanzine" and decided by a committee of well-known fans. In 1977 voting was extended to all active fans who were members of Novacon, and then in 1981 two further awards were added: "Best Fanwriter" and "Best Fanartist". In 1986, fanzines that had appeared only once in the previous year also became eligible, which permitted "one-offs" to be included.

For a fanzine to qualify for the 1996 award, one or more issues must have been published between 1st October 1995 and 30th September 1996. For a writer or artist to qualify, they must have had at least one piece of work published for the first time between those dates.

A "Fanzine" is defined as an amateur publication which is concerned with sf, fantasy, sf and fantasy fans and related subjects, copies of which may be obtained in exchange for other fanzines or in response to letters of comment. An "Active Fan" is defined as someone who has received six or more different fanzines during the year (different publications, not different issues of the same publication. The various official organs of a group, society or convention do not count as different fanzines).

Voting is open to full or supporting members of Novacon who meet the requirements above. On the back of the Nova ballot in your convention pack you will find a list of fanzines which I have received since last year; it is not comprehensive, but is designed to jog your memory. Please take the time to vote.

## The Nova Awards: Previous Winners

YEAR	BEST FANZINE	BEST WRITER	BEST ARTIST
1973	SPECULATION ed. Peter Weston		
1974	ZIMRI ed. Lisa Conesa		
1975	MAYA ed. Rob Jackson		
1976	MAYA ed. Rob Jackson		
1977	TWLL-DDU ed. Dave Langford		
1978	GROSS ENCOUNTERS ed. Alan Dorey		
1979	SEAMONSTERS ed. Simone Walsh		
1980	ONE-OFF ed. Dave Bridges		



YEAR	BEST FANZINE	BEST WRITER	BEST ARTIST
1981	TAPPEN ed. Malcolm Edwards	Chris Atkinson	Pete Lyon
1982	EPSILON ed. Rob Hansen	Chris Atkinson	Rob Hansen
1983	A COOL HEAD ed. Dave Bridges	Dave Bridges	Margaret Welbank
1984	XYSTER ed. Dave Wood	Anne Hammill	D. West
1985	PREVERT ed. John Jarrold	Abi Frost	Ros Calverly
1986	Pink Fluffy Bedsocks etc ed. Owen Whiteoak	Owen Whiteoak	ATom
1987	LIP ed. Hazel Ashworth	D. West	D. West
1988	LIP ed. Hazel Ashworth	Michael Ashley	D. West
1989	VSOP ed. Jan Orys	Simon Polley	Dave Mooring
1990	FTT ed. Joseph Nicholas & Judith Hanna	Dave Langford	Dave Mooring
1991	SALIROMANIA ed. Michael Ashley	Michael Ashley	D. West
1992	BOB? ed. Ian Sorensen	Michael Ashley	Dave Mooring
1993	LAGOON ed. Simon Ounsley	Simon Ounsley	Dave Mooring
1994	RASTUS JOHNSON'S CAKEWALK ed. Greg Pickersgill	Greg Pickersgill	D. West
1995	ATTITUDE ed. Michael Abbott, John Dallman & Pam Wells	Simon Ounsley	D. West

# Novacon 25 Final Accounts

## by Richard Standage

### Income

Memberships	8420
Advertisements	260
Bookroom	375
Auction	190
Building Society interest	6

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9251

### Expenditure

Hotel bill	3109
Printing, postage & stationery	2691
Programme	995
Tech. ops	458
Awards and prizes	360
Insurance	250
Ops	185
Badges	120
Van hire	183
Committee expenses	128
Hospitality	125

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8604

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Surplus of income over expenditure £647

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## The History of Novacon

NOVACON & YEAR	HOTEL	GUEST(S) OF HONOUR	CHAIR
1 1971 (144)	Imperial Centre	James White	Vernon Brown
	Committee: Ray Bradbury, Alan Denham, Alan Donnelly, Pauline Dungate.		
2 1972 (144)	Imperial Centre	Doreen Rogers	Pauline Dungate
	Committee: Stan Eling, Jeffrey Hacker, Richard Newnham, Meg Palmer, Hazel Reynolds.		

NOVACON & YEAR	HOTEL	GUEST(S) OF HONOUR	CHAIR
3 1973 (146)	Imperial Centre	Ken Bulmer	Hazel Reynolds
	Committee: Stan Eling, Gillon Field, Meg Palmer, Geoff Winterman.		
4 1974 (211)	Imperial Centre	Ken Slater	Dr Jack Cohen
	Committee: Pauline Dungate, Stan Eling, Gillon Field, Robert Hoffman, Arline Peyton, Rog Peyton, Hazel Reynolds.		
5 1975 (272)	Royal Angus	Dan Morgan	Rog Peyton
	Committee: Ray Bradbury, Pauline Dungate, Robert Hoffman, Laurence Miller, Arline Peyton.		
6 1976 (317)	Royal Angus	David Kyle	Stan Eling
	Committee: Helen Eling, Laurence Miller, Arline Peyton, Rog Peyton.		
7 1977 (278)	Royal Angus	John Brunner	Stan Eling
	Committee: Liese Hoare, Martin Hoare, Ian Maule, Janice Maule, Dave Langford.		
8 1978 (309)	Holiday Inn	Anne McCaffrey	Laurence Miller
	Committee: Dave Holmes, Kathy Holmes, Chris Walton, Jackie Wright.		
9 1979 (290)	Royal Angus	Christopher Priest	Rog Peyton
	Committee: Helen Eling, Stan Eling, Chris Morgan, Pauline Morgan, Paul Oldroyd.		
10 1980 (495)	Royal Angus	Brian W Aldiss	Rog Peyton
	Committee: Joseph Nicholas, Keith Oborn, Krystyna Oborn, Paul Oldroyd, Chris Walton.		
11 1981 (362)	Royal Angus	Bob Shaw	Paul Oldroyd
	Committee: Helen Eling, Stan Eling, Joseph Nicholas, Phil Probert.		
12 1982 (373)	Royal Angus	Harry Harrison	Rog Peyton
	Committee: Chris Baker, Dave Hardy, Eunice Pearson, Phil Probert.		
13 1983 (339)	Royal Angus	Lisa Tuttle	Phil Probert
	Committee: Chris Donaldson, Steve Green, Dave Haden, Jan Huxley, Paul Oldroyd, Eunice Pearson, Paul Vincent, John Wilkes.		

NOVACON & YEAR	HOTEL	GUEST(S) OF HONOUR	CHAIR
14 1984 (333)	Grand	Rob Holdstock	Steve Green
	Committee: Kevin Clarke, Ann Green, Dave Haden, Eunice Pearson, Phil Probert, Martin Tudor, Paul Vincent.		
15 1985 (340)	De Vere (Coventry)	James White Dave Langford	Phil Probert
	Committee: Tony Berry, Carol Pearson, Eunice Pearson, Graham Poole, Martin Tudor.		
16 1986 (257)	De Vere (Coventry)	E C Tubb Chris Evans	Tony Berry
	Committee: Nick Mills, Darroll Pardoe, Rosemary Pardoe, Graham Poole, Maureen Porter.		
17 1987 352	Royal Angus	Iain Banks	Bernie Evans
	Committee: Mick Evans, Dave Hardy, Graham Poole, Stephen Rogers, Geoff Williams.		
18 1988 411	Royal Angus	Gary Kilworth	Tony Berry
	Committee: Bernie Evans, Rog Peyton, Greg Pickersgill, Linda Pickersgill, Martin Tudor.		
19 1989 426	The Excelsior	Geoff Ryman	Martin Tudor
	Committee: Tony Berry, Helena Bowles, Bernie Evans, Nick Mills, Pam Wells.		
20 1990 (330)	The Excelsior	Dr Jack Cohen	Bernie Evans
	Committee: Al Johnston, Alice Lawson, Steve Lawson, Nick Mills, Richard Standage.		
21 1991 (200)	Forte Post House (ex-Excelsior)	Colin Greenland	Nick Mills
	Committee: David T Cooper, Bernie Evans, Al Johnston, Alice Lawson, Steve Lawson, Chris Murphy.		
22 1992 (300)	Royal Angus	Storm Constantine	Helena Bowles
	Committee: Tony Berry, Bernie Evans, Jenny Glover, Steve Glover, Carol Morton, Richard Standage.		
23 1993 (350)	Royal Angus	Stephen Baxter	Carol Morton
	Committee: Helena Bowles, Bernie Evans, Tony Morton, Richard Standage.		



NOVACON & YEAR	HOTEL	GUEST(S) OF HONOUR	CHAIR
24 1994 (214)	Royal Angus	Graham Joyce	Richard Standage
	Committee: Helena Bowles, Sarah Freakley, Carol Morton, Tony Morton, Chris Murphy, Martin Tudor.		
25 1995 410	The Chamberlain	Brian W Aldiss Harry Harrison Bob Shaw	Tony Morton
	Special Guest: Iain M Banks Committee: Tony Berry, Carol Morton, Chris Murphy, Richard Standage, Martin Tudor.		
26 1996 (281)	Ibis	David Gemmell	Carol Morton
	Committee: Sarah Freakley, Tony Morton, Chris Murphy, Richard Standage, Martin Tudor.		

*Please note that the attendance figures (the figure under each year) have, where they appear in brackets, been taken from the members listed in the relevant Programme Book - actual attendance was normally higher. Where known actual attendance figures have been used - these are not in brackets.*

## TAFF: The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund

The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund was created in 1953 for the purpose of providing funds to bring well-known and popular fans familiar to those on both sides of the ocean across the Atlantic. Since that time TAFF has regularly brought North American fans to European conventions and European fans to North American conventions. TAFF exists solely through the support of fandom. The candidates are voted on by interested fans all over the world, and each vote is accompanied by a donation of not less than \$2 or £1. These votes, and the continued generosity of fandom, are what make TAFF possible.

TAFF gratefully accepts your freely-given money and material for auction; such generosity has sustained the Fund for over 40 years. TAFF is fandom's oldest travel fund, and one of its worthiest causes - give early and often! Please contact your nearest administrator for details.

The European Administrator is: Martin Tudor, 24 Ravensbourne Grove, (off Clarks Lane,) Willenhall, West Midlands, WV13 1HX. The North American Administrator is: Dan Steffan, 3804 S. 9th Street, Arlington, VA 22204, USA.

# Foundation's Fortunes: The Sequel

## by Andy Sawyer

Visions of becoming the next Jeremy Paxman flashed through my head when Channel 4 asked me to be interviewed for a news feature. Unfortunately this had nothing to do with sf: Irvine Welsh had a new book out and the films crew wanted a word from a Liverpool academic. Everyone else was either away or not very keen on discussing drug books on news programmes, so it was a matter of "Go ask Andy, he's into weird stuff".

This year was a bit like that. We have made huge strides in cataloguing the Science Fiction Foundation Collection and what do people do? They give us more to catalogue! Colin Greenland and Stephen Baxter gave us manuscripts, etc. Fantasy Centre and numerous individuals gave us books and fanzines. Ramsey Campbell promised "a carload of fanzines". "Fine", said I, not remembering that Ramsey's car isn't what you might call small. The British Fantasy Society deposited their fanzine/small press library. Marcus Rowland and Pat McMurray are partly responsible for the fact that where I once had an office I now have rows of boxes of comics and gaming magazines. Ellen Datlow deposited her Omni Fiction Editorial correspondence file. Liverpool University Press published John Clute's *Look At The Evidence* and John won the non-fiction Hugo for another book. More students came to take our MA in SF Studies; we have a Fulbright scholar from the States and there is serious interest from Taiwan. Someone must be spreading the word about us.

Travels around the country included Glasgow's "Robotix '96" Science Week event with over a hundred robots, Newham Library Service's SF Festival with more members of Friends of Foundation than audience. These gatherings were fun. Other gatherings - such as the funeral and memorial party for Bob Shaw were of the kind that however glad you were to have attended you wish the occasion hadn't arisen. We will miss Bob.

Much of my time this year was taken up with organising "Speaking Science Fiction", a conference at the University of Liverpool, and despite starting by inserting Brian Aldiss's slides every which way in the projector except the right way it was a great time. Many thanks to Brian Aldiss for the keynote talk and the rest of our guests, Joseph Nesvadba, Candace Jane Dorsey and Edward James, as well, of course as everyone who helped and attended including Gwyneth Jones who with Brian and Candace gave a memorable reading. A spin-off from the conference was the number of people who stopped off afterwards to research at the Foundation Library. Two months later, Luton University offered "Envisaging Alternatives" - another international conference on sf. Their posters were colour . . . and the conference was another success, which seems to suggest that there is still a lot of interest in the field to tap.

Edward James in the latest *Foundation* (of course you've read it!) raises the question of the nature of this entity called the Science Fiction Foundation and its Friends. To summarise, now that the Library is more secure than for a long while, we need to look at other aspects of the Foundation's work. The academic interest in sf appears to be growing: not only in Liverpool and Luton but Reading, where Edward hopes to run

another MA in science fiction. What is missing at the moment - or is only carried out on an ad hoc basis - is the way the Foundation gathered together a body of expertise which could work on various projects and respond to enquiries and requests. If you have any ideas on this, or would like to take part in organising any relevant moves forward, or would just like to take part in the discussion, please get in touch with Edward, Roger Robinson of FoF, or me.

But, finally . . . there is always a "But, finally" and it's usually about money. The Foundation Library - and every other activity of the Science Fiction Foundation including the production of the Journal - is entirely funded by the Friends of Foundation. While you have been amazing generous - see above - there are a lot of gaps: reference books; critical works; recent American fiction and small-press material; audio, video and CD-Rom; manga and anime. And money to fund projects and keep the subscription rate for Foundation as low as possible. We welcome your support. Please join FoF and subscribe to Foundation if you haven't already. If you see someone from FoF at this convention, ask them to talk persuasively about why you should give them money. . .

[THE SCIENCE FICTION FOUNDATION COLLECTION: Andy Sawyer, Sydney Jones Library, The University of Liverpool, PO Box 123, Liverpool L69 3DA (email [asawyer@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:asawyer@liverpool.ac.uk))

[FOUNDATION: THE REVIEW OF SCIENCE FICTION: Editorial, Edward James, Department of History, University of Reading, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 6AA (email [E.F.James@reading.ac.uk](mailto:E.F.James@reading.ac.uk))/Subscriptions, c/o New Worlds, 71-72 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0AA.

[FRIENDS OF FOUNDATION: Roger Robinson, 75 Rosslyn Avenue, Harold Wood, Essex, RM3 0RG.]

## The Fanzine Library by Vince Clarke

Paper of all kinds has always stuck to my hands like so much sellotape, so when I left fandom in 1960 I already had quite a large collection of fanzines, stretching back to 1937. When I returned in 1981 I found a radically changed fandom, with not much knowledge of what had gone before.

This seemed to me to be a great pity, as a number of good fanzines and fanzine writers worth reading had flourished during the past decades. I still collected fanzines, but it seemed to be more and more selfish. In the middle of the '80s I started to lend out copies, and put out a 60-page list of what was currently available. It seemed to me that a mere listing of titles wasn't enough - there had to be some information of their contents. The Fanzine Library, the only one in the world, had begun.

Later, through the good offices of several fans, I was put in touch with a US convention committee which had made an unexpected profit and were looking for good fannish projects to finance. They supplied the cash for a xerox machine, so that I wouldn't have to risk sending irreplaceable fanzines through the post - I could xerox them and send the copies instead.

The fanzines were also a good source of information on Fandom Past, and Rob Hansen used it to good effect when compiling his THEN histories.

I found that the old index didn't give all of the information that was requested. Which fanzines had published Ted Tubb's fan fiction? What 'zines had what con reports? Did John Wyndham appear in any fanzines? What could I supply of John Roles' recollections of India in his fanzine around 1960? And etc. I therefore started on a bigger and better index. With 7,000 plus fanzines to check this is a long and ongoing task, so for the time being I have to rely largely on memory.

There are no charges except that when you receive a packet you should note the postage and send this when returning the fanzine(s). I use Redorded Delivery in some cases, and would like this reciprocated. I rely on natural honesty for the return of all fanzines, but won't hesitate to publish names if anyone hangs on to stuff they've borrowed.

The contact name and address is: Vince Clarke, 16 Wendover Way, Welling, Kent, DA16 2BN.

## Novacon 27 by Martin Tudor

Novacon 27 will be held at the De Vere Abbey Hotel, Great Malvern, over the weekend of 14th to 16th November 1997. Yes, the combination of the NEC, the ICC and the NIA have finally driven us out of Birmingham - but the Abbey is a wonderful hotel (as those of you who attend Attitude in February will discover) and they are *very* enthusiastic about hosting our annual event.

Our Guest of Honour will be Peter F Hamilton - creator of Greg Mandel and author of THE REALITY DYSFUNCTION.

Attending membership costs just £23.00 at Novacon 26, rising to £25.00 after the con and probably rising again after Easter 1997.

Details of hotel prices can be found in Novacon 27's first Progress Report which is in your Novacon 26 programme package. Hotel forms are also available in PR1 and again you need to get your bookings in early. Although the Abbey is bigger than the Ibis, you need to get your booking (and £20.00 per person non-refundable deposit) in early to guarantee a room in the hotel. (Deadline for Hotel bookings is July 1997!)



For further details consult your programme package or speak to Carol Morton on the Novacon registration desk.

## Acknowledgements

Many thanks to all those who contributed to this Programme Book and special thanks to DAVE MOORING Progress Report covers, the cover of the Special and the interior illustrations in the Special and this Programme Book.

Special thanks to PHIL STEPHENSEN-PAYNE for supplying such a comprehensive bibliography of our David Gemmell's work. If you are interested in further details of the work of either Mr Gemmell or other authors, it will be worth your while checking out the GALACTIC CENTRAL bibliographies which Phil edits. For a complete list of the 34+ authors covered so far (and the prices of the booklets) send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Phil Stephensen-Payne, "Imladris", 25A Copgrove Road, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS8 2SP.

This publication was produced by MARTIN TUDOR for Novacon 26, November 1995, on behalf of the Birmingham Science Fiction Group and was printed by Printability, Brierley Hill, West Midlands.



## **MEET THE AUTHORS !**

**Brian Aldiss, Iain Banks, Greg Bear,  
David Brin, John Brunner,  
Ramsey Campbell, C J Cherryh,  
Storm Constantine, Neil Gaiman,  
David Gemmell, Simon Green,  
Harry Harrison, Graham Joyce,  
Gary Kilworth, Stephen Lawhead,  
Paul McAuley, Anne McCaffrey,  
"Grant Naylor", Terry Pratchett,  
Robert Rankin, Michael Scott Rohan,  
Kim Stanley Robinson, Bob Shaw,  
Dan Simmons, Sheri S Tepper,  
Patrick Tilley, Ian Watson,  
Tad Williams and "Jonathan Wylie"**

**are just a few of the authors who have spoken to  
the Birmingham Science Fiction Group during the  
last eight years. The Group has been meeting  
on the third Friday of every month for over 20  
years and, as well as holding at least 12  
meetings a year, produces a monthly newsletter  
featuring book reviews, genre news and  
convention reports. For further information and a  
FREE copy of the latest newsletter call:  
Bernie Evans on 0121-558-0997.**

# Novacon 26

## Membership

001	David Gemmell	044	Paul Dormer	092	Paul Allwood
002	Carol Morton	045	Peter Mabey	093	Sue Harrison
003	Richard Standage	046	G A Funnell	094	Sue Jones
004	Tony Morton	047	Peter Wareham	095	Edward Ward
005	Martin Tudor	048	Simon Dearn	096	Christine Ward
006	Sarah Freakley	049	Sherrie Powell	097	Chris Stocks
007	Chris Murphy	050	Niall M Gordon	098	Rhodri James
008	Dave Mooring	051	Lesley Swan	099	James O'Dell
009	Val Gemmell	052	Steve Mowbray	100	Billy Stirling
010	Alison Cook	053	Claire Briailey	101	Greg Pickersgill
011	Sarah Dibb	054	Noel Collyer	102	Catherine McAulay
012	Helena Bowles	055	Pauline Morgan	103	Dave Thomas
013	Huw Walters	056	Chris Morgan	104	Kate Solomon
014	Steve Lawson	057	Dave French	105	Malcolm Davies
015	Alice Lawson	058	Jean Hoare	106s	Peter Dawson
016	Moir J Shearman	059	Shirley French	107	John Campbell Rees
017	Marcus L Rowland	060	Norman Shorrock	108	Janet Wilkins
018	John D Rickett	061	Ina Shorrock	109	Paul Oldroyd
019	Steve Jones	062	Anne Woodford	110	Chris Donaldson
020	Mike Stone	063	Alan Woodford	111	Jilly Reed
021	Mike Ford	064	Dave Cox	112	Larry van der Putte
022	Micheal Abbott	065	Phil Rogers	113	Steve Jeffery
023	Chris O'Shea	066	Doreen Rogers	114	Vikki Lee France
024	Helen Eling	067	Lynn M Edwards	115	Helen Steele
025	Stan Eling	068	John McMorine	116	Annie Massing
026	Roger Robinson	069	Peter Dunn	117	David Peek
027	Chris Bell	070	John Dallman	118	Susan Peek
028	1/2r	071	Ian Stewart	119	Anne Wilson
029	Peter Weston	072	Chris Gilmore	120	Martin Mcallion
030	Alison Weston	073	Nick Mills	121	Rachel Baker
031	Simon A Hovell	074	Roger Earnshaw	122	Chris Baker
032	Mark Bailey	075	Wendy Graham	123	Jean Porter
033	Martin Hoare	076	Pam Wells	124	Jim Porter
034	Tony Rogers	077	Caroline Mullan	125	Sue Mason
035	Julian Headlong	078	Brian Ameringen	126	Chris Hill
036	Richard James	079	Paul Kincaid	127	Penny Hill
037	George F Ternent	080	Maureen Speller	128	Tim Stannard
038	Linda Ternent	081	Gerry Webb	129	Mike Moir
039	Ian Sorensen	082	Mali Perera	130	Debbie Moir
040	John Harold	083	David A Hardy	131	Gail-Nina Anderson
041	Barry Traish	084	Adrian Snowdon	132	Gill Alderman
042	Neil Summerfield	085	Bernie Evans	133	John Alderman
043	Mark Stevens	086	Chris Amies	134	John Meaney
		087	Nancy Shaw	135	Yvonne Meaney
		088	Colin Langeveld	136	Keith Cosslett
		089	William McCabe	137	Richard Crawshaw
		090	Nic Farey	138	Chris Crawshaw
		091	Jo Mills	139	Frances Tucker



140	J E Rupik	188	Cherry Newton	236	Ray Holloway
141	Jane Carnall	189	Neil Tomkinson	237	Steve Davies
142	Elizabeth Billinger	190	Alison Tomkinson	238	Giulia De Cesare
143	Paul Billinger	191	J W F Richards	239	Patrick Curzon
144	Pat Brown	192	Anne Sudworth	240	Phillip Nye
145	Vernon Brown	193	Warren Hudson	241	Tara Dowling-Hussey
146	Julia Barnsley	194	Evelyn Murray	242	Andy Sawyer
147	Simon Barnsley	195	Susan Bell Romero	243	Ian Sales
148	Lisanne Norman	196	Guy Dawson	244	Jan Orys
149	Judith Faul	197	Gary Faber	245	Mark Simmons
150	Sue Harrison	198	Dave Hicks	246	Ray Bradbury
151	E J T Chrystal	199	Cat Coast	247	Rog Peyton
152	Brian Stovold	200	Ian Shaw	248	Rod Milner
153	Andrew Ferguson	201	Mike Scott	073	Nick Mills
154	Andrew Wilson	202	Phil Stephenson-Payne	091	Jo Mills
155	Lorna McLaren	203	A Vincent Clarke	249	Jack Cohen
156s	Stephen Johnson	204	Alan Sullivan	250	Felix Cohen
157	Sarah Main	205	Nigel Furlong	251	Adam Leci
158	Rob Jones	206	Sabine Benneman	252	Elinor Predota
159	Martin Lenaghan	207	Philip Cooper	253	Clive Grace
160	Carl Davies	208	Alison Scott	254	David Ulicsack
161	Ken Slater	209	Steven Cain	255	Diana Wynne-Jones
162	Mark Valentine	210	Ben Brown	256	Tany Brown
163	Colin Harris	211	Felicity Fletcher	257	Liam Proven
164	Nadja Tegen	212	Pat McMurray	258	Alexandra Robinette
165	Ros Calverley	213	Julia Daly	259	Debbie Miller
166	Chris Walton	214	Martin Smith	260	Raymond Russell
167	Bridget Hardcastle	215	Caroline Wilson	261	Stuart Capewell
168	Simon Bradshaw	216	Austin Benson	262	Kim Campbell
169	Dick Jude	217	John Bark	263	Simon Clark
170	Dave Tamlyn	218	Robbie Cantor	264	DM Sherwood
171	Denis Lecocq	219	Paul Hood	265	Stuart Wallace
172	Helen Oldroyd	220	Iain M Banks	266	John Dowd
173	Thomas Atkinson	221	Anne Blackburn	267	Fran Dowd
174	Sally Sinclair	222	Rafe Culpin	268	Peter D Wright
175	Mark Sinclair	223	Dave Langford	269	Robert Sneddon
176	John Harvey	224	Margaret Austin	270	Wendy Moylan
177	Eve Harvey	225	Martin Easterbrook	271	David Stewart
178	J T Rolfe	226	Darroll Pardoe	272	James M Young
179	Krystyna Oborn	227	Mike Siddall	273	Bridget Wilkinson
180	Elaine Coates	228	Dave Wood	274	Ian Brooks
181	Mark Slater	229	Les Escott	275	Barbara Brooks
182	Tony Berry	230	Avedon Carol	276	Roger Grey
183	Freda Warrington	231	Rob Hanson	277	Penny Myles
184	Mike Llewellyn	232	Chris Tregenza	278	Dave Lally
185	John Bilton	233	Jess Bennett	279	Nigel Robson
186	Mark Plummer	234	Al Johnston	280	Dave Holmes
187	Henry Newton	235	Steve Green	281	Steve Hutton



# INTERVENTION

## THE 1997 UK NATIONAL SF CONVENTION

<http://ds.dial.pipex.com/minerva.tech/interven.htm>

**From:** The\_Cyberbirds

**To:** Fans@large,  
Fans@conventions,  
Fans@zines

**cc:** Fans@bar

**Subject:** Communication



We're on line to tell you how Intervention will celebrate the most important reason why fans go to cons. No, not beer, palatial hotel bedrooms or the Chairman's dress-sense (although Intervention will have all three). It's you talking to each other about SF & Fantasy, life, the universe and chocolate body paint. So: they'll look at FTL communications, ask if the future of story-telling is in pictures, investigate

*Guests of Honour*

*Brian*  
**ALDISS**

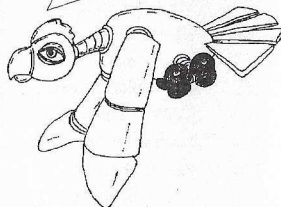
*Jon*  
**BING**

*Octavia*  
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translation from books to films to comics and what ETs might make of it all. There'll be a Newspeak short story competition and SF

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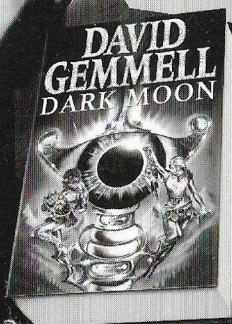
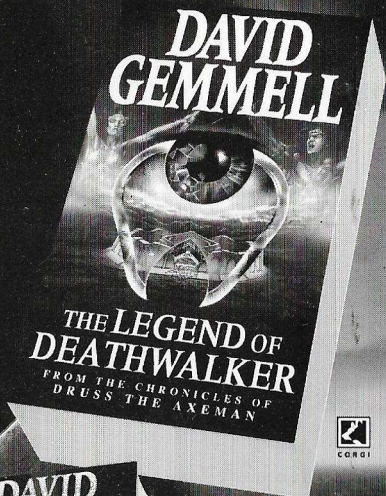
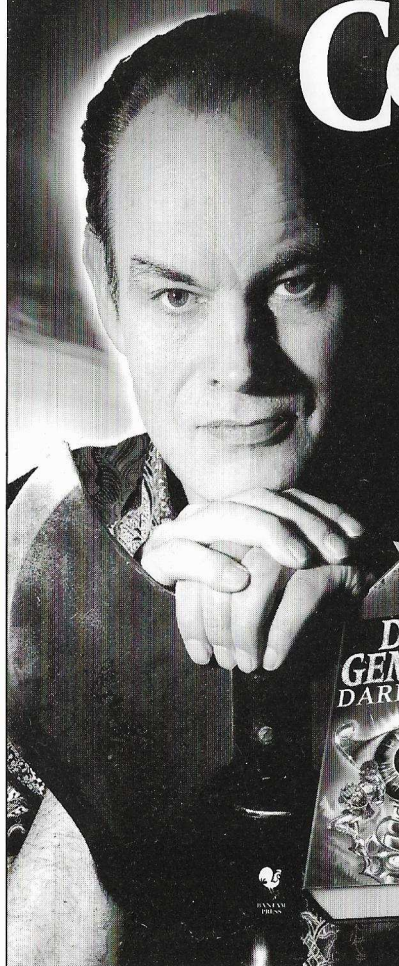
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