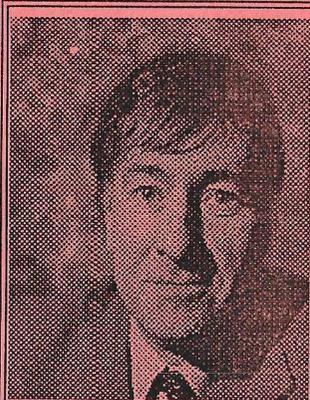


# Novacon 30



Christopher Priest  
Guest of Honour



Rog Peyton  
Special Guest



David A Hardy  
Guest Artist

## Progress Report #4

# Novacon 30

**Date:** 10th-12th November 2000.

**Venue:** The Britannia Hotel, New Street, Birmingham.

**Guest of Honour:** Christopher Priest.

**Special Guest:** Rog Peyton. **Guest Artist:** David A. Hardy.

**Membership & Enquiries:** Full membership costs £32.00 by post or £35.00 on the door. Postal registrations should be received by 3rd November 2000, after this time please join on the door. Supporting membership costs £15.00 throughout. Cheques/Postal Orders should be made payable to "Novacon 30" and sent with your completed form(s) to: **Steve Lawson, 379 Myrtle Road, Sheffield, S2 3HQ.**

**Further information:** Check <http://www.cooky.demon.co.uk/n30/n30.html>.

**Room Rates:** £37.50 per person per night for people sharing twin/double rooms and £42.50 pppn for single rooms (inclusive of full English breakfast). NB: Hotel booking forms, and deposits of £20.00 per person, must be received by Steve Lawson no later than **28th October 2000**. Cheques for room deposits should be made payable to "The Britannia Hotel". Enquires regarding hotel bookings should be sent to Steve at the address above or to [x15@zoom.co.uk](mailto:x15@zoom.co.uk) (tel: 0114-281-1572).

**Advertising Rates:** Advertising is welcome for *next year's* Progress Reports and for Programme Book. The rates are as follows (fan rates in brackets): Progress Reports - Professional £25.00 (£13.00) full page, £14.50 (£8.00) half page, £8.50 (£5.00) quarter page. Programme Book - Professional £60.00 (£31.00) full page, £32.00 (£15.50) half page, £18.00 (£9.50) quarter page. Anyone interested in advertising should contact Martin Tudor at 24 Ravensbourne Grove, Willenhall, West Midlands, WV13 1HX (e-mail [empties@breathemail.net](mailto:empties@breathemail.net)).

**Book Room Rates:** Tables will cost £15.00 each for the whole weekend. To book a table (or tables) you must be a member of the convention. Contact Steve Lawson (address below) for further details.

**Committee:** Tony Berry (Chairman), 68 Windsor Road, Oldbury, West Midlands, B68 8PB (NB: COA), ([morbius@zoom.co.uk](mailto:morbius@zoom.co.uk)); David T. Cooper (Treasurer), 3 Yate Lane, Oxenhope, Keighley, West Yorks., BD22 9HL ([david@elwher.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:david@elwher.freeserve.co.uk)); Maureen Kincaid Speller (Programme), 60 Bournemouth Road, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 5AZ, ([novacon@acnestis.demon.co.uk](mailto:novacon@acnestis.demon.co.uk)); Steve Lawson (Registrations), 379 Myrtle Road, Sheffield, S2 3HQ ([x15@zoom.co.uk](mailto:x15@zoom.co.uk)); Chris Murphy (Operations), 126 McKean Road, Oldbury, B69 4BA, ([chris.murphy@breathemail.net](mailto:chris.murphy@breathemail.net)); Martin Tudor (Publications), 24 Ravensbourne Grove, Willenhall, WV13 1HX ([empties@breathemail.net](mailto:empties@breathemail.net)).

**Front Cover:** Features the Novacon 30 badge design by David A. Hardy.

## Chairman's Piece by Tony Berry

As I mention in the How To Get There, the special entertainment laid on by the council this year is the rebuilding of the centre of Birmingham around the Bull Ring. Large chunks are being flattened (but sadly not the Rotunda) and this has led to major disruption of traffic, re-routes, contraflows and bus stops which move every week. At least the hotel kicked up enough fuss to get New Street opened (the wrong way) in order to give access to the hotel. You can stop right outside to unload, but not park there. In a way this is easier, because there aren't hundreds of buses thundering down the road as you try to park.

### Balti Night At The Britannia!

As an extra treat this year, we've asked the hotel to lay on a selection of Indian food on Saturday evening along side the regular convention food (Note: this is not a banquet). The idea is that there will be a number of dishes available for you to choose from, although at this stage we're still finalising the details. This should make the option of staying in to eat a little more attractive, and save all that legwork going into town.

Sunday night at Novacon features the usual International Beer Tasting, with a couple of firkins of ale provided by ourselves, as well as a good selection of bottled beer (hopefully!) provided by yourselves. This year we've decided to try a Leicester microbrewery, Hoskins and Oldfield, who do some excellent beer which I have extensively researched in their pub. A strong dark mild, Midnight Express, will be on hand, along with Hob, their award-winning standard bitter. To gain entrance to the Beer Tasting you need either to bring a least 3 bottles of beer (the more unusual the better), or pay £4.50 on the Registration desk during the weekend for a beer badge. After that it's all free. See you there.

## David A. Hardy by Martin Tudor

My first memory of Dave Hardy dates back to the 18<sup>th</sup> September 1981. Picture the scene: the upstairs room of the Ivy Bush pub on the Hagley Road in Birmingham. Bob Shaw is talking, cracking jokes about the classic THOMAS COOK'S GALACTIC TOURS whilst Dave deals with the slides. An hilarious and entertaining evening of course – but what stuck in my mind was that art work, wow.

I'd been a member of the Birmingham SF Group for almost a year by

September 1981, having discovered it by attending Novacon 10 the previous year. (I'd found out about Novacon by joining the British SF Association – what a text book case. eh?) So I must have seen Dave around at meetings and I'm sure someone had mentioned he was an artist... but that hadn't really prepared me, I mean he was a *real* artist. My sense of awe was doubtless increased by Dave's piece in the newsletter that month about his appearance as a guest speaker at a convention in Stuttgart! A world-famous artist no less, and he drank at the same bar as me, wow.

But, of course, it is hard to remain in *awe* for any length of time, especially with someone as helpful and friendly as Dave. So in no time at all I was serving on Brum Group committees with him (remember those meetings in Grove Avenue, Dave, with Bernie's and half the neighbourhood's cats crawling all over us as we tried to make notes?) and taking him for granted like the rest of the Brum Group.... Which is such a shame, because although familiarity might not breed contempt it does mean that all too often we fail to properly appreciate the treasures that are in our midst.

But David A. Hardy isn't just a fantastically talented space and sf artist, he is also a human dynamo without whom the BSFG would be unlikely to be so close to celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Four times chairman of the group, he is now serving his second term as secretary having previously served three terms each as Publicity Officer and Newsletter editor, as well as serving on the Novacon 12 committee, and having produced more headings, flyers, t-shirts, badge designs, illos and covers for the BSFG and Novacon than even he can remember!

This year alone he supplied the photo for the third PR cover, the badge design on this PR cover, articles for all three PRs and has already supplied the cover for this year's Special Booklet! At the same time as working on numerous professional projects, globe-trotting and beavering away as the Brum Group secretary.

So Dave Hardy is a patient, hard-working and helpful committee members, a renowned sf and space artist, a funny cartoonist (I *still* think his cover for the January 1992 Brum Group News one of the funniest things I've ever seen) and, best of all, a *reliable* contributor of written contributions as well as artwork (if Dave says he'll do something for you he does and it usually arrives early!). Dave, this is an honour that is long overdue!

# Things to do at Novacon on a Friday

## by Maureen Kincaid Speller

Okay, we're breaking with tradition here. Normally the last PR goes out with a polite little note from an over-stressed programming person saying yes, of course there's going to be a programme and it has lots of good stuff and it's all due to start in the next couple of weeks so why not wait for the happy surprise? Not this time. This time we're actually going to tell you what we have in store for you on the Friday evening. You know, that part of the convention when you've just arrived so you haven't had time to even look at your Programme Book, so you miss everything on the programme that evening. Now you've got no excuse.

### **6.45: Opening Ceremony**

followed immediately by:

#### **Why We Are Here**

We've got three really interesting guests with three very different backgrounds in science fiction. This is where we get a chance to find out why they are being honoured by Novacon. They will be discussing how and why they got involved with science fiction and fandom in the first place – and why they are still here; what sf has given to them – and what they have given to sf.

Dave Hardy, Rog Peyton & Christopher Priest, with Moderator Chris Morgan

### **8.00 Spaceguard**

Major Jonathan Tate of Spaceguard gives a talk about what the organisation is all about, what they are doing, and what the future might hold. [*See below.*]

### **9.15 Science and/or science fiction**

Hugo Gernsback saw scientific fiction as providing ideas for scientists. John W. Campbell saw science fiction as a place where scientists could try out their ideas. And just this year we have heard of a science think tank that has called on science fiction authors for ideas they might develop. But does science fiction really have anything to contribute to science?

Amanda Baker, Simon Bradshaw and Marcus Rowland

# Spaceguard UK presentation

## by Jay Tate

The planet Earth has a long and violent history of collisions with extraterrestrial bodies such as asteroids and comet nuclei. Several of these impacts have been large enough to cause major environmental changes, causing mass extinctions and severe alterations to weather patterns and geography. The immediate effects of a major impact, including firestorms, intense acid rain, the production of pyrotoxins and the destruction of the ozone layer, coupled with the possible triggering of volcanism and seismic activity will cause a significant environmental disaster. However, it is the vast amount of dust and debris injected into the upper atmosphere, blocking the Sun and causing phenomena similar to the nuclear winter scenario that could threaten the ecosphere on a global scale. Many smaller strikes, though not globally threatening, have caused massive damage to the area of impact, and often at considerable distance. Water covers two thirds of the Earth's surface, and a major impact at sea will have far-reaching and catastrophic effects due to the production of a massive tsunami by the force of the impact. The spread of human settlement, civilisation, and particularly urbanisation, makes it much more likely that a future impact, even relatively small, could result in the massive loss of human life and property.

The chance that you will be killed by an asteroid impact is measurably higher than the probability that you will meet your end in a plane crash or die of food poisoning. Major cosmic impacts do not occur very often, but when they do, they have the potential to kill billions. Massively more destructive than a global nuclear war, this is the hazard that is most likely to precipitate the end of civilisation as we know it. In recent years astronomical, geological and palaeontological investigations have shown that the Earth has been subject to a number of such catastrophes in the past, and will definitely be again in the future unless we take steps to intercede and protect ourselves. The cometary impacts on Jupiter in 1994 showed what happens when a planet is struck in this way; but we now have the technological capability to ensure that the Earth is not the next to suffer.

Despite the global scientific consensus on the nature and gravity of this threat, there is currently no co-ordinated international response. In the United Kingdom, the Department of Trade and Industry has established a government task force to investigate ways in which the United Kingdom could contribute to

an international Spaceguard project. The task force will report to ministers in September 2000.

*[Jay Tate is the director of Spaceguard UK. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the international Spaceguard Foundation, a consultant to the International Astronomical Union Working Group on Near Earth Objects, a member of the Clementine 2 Science Definition Team, an associate COSPAR and a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. During the day he is an officer in the Royal Regiment of Artillery.]*

## The CD-ROM Art Show

As technology has advanced, British science fiction conventions have lagged *embarrassingly* far behind. In some ways this is inevitable given the *cost* of much of this new technology and the tradition of keeping membership fees low that handicap most British sf cons. But this year Novacon 30 will, single-handedly, change *all* that! (Well, give it a bit of a nudge anyway....)

We proudly announced in the last PR that we had booked a Sanyo S-VGA Mobile Type LCD Colour Data Projector, PLC-5605 series which we would be using to display the work of some of the many talented artists working on CD ROM. However, due to the fact that people are joining Novacon later than ever this year we were unable to commit the required finances and for a while there it looked like we'd have to scrap the idea. But John Harvey came to the rescue! By finding a supplier of an *even better* projector for a *third* of the cost Mr Harvey has saved the CD ROM art show (so buy him a pint already!).

But we still need your help as well - if you have work you wish to exhibit on CD-ROM or you know of someone who has, please contact either Tony Berry or Martin Tudor as soon as possible (contact details on the inside cover). With your help this could be the most exciting Novacon art show ever!

## Novacon 30 Registration

To register at the con go to the second floor, the Registration Desk will be in the entrance of the Lichfield Lounge (turn right as you come out of the lift, first door on your left). The table will be open:

Friday: 2pm-6.30pm and 7pm-10pm for Novacon 30 registrations ONLY.

Saturday: 10am-3pm and 4.30pm-8pm for all Novacon/BSFG business.

Sunday: 10am-5pm for all Novacon/BSFG business.

From Saturday morning onwards the table will be selling a variety of Novacon publications, beer tickets, memberships to Novacon 31 and raffle tickets in aid of the RNIB's Talking Books for the Blind Project.

## Can you summarise Priest? by Maureen Kincaid Speller

Okay, we know some of you have long memories. We know some of you can recite entire episodes of *Monty Python's Flying Circus*. Including the infamous 'Summarising Proust Competition'.

So now we're giving you the chance to do something completely different.

Given how intricate and multi-layered our Guest of Honour's novels are, we've decided to stage a 'Summarising Priest Competition'.

We're looking for contestants who can abridge *The Affirmation* down to 30 seconds, who can make *The Glamour* disappear in a few well-turned phrases.

We're staging the competition on Saturday morning – and Christopher Priest has agreed to be the judge. So now we need contestants. Have you got what it takes?

If you can summarise any of Priest's novels – whether it's succinct, surreal or downright silly – let us know.

## The Nova Awards by Tony Berry

The Nova Awards are presented annually for work in fanzines. For a fanzine or piece of writing or art to qualify for this year's awards, it must be published for the first time between 1<sup>st</sup> October 1999 and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2000. These are the fanzines which have come my way since PR3.

ANSIBLE #157. Dave Langford, 94 London Rd., Reading, Berks., RG1 5AU.  
CONNECTION #2. Simon Ounsley, 47 Birkdale Drive, Leeds, LS17 7RU.  
PLOKTA Vol. 5, #4. The Cabal, 52 Westbourne Terrace, Reading, Berks.,  
RG30 2RP.

All of the above are available for "the usual", meaning a request with large SSAE, your own fanzine in trade, contribution or letter of comment. If you have any questions about the Novas, or want a copy of the rules (50p to cover copying and postage), contact Tony Berry at 68 Windsor Road, Oldbury, West Midlands, B68 8PB. Or check out the Novacon website at [www.novacon.org.uk](http://www.novacon.org.uk)

*[Enclosed with this Progress Report you should have received a copy of the 2000 Nova Awards Ballot. Please return this form to Tony Berry, the Nova Administrator, at the above address, at least one week before Novacon 30, or post it in the box provided on the Novacon registration desk at the convention before midnight on the Saturday.]*

## The International Beer Tasting

On Sunday night from 8pm we will be hosting the latest in a long series of Novacon Beer Tastings, using the ever-popular BYOB (bring your own beer) format.

To get the ball rolling the convention hopes to have two local beers from the Leicester microbrewery Hoskins and Oldfield on draught. A strong dark mild, Midnight Express, and HOB (OG 1041, 4% ABV), their award-winning standard bitter. As well as a few interesting bottles - the rest is up to you!

To take part, all you need to do is bring at least THREE bottles of your favourite British or foreign beer to the convention and check them in at the Novacon Registration desk when you arrive. In return you will receive a "BEER BADGE" which will entitle you to drink the beer at the Tasting on Sunday.

Alternatively, you can also take part in the Tasting by buying a BEER BADGE for £4.50 from Novacon Registration.

All Novacon members are welcome to attend the Tasting. The convention is supplying an assortment of exotic and/or unusual non-alcoholic drinks at the

Tasting, which will be free to everyone, but only those with BEER BADGES will be entitled to drink the beer.

For further information, contact the Beer Tasting Organiser, Tony Berry, at 68 Windsor Road, Oldbury, West Midlands, B68 8PB (NB: COA), e-mail morbius@zoom.co.uk.

*[Remember, although we have come to an arrangement with the Britannia regarding corkage for the Tasting, this does not extend to you bringing in your own supplies of drink. The Hotel can and will charge corkage to people smuggling food or drink into the hotel!]*

## Take your chance to beat Roger Robinson by Maureen Kincaid Speller

Yes, it's that grand Novacon tradition: the Quiz! And Roger Robinson is once more setting the questions.

Roger's quizzes have been known to make grown men weep, have reduced Peter Weston to mystification, have revealed knowledge most of us would not care to admit to.

Now it's your turn.

Can you beat Roger Robinson? No, let's make it even fairer: you can have a go mob-handed. How about four of you pitting your collective knowledge of science fiction, fandom or what-have-you against one lone quiz master? You can't say fairer than that.

So, if you want to enter a team of four in the Saturday evening quiz, let us know.

## Operations by Chris Murphy

As we are sure most of you are aware Novacon, like most conventions in Britain, is run by volunteers and we can't have too many of them! So if you are willing to help out at the convention - anything from moving chairs to helping with tech ops or working on the programme, please contact me, Chris Murphy, at 126 McKean Road, Oldbury, B69 4BA, (e-mail [chris.murphy@breathemail.net](mailto:chris.murphy@breathemail.net)).

Registration and Operations will be in the same place as last year, first on the left as you come out of the second floor lifts. Unlike last year we shall be operating a ~~fascist~~ 'tidy' Ops Room policy, with designated areas for stuff to be stored and no non-essential furniture (or people). However, you will still be able to leave coats and bags in Ops on request and **at your own risk**.

## Novacon's RNIB Raffle

As usual we will be selling raffle tickets to raise money for the Royal National Institute for the Blind's "Talking Books for the Blind Project". So, if you have anything you would like to donate as a prize for the raffle please contact Martin Tudor, 24 Ravensbourne Grove, Willenhall, WV13 1HX (e-mail [empties@breathemail.net](mailto:empties@breathemail.net)). But whatever you do, make sure you buy a ticket or two from Anne Woodford at the convention!

## Auctions at Novacon by Maureen Kincaid Speller

Auctions have always played a significant part in Novacon programming, but after watching last year's programme in action, I came to the conclusion that a convention the size of Novacon can't really sustain a separate book auction, art auction and an auction in aid of the United Fan Funds, not when there is so much programme to squeeze in.

The solution has turned out to be quite simple, and this year the book auction and the fan fund auction will be moving into the traditional Sunday morning

slot, along with the art auction, which should ensure some fast and furious bidding.

In addition to this, we're going to be trying something a little different with a silent auction in aid of the United Fan Funds. Material will be displayed in the dealers' room and you will be able to make bids on the slips provided. Anything generating a lot of interest will be put to the voice auction on Sunday morning.

If you're planning to bring material for the auction, we would appreciate hearing about this in advance if at all possible (although it's not imperative). Contact Maureen Speller by post at 60 Bournemouth Road, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 5AZ or email [novacon@acnestis.demon.co.uk](mailto:novacon@acnestis.demon.co.uk).

## Hotel Bookings

By the time you read this any Hotel Bookings we have received will have been passed on to the Hotel who will be sending out acknowledgements of the bookings. If you haven't received a confirmation of your booking please contact Steve Lawson (Registrations) at 379 Myrtle Road, Sheffield, S2 3HQ, e-mail [x15@zoom.co.uk](mailto:x15@zoom.co.uk) or telephone 0114-281-1572.

If you have not yet sent a booking form to Steve at the above address please do so NOW!

Steve would also appreciate it if you could let him know about any special requirements that you have regarding diet, room near a lift, quiet area, no-smoking, etc. He cannot guarantee to help in every instance, but he will pass on your requests to the Hotel.

Please remember that hotel booking forms and deposits of £20.00 per person must be received no later than 28<sup>th</sup> October 2000. Cheques for room deposits should be made payable to "The Britannia Hotel" and sent to Steve at the above address.

## How to get there by Tony Berry

### By Train.

Get out at Birmingham New Street station, go up the stairs into the Pallisades, turn left and follow the signs to New St. Leave the shopping centre and go down

the ramp into New St. Cross the road at the lights (watch out for traffic from the LEFT, the flow has been reversed) turn right and the hotel is about 50 yards along on your left. From any other station, follow signs for New St.

### **By Coach.**

Assuming you arrive at Digbeth coach station, turn left out of the station, and walk up towards the Rotunda. Negotiate the building sites, following signs to New St or New St Station. Once in the station, follow directions above.

### **By Car.**

Oh dear. The middle of Birmingham currently is undergoing a few changes, leading to a couple of diversions. Coming in on the M6 from either north or south, you'll go down the A38 Aston Expressway towards the city centre. Look for a yellow overhead sign saying "Aston University and shoppers P" and come off there, down to Lancaster Circus. Bear left along James Watt Queensway and stay over to the left. You'll see another yellow sign for the Burlington hotel as you head up towards the next roundabout (Masshouse Circus). Here there is a sign saying "Limited access to New St and Britannia Hotel". Turn right and another sign will direct you left into Corporation St. Go down to the lights at the bottom and turn left into New St and to the hotel.

From the M40 it is better to go onto the M42 towards the NEC and come off at J5 (A41). Stay on this all the way into Birmingham and you'll go up Digbeth High St and round some diversions and back on to the main road (Bull Ring) to Saint Martin's Circus (DO NOT follow signs for New St Station, as you cannot get from there to New Street right now). Here all traffic has to go right, and you'll see a sign for the Britannia Hotel.

From the M5, I would advise going a little further up to the M6 and back down into Birmingham, or on to the M42, and follow directions above. Believe me, it's worth the extra effort! Approaching the hotel from the south side of town is bloody difficult at the moment, unless you're familiar with driving in the centre of Brum.

### **Car Parking.**

Car parking is available in the Pallasades car park (24 hours, £9), the main entrance to this is on Hill Street. From the Britannia Hotel go back down New Street, turning left into Stephenson Street and then follow the road right, around the back of Waterstones, the entrance to the Pallasades car park is on your left, next to the spiral ramp.

## Wheelchair Access by Pat McMurray

As you can see from the enclosed map the closest disabled parking bays to the Britannia Hotel are on Corporation Street, outside Rackhams. As far as we can find out, there is no time limit on the disabled bays, providing you have a disabled sticker. This disabled bay has space for eight cars. You need to cross Corporation Street at the Pelican Crossing and head down past C&A, turning left into New Street. The Britannia Hotel is on your right, at first floor level above Etams. Look for the blue Britannia flags.

There are loading bays closer to the hotel, in front of Etams. You can park there to unload, but even a disabled sticker may not save you from the wrath of Birmingham's Traffic Wardens. A 30 minute stay while you unload should be fine. The hotel recommend that you ask one of their porters to keep an eye on your car while you unload. However there should be dealers etc., unloading there for most of Friday afternoon. However, you cannot leave your vehicle in any of the New Street bays for the whole convention.

If you would prefer to leave your car in covered parking once you've unloaded, or if the disabled bays are full, parking is available in the Pallasades carpark (24 hours, £9) – directions above.

The entrance to the hotel is up an alleyway called Union Passage, underneath the Britannia sign. The alleyway slopes at about one to twenty.

The main entrance comprises a revolving door, leading to a small landing at the top of three stairs down to the ground floor reception. There is also a fire exit which can be opened from the inside, which leads to the same small landing. It appears possible to get an ordinary manual or powered wheelchair through the fire exit onto the landing. The hotel have a ramp for the three steps which they will lay down for the weekend. The fire exits are alarmed, but we'll ask them to switch the alarm off for the weekend. In the nature of things they will almost certainly forget to do these things, and switch the alarms on and take the ramp up at every shift changeover, but we shall do our best.

If you have a scooter or large trolley which cannot get through the fire exit, the revolving door can be completely folded back to allow very good access. I have been shown how to do this, and intend to train every gopher and anyone else who's interested in it, how to do it. The hotel have shown every sign of being helpful and friendly, but best to be prepared. I would expect that the ramp will

be down and the doors open most of Friday afternoon as the dealers come in and out as well.

The hotel has 11 floors - ground floor reception, Mezzanine bar area, which we probably won't use, first floor restaurant which we will use, second floor main con bar, dealer's room, OPs and registration, eighth floor workshops, ninth floor artshow, smaller bar and programme room. All other floors are bedrooms and there are bedrooms on the second and eighth floor as well.

There are three lifts to each floor - two public lifts and one staff lift. There are also fire escape stairs between all floors and public stairs between the ground, mezzanine and first floors. Both public lifts and all public rooms appear both wheelchair and scooter accessible. We've calculated that it will take ten minutes for the entire membership to travel by lift from the second to the ninth floor. The staff lift can be used by the membership, but appears very difficult for wheelchair access - I'd stick to the public lifts.

All the public areas on each floor are flat, with no stairs. Many of the doors are on springs and may prove difficult to open without assistance. Most entrances to public rooms are double doored and will be left open where possible. The artshow and dealers room appear large enough that they should not be crowded and manoeuvring should be reasonable.

The hotel has certain bedrooms they provide to people with access difficulties. None of them are fully accessible. All the bedroom doors are standard width, but they can remove the bathroom doors, if requested. I would suggest contacting the hotel in advance to make doubly sure they are aware of any potential difficulties. I believe wheelchairs will be able to get into the rooms, but I don't think scooters will be able to. It should be possible to get the hotel to take care of a scooter and recharge it overnight.

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact the Britannia Hotel on 0121 631 3331. I hope the above is of some assistance.

**Acknowledgements:** Thanks to Dave Hardy for the cover and to Tony Berry, Steve Lawson, Pat McMurray, Chris Murphy and Maureen Kincaid Speller for their pieces. Other text by Martin Tudor unless otherwise stated. This PR was printed on the Critical Wave photocopier, for details of Wave's competitive rates contact Martin Tudor at 24 Ravensbourne Grove, Willenhall, WV13 1HX, or e-mail empties@breathemail.net.

# Novacon Members from 14th August to 19<sup>th</sup> October 2000

168	Pat Curzon	195	Caroline Wilson
169	Phillip Nye	196	Austin Benson
170	George Curzon	197	David B. Wake
171	Alice Curzon	198	Steve Lockley
172	Noel Collyer	199	Paul Lewis
173	Alex McLintock	200	Chris Evans
174	Sherrie Powell	201	Fiona Evans
175	John F. Dowd	202	Gordon Brignal
176	Fran Dowd	203	Philip Cooper
177	Iain Banks	204	Brian Stovold
178	B.A. Blackburn	205	Mike Damesick
179	Stan Nicholls	206	Tony Cullen
180	Anne Gay	207	Ian Brooks
181	Rob Hanson	208	Barbara Brooks
182	Avedon Carol	209	Peter Crump
183	Tanya Brown	210	Billy Stirling
184	Dave Holmes	211	Susan Stepney
185	Mary Ann Hollingsworth	212	Charles Whyte
186	Peter F. Hamilton	213	Brenda Dunstan
187	Lilian Edwards	214	Catie Cary
188	David Redd	215	Harry Payne
189	Jim Anderson	216	Omega
190	Barbara Weildman	217	Kate Solomon
191	Yvonne Meaney	218	Malcolm Davies
192	John Meaney	219	Tommy Ferguson
193	Di Lewis	220	Al Johnston
194	Peter Dunn		