

# NOVACON 36



**KEN MACLEOD**

*Guest of Honour*

*Progress Report Three  
10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> November 2006*



NOVACON 36... *the stuff you need to know...*

## Memberships

Attending Membership: £36.00 until close of postal registration.

Postal registration closes on *October 31<sup>st</sup> 2006*

Full attending membership entitles you to all convention publications plus a carefully handcrafted souvenir badge with your name and Con number on it. (*Gosh...*)

Membership on door: £40.00

Day memberships: Friday: £10.00

Saturday: £20.00

Sunday: £15.00

Cheques/postal orders should be made payable to "Novacon 36" and sent, with completed registration documents to:

**Steve Lawson, 379 Myrtle Rd, Sheffield S2 3HQ**

E-mail enquiries to [xl5@zoom.co.uk](mailto:xl5@zoom.co.uk)

tel. no 0114 281 1572

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## Words from Our Chair...

by TONY BERRY.

Here is the always-thrilling PR3, full of things you need to know, like "What colour is the carpet in the bar? Have the bedrooms got windows? Does the hotel have electricity?" No idea, but if you've never been to a Novacon before, here's what to expect: A Dealers' Room where you can spend your money, a Book Auction where you can spend your money, an Art Show and Auction where you can spend your money, and a bar where you can gaze at the beer you can't afford cos you're skint. Unless of course you bring some of your own unwanted books along to be sold in the auction, then you can afford to drink (the convention takes 10% of the proceeds from both auctions).

Apart from that, there's a Programme of Events including panels, talks, silly games, the Guest of Honour spot, and the pub quiz on Saturday night. More on that later. Sunday evening sees the usual wind-down party of International Beer Tasting and Hot Food. To get the beer free, you need to contribute at least THREE bottles of British or foreign beer (the more unusual the better) which you check in to Registration when you arrive and receive a Beer Badge in return. Or you can buy a badge for £5.00. Only people with beer badges can drink the beer (including a barrel of real ale), but soft drinks will be available free to all. As our Guest of Honour is Scottish, the hot food will be of a Scottish theme. Again you MUST buy a ticket from Registration if you wish to partake of the food. This is a special event by agreement with the hotel, and does not mean that you can bring your own food or drink into the convention.

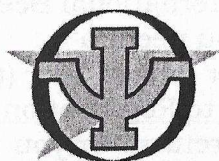
If you want to help out at the con, we need GOPHERS to ensure the smooth running of things (when the entire committee is drunk or can't be found). In return for your efforts you'll receive Groats (gopher reward tokens) which can be spent over the bar.

There is no formal CRECHE this year, but the room will be available with useful stuff in it (cages, chains...) if parents want to make their own arrangements.

We still want your old convention PHOTOS on CD to show on the TV in the dealers' room, since this proved quite popular last year. We won't have anyone sitting under the screen this time! And that's about it; see you there.

If you want more information, check out the website at

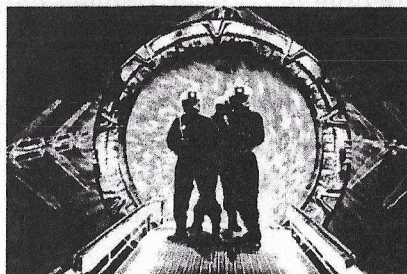
**<http://www.novacon.org>**



## **REDEMPTION '07**

**23 – 25 February 2007**

**Hinckley Island Hotel, Hinckley, Leics, UK**



This will be a fannish event concentrating on activities that let people join in rather than just sit in an audience and listen.

Events will include workshops, panels, debates, games, masquerade, drinking and so on. For more information, write with SAE to: Lesley McIntee, 26 Kings Meadow

View, Wetherby LS22 7FX, UK.

**[www.smof.com/redemption](http://www.smof.com/redemption)**

## **Blake's 7, Babylon 5 and Beyond**





# FANTASYCON XXXI

*for readers, writers, artists and fans of  
the fantasy, sf and horror genre*

**21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2007**

**Britannia Hotel, St James Street, Nottingham**

**Guests of Honour (alphabetical)**

***Michael Marshall Smith\****  
***And others tbc\****

**With Master of Ceremonies**

***Peter Crowther\****

**Events planned so far**

- ❖ Interviews ❖ Discussion panels ❖ Book Launches ❖ Genre Quiz ❖
- ❖ Special Interest Groups ❖ Charity Raffle ❖ AGM ❖ Banquet ❖
- ❖ One-to-one appointments with editors & agents\* ❖
- ❖ The British Fantasy Awards ❖

\* All guests, tutors, experts and panellists appear subject to other commitments  
– no refunds will be made in the event of any guest's non-appearance

## **FRIDAY NIGHT, SATURDAY MORNING**

Some years ago, for the final PR, I produced guidance imploring tired, perspiring fans to not bother with a shower before hitting the convention. Dear Lord, someone thought I was serious. Now I'm a health and safety officer out in the world, I'd like to remind all of you to first sanitise thoroughly by applying to your whole body the special mix of DDT, swarfega and Old Spice from the communal vat, and then to don your armoured boots and special Kevlar underwear with the security lock that won't open until Monday. It'll liven up Wendy Graham's traditional Sunday night underpants survey, if nothing else. Certainly nothing else.

Or perhaps not. Perhaps planning to move house a week before running a convention has turned my mind (such as it is). Please make sure to register on arrival.

The convention will open, as usual at 7.00 pm when the committee will introduce this year's splendid Guest Of Honour, Ken MacLeod. Ken should be known to many of you, as a regular on the British convention scene, but that makes him all the better for Guest. He's a man who pulls off the difficult trick of having strong opinions while remaining approachable and good company. Ken has a reputation as "political" too. We're not going to press that point (although we won't pretend it's not there), but we like the writer, the imagination and the style.

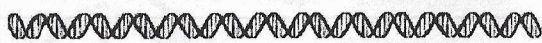
We'll follow the opening with a panel that starts with space opera, perhaps the most traditional staple of the genre, and why we still want to write – and read – it. Is it more a case these days that writers are asking what the Universe will do to us – how it will change us and how we'll change ourselves – than we'll do to it?



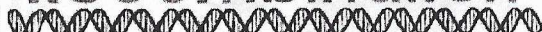
Mid-evening we host a book launch featuring the charismatic Storm Constantine. Come along and find your friends in the programme room and enjoy the hospitality.

Later we're still working on the entertainment. It'll be fabulous. It'll be amusing. It'll run until late and give you something to argue about when you get back to the bar.

The rest of the weekend, we'll endeavour to mix the amusing, the literate and the novel. Remember the pub quiz on Saturday night, too. It'll be *your* chance to shine. Although we recognise the innate intellectual modesty and disdain for trivia of our membership, you'll enjoy it. And while there's no disco (at no extra charge), we've been approached by someone who's reached the prime of life (a gentleman does *not* mention a lady's age) about celebrating their birthday with some music and dancing late that night. There isn't a dance floor, as such. What do you think we build the stage out of every year?



# Recombination



10–12 August 2007

New Hall, Cambridge

Unicon 21 + Harmuni III

+

British Roleplaying Society con

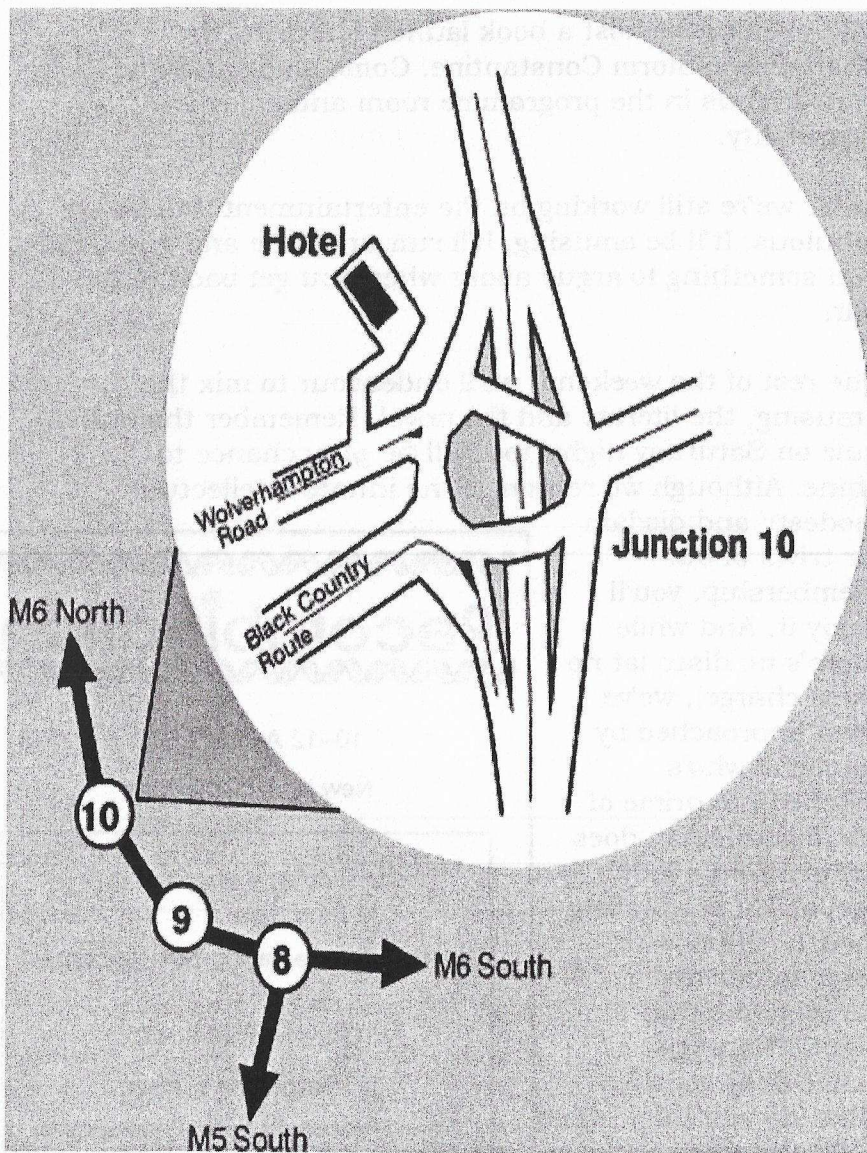
Guests of honour:

Jo Walton, Ian Watson,

Chris Pramas, Franklin Gunkelmann

<http://www.recombination.org.uk/>







## ***How to Get There:***

### **By Car**

The hotel is right next to J10 of the M6 but is not visible from the motorway.

From the North exit at J10 and turn right heading for Wolverhampton but DO NOT enter the left hand lane. (This will take you down the Black Country Route which you don't want and it is a long way to the next roundabout!)

Stay in the right-hand lane to the traffic lights and take the second exit signposted "Buses and Hotel" and then immediately the first right into what looks like a small service road. Follow this and you will come to the hotel.

Go in through the car park barrier. When you leave remember to pick up an exit token from reception.

From the South, come off at J10 and keep to the *right-hand lane*. Stay in lane as you go up the slip-road to the lights. Then follow directions as above.

### **By Public Transport**

The fares on all local buses are £1.10. Exact change is required on the buses listed. Taxi fares are approximate.

### **By Train via Wolverhampton**

The nearest intercity station to the hotel is Wolverhampton. Exit Wolverhampton station on to Railway Drive where you can pick up a taxi to the Quality Hotel (at J10 of the M6 in Bentley).

Expect to pay about £7.00 for a journey of about 10 minutes. If no taxis are available try Associated Taxis on (01902) 425591.

There is also the 529 bus to the hotel. Most of the vehicles on this route are wheelchair/buggy friendly with "kneeling suspension". They run every six minutes during the day and every twenty minutes in the evening. Walk past the taxi rank down Railway Drive to the clock and turn left past the bus station. Cross at the first crossing and continue through the



rows of shelters until you find stand F on the right. The 529 takes about twenty minutes depending on traffic. Get off after the Lane Arms pub and walk past some houses towards the motorway junction bearing left down the Wolverhampton Road West access road to the hotel.

### **By Local Train via Walsall**

Exit the station following signs to the taxi rank on Station Street. The five minute journey should cost about £6.00.

Alternatively walk down Station Street past the side of Marks and Spencers to Park Street and cut through Butler's Passage (the alleyway near Littlewoods) to St. Paul's Bus Station and catch the 529 from stand M. (See above for details).

### **By Bus from Birmingham**

Catch the 51 from Carrs Lane (facing the side of Marks and Spencers) in Birmingham to St Paul's Bus Station in Walsall. The 51 runs every seven minutes during the day and every twenty minutes in the evening. The journey lasts approximately forty minutes. Disembark at stand G and cross the bus station to stand M where you will catch the 529. Follow earlier details.

### **By Bus from Sutton Coldfield**

Catch the 366 from Lower Parades. The journey will take about 35-40 minutes. Disembark at Walsall (stand G) and cross the bus station to stand M where you catch the 529. Follow earlier details.

### **From the Airport**

Birmingham New Street Station is only ten minutes away by train from Birmingham International. A shuttle bus called Air Rail Link connects the Airport directly to Birmingham International Station. This runs approximately every ten minutes from outside Terminal 1 (Main Terminal) and International Station. It is a two minute journey and free of charge. From New Street you can pick up trains to either Walsall or Wolverhampton

and follow instructions from there. The 966 service from Bus Stop H links Walsall. Follow earlier instructions for “By Coach...”

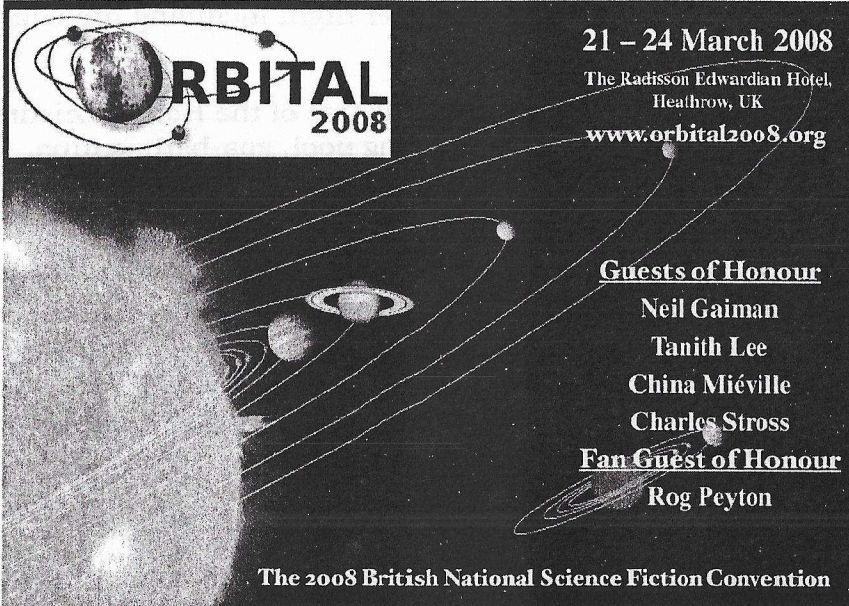
I have endeavoured to get as up-to-date information as possible. If there are any problems or changes I am unaware of, please let me know at the Convention.

### **MONEY!**

Please ensure you bring enough “walking around” cash with you as the nearest local cash point (a fifteen minute walk to the local Spar) charges a fee.

**THE HOTEL DOES NOT POSSESS A CASH MACHINE.**

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A poster for the Orbital 2008 convention. The top left features a logo with a planet and the text "ORBITAL 2008". The background is a stylized space scene with a large nebula on the left, several planets (including Saturn), and orbital paths. Text on the right provides the dates, location, website, and list of guests of honor.

**ORBITAL 2008**

**21 – 24 March 2008**  
The Radisson Edwardian Hotel,  
Heathrow, UK  
[www.orbital2008.org](http://www.orbital2008.org)

**Guests of Honour**  
Neil Gaiman  
Tanith Lee  
China Miéville  
Charles Stross

**Fan Guest of Honour**  
Rog Peyton

**The 2008 British National Science Fiction Convention**



## HOTEL INFORMATION

The venue is the **Quality Hotel, Walsall**, which is situated next to **junction 10** of the **M6**. The nearest railway station is Walsall and the nearest Intercity Station is Wolverhampton

The Quality has 150 twin/double rooms and no singles. However a number of the rooms will be released to us as singles. These are **limited** so if you particularly want a **single** please **book early** as they will be allocated on a first come first served basis. All room rates are inclusive of Full English Breakfast.

### ROOM RATES

SINGLE:	£48.00 pppn
TWIN/DOUBLE:	£36.00 pppn

There are a limited number of suites which are suitable as family rooms, again, **first come first served**. Children aged 5-12 will be charged at £10.00 per night including breakfast. Under fives go free.

All residents will be entitled to full use of the Hotel's Leisure Club facilities including swimming pool, spa-bath, sauna, gymnasium, and solarium (- fit fans with a tan? The mind boggles).

OVERFLOW HOTEL – if you are desperate for a single, and miss out, or just short of cash there is the **Travel Inn** which is 10 mins walk away. Rates are based on room, regardless of number of people sharing and many rooms will accommodate 2 adults and 2 children. Breakfast, however is **not** included.

It is up to **you** to book here:

Travel Inn, Bentley Green, Bentley Road North,  
Walsall, WS2 OWB      08701-977-256



## CONVENTION INFORMATION

### ART SHOW

The Art show will be run by Vicky Cook. If you are planning to exhibit please contact her at:

5 Greenbank,  
Barnt Green,  
Birmingham  
[aunico@hotmail.com](mailto:aunico@hotmail.com)

The CDRom Art show will also be running. If you wish to exhibit in this format your work should be sent to **Steve Lawson** (address and e-mail on p2 under “Committee”).

### DEALERS’ ROOM

This year the Dealers’ Room is being run by Tony Berry. Cost for a table for the weekend at 6ft x 2ft 6ins is £20.00. You must be a convention member to hire a table.

### AUCTIONS

Novacon runs two auctions each year: the Art auction which sells the paintings/prints etc that you’ve been admiring in the art show all weekend but don’t forget the **BOOK AUCTION!** Got books you no longer want/can’t keep due to lack of shelf/floor/stair room? Bring them along and we’ll auction them for you! Convention takes a 10% cut in both cases.

### RNIB Raffle

As usual we will be selling raffle tickets to raise money for the RNIB’s “Talking Books for the Blind” project. Winning numbers will be posted by Registrations after the awards ceremony.

28 ½r	125 Margaret Croad	181 Helen Hall
119 Michael Abbott	158 Simon Cruise	92 Dave Hardy
108 Dawn Adams	157 Penny Cruise	91 Peter Harrow
60 Andrew A. Adams	144 Serena Culfeather	59 John Harvey
189 Fatima Ahad	187 Pat Curzon	58 Eve Harvey
37 Brian Ameringen	114 John Dallman	45 Julian Headlong
38 Meriol Ameringen	50 Julia Daly	180 Karen Hetherington
100 Chris Amies	43 Malcolm Davies	185 Sarah Hicks
174 Margaret Austin	78 Steve Davies	83 Penny Hicks
194 Ped Badlan	135 Robert Day	8 Dave Hicks
150 Henry Balen	79 Giulia De Cesare	87 Martin Hoare
94 Iain Banks	77 Vincent Docherty	133 Alex Holden
27 Chris Bell	31 Paul Dormer	85 Dave Holmes
161 Doug Bell	104 Fran Dowd	172 Bogna Hutchinson
126 Austin Benson	103 John Dowd	171 Dave Hutchinson
5 Tony Berry	76 Tara Dowling-Hussey	164 Steve Jeffery
156 Kate Bodley	109 Chris Dunk	84 Al Johnston
6 Helena Bowles	188 Lynne Dunn	182 Steve Jones
20 Simon Bradshaw	44 Stephen Dunn	49 Sue Jones
21 Bridget Bradshaw	175 Martin Easterbrook	198 Kari
16 Claire Brialey	166 Lillian Edwards	155 Tony Keen
140 Christopher Brooks	118 Sue Edwards	57 William Keith
47 Pat Brown	115 Iain Emsley	162 Christina Lake
46 Vernon Brown	117 Anna Feruglio Daldan	86 Dave Lally
190 Mark Bukumunhe	145 Mike Ford	160 Dave Langford
74 Roger Burton West	165 Vikki Lee France	10 Steve Lawson
178 Alan Cash	25 Gwen Funnell	9 Alice Lawson
131 Ewan Chrystal	193 Karen Furlong	121 Erhard Leder
82 Cat Coast	192 Nigel Furlong	71 Gavin Long
116 Eddie Cochrane	191 Sabine Furlong	70 Caroline Loveridge
163 Phillip Collins	96 Carrie Gillespie	22 Peter Mabey
52 Noel Collyer	32 Niall Gordon	1 Ken MacLeod
7 Vicky Cook	146 Wendy Graham	148 Jeremy Maiden
98 Steve Cooper	90 Ann Green	68 Sue Mason
51 Dave Cox	89 Steve Green	123 Pat McMurray
97 Jane-Louise Cracknell	4 Jon Courtenay Grimwood	30 Farah Mendlesohn

56 Kostya Milayev	19 Gavin Shorrock	132 Mark W Waller
196 Nick Mills	18 Ina Shorrock	24 Peter Wareham
200 Sam Moffat	130 Renée Sieber	151 Ian Warner
15 Chris Morgan	139 Sally Sinclair	3 Ian Watson
14 Pauline Morgan	138 Mark Sinclair	54 Alan Webb
29 Miriam Moss	199 Paul Skevington	53 Gerry Webb
95 Jim Mowatt	141 Mark Slater	170 Eileen Weston
39 Caroline Mullan	149 Robert Sneddon	169 Peter Weston
93 Chris Murphy	80 Adrian Snowdon	129 Ian Whates
197 Phil Nanson	42 Kate Solomon	67 Laura Wheatly
186 Philip Nye	176 Ian Sorensen	147 Traci Whitehead
159 Krystyna Oborn	41 Douglas Spencer	99 Stuart Widdows
73 James Odell	184 Jamie Spracklen	128 Peter Wilkinson
105 John O'Donnell	152 Eddie Stachelski	81 Bridget Wilkinson
143 Jenny O'Donnell	137 Gary Starr	127 Caro Wilson
106 June O'Donnell	142 Tim Stock	134 John Wilson
107 Jonti O'Donnell	35 Chris Stocks	120 Anne Wilson
113 Roderick O'Hanlon	195 June Strachan	12 Anne Woodford
23 Chris O'Shea	179 Charles Stross	13 Alan Woodford
55 Mali Perera	48 Neil Summerfield	34 Pete Young
88 Rog Peyton	168 Jennifer Swift	
153 Greg Pickersgill	102 Fay Symes	
154 Catherine Pickersgill	101 David Symes	
17 Mark Plummer	110 George Ternent	
75 Judith Proctor	111 Linda Ternent	
72 Thomas Recktenwald	112 Calvin Ternent	
2 Alastair Reynolds	66 David Thomas	
167 John Richards	61 Neil Tomkinson	
124 Julie Faith Rigby	62 Alison Tomkinson	
36 Roger Robinson	63 Rachel Tomkinson	
26 Tony Rogers	64 Stephanie Tomkinson	
136 Marcus Rowland	65 Deborah Tomkinson	
69 Yvonne Rowse	33 Dave Tompkins	
177 Naomi Saunders	11 Paul Treadaway	
173 Jamie Scott	122 Lennart Uhlin	
183 Donna Scott	40 Jim Walker	



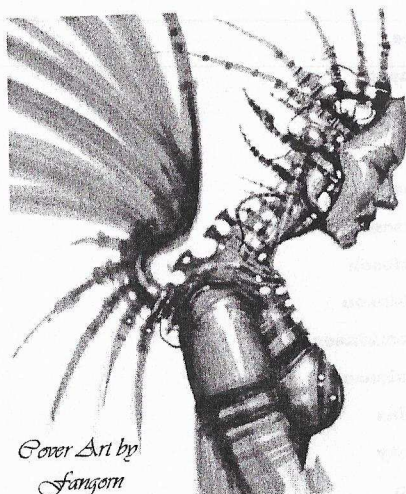
## 2006 Nova Awards

Steve Green, Administrator

Since 1973, the Nova Awards have celebrated the British science fiction fanzine; more recently, this has been expanded to include Irish fanzines and categories introduced for the writers and artists featured. The twenty-fourth annual Nova Awards ceremony will take place at Novacon 36 on Sunday, 12 November.

Voting is open to any member of Novacon 36 who has read at least six eligible fanzines published between 1 October 2005 and 30 September 2006. The form enclosed with this progress report includes a list of eligible fanzines I'm aware of, plus details of how to vote by post or e-mail if you are unable to attend Novacon or would prefer to cast your ballot before heading for Walsall.

The number of members taking part increased by 50% last year so, vote early, vote often! (Well, maybe just the once...)



*Cover Art by  
Fanzom*

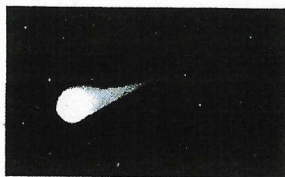
## LAUNCHED AT NOVACON TIME PIECES

A LIMITED EDITION  
ANTHOLOGY OF  
ORIGINAL STORIES.  
NUMBERED, SIGNED BY  
ALL CONTRIBUTORS

STEPHEN BAXTER  
STEVE COCKAYNE  
JON COURTENAY GRIMWOOD  
MARK ROBSON  
SARAH SINGLETON  
IAN WATSON  
IAN WHATES  
LIZ WILLIAMS

<http://www.newconpress.co.uk>

# Birmingham Science Fiction Group



THE BIRMINGHAM SCIENCE FICTION GROUP was founded in 1971 to enable local and not so local fans to get together to discuss science fiction and related topics.

We meet on the second Friday of every month, 7:45pm at the Britannia Hotel. Just 5 Minutes from New Street Station and handy for all bus routes. We usually start the evening with a guest speaker, often a professional in the field such as Brian Aldiss, Terry Pratchett or Peter F. Hamilton.

If you live anywhere in or around the West Midlands, the BSFG is the Group for you. For further information, and a copy of our monthly newsletter, please:

email

[bhamsfgroup@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bhamsfgroup@yahoo.co.uk)

Also, do visit our website at:

[www.bsfg.freesevers.com](http://www.bsfg.freesevers.com)