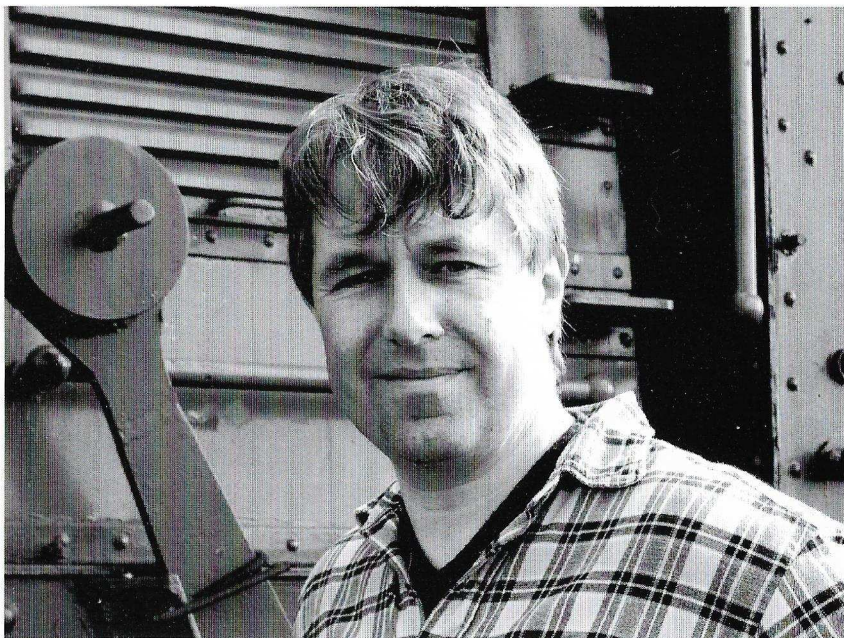


Novacon 35

Programme Book



Guest of Honour
Alastair Reynolds

11th-13th November 2005

NOVACON 35

Programme Book

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Committee: CHAIR: Tony Berry; Programme: Yvonne Rowse; Operations: Cat Coast; Registrations: Steve Lawson; Treasurer: Alice Lawson; Publications; Helena Bowles; Secretary/publicity: Vicky Cook.

Staff: Art Show: Ann Green; Tech Ops: Noel Collyer; Dave Lally Programme: Dave Lally; Transport: Al Johnston; Dealers' Room: Vicky Cook.

11th – 13th November 2005

Quality Hotel

Bentley

Walsall

Guest of Honour: Alastair Reynolds

WELCOME TO NOVACON 35

Tony Berry, Chairman.

This year the World Science Fiction Convention came to this country (OK, Scotland) and although I couldn't make it myself, I hear that it was pretty good. Worldcons are necessarily big, with multi-stream programmes and lots of running around to fit in everything you want to see. They also cost a lot, but since you're here you managed to scrape enough together to come along (or maybe just hammered your credit card a bit more).

Those of you who are old hands at this know what to expect at a Novacon, but if you're new you'll find that things are a lot more laid back than big conventions. We have a single-stream programme, not too densely packed, so you can spend more time in the bar. The emphasis is on books, so there's a large Dealers' room where you can agonize over your dwindling reserves of money, and book and art auctions where you can really grit your teeth. There's a sprinkling of lightweight stuff and some silliness to contrast with the Serious Literary panels discussing such things as the metaphysical imagery in the early works of Lionel Fanthorpe or the feminist influences of Edmund Cooper. Before all this of course, you need to buy tickets for the beer and food on Sunday evening, which is the winding-down party we have every year. Details of this and everything else you need to know are in the Read Me. Something that won't cost you anything are the fanzines which will be handed out or piled up on a table. These are written and published by fans for fans and are an important part of this convention, since it's here that the annual awards for the best work in fanzines are handed out. If you haven't read a fanzine before, now's your chance.

Our Guest of Honour this year is Alastair Reynolds, who writes my favourite type of SF – stories on a grand scale, with weird machines, serious weaponry and charging across interstellar space in really big ships. But two things are required for me to really enjoy this stuff: the characters have to be well-written and believable, and the science has to be right.

No warp speed here Captain. Fortunately Alastair is a former astrophysicist for ESA so knows his stuff, and he can write

good characters as well as a good storyline. Because he's a scientist, we also get two guests in one, writer and boffin.

Once again we are running the raffle for the RNIB Books for the Blind, which gives us the opportunity to get science fiction and fantasy books recorded for those with impaired vision. Tickets will be available throughout the weekend.

This year is the 75th anniversary of British Fandom, taken from the formation of the Ilford Circle in 1930. I wasn't there at the time, in fact I don't even think Rog Peyton was there, but we thought we'd make a bit of a party of it on Saturday night with a buffet in the disco. It's also the 50th birthday this year of several well-known fans, so they get to pick the music. Get down to the funky sounds of Yes, Genesis and Tangerine Dream.

I'd like to thank the rest of my committee: Vicky Cook (secretary, publicity and Dealers' room), Alice Lawson (treasurer), Steve Lawson (registrations), Yvonne Rowse (programme), Helena Bowles (publications) and Cat Coast (operations). Incidentally, Steve points out that he has now overtaken the legendary Bernie Evans for the most consecutive years doing membership registrations. Cor. Let's not forget the rest of the convention staff: Ann Green (art show), Martin Hoare and Noel Collier (tech), Dave Lally (media) and Al Johnston (transport). Feel free to buy them drinks.

RNIB RAFFLE

It was this year's chair, Tony Berry, who first suggested raising money for the RNIB's Talking Books for the Blind. That was back in 1988 at Novacon 18. Since then we have raised money every year for this worthy cause with proceeds going to recording a SF book that might otherwise not be available. Please dig deep in your pockets when you see Anne Woodford heading your way and let's help some SF fans enjoy books they could not otherwise experience.

Priorities and Timescales: reading Alastair Reynolds

By Maureen Kincaid Speller

To feel oneself so tiny, so fragile, so inherently losable, was at first spiritually crushing. But, by the same token, this realisation was also strangely liberating: if an individual human existence meant so little, if one's actions were so cosmically irrelevant, then the notion of some absolute moral framework made as much sense as the universal ether. Measured against the infinite, therefore, people were no more capable of meaningful sin – or meaningful good – than ants, or dust.

Now, it might be true that Quaiche, the progenitor of this mighty thought, is as mad as a hatter, but nonetheless, I do think this observation provides a useful frame of reference when considering the attractions of modern space opera in general, and the works of Alastair Reynolds in particular. Not the least of which is that it is indeed all about size.

Space is big, as Douglas Adams so memorably and helpfully remarked, in which case, squeezing it into the confines of a novel, even a quite large novel, is not an easy business. Obviously, one needs interstellar travel in order to handle those distances, which in turn indicates a futuristic setting, ideally in a world where Einstein's theory of general relativity has finally been laid to rest, though this is not necessary as time dilation offers its own dilemmas. Star ships are a given, but even with travel at near-light speed, everywhere is still a fairly long way from everywhere else, and ageing, gracefully or otherwise, would put a crimp in the ongoing story if you couldn't find a way to arrest it as needful. Thus suspended animation, reefer sleep, call it what you will, must play an integral part in the equation as well.

And here I may as well own up that most of what has caused me, over the years, to avoid space opera like the plague was the seeming preoccupation with the nuts and bolts of such a society, the ships, the paraphernalia, the process, the getting from A to B. In science fiction on such a grand scale, people functioned like ants or dust; they were somehow insignificant in the broad sweep of galactic history. It was almost as though the story couldn't slow down for long enough to let the people behave as people. Instead, they were names, plot-supporting ciphers, disposable, borne down upon relentlessly by the story's denouement without there being any proper sense of their having had a life or a culture beyond what was on the page. But times have changed, particularly in the light of the renaissance in British SF, with its reinvigoration of familiar ideas and tropes. Yes, it's still about size, but something about our relationship with the immensity of space and time has altered, and with it our perception of our place in the universe.

Revelation Space opens with an archaeological dig. There have been other interstellar archaeological digs, of course – we reference 2001 immediately – but it's an excellent shorthand reminder that in this series we're going to be dealing with huge periods of galactic time. In fact, the novel itself turns out to be rather more parochial, with a cast of distinctive individuals, working in a star system which almost feels like a neighbourhood. Throughout, the small and the large vie for supremacy while co-existing in a dynamic and very necessary tension. To attempt to think big all the time is to exhaust oneself almost immediately, but to think small is to become so insular as to be unable to sustain the narrative within the vastness of its setting. Reynolds very skilfully switches between the two views, on the one hand showing us Ilia Volyova and Ana Khouri struggling with their cantankerous light-hugger, the Nostalgia for Infinity, as they pursue their individual missions to capture Daniel Sylveste, before switching to a more panoramic view, retracing Sylveste's visit to Lascaille's Shroud and his mysterious encounter with the Shrouders.

As the series unfolds, and the menace of the Inhibitors becomes clearer, the panoramic view shifts, away from Sylveste and his wife,

now transcendent beings, living within a huge storage matrix, towards some of the other inhabitants of the universe, among them the Conjoiners, but still the human scale persists. On the one hand it's an obvious gambit to personalise the incomprehensible, give it a name, a shape of sorts, maybe an existential dilemma, but Reynolds' characters are more complex, have greater depth than that. They wear neither the white hat nor the black, for the most part, but are distinctively 'human' in the range of emotions and ambivalences that they display. And that goes as much for the augmented characters, the cyborgs, the unholy laboratory miscegenations that give us Scorpio the hyperpig, and Captain John Brannigan, who has become melded with his own spaceship, the *Nostalgia for Infinity* (in territory that definitely does not owe a thing to Anne McCaffrey).

What I find so fascinating, so enjoyable about Reynolds' work is that he focuses on the characters, even when they're surrounded by what one might call Cool Stuff. The ramifications of using technology are always apparent: Ana Khouri has, irretrievably it seems, lost her husband during reefersleep, because of an administrative error which routed their caskets to different places (there's a whole charitable organisation which devotes its time to dealing with reefersleep refugees). Even if they do ever meet again, it's unlikely they'll ever be the same physical age. Scorpio is constantly aware that his altered body has physical problems which will not beset his fully human companions, not to mention the problems a pig has with holding a gun intended for a human grip. The widespread use of alpha- and beta-level avatars brings with it a whole new raft of problems about maintaining and establishing identity. And even the most powerful beings, like Captain Brannigan, more ship than human, can be beset with doubts that affect the decisions they make.

And yet alongside this concern with the effects of living in a technologically advanced world there is also a certain gosh-wow factor that I find rather attractive, primarily because it's so understated. From the point of view of Reynolds' characters, their world is, for the most part, unremarkable; it's what they've grown up with and they're used to it. For them, gosh-wow comes into play with,

say, the cache-weapons, or the Inhibitors themselves (I never said gosh-wow had to be pleasant), or the remarkable things Skade manages to do with her spaceships, and that's what they comment on. For the most part, they don't comment on light-huggers, augmented humans (unless the augmentation is *really* bizarre), personality scanning and so forth because these are part of the scenery; all of them, at the same time. As a consequence, the reader loses the sense of being shown around the world, something which almost always fatally undermines a narrative in my view, and instead becomes part of it, responding as the other characters respond, and shrugging philosophically when they do.

This in no way damages the epic sense that also prevails. We're dealing with huge time spans; entire colonies are wiped out just off camera, places we've come to care about vanish from the sky, the fortunes of Chasm City wax and wane and wax again. And even the Inhibitors, scourge of this universe, are finally given some sort of perspective with the realisation that there are other universes stacking up beyond this one. Like a densely-petalled flower unfolding forever we go deeper into the narrative, further out into the universe, though I do wonder whether *Absolution Gap* maybe travelled a universe too far beyond the familiar neighbourhood for us to keep a grip on it.

As if recognising this himself, Reynolds' most recent book, *Century Rain*, proved to be something very different, part time-travel story, part alternative history (though not quite in the sense you might suppose), part detective story. To describe it as 'charming' is to sound as though I'm denigrating it, but it was welcome light relief after the intensity of *Absolution Gap*, even though Reynolds seemed to be hell-bent on destroying the world yet again. Or at any rate, a world. I liked the premise behind this novel – a snapshot of Earth circa 1940, preserved in a structure, and activated almost by accident, after which its history gradually diverges from that of Earth¹. Only, Earth² has been infiltrated by enemies of Earth¹ and everything is heading for disaster unless Verity Auger, another of Reynolds' archaeologists, can straighten things out.

I've already noted that Reynolds' characters are complex. They're not pleasant, either, for the most part. Verity Auger lives up to her name. She's after the truth, and she will drill for that truth, literally and figuratively. She's focused, determined, doesn't really do that well at winning the admiration of others but has an authenticity about her that is very attractive. The same is true, in particular, of Ilia Volyova and Ana Khouri but it seems to be purely coincidental that all three are female, for his range of male characters are equally striking, from the self-absorbed Daniel Sylveste to the affable, jazz-playing private detective Wendell Floyd, and Scorpio, who in particular pursues a long and difficult struggle to reconcile his porcine perception of the world with the fact that he mainly spends his life dealing with the human and postmortal. But I think we respond to them because they are such a mixture of traits. As I said earlier, there are no clear villains, no obvious heroes. One or two characters are intrinsically good, but I cannot think of one who is simply, purely bad. And maybe the most interesting character of all is arguably not a character at all – I know I'm not the only reader who enjoys the *Nostalgia for Infinity*, Gormenghast in space as I've seen it quite reasonably described, though as Reynolds himself puts it, this is a ship 'so large – so stupidly large – that even its extremities beggared the mind.'

Another thing I like about Reynolds' work is that he is clearly in dialogue with the SF genre. Does this matter? With space opera, I think it does. I'm not talking about rampantly visible intertextuality here, with nods, winks and nudges all over the place to books that have gone before (though possibly the greatest thing Iain M. Banks has done for SF is to introduce really cool names for spaceships), but about a sense that the universe is shared and that it's OK to play with the ideas of others. As I said earlier, I am not a fan of older-style space opera, and I enjoy seeing the tropes twisted and subverted. I mentioned Anne McCaffrey before; Captain Brannigan is a long way from the Ship That Sang, but I find his relationship with his spacecraft and its inhabitants rather more interesting, for all that it's a lot messier. In *Absolution Gap* it's difficult, reading about the huge moving caravans, to avoid seeing certain analogies with, among others, the writing of Ray Bradbury, Christopher Priest and Ian

McDonald. There is a sense of lineage, which, in a universe of this size, once again provides a useful perspective.

The epigraph to *Absolution Gap* is a quotation from Sir James Jeans: 'The Universe begins to look more like a great thought than a great machine.' Reynolds' universes are indeed thoughtful rather than mechanistic, and in this, I think, lies their greatest attraction for the reader. However far into the future the narrative might push, how panoramic the expanse of the universe, the worlds that Reynolds creates are still believable at the human level as well. People will still exist as people rather than as dust motes, and their lives will still matter. Whatever else changes, that spark will endure.

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

Also, do visit our website at:

www.bsfg.freesevers.com

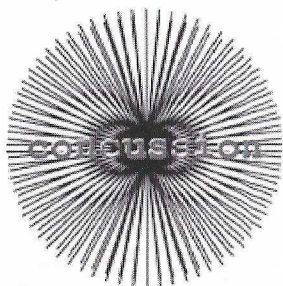
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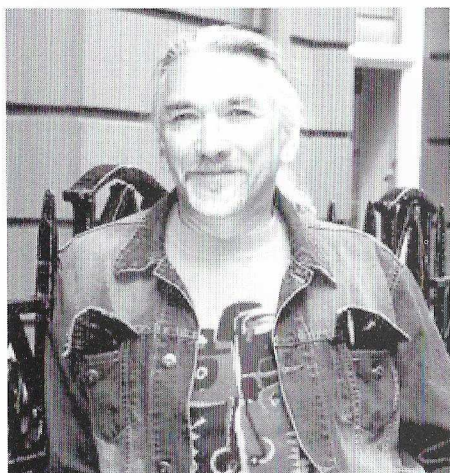
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Glacial	(Spectrum SF 5, 2001)
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The Real Story	(Mars Probes, ed. Peter Crowther, 2002)
Turquoise Days	(Chapbook from Golden Gryphon, 2002)
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Zima Blue	(Postscripts 4, ed. Peter Crowther)



Concussion

The 2006 Eastercon

14th-17th April, Moat House Hotel, Glasgow



**Guests
of
Honour**

M. John Harrison

**Elizabeth
Hand**

**Justina
Robson**

**Brian
Froud**

**Ian
Sorensen**

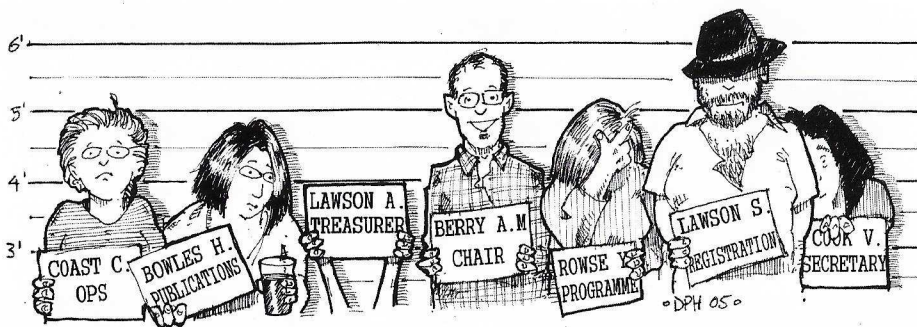
Special Guests: Dan Abnett, Marc Gascoigne, Mat Irvine, Johanna Sinisalo and Dee Parker

**Membership £50 Attending / £25 Supporting (cheques to 'Concussion')
Join today at Novacon, or for further details or enquires see our web site**

www.eastercon2006.org

or write to:

23 Ranelagh Road, Bruce Grove, London N17 6XY



The Unusual Suspects...

If it hadn't been banned from all public buildings, cigarette smoke would have filled the agent's office. Somehow proffering a stick of nicotine gum just didn't form the same bond when interviewing suspects.

He smoothed a pile of fat folders with mug shots pinned to them, marked *CRIMES AGAINST FANDOM* and turned his attention to the dishevelled husk of a man they'd hauled from the smoking remains of the convention.

"So they just rounded up the usual suspects," said the wretch. "I mean, you lock a crew like that together and they're going to plot *something*. There they all were, in the bar, stuck together for hours finishing off the real ale until someone came up with some crazy scheme."

"Go on, you sleaze ball," said the agent.

"There was **Helena Bowles** doing **Publications**, a tough con runner whose fanzine criticism used to make grown men weep with fear, still with the scars on her knuckles from running the crèche at Ghod knows how many conventions.

"Sitting next to Bowles, when she wasn't under the table, was **Yvonne Rowse** who did the **Programme**. Rowse knew how to handle Guests of Honour, on big scores like the Worldcon, and scheduled programmes at Easter and Novacons. She'd smile and call you 'darling' and the next thing you knew you were running a quiz and on three panels in succession.

“**Vicky Cook** was the **Secretary** and liked to pretend it was all new to her as if she hadn’t been involved in Fantasycon and keeping a bunch of degenerates like the BSFG going. I figure in retrospect, if they hadn’t let her write it all down, you’d have no evidence.

“Still, you ain’t going to pull off a job like this without gaffer tape and electrical cable, which is where **Cat Coast** came in, to run **Operations**. Piss her off and you’d find yourself scheduled as DCM when the shit hit the fan. She started out as Secretary and got the taste for it.

“**The Lawsons** worked together on every job, **Steve**, who did **Registrations**, and **Alice**, who was **Treasurer**. There was hardly a convention happened didn’t have their fingerprints on it somewhere, so much so that some said it would be simpler just to give them all your money now. He’s a scary guy. I mean, how many non-smokers do you know who carry *two* lighters. Only one scarier than him is *her*.”

“Okay,” said the agent. “But get to the *man*.”

The wretch gulped cold coffee and wiped a tear from his eye.

“It’s not like that,” he whined, “he’s my *friend*.”

The agent snorted in derision.

“**Tony Berry** was the **Chairman**,” the wretch continued, “but he’s no criminal mastermind, honest guv’nor. All right, they met at his house, drank his booze, helped him erect a gazebo, petted his cat and admired his swanky new bathroom but he was forced into it like the rest of them. He’s an innocent law-abiding master locksmith who just got dragged off the street one day into a con hotel and never fully recovered, serving on umpteen Novacon committees since.”

He paused.

“Oh all right. I can see you’re not going to fall for that. It was all Berry. It was Berry’s idea. It was Berry got everyone drunk and forced them to serve on the committee. Tony Berry *is* Keyser Soze.”

THE PROGRAMME...

***By
Yvonne Rowse***

Friday

6.30 Opening Ceremony

In which the committee introduce Alastair Reynolds, Guest of Honour, read any important notices and escape as soon as possible.

7.30 Book Launch

Come along for free drinks, free nibbles, pay for books and have a free signature! More details at the opening ceremony.

9.30 Room 101

Steve Green quizzes Alastair about the things he hates most and decides which should be sent to Room 101.

10.30 The Dave Hicks Special Quiz

Birmingham versus the Universe – (in the fight between you and the Universe – back the Universe). Do you know more about SF than the panelists?

Saturday

10.00 Genetic Manipulation

Pauline Morgan asks Alastair Reynolds & Charles Stross to take a look at the ideas in science, SF and beyond.

11.30 Book Auction

The Novacon Book Auction brought to you by those celebrated auctioneers, Chris Morgan and Rog Peyton. We hope you have plenty of books requiring sensitive adoption.

1.00 Somehow the Catastrophes are not so Cosy Anymore

Following a year full of disasters and with the media full of portents of doom about bird flu, we ask our panelists Nigel & Sabine Furlong, Julian Headlong and Pete Young, about how we deal with catastrophe in the Real World and whether SF will help us to be among the survivors.

2.30 I Want My Kids to Read SF...

We were mostly, I guess, infected with SF in our teens, and for most of us it has provided a lifelong obsession. I'd like my kids to read SF. I ask the panel what five books they would recommend and why. Would they choose a different set of books for each sex? With Peter Weston, Julia Daly, Claire Brialey and Farah Mendelsohn.

4.00 Guest of Honour

Alastair Reynolds' speech to Novacon

5.30 The Julian Headlong Experience

Science Fiction, Science Fact and Julian – 50 years of basic naughtiness...

7.00 The Stars Like Frogspawn

With his Max Bialystock hat on, Tony Keen explains his latest insane theatrical notion, to adapt the Athenian comic dramatist Aristophanes for a science fiction audience. Last people out of the room at the end are the cast ...

8.00 Saturday Night FilmFest

Those of you who attended Novacon 34 may recall our Friday night showcasing of the award-winning Italian science fiction short, E:D:E:N, fresh from its acclaim at Manchester's Festival of Fantastic Films.

This time out, we're widening the event, with a selection that

includes Ross Shepherd's Delta Award-winning fantasy *The Kingdom of Shadows*, a gentle paean to the frontier years of cinema, Sam Rogers' twisted psychodrama *Feathers*, Ian Hothersall's apocalyptic comedy *The Omnicide 8000* and Daniel Austin's chilling *Bloodline*. Plus the usual surprises (who could forget last year's 30-second versions of *The Shining* and *The Exorcist*, re-enacted by bunnies?). Hope you can join us - and don't forget the popcorn.

9.30 Fan Auction

Alison Scott and Claire Brialey auction fabulous items to raise funds for TAFF and GUFF.

10.30 Novacon Disco

In which we celebrate the greying of fandom. Julian Headlong, Dave Holmes & Paul Oldroyd are 50 this year and fandom itself is 75. Bring along a playlist and we'll try to get the DJ to turn the amp down from 11.

Sunday

10.00 Catching Starlight

Until he became a full-time writer Alastair Reynolds worked as an astrophysicist. In 'Catching Starlight' he talks about the research he has been involved in over the last few years.

11.30 Art Auction

Your chance to buy from the artshow with master auctioneers, Rog Peyton and Chris Morgan.

1.00 Eastercon

2007 – will there be one? Do we care? With Eve Harvey, Fran Down, Simon Bradshaw and Michael Abbott.

2.30 Politics

This is not about the content of modern politics, but about the processes, taking a very broad view of politics as comprising the processes by which people collectively settle on what is to be done and how when there is no agreement about either. With Caroline Mullan and Claire Brialey.

4.00 Dr Who

So how did it happen? How did the series that everyone except Paul Oldroyd had given up on become the darling of the BBC again? And is there anyone out there who doesn't think Christopher Eccleston was a fab Doctor? With Andrew Adams, Lucy Zinkiewicz and Martin Easterbrook

5.00 Awards and Not The Closing Ceremony

In which awards are presented, the raffle is drawn and the convention is officially put into cryogenic suspension until next year, except for...

7.30 Beer Tasting and Indonesian Food

As is traditional the Sunday night food has been chosen by our Guest of Honour. Alastair Reynolds has a fondness for the Indonesian Rice Table so we are presenting you with the opportunity to sample one tonight. Ticket holders ONLY. Tickets £9.50 from registration.

The equally traditional Beer Tasting will also be taking place. As usual admittance is by presenting registration with three bottles of beer (or £5.00 if you're really boring) in return for a BEER BADGE. Only badge holders may take part in the Beer Tasting although soft drinks are available for all.

General Certificate of Science-fiction Education AND DRAW

*Compiled 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 not please contact Registration.

This is a multiple choice quiz. Each question has been given several "outline" answers, which are often abbreviated because giving them in full would make things much too easy. You have to 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.

Instructions

1. Each question on the paper has several answers.
2. Mark the answer that you think is correct.
3. Decide 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&B you will obtain an Ordinary Level GCSE if you pass, if you submit Sections A&C you will gain an Advanced Level GCSE if you pass. Pass mark is 40% and each certificate is graded.
4. Having decided which sections to submit ignore the other one.
5. The answer paper has lettered and numbered squares that correspond to the questions and answers on the question paper. Carefully BLOCK OUT with black or blue ink, ballpoint or felt tip the squares corresponding to your chosen answers. Do not circle, cross or otherwise mark the squares, or use pencil because the marking system cannot cope with anything else and your paper will be rejected. If you make a mistake put a large X through the incorrect square.
6. Block out the square corresponding to the sections you are submitting i.e. A&B or A&C and print your name and address, which will be used as an address label if you do not collect your certificate during NOVA CON.
7. Post your answer paper in the GCSE box at REGISTRATION on SATURDAY evening by 6.00pm but watch the GCSE posters for any alteration to this deadline.
8. All answer papers submitted will be entered into a free draw.
9. Collect your certificate from me on Saturday evening/Sunday and find out whether you have also won a prize.
10. Finally, no one else will know how you have done unless you tell them, so please have a go, you may do better than you think.

GCSE QUESTION PAPER

PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

SECTION A

1. 'Dragons Egg' (RL Forward) is about life on/in a/an ?
a) Cloud b) Dinosaur reserve c) Generation ship d) Neutron star e) Volcano
2. 'The Technicolor Time Machine' (H Harrison) is about ?
a) Altering history b) Filmmaking c) Painting d) Surveying e) Teaching
3. According to Heinlein which animal walks through walls?
a) Cat b) Dog c) Gnurr d) Mouse e) Sparrow
4. In Stirling's 'Sea of Time' series, which island moves back in time?
a) Corsica b) Cuba c) Nantucket d) Manhattan e) Wight
5. What sort of universe is Fredric Browns' 'What Mad Universe'?
a) Alien b) Chaotic c) Eustatic d) Fannish e) Microcosmic
6. What is the alternative title of 'Lord Kalvan of Otherwhen' ?
a) BB b) GG c) HH d) JJ e) TT
7. How is the Moon reached in 'The First Men in the Moon' (Wells)?
a) Balloon b) Cavorite c) Gunpowder d) Lunine e) Rocket
8. Who wrote 'A Planet called Krishna'?
a) BWA b) SDC c) JKL d) HBP e) AVV
9. 'On The Beach' (Shute) is set after a/an ?
a) Atomic war b) Cometfall c) Interplanetary war d) Plague e) Timeslip

10. 'The Cold Equations' (Tom Godwin) describe ?
a)Disease spread b)Ice Ages c) The Suns death d)Suspended animation e)The universe

11.At what temperature does paper burn (Bradbury)?
a)80R b)100C c)212F d)273A e)451F

12.Which SF radio play panicked America in 1938?
a)DOG b)TTC c)TTM d)WITA e)WOTW

13.In which novel does the verb 'to grok' first appear?
a)COTL b)LHOD c)SIASL d)TATA e)TSM

14.'Forbidden Planet' (Film) is based on what play?
a) RUR b) WSS c) TS d)TBT e) TT

Questions 15-17 are quotations. What are their sources?

15.'All the universe - or nothingness... Which shall it be, Passworthy?'
a)DLY b)FALM c)MAS d)TLDD e)TTC

16.'Overhead the stars were slowly going out'
a)TEOE b)NBNOG c)ASO d)BOTNS e)SSTTS

17.'Noone would have believed in the last years of the nineteenth century that this world was being watched keenly...'
a)WITA b)TBOD c)TDOG d)DOM e)WOTW

SECTION B

18.A Triffid (Novel,Wyndham)is a/an ?
a)Ambulatory plant b)Martian c)Mutant spider d)Sea monster e)Time traveller

19. Who wrote 'I Robot'?
- a) BA b) DA c) IA d) H e) HW
20. When was the first NOVACON held?
- a) 1965 b) 1967 c) 1969 d) 1971 e) 1973
21. How many thousand leagues under the sea (Verne)?
- a) 10 b) 20 c) 30 d) 40 e) 50
22. In 'War of the Worlds' (Wells) how many legs has a Martian fighting machine?
- a) 2 b) 3 c) 4 d) 6 e) 8
23. Who wrote 'The Hitch-Hikers Guide to the Galaxy'?
- a) BA b) DA c) HH d) HP e) VV
24. What is the robot's name in 'Forbidden Planet'?
- a) HAL b) Id c) Marvin d) Robby e) XL5
25. The Clangers live on/in a/an?
- a) Blue Moon b) Island c) Mountain d) Spacestation e) Submarine
26. Dan Dare, Pilot of the Future, first appeared in which comic?
- a) Beano b) Dandy c) Eagle d) Falcon e) Swift
27. Which is 'The Red Planet'?
- a) Dune b) Mars c) Mercury d) Pluto e) Sirius
28. In 'The Time Machine' (Wells) what are the underground dwellers called?
- a) Delas b) Elooi c) Morlocks d) Orcs e) Worms
29. What is the computer's name in '2001 - A Space Odyssey'?
- a) HAL9000 b) IBX c) James d) Robby e) Satan
30. 'All animals are equal but some are more equal than others' is a quote from?
- a) WD b) AF c) NEF d) ECH e) BNW

31. What is the nearest known star to the Earth (CARE!)?

a)DS b)GS c)PS d)TS e)XS

32. In the 'Back to the Future' series what form did the time machine take?

a)Belt b)Cabinet c)Car d)Chair e)Lorry

33. In 'A Grand Day Out' where do Wallace and Gromit go for cheese?

a)France b)Mars c)Moon d)Scotland e)Wensleydale

SECTION C

SUBMIT SIXTEEN ANSWERS ONLY FROM THIS SECTION

18. Where do 'The Puppet Masters' (Heinlein) come from?

a)Deimos b)Ganymede c)Pluto d)Titan e)Venus

19. What are the catastrophic 'Currents of Space' (Asimov)?

a)Carbon b)Gravity c)Hydrogen d)Magnetic e)Solar wind

20. On which battle does 'Bring the Jubilee' (Ward Moore) hinge?

a)Britain b)Gettysburg c)Hastings d)Salamis e)Trafalgar

21. 'Lest Darkness Fall' (L Sprague de Camp) is set in which city?

a)Athens b)Berlin c)London d)New York e)Rome

22. In 'A Rebel in Time' (H Harrison) what weapon almost changes history?

a)Caltrop b)Crossbow c)Grenade d)Musket e)Stengun

23. Sirius, in the novel by Olaf Stapledon, is a/an ?

a)Dog b)Scientist c)Star d)Superman e)World Leader

24. In 'Nightfall' (Asimov) how many stars are initially known to exist?

a)2 b)6 c)16 d)44 e)120

25. In which novel by Shute is the seventh vote awarded by the Queen?
a) AOC b) ITW c) NH d) O e) OTB
26. How old is Baby, according to Theodore Sturgeon?
a) 1 b) 2 c) 3 d) 4 e) 5
27. Who wrote 'Ill Met in Lankhmar'?
a) FL b) RC c) AM d) MM e) AN
28. When was the first ever structured SF convention held?
a) 1926 b) 1937 c) 1939 d) 1943 e) 1947
29. Who directed 'Metropolis' (1926)?
a) LB b) RC c) AH d) FL e) GM
30. The term 'Robot' was first used in ?
a) F b) TRG c) TMM d) FP e) RUR
31. What film was based on 'Rocket Ship Galileo' (Heinlein)?
a) DM b) EM c) FIM d) RXM e) TR
32. When did the London 'White Horse' meetings begin?
a) 1936-40 b) 1941-45 c) 1946-50 d) 1951-55 e) 1956-60
33. 'The Day the Earth Stood Still' (Film) is based on ?
a) WWC b) FTTM c) LAFM d) TMWCWM e) WOTW
34. 'Quest for Love' (Film) is based on a story by ?
a) BA b) JC c) RH d) HBP e) JW
35. In 'Sliding Doors' (Film) what/where are the sliding doors?
a) Bookshop b) Eurostar c) Hospital d) Lift e) London Underground
36. 'Der Sandmann/Coppelia' describes an early version of a ?
a) Matter transmitter b) Radio c) Robot d) Spaceship e) Time machine
37. In 'Omnilingual' (H B Piper) the key to Martian is what sort of table?
a) Contents b) Genealogical c) Geological d) Multiplication e) Periodic

Nova Awards

Steve Green, Administrator

In 1973, Novacon instituted the annual Nova Awards to celebrate achievement in British science fiction fanzines. Originally handed down by a panel of judges, these accolades are now decided by Novacon members who can demonstrate a basic knowledge of current fanzines.

Following Novacon 32, the three categories – best fanzine, best fanzine writer, best fanzine artist – were extended to cover fanzines produced in Eire. In addition, electronic fanzines are now eligible, provided a file copy is lodged with the current administrator at the address below.

Previous Winners

1973: *Speculation* #32, ed. Peter Weston (best fanzine). [At this point, the award was decided by a panel of “worthy fans”; also nominated were Peter Roberts’ *Egg* #6, Arthur Cruttenden’s *Idiocy Couchant* #2, Ian Maule’s *Maya* #5, Ian Williams’ *Siddhartha* #3, Kevin Smith’s *Sfinx* #7, Dave Sutton’s *Shadow* #19 and Lisa Conesa’s *Zimri* #5. The initial judges were Ken Bulmer, Jim Linwood, Phil Rogers and Tony Walsh; Linwood wrote in C#6 that an open vote “would lead to partisan voting, accusations of undue pressure and ballot rigging, and faneds wanting the award might tend to play to the gallery”. There were mutterings that *Speculation* won due to pressure from the Birmingham SF Group, which had taken over Novacon, but it was in fact nominated by Surrey-based fanzine editor Gray Boak.]

1974: *Zimri*, ed. Lisa Conesa; *Big Scab*, ed. John Brosnan. [This was the first – and, so far, only – occasion when two fanzines tied for the Nova.]

1975: *Maya* #8, 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.

1981: *Tappen*, ed. Malcolm Edwards (best fanzine); Chris Atkinson (new award: best fanzine writer); Pete Lyon (new award: best fanzine artist).

1982: *Epsilon*, ed. Rob Hansen; Chris Atkinson; Rob Hansen.

1983: *A Cool Head*, ed. Dave Bridges; Dave Bridges; Margaret Welbank. [This was the first occasion one fan received two Novas in the same year. It had occurred six more times by 2004.]

1984: *Xyster*, ed. Dave Wood; Anne Hammill; D West.

1985: *Prevert*, ed. John Jarrold; Abi Frost; Ros Calverly.

1986: *Pink Bedsocks*, 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. [*A polite acronym for *Fuck The Tories*.]

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 and Pam Wells; Simon Ounsley; D West. [Intriguingly, *Attitude* was intended both as a fanzine and a thematic progress report for the 1996 convention.]

1996: *Waxen Wings & Banana Skins*, ed. Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer; Alison Freebairn; D West. [This year's "best fanzine" was a partnership of two initially separate titles; by the following Nova ballot, they had merged to become *Banana Wings*.]

1997: *Banana Wings*, ed. Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer; Mark Plummer; Sue Mason.

1998: *Banana Wings*, ed. Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer; Maureen Kincaid Speller; D West.

1999: *Barmaid*, ed. Yvonne Rowse; Yvonne Rowse; Sue Mason.

2000: *Plokta*, ed. Alison Scott, Steve Davies and Mike Scott; Yvonne Rowse; Sue Mason.

2001: *Head*, ed. Doug Bell and Christina Lake; Alison Freebairn; Dave Hicks.

2002: *Plokta*, ed. Alison Scott, Steve Davies and Mike Scott; Claire Brialey; Dave Hicks.

2003: *Zoo Nation*, ed. Pete Scott; Claire Brialey; Sue Mason.

2004: *Zoo Nation*, ed. Pete Scott; Claire Brialey; Sue Mason.

Past administrators: Tony Berry, Sandra Bond, Dave Langford, Martin Tudor, Paul Vincent, Pam Wells.

Current Rules

[Created 1973 by the late Gillon Field. Initial rules drawn up March 1978 by Dave Langford, and revised by him in September 1983. Revised February 1987 by Martin Tudor. Expanded and revised late November 2002 by Steve Green.]

1. The Nova Awards celebrate fanzines, fanzine writing and fanzine artwork produced by science fiction fans resident in the UK or Ireland, providing a friendly pat on the back to those whose efforts gave the greatest pleasure to Novacon members during the previous year. They have no vast cosmic significance. Should any difficulties arise in interpreting the rules governing the Nova Awards (henceforth referred to as the Novas), those concerned are urged to follow the course most in keeping with this spirit.
2. The Novas shall be announced at Novacon, the convention organised annually by the Birmingham Science Fiction Group.
3. The categories shall be "Best Fanzine", "Best Fan Writer" and "Best Fan Artist".
4. A trophy shall be supplied in each category by the Novacon committee, for presentation at the awards ceremony on Sunday afternoon.
5. The trophies shall be presented by Novacon's guest(s) of honour (or, if unavailable, by the Novacon committee chair), on behalf of the convention membership.
6. In the event of a tie, the joint recipients shall be asked to share the trophy unless the Novacon committee is willing and able to fund a duplicate trophy.
7. As the Novas are awarded by popular vote, there is no mechanism for eligible editors, writers or artists to withdraw their work or themselves from consideration. A winner determined not to be honoured can always refuse to accept his or her award.
8. In the event that Novacon should not be held in any given year, the Birmingham Science Fiction Group shall be requested to underwrite a ballot in early October of the preceding Novacon's membership, using established criteria and deadlines. Winners shall be notified by e-mail and post, with the full results publicised through fanzines and electronic noticeboards. If the Birmingham Science Fiction Group is willing and able to fund trophies, these shall be presented at the next Eastercon or similarly major event.

9. Should Novacon be cancelled for a second year in succession, the Nova Award Administrator (henceforth referred to as the Administrator) shall meet with the committee of the Birmingham Science Fiction Group to decide as a matter of urgency whether to discontinue the Novas or allow another convention to take over Novacon's role.
10. For the purposes of the Novas, a fanzine shall be defined as an amateur publication concerned with science fiction and / or fantasy, fans of science fiction and / or fantasy, and / or related subjects, copies of which may be obtained in exchange for other such publications or in response to letters of comment. In the event that eligibility is unclear, the decision of the Administrator shall be final.
11. The "Best Fanzine" category shall be open to any fanzine published in the UK or Ireland, provided at least one issue has been published between 1 October of the preceding year and 30 September of the current year. In cases where a fanzine has two or more editors, at least one must be resident in the UK or Ireland.
12. Electronic fanzines ("e-zines") shall be eligible in the "Best Fanzine" category, provided each issue is a distinct entity and a printed copy is available if preferred. A file copy must also be lodged with the Administrator, whose decision on eligibility shall be final.
13. The "Best Fan Writer" category shall be open to anyone resident in the UK or Ireland who has contributed a piece of writing to an eligible fanzine published between 1 October of the preceding year and 30 September of the current year.
14. The "Best Fan Artist" category shall be open to anyone resident in the UK or Ireland who has contributed a piece of artwork to an eligible fanzine published between 1 October of the preceding year and 30 September of the current year.
15. Voting shall be open to any member of that year's Novacon, provided he or she has received at least six different fanzines published in the UK or Ireland between 1 October of the preceding year and 30 September of the current year (separate issues of an individual fanzine or various organs of a group / society shall not be considered as different fanzines for the purposes of this total). Voters are not required to be resident in the UK or Ireland.
16. Ballot forms shall be circulated with the final Novacon progress report each year, to facilitate voting by post or e-mail prior to Novacon. The deadline for postal and electronic votes shall be 23:59 GMT on the Saturday prior to Novacon; the deadline for voting in person shall be 23:59 GMT on the Saturday of Novacon.
17. Only one ballot form shall be accepted from each member, and votes for themselves or their own fanzines will be disallowed (should a duplicate form be received, it should be clearly marked "Invalid" and exempt from the count).
18. Valid ballots should include the voter's name, address and Novacon membership number, plus the titles of six different fanzines published in the UK or Ireland between 1 October of the preceding year and 30 September of the current year (separate issues of an individual fanzine or various organs of a group / society shall not be considered as different fanzines for the purposes of this total).
19. Ballots sent by post or handed in at the convention should be signed. Those sent electronically should emanate from the voter's known e-mail address.
20. Production of ballot forms, organisation of the count and general promotion of the Novas shall be the responsibility of the Administrator, appointed by the preceding year's Novacon committee. The Administrator should have a good basic knowledge of British fanzines but, to prevent dispute, it is preferable he or she should not edit a fanzine likely to qualify.
21. The Administrator shall in turn nominate two Novacon members to assist with the count on the Sunday of the convention; again, they should have a wide knowledge of fanzines but preferably not edit a fanzine likely to qualify. During the count, they shall also assist the Administrator with issues of eligibility and ballot validity. The decision of this group shall be final.

22. First-, second- and third-place votes shall be available in each category. First-place votes shall be allocated three points, second-place votes two points and third-place votes one point. 23. In the event of a tie on points, the Nova in that category shall be awarded to the nominee with most first-place votes. In the event of a tie on first-place votes, the award shall be made to the nominee with most second-place votes. Only in the case of identical voting patterns shall a formal tie be announced.

24. The identity and choices of individual voters, as well as any discussions during the count, shall remain confidential. A complete breakdown of nominees and points received shall be released within one month of the announcement of the winners.

25. The Nova Awards ballot form shall comprise a short introduction to the aims of the award and appropriate footnotes on definitions and eligibility, plus space for the voter to identify themselves and indicate their receipt of at least six different fanzines published in the UK or Ireland between 1 October of the preceding year and 30 September of the current year (separate issues of an individual fanzine or various organs of a group / society shall not be considered as different fanzines for the purposes of this total).

26. Further, the ballot form shall list the three categories, "Best Fanzine", "Best Fan Writer" and "Best Fan Artist"; in each case, space will be allotted for first-, second- and third-place votes.

27. Finally, if he or she wishes, the Administrator shall include a shortlist of known eligible fanzines, making clear this is intended as an *aide memoire* and is in no sense definitive.

28. Once the winners in all three categories have been decided, the ballot forms and any related notes shall be placed into an envelope and sealed, to be retained by the Administrator for one calendar month in the event the results are challenged. If no such query is raised during this period, the envelope and its contents shall be destroyed. Should the results be called into question, the envelope – still sealed – shall be handed over to the chair of the relevant Novacon committee for further investigation.

29. The rules shall be posted on the Novacon website and hardcopies made available for a reasonable fee (covering printing and postage) upon request from the Administrator.

30. Any amendments to the above rules shall be made by the current Administrator in conjunction with the committee of that year's Novacon.

2004 Results

The 2004 awards were announced at Novacon 34 on 8 November, with guest of honour Ian Watson handing out the silver statuettes. It proved a rerun of the previous year: Pete Young's *Zoo Nation* was named "best fanzine", with Claire Brialey "best fanwriter" and Sue Mason "best fan artist". The middle award went down to the wire: Claire was equalled in total points and first-place votes by Tony Keen (who was also runner-up in 2003), but had more second-place votes. A total of 28 ballot forms were received.

In addition, Martin Tudor, taking a sabbatical after three years as Novacon chair, presented the committee's occasional "best fan" Nova to Ray Bradbury, who joked that he'd have taken more care designing the trophies this year if he'd known he was going to receive one of his own.

The full breakdown was as follows:

- Best Fanzine: 1st, *Zoo Nation*, edited by Pete Young, 35 points; 2nd, *Plokta*, edited by Steve Davies & Alison Scott & Mike Scott, 23; 3rd=, *Banana Wings*, edited by Claire Brialey & Mark Plummer, and *Halo of Flies*, edited by Tony Keen, 15 each; 5th=, *Floss*, edited by Lilian Edwards and *No Sin But Ignorance*, edited by Claire Brialey, 11 each; 7th, *Tortoise*, edited by Sue Jones, 10; 8th, *Head*, edited by Doug Bell & Christina Lake, 9; 9th, *Joie de Vivre*, edited by Yvonne Rowse, 7; 10th, *Dark Volumes*, edited by Tony Keen, 6; 11th, *Outlaw Mutation Boogie*,

edited by Mark Plummer, 5; 12th=, *Bogus*, edited by Sandra Bond, and *Farisheen*, edited by James Bacon, 4 each; 14th, *Thought Experiments*, edited by Geneva Melzack, 3; 15th=, *Convers[at]ions*, edited by Douglas Spencer, and *Let's Kiosk*, edited by Judith Hanna & Joseph Nicholas, 2 each; 17th=, *The Mongolian Jird*, edited by Alan Sullivan, and *Tommyworld*, edited by Tommy Ferguson, 1 each;

- Best Fanwriter: 1st, Claire Brialey, 30 points; 2nd, Tony Keen, 30; 3rd, Pete Young, 10; 4th, Mark Plummer, 9; 5th, Geneva Melzack, 7.5; 6th, Yvonne Rowse, 7 points; 7th, Alison Scott, 6; 8th, Niall Harrison, 5.5; 9th, Christina Lake, 5; 10th=, James Bacon and Sue Jones, 4; 12th=, Tony Berry, Lilian Edwards and Dave Langford, 3 each; 15th=, Flick Christian, Julian Headlong, Ian Sorensen and Peter Weston, 2; 19th=, Giulia de Cesare, Tommy Ferguson, Kevin McVeigh, Doug Spencer and Alan Sullivan, 1 each.

- Best Fan Artist: 1st, Sue Mason, 38 points; 2nd, Alison Scott, 27; 3rd, Dave Hicks, 19; 4th, Pete Young, 15; 5th, D West, 12; 6th=, Steve Jeffery and Sue Jones, 5 each; 8th, Rob Hansen, 3; 9th=, Jim Barker and Terry Jeeves, 2 each; 11th, Feòrag NicBhrìde, 1. In addition, Brad Foster received two points and the late Joe Mayhew one; neither was eligible.

- Best Fan (honorary award by the Novacon committee): Ray Bradbury.

Addendum

The following fanzines were published prior to 30 September 2004, but received subsequently; they were also eligible for the 2004 awards, but omitted for that reason from the listing in the Novacon 34 programme book:

- *Prism - Sept/Oct 2004* [A5, 32pp], Debbie Bennett for the British Fantasy Society, Beech House, Chapel Lane, Moulton, CW9 8PQ <prism@britishfantasysociety.org.uk>
- *Thought Experiments #1* [07/04, A5, 20pp], Geneva Melzack, 5 Brooklands Avenue, Withington, M20 1JE, <geneva.mlzack@gmx.net>

The 2005 awards will be presented at Novacon 35 on Sunday. Ballot forms were included both in the final progress report and with this programme book; additional copies are available next to the ballot box, which is located by Registrations (immediately outside the main programme). Votes must be cast by 12 midnight on Saturday, either via the ballot box or by handing them to myself.

2005 Nova Awards

The following fanzines were received by the Nova Awards administrator between 1 October 2004 and 30 September 2005, and are eligible for the 2005 awards. Please note that this list is not definitive, but included here as an *aide memoire*:

- *Album #3* [CD], John Dallman, 92 Lichfield Road, Cambridge, CB1 3TR
- *Ansible* #207 [10/04], #208 [11/04], #209 [12/04], #210 [1/05], #211 [2/05], #212 [3/05], #213 [4/05], #214 [5/05], #215 [6/05], #216 [7/05], #217 [8/05], #218 [9/05; all A4, all 2pp], Dave Langford, 94 London Road, Reading, RG1 5AU, downloadable from <<http://www.ansible.co.uk>>
- *The Banksonian* #4, #5, #6 [all A5, 12pp], David Haddock, 84 Foxhollow, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB3 8ES, <banksoniain@yahoo.co.uk>

- *Banana Wings* #20 [36pp], #21 [28pp], #22 [32pp], #23 [36pp; all A4], Claire Brialey & Mark Plummer, 59 Shirley Road, Croydon, CR0 7ES, <banana@fishlifter.demon.co.uk> [I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Claire and Mark for their support this year in promoting the Nova Awards]
- *Brum Group News* #398 [11/04, 8pp], #399 [12/04, 4pp], #400 [1/05, 8pp], #401 [2/05, 6pp, guest-edited by Vernon Brown], #402, [3/05, 12pp], #403 [4/05, 12pp] #404 [5/05, 8pp], #405 [6/05, 12pp], #406 [7/05, 8pp] #407 [8/05, 12pp], #408 [9/05, 8pp; all A5], Rog Peyton for the Birmingham SF Group, 19 Eves Croft, Bartley Green, Birmingham, B32 3QL, <rog@rogpeyton.fsnet.co.net> or <bhamsgroup@yahoo.co.uk>
- *The Convertible Bus* #14, #15 [both A4, 2pp], Tony Keen, 48 Priory Street, Tonbridge, TN9 2AN, <keentony@yahoo.co.uk>
- *The Cosmic Hairdryer* #3 [A4 landscape, 14pp], Max, 20 Bakers Lane, Woodston, Peterborough, PE2 9QW <m@hawkida.com>
- *DiverseBooks* – Nov 2004 [A4, 2pp], Alex McIntock, 88 Poppleton Road, Leytonstone, E11 1LT, <info@diversebooks.com>
- *Final to Land* #1 [A4, 18pp], Antony J “Dop” Shepherd, <dop@btinternet.com>; downloadable from <www.efanzines.com>
- *Gimmickry* #1 [A4, 2pp], Max, address as above
- *Grunt Grunt* #1 [A4, 26pp], “Captain Buggernuts” (Clarrie O’Callaghan), Basement Flat, 4 Elliston Road, Bristol, BS6 6QE <punchable.nun@tesco.net>
- *Halo of Flies* #4 [A5, 24pp], Tony Keen, address as above
- *The League of Fan Funds Newsletter* #2 [2pp, A4], Bridget Bradshaw for the League of Fan Funds
- *Meta* #1, #2 [both A5, 36pp], Geneva Melzack, 5 Brooklands Avenue, Withington, M20 1JE, <geneva.melzack@gmx.net>
- *More Balls* #1, #2 [both A4, 2pp], #3 [aka Even More Balls, A4, 12pp] Ang Rosin, 26 Hermitage Grove, Bootle, L20 6DR, downloadable from <http://www.liv.ac.uk/~lister/balls/>
- *Old Rat’s Almanack* #3 [A4, 12pp], Peter Redfarn, 14 Box Tree House, Gosterwood Street, London, SE8 5PA, <peter.redfarn@virgin.net>
- *On the Town with the League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* [playtext; A5, 27pp], Tony Keen, address as above
- *Owl Soup* #1 [A4, 34pp], “Captain Buggernuts”, as above
- *Plokta* #32 [16pp], #33½ [12pp, both A4], Steve Davies, Alison Scott & Mike Scott, 52 Westbourne Terrace, Reading, RG30 2RP, <www.plokta.com>
- *Shiny!Shiny!* [A6, 20pp plus plastic jacket], Flick, 13 Collette Court, Eleanor Close, London, SE16 6PW, <shiny@internet-fairy.org> [all 30 copies of *Shiny!* (reportedly A6, 16pp) were distributed at Paragon 2; pdf versions should be available shortly]
- *Snapshot* #5 [6pp], #6 [8pp; both A4], Ian Sorensen, 3 Portia Place, Motherwell, ML1 1EL <ian@soren.demon.co.uk> [note new address]
- *The Unnamable* #2 [A5, 12pp], Feòrag NicBhrìde, 89 Brunswick Street, Edinburgh, EH7 5HS
- *This Way Up* #12 [A5, 40pp], John Connors <john.connors@lineone.net>
- *Thought Experiments* #2 [A5, 18pp], Geneva Melzack, address as above
- *Tortoise* #20 [A4 landscape, 23pp], #20a: A Tortoise Sampler [A4 landscape, 14pp], #21 [A4, 19pp], Sue Jones, Flat 5, 32-33 Castle Street, Shrewsbury, SY1 2BQ, <sue.tortoise@btinternet.com>
- *YAFA Staffer and the Worldcon of 2005* [A4, 38pp], Max, address above
- *YAFazine* [A4, 6pp], produced as part of Interaction’s youth activities project, contact Max at the address above

- *Zoo Nation* #6 [A5, 36pp], Pete Young, 62 Walmer Road, Woodley, RG5 4PN, <peter.a.young@macunlimited.net>

In addition, new issues of Floss (ed. Lilian Edwards) and Plokta were reportedly seen at Interaction in August, but no postal distribution appears to have occurred prior to this programme book going to press. In any case, they would also be eligible.

The following have been received since 1 October 2004, but are ineligible under the current rules:

- *B-APA Special #1: Happy Birthday, Andy* [A4, 36pp], Tony Keen [in memory of Andy Roberts]
- *A Bear Went Over the Mountain* #1 [28pp], #2 [33pp; both quarto], Chaz Boston Boden, Post Office Box 17522, Anaheim, CA 92817-7522, USA, <bear@bostonbaden.com>
- *The Best of Moz*, issues one to six [A4, 16pp], Murray Moore, 1065 Henley Road, Mississauga, Ontario, L4Y 1C8, Canada, <mmoore@pathcom.com>
- *Bento* #17 [$\frac{1}{4}$ quarto, 36pp], David Levine & Kate Yule, 1905 SE 43rd Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97215, USA, <www.bentopress.com>
- *Can't Get Off the Island: A Greg Pickersgill Collection* [A4, 67pp], £4.00 from Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer, address as above
- *Chunga* #9 [34pp], #10 [32pp; both quarto], Randy Byers & Andy Hooper & Carl Jaurez, 1013 North 36th Street, Seattle, WA 98103, USA, downloadable from <www.efanzines.com>
- *Data Dump* #78, #82, #84, #85 [A5, 4pp], UK£0.70 or US\$2.00, Steve Sneyd for Hilltop Press, 4 Nowell Place, Almondbury, Huddersfield, HD5 8PB
- *Fringe* #1 [A4, 4pp – US copies may be quarto], Ulrika O'Brien, 18540 NE 58th Ct. #1092, Redmond, WA 98052, USA
- *Littlebrook* #4 [quarto, 28pp], Jerry Kaufman & Suzanne Tompkins, 3522 NE 123rd Street, Seattle, WA 98125, USA
- *Novacon 35 Progress Report* #1, #2 [both A5, 24pp], Helena Bowles for Novacon 35, <www.novacon.org>
- *Right Up There!* #2 [quarto, 30pp; "the 20 year annish"], Sharee Carton, PO Box 208, Dimbulah, Queensland 4872, Australia,
- *Trapdoor* #23, Robert Lichtman, Post Office Box 30, Glen Ellen, CA 95442, USA
- *Tobes' Taff Ting (in Two Hours and Two Pints)*, £3.50 from Max, 30 Bakers Lane, Woodston, Peterborough, PE2 9QW [make cheque payable to "TAFF"]
- *Vanamonde* #558 - #582, #598 - 607 [all quarto, 2pp], John Hertz, 236 South Coronado Street #409, Los Angeles, CA 90057, USA [note: #607 is dated 27 December, 2004]
- *Wabe* #7 [quarto, 16pp], Jae Leslie Adams & Bill Bodden & Tracy Benton, 621 Spruce Street, Madison, WI 53715, USA

In addition, Hilltop Press released two new chapbooks, both available from the address above or via <www.bbr-online.com/catalogue>:

- *Elsewhere Unbound: Poetry in American SFanzines, the 1930s to 1960s* by Steve Sneyd [£2.50 / US\$6.00]
- *Monday Morning Over the World* by John B Michel c/w *Bitter-Sweet* by Mark Sonnenfield & Gindy Elizabeth Houston [£1.99 / US\$4.00]

Material for listing in future Nova Award bulletins should be sent to: 33 Scott Road, Olton, Solihull, B92 7LQ.

The History of Novacon

The first Novacon was organised in 1971 as a one-off event by the Aston University SF Group, but its success led to the convention being adopted by the neighbouring Birmingham SF Group from 1972 onwards. For the first seven years, the choice of guest of honour alternated between pro authors and leading fans.

In the list below, the figure in brackets relates to membership numbers at the time each programme book went to press, rather than the final attendance (in addition, problems with the printing of Novacon 14's programme book meant an entire month's new members were effectively excluded). Committee details appear beneath the guest(s) of honour; the chair's initials are shown first. Note: the Excelsior changed its name to the Forte Post House.

Novacon, 1971 (144)	Imperial Centre Birmingham	James White VB, RB, AD, AD2, PD
Novacon 2, 1972 (144)	Imperial Centre Birmingham	Doreen Rogers PD, SE, JH, RN, MP, HR
Novacon 3, 1973 (146)	Imperial Centre Birmingham	Ken Bulmer HR, SE, GF, MP, GW
Novacon 4, 1974 (211)	Imperial Centre Birmingham	Ken Slater JC, PD, SE, GF, RH, AP, RP, HR
Novacon 5, 1975 (272)	Royal Angus Birmingham	Dan Morgan RP1, RB, PD, RH, LM, AP
Novacon 6, 1976 (317)	Royal Angus Birmingham	David Kyle SE, HE, LM, AP, RP
Novacon 7, 1977 (278)	Royal Angus Birmingham	John Brunner SE, HE, LM, AP, RP

Novacon 8, 1978 (309)	Holiday Inn Birmingham	Anne McCaffrey LM, DH, KH, CW, JW
Novacon 9, 1979 (290)	Royal Angus Birmingham	Christopher Priest RP, HE, SE, CM, PM, PO
Novacon 10, 1980 (495)	Royal Angus Birmingham	Brian W Aldiss RG, IN, KO, K02, PO, CW
Novacon 11, 1981 (362)	Royal Angus Birmingham	Bob Shaw PO, HE, SE, JN, PP
Novacon 12, 1982 (373)	Royal Angus Birmingham	Harry Harrison RP, CB, DH2, EP, PP
Novacon 13, 1983 (339)	Royal Angus Birmingham	Lisa Tuttle PP, CD, EP, SG, DH3, JH, PO, PV, JW2
Novacon 14, 1984 (333)	Grand Birmingham	Robert Holdstock SG, KC, AG, DH3, EP, PP, MT, PV
Novacon 15, 1985 (340)	De Vere Coventry	James White PP, TB, CP, EP, GP, MT
Novacon 16, 1986 (257)	De Vere Coventry	E C Tubb Chris Evans TB, NM, DP, RP2, GP, MP
Novacon 17, 1987 (315)	Royal Angus Birmingham	Iain M Banks BE, ME, DH2, GP, SR, GW2
Novacon 18, 1988 (336)	Royal Angus Birmingham	Garry Kilworth TB, BE, RP, GP2, LP, MT
Novacon 19, 1989 (426)	Excelsior Solihull	Geoff Ryman MT, TB, HB, BE, NM, PW
Novacon 20, 1990 (330)	Excelsior Solihull	Dr Jack Cohen BE, AJ, AL, SL, NM, RS

Novacon 21, 1991 (200)	Forte Post House Solihull	Colin Greenland NM, DC, BE, AJ, AL, SL, CM2
Novacon 22, 1992 (300)	Royal Angus Birmingham	Storm Constantine HB, TB, BE, JG, SG2, CM3, RS
Novacon 23, 1993 (350)	Royal Angus Birmingham	Stephen Baxter CM3, HB, BE, TM, RS
Novacon 24, 1994 (214)	Royal Angus Birmingham	Graham Joyce RS, HB, SF, CM3, TM, CM2, MT
Novacon 25, 1995 (338)	Chamberlain Birmingham	Brian W Aldiss Harry Harrison Bob Shaw Special guest: Iain M Banks TM, TB, CM3, CM2, RS, MT
Novacon 26, 1996 (281)	Ibis Birmingham	David Gemmell CM3, SF, TM, CM2, RS, MT
Novacon 27, 1997 (277)	Abbey Malvern	Peter F Hamilton MT, CM3, TM, CM2, MS
Novacon 28, 1998 (265)	Britannia Birmingham	Paul J McAuley MT SL, PM2, CM3, TM, CM2
Novacon 29, 1999 (239)	Britannia Birmingham	Ian Stewart CM3, MKS, SL, PM2, TM, CM2, MT
Novacon 30, 2000 (224)	Britannia Birmingham	Christopher Priest Special guest: Rog Peyton Guest artist: David A Hardy TB, MKS, SL, PM2, DC, CM2, MT

Novacon 31, 2001 (219)	Quality Walsall	Gwyneth Jones TB, CC, DC, DH4, AL, SL, MT
Novacon 32, 2002 (252)	Quality Walsall	Ian McDonald MT, CC, DC, SG, DH4, AL, St-
Novacon 33, 2003 (234)	Quality Walsall	Jon Courtenay Grimwood MT, CC, SG, DH4, AL, ST
Novacon 34, 2004	Quality Walsall	Ian Watson MT, CC, VC, SG, AG, DH4, AL, SL, YR,

Past committee members (chairs shown in italics):

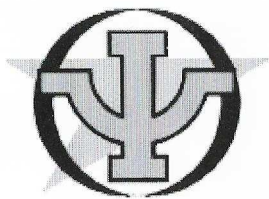
Chris Baker, *Tony Berry*, *Helena Bowles*, Ray Bradbury, Vernon Brown, Kevin Clarke, CatCoast, *Dr Jack Cohen*, Vicky Cook, David Cooper, Alan Denham, Chris Donaldson, Alan Donnelly (AD2), Helen Eling, Stan Eling, Bernle Evans, Mick Evans, Gillon Field, Sarah Freakley, Jenny Glover, Steve Glover (SG2), Ann Green, *Steve Green*, Jeffrey Hacker, Dave Haden (DH3), Dave Hardy (DH2), Dave Hicks (DH4), Liese Hoare, Martin Hoare, Robert Hoffman, Dave Holmes, Kathy Holmes, Jan Huxley, At Johnston, Maureen Kincaid Speller (formerly Maureen Porter, MP2), Dave Langford, Alice Lawson, Steve Lawson, Ian Maule, Janice Maule, *Lawrence Miller*, *Nick Mills*, Chris Morgan, *Carol Morton* (CM3), *Tony Morton*, Chris Murphy (CM2), Pauline Morgan (formerly *Pauline Dungate*), Pat McMurray (PM2), Richard Newnham, Joseph Nicholas, Keith Oborn, Krystyna Oborn (K02), Paul Oldroyd, Meg Palmer, Darroll Pardoe, Rosemary Pardoe (RP2), Carol Pearson, Eunice Pearson, Arline Peyton, *Rog Peyton*, Greg Pickersgill (GP2), Linda Pickersgill, Graham Poole, *Phill Probert*, *Hazel Reynolds*, Stephen Rogers, Yvonne Rowse, Mike Siddall, *Richard Standage*, *Martin Tudor*, Paul Vincent, Chris Watton, Pam Wells, John Wilkes (JW2), Geoff Winterman, Geoff Withams (GW2), Jackie Wright.

Seventy-seven and counting...

Membership list

1	Alastair	Reynolds	47	Brian	Ameringen
2	Ian	Watson	48	Caroline	Mullan
3	Jon Courtenay	Grimwood	49	Meriol	Ameringen
4	Ian	McDonald	50	Julian	Headlong
5	Enid	Crowe	51	Pat	Brown
6	Brian	Aldiss	52	Vernon	Brown
7	Harry	Harrison	53	Michael	Abbott
8	Tony	Berry	54	Anne	Wilson
9	Helena	Bowles	55	Eve	Harvey
10	Cat	Coast	56	John	Harvey
11	Vicky	Cook	57	Steve	Davies
12	Alice	Lawson	58	Giulia	De Cesare
13	Steve	Lawson	59	George	Ternent
14	Yvonne	Rowse	60	Linda	Ternent
15	Martin	Tudor	61	Calvin	Ternent
16	Helena	Tudor	62	Tim	Stannard
17	Steve	Green	63	Sue	Mason
18	Ann	Green	64	Caroline	Loveridge
19	Peter	Weston	65	Gavin	Long
20	Eileen	Weston	66	Dave	Langford
21	Kate	Solomon	67	Alison	Scott
22	Malcolm	Davies	68	Steven	Cain
23	Chris	O'Shea	69	Jonathan	Cain
24	Ina	Shorrock	70	Marianne	Cain
25	Gavin	Shorrock	71	Julia	Daly
26	Pauline	Morgan	72	Steve	Cooper
27	Chris	Morgan	73	Tony	Keen
28		1/2r	74	Kate	Bodley
29	Dave	Hardy	75	Lennart	Uhlin
30	Vincent	Docherty	76	Gwen	Funnell
31	Carol	Morton	77	Peter	Wareham
32	Tony	Morton	78	Dave	Tompkins
33	Sue	Edwards	79	Tony	Rogers
34	Ian	Sorensen	80	Nick	Mills
35	Roger	Robinson	81	Neil	Summerfield
36	Pete	Young	82	Alex	McLintock
37	Simon	Dearn	83	David	Thomas
38	Paul	Dormer	84	Julie	Rigby
39	Claire	Brialey	85	Andrew A.	Adams
40	Mark	Plummer	86	Douglas	Spencer
41	Anne	Woodford	87	Niall	Gordon
42	Alan	Woodford	88	Rog	Peyton
43	Erhard	Leder	89	Adrian	Snowdon
44	Bridget	Bradshaw	90	Sue	Jones
45	Simon	Bradshaw	91	Stephen	Dunn
46	Laura	Wheatly	92	Jim	Walker

93	Tara	Dowling-Hussey	143	Chris	Stocks
94	Gerry	Webb	144	Jane-Louise	Cracknell
95	Mali	Perera	145	Miriam	Moss
96	Alan	Webb	146	Dave	Cox
97	Kostya	Milayev	147	Krystyna	Oborn
98	Dave	Hicks	148	Steve	Jones
99	Sue	Hobson	149	Dave	Hutchinson
100	Dave	Lally	150	Bogna	Hutchinson
101	Al	Johnston	151	Charles	Stross
102	Martin	Hoare	152	Karen	Hetherington
103	Ray	Bradbury	153	Martin	Easterbrook
104	Andrew	Hobson	154	Christina	Lake
105	Stuart	Widdows	155	Doug	Bell
106	Neil	Tomkinson	156	Farah	Mendlesohn
107	Alison	Tomkinson	157	Colin P.	Langeveld
108	Rachel	Tomkinson	158	Richard	Stephenson
109	Noel	Collyer	159	Marcus	Rowland
110	John	Merry	160	Elizabeth	Billinger
111	Loretta	Merry	161	Paul	Billinger
112	Jennifer	Swift	162	Mike	Rennie
113	Ian	Whates	163	Pat	Curzon
114	Sally	Sinclair	164	Philip	Nye
115	Mark	Sinclair	165	John	O'Donnell
116	Mark	Slater	166	June	O'Donnell
117	Tobes	Valois	167	Ped	Badlan
118	Peter	Mabey	168	Phil	Nanson
119	Christopher	Brooks	169	Kari	Maund
120	Bridget	Wilkinson	170	Chris	Baker
121	Iain	Emsley	171	Chris	Bell
122	Susan	Emsley	172	Roger	Burton West
123		Max	173	Paul	Treadaway
124	Colin	Harris	174	Del	Cotter
125	James	Odell	175	John	Richards
126	Lucy	Zinkiewicz	176	Robert	Sneddon
127	Roderick	O'Hanlon	177	John	Bray
128	David	Farmer	178	David	Cochrane
129	Mike	Scott	179	Dave	Holmes
130		Flick	180	Steve	Jeffery
131	John	Dowd	181	Vikki Lee	France
132	Fran	Dowd	182	John	Holden
133	Wendy	Graham	183	Susie	Haynes
134	Ken	Slater	184	Tanya	Brown
135	Nigel	Furlong	185	Catherine	Pickersgill
136	Sabine	Furlong	186	Greg	Pickersgill
137	Karen	Furlong	187	Peter	Wilkinson
138	Billy	Stirling	188	Jennifer C	O'Donnell
139	Chris	Murphy	189	Jonti	O'Donnell
140	Gavin	Wilson	190	Mike	Ford
141	Judith	Proctor	191	June	Strachan
142	Chris	Dunk	192	Austin	Benson
			193	Caro	Wilson



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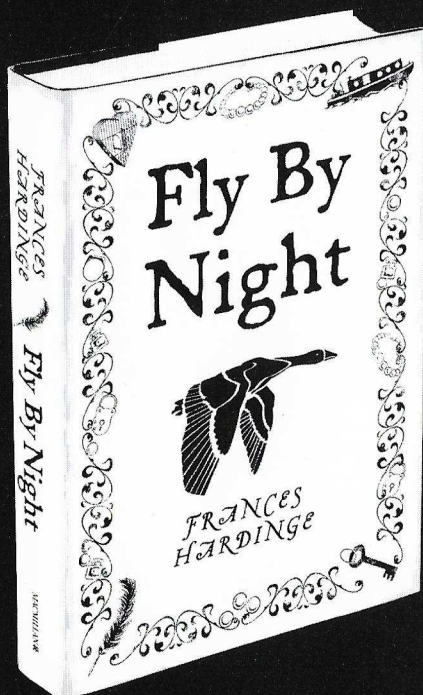


This will be a fannish event concentrating on activities that let people join in rather than just sit in an audience and listen. Events will include workshops, panels, debates, games, masquerade, drinking and so on. For more information, write with SAE to: Lesley McIntee, 26 Kings Meadow View, Wetherby LS22 7FX, UK.

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