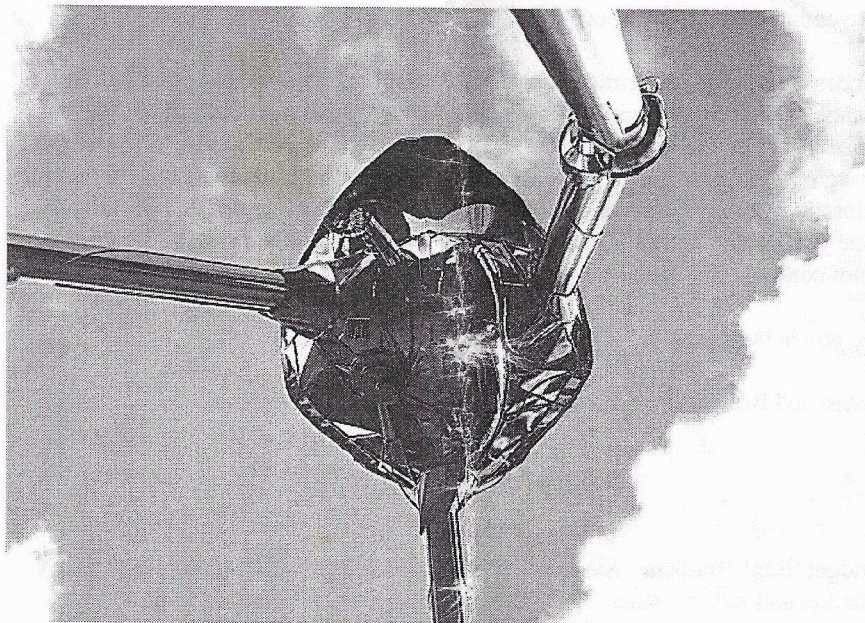


SECCON



**PROGRAMME BOOK
AND
READ ME**

WELCOME TO SECCON

"So," people ask us, "what *does* Seccon stand for?" If you remember PR1, you'll recall some of our suggestions: Stevenage at the End of the Century Convention, or Seriously Enebriated Convivial Convention. But best of all though, is the suggestion that comes closest to the truth - Small Enjoyable Cosy Convention. That's the type of event we wanted to run, and its the sort of convention we hope that Seccon will be.

Seccon isn't a big convention, but then we want an event where you can stand a chance of meeting all your fellow con-goers over the weekend. Although of a broadly written-SF bent, it's not a lit-crit heavy 'sercon'; there is, however, enough programme that it's not a pure relaxacon. And we don't have a theme, unless it's "meet friends and enjoy yourselves - with some SF thrown in". We hope you have as much fun taking part in Seccon as we had putting it together - if not considerably more!

See you in the bar,

Simon and Bridget Bradshaw

About the Committee

Bridget 'Bug' Bradshaw has been active in varied areas of fandom - especially fanzines and APAs - since 1991. An avid con-goer, she chaired Evolution, the 1996 Eastercon, whilst her fanzine output has included *Obsessions*, *Squiggledy Hoy* and the forthcoming *ABV*. She really, really likes chocolate.

Simon Bradshaw got cornered at Imperial College SF society's Freshers' Fair stand back in 1986 and has never quite escaped. A survivor of various behind-the-scenes convention escapades, Seccon is his first experience of actually running a Con and thus having nowhere to pass the buck up to.



Stephen Baxter

Stephen Baxter was born in Liverpool, England, in 1957. After reading mathematics at Cambridge University he took a PhD in engineering at Southampton. He then worked as a teacher of maths and physics, and for several years in information technology, before becoming a full-time author in 1995.

Stephen is the author of nine published SF novels: *Raft*, *Timelike Infinity*, *Anti-Ice*, *Flux*, *Ring*, *The Time Ships*, *Voyage*, *Titan* and *Moonseed*. All of these have been published in the US, and several in Germany, Japan, France etc. His novels have won several awards including the Philip K Dick Award, the John Campbell Memorial Award, the British Science Fiction Association Award, the Kurd Lasswitz Award (Germany) and the Seiun Award (Japan) and have been nominated for several others, including the Arthur C Clarke Award, the Hugo Award and Locus awards. Stephen has published around fifty sf short stories, several of which have won prizes, including the Writers of the Future contest.

By November 1999 his young-adult novel *Mammoth* and his next science fiction novel *Manifold: Time* will have been published in Britain and the US. Both these are the first in three-book series. Stephen's TV and movie work includes the script for Episode 3 of *Space Island One*, broadcast on Sky One in January 1998, whilst *Voyage* was recently dramatised on Radio 4.

Stephen Baxter - A Brief Bibliography

Novels and Collections

Raft, HarperCollins 1991 (UK); HarperCollins 1992 (Australia)
Timelike Infinity, HarperCollins 1992 (UK); Penguin ROC 1993 (USA)
Anti-Ice, HarperCollins 1993 (UK), HarperPrism (US) 1994.
Flux, HarperCollins 1993 (UK), HarperPrism (US) 1995.
Ring, HarperCollins 1994 (UK), HarperPrism (US) 1996.
The Time Ships, HarperCollins 1995 (UK), HarperPrism (US) 1996.
Voyage, HarperCollins Nov 1996 (UK), HarperPrism (US) 1997.
Titan, HarperCollins August 1997 (UK), Harperprism Nov 1997 (US).
Vacuum Diagrams, short story collection, HarperCollins April 1997 (UK), HarperPrism (US) May 99 (projected).
Traces, short story collection, HarperCollins April 1998 (UK).
Moonseed, HarperCollins 1998 (UK), HarperPrism US 1998.
Manifold: The Fate Machine, HarperCollins 1999 (projected) (UK), Del Rey US (projected) 1999.
Manifold: Saddlepoint, HarperCollins 2000 (projected) (UK), Del Rey US (projected) 2000.
Manifold: Red Moon, HarperCollins 1999 (projected) (UK), Del Rey US (projected) 2001.

Juveniles

Gulliverzone, 'The Web' novel, Orion Books, Jun 1997.
Webcrash, 'The Web' novel, Orion Books, October 1998.
Mammoth Book 1: Silverhair, Orion Books, January 1999.
Mammoth Book 2: Longtusk, Orion Books, January 2000 (projected).
Mammoth Book 3: Icebones, Orion Books, January 2001 (projected).

TV and Radio

Invasion Earth, BBC Scotland, 1996. Story consultant.
Space Island One Series 1 Episode 3, "Quarantine", Bard Productions.
Voyage, BBC Radio 4 adaptation by Audio Movies Ltd.

Call for Volunteers

Like all conventions, Seccon needs volunteers. Not very many, as we're only a small Con, but it always helps to have people around to assist the committee. If you would like to volunteer to help out, please let Simon or Bridget know.

We also need volunteers for a couple of programme items! For **What's My Line** we need people to mime science-fictional characters or jobs for our panel to guess. Similarly, **Fundament** needs extras and generic cast members. All props and costume will be provided (which won't be hard for us) and acting or singing ability is strictly an optional extra!

The Seccon Quiz

We're running a pub-style quiz late Saturday afternoon, for which we need teams of up to five. Just get yourselves together and turn up - no need to register in advance. Scarred survivors of Picocon quizzes should note that the bulk of our questions will not, amazing as it seems, be about media sf.

Help Us to Help You

If you have any problems at the convention, let us know. If you have any problems with your room, let the Hotel know - and then let us know if you don't feel that the matter has been resolved. We can only sort out problems if we know about them at the time! We will be around the Convention and wearing committee badges - if you can't find us, try the Con Office in the Aston Room.

Please remember that the Hotel's main business is selling room space and food to guests. If they find you bringing in food from outside or letting out crash space in your room they are likely to be unhappy.

Security Please wear your Seccon badge during the convention - you will need it to get into the programme and Dealer's Room. And please don't leave bags unattended; if you find an unattended bag or package, please draw it to the attention of a member of the committee or hotel staff.

Posters The Hotel are happy for Seccon members to put up posters advertising events, as long as they use Blu-Tak and only stick them on non-absorbent surfaces. Please do not use sellotape!

Programme Items

Opening Ceremony Meet the Committee and Guest of Honour, plus an introduction to what's on at Seccon.

Guest of Honour Interview Tanya Brown interviews Stephen Baxter.

Sharp Dressed Fan The stereotype of the SF fan is of the scruffy nerd whose sartorial discretion is limited to which old con T-shirt to wear. However, there seems to be a growing trend for fans to positively dress up during cons. Sue Mason, Giulia de Cesare, Alex McLintock and Peter Wareham discuss whether fans really are changing the way they look.

Fan Fund Auction An auction in aid of the United Fan Funds. Cough up your readies for everything from classic books to weird tat.

Isn't It About Time You Gave *SFX* Another Chance? On the one side we have glossy media magazines, on the other periodicals publishing and reviewing written sf. At least one magazine has tried to bridge the gap, but is it a futile gesture? Paul Kincaid, Chris O'Shea and Eddie Cochrane discuss.

Author Reading Stephen Baxter reads from his latest novel, *Light of Other Days*, a collaboration with Arthur C Clarke.

Planned Utopias in SF Stevenage is a planned town. So are nearby Letchworth and Milton Keynes - different eras' idea of how a community should be organised. Maureen Kincaid Speller, Patrick Nielsen Hayden, Del Cotter and Simon Bradshaw look at how concepts of such communities have evolved in sf.

Four Women Talk About Fanzines Alison Scott, Avedon Carol, Claire Briailey and Teresa Nielsen Hayden discuss the current fanzine scene.

Guest of Honour Talk Stephen Baxter takes us 'All Aboard for the Eschaton', a talk about Science Fiction and the End of the Universe.

Read Any Good Books Lately? Austin Benson, Tanya Brown, John Dallman and Pat McMurray talk about their recent reading (and see if they've read anything recent). Do any of us read the same books any more?

Programme Items

Seccon Quiz Form your own teams and compete to be the Seccon Inky Swots.

Fundament A musical staging of Asimov's Foundation trilogy in one act. Last (and first) performed at Conine in 1988, this OUSFG masterpiece was long thought lost. Sorry, but we've found it again.

Cosmic SF How to cover the whole lifetime of the Universe in your novel, and still have three chapters to spare. David Clements and Mike Scott ask Stephen Baxter to explain why writing like this is such fun.

Fannish Question Time Bridget Dimpleby and the audience quiz some opinionated souls on the burning issues in fandom today.

How Do You Know When The Future Has Arrived? Back in the Golden Age of sf, it was obvious what the future would be like - personal helicopters and holidays on Mars. But what is today's perception of 'the future'? Caroline Mullan moderates Teresa Nielsen Hayden, Stephen Baxter and Ken Slater.

Mars Direct Bo Maxwell of Mars Society UK talks about the latest news regarding thoughts on a manned mission to Mars.

What's My Line? Sabine Furlong, Michael Abbot and Ian Sorensen have twenty questions and a mime to fathom the identity of a series of famous science-fictional characters. John D Rickett has the answers.

The Third Age of TV SF So, *Babylon 5* is finally over. Was it an epic turning point in the the way TV handled science fiction, or just five years of dodgy dialogue? With Nigel Furlong, Eddie Cochrane, Huw Walters and Tony Keen.

Closing Ceremony Followed by the...

Dead Dog Party In the bar, surprisingly enough.

Programme

Friday Evening

7.40 - 8.00	Opening Ceremony
8.00 - 9.00	Guest of Honour Interview
9.00 - 10.00	Sharp Dressed Fan
10.00 - 11.00	Fan Funds Auction

Saturday

10.00 - 11.00	Isn't It About Time You Gave SFX...
11.00 - 11.30	Stephen Baxter Reading
11.30 - 12.30	Planned Utopias
12.30 - 1.30	<i>Lunch Break</i>
1.30 - 2.30	Four Women Talk About Fanzines
2.30 - 3.30	Guest of Honour Talk
3.30 - 4.00	<i>Break</i>
4.00 - 5.00	Read Any Good Books Lately?
5.00 - 6.00	Seccon Quiz
6.00 - 10.00	<i>No programme</i>
10.00 - 11.00	Fundament

Sunday

11.00 - 12.00	Cosmic SF
12.00 - 1.00	Fannish Question Time
1.00 - 2.00	<i>Lunch Break</i>
2.00 - 3.00	How Do You Know When The Future...
3.00 - 4.00	Mars Direct
4.00 - 4.30	<i>Break</i>
4.30 - 5.30	What's My Line?
5.30 - 6.30	The Third Age of TV SF
6.45 - 7.00	Closing Ceremony
7.00 - late	Dead Dog Party (bar)

Food

In the Hotel

Hotel meal times are listed on the back cover. Please note that it helps the Hotel no end if not everybody turns up to breakfast ten minutes before it is due to finish...

In Stevenage

There are three main areas in Stevenage where you can go out to eat: the Town Centre, the Leisure Park and the Old Town.

The **Town Centre** has no restaurants as such but does feature a good number of eateries suitable for a quick snack. As well as the usual fast food outlets, there are also sandwich bars, fish-and-chip shops and even a Cornish Pasty café.

Stevenage **Leisure Park** is a recent development featuring a number of restaurants, as well as a cinema, amusement arcades, bowling alley and nightclubs. The bowling alley is worthy of particular note as it has a Real Ale brew pub attached! To reach the Leisure Park, turn left out of the Hotel, then right opposite the 'Edward the Confessor' pub. Go up and along the walkway, through the Arts and Leisure Centre and through the railway station. As well as fast food, the Leisure Park includes the following restaurants:

<i>ITS</i>	Italian, reasonable pizza and pasta.
<i>Aroma</i>	Oriental buffet.
<i>Fatty Arbuckles</i>	American style restaurant with very generous portions.
<i>Exchange Bar</i>	Another American restaurant.
<i>Diner</i>	

Most of what comprises Stevenage was built as a new town during the 1950s and 60s. The **Old Town** is of a very different style, and features a number of places of its own to eat out. To get to the Old Town, go right and then immediately left out the Hotel, then go past Tesco's and turn right. At the end of the car park is a walkway that takes you over the road and leads up towards the centre of the Old Town. There you will find a number of restaurants, including a couple of Indians, a Chinese and a Bistro along the High Street.

[illegible]

Seccon Members as of 27th May 1999

14	Michael Abbott	12	Steve Cooper	81	Pat McMurray
22	Brian Ameringen	20	Del Cotter	66	Nick Mills
42	Simon Amos	49	Cardinal Cox	21	Caroline Mullan
45	Austin	11	John Dallman	69	Patrick Nielsen
32	Margaret Austin	34	Steve Davies		Hayden
9	Amanda Baker	37	Guy Dawson	70	Teresa Nielsen
68	David Bass	36	Sue Dawson		Hayden
67	Sandra Baxter	24	Tara Dowling-	5	Mark Plummer
1	Stephen Baxter		Hussey	26	John D Rickett
41	Sandra Bond	33	Martin	48	Marcus Rowland
3	Bridget Bradshaw		Easterbrook	65	Ian Sales
2	Simon Bradshaw	74	Lilian Edwards	78	Naomi Saunders
44	John Bray	40	Sue Edwards	29	Alison Scott
4	Claire Brialey	58	Mary Frost	19	Mike Scott
8	Gordon Brignal	17	Gwen Funnell	61	Ken Slater
59	Tim Broadribb	6	Nigel Furlong	76	Ian Sorensen
13	John Brown	7	Sabine Furlong	28	Maureen Kincaid
63	Roger Burton	75	Chris Gilmore,		Speller
	West		Senior	56	Michael Spiller
31	Marianne Cain		Shoggoth	64	Tanya
30	Steven Cain	71	Rob Hansen	60	Graham Taylor
52	Chris Carne	77	Geoff Hill	23	Barry Traish
46	Caro	54	Tim Illingworth	15	Paul Treadaway
72	Avedon Carol	25	Tony Keen	73	Mark Waller
35	Giulia de Cesare	27	Paul Kincaid	62	Huw Walters
10	David Clements	43	David Langford	18	Peter Wareham
47	Eddie Cochrane	55	Peter Mabey	50	Janet Wilkins
51	Chuck Connor	57	The Magician	53	Bridget Wilkinson
79	Chris Cooper	38	Sue Mason	39	Anne F Wilson
80	Kate Cooper	16	Alex McLintock		

General Information

All Seccon programme items take place in the Knebworth room, except for the Dead Dog Party on Sunday evening, which will be in the bar.

The opening time for the Dealers' Room will be posted on the door of the Datchworth Room.

Meals are available in the Hotel at the following times:

Breakfast: 7.30 - 10.30 (10.00 Monday)

Bar Snacks: 11.30 - 2.00

Dinner: 7.00 - 10.00 (Restaurant)

6.30 - 10.30 (Bar)

The coffee shop by Hotel Reception is open 9.30 - 5.00

Cash Points The nearest cash point is in the Tesco supermarket close to the Hotel (inside the store entrance on your left) - it claims to accept just about all bank cards.

Notes

Steve Davies