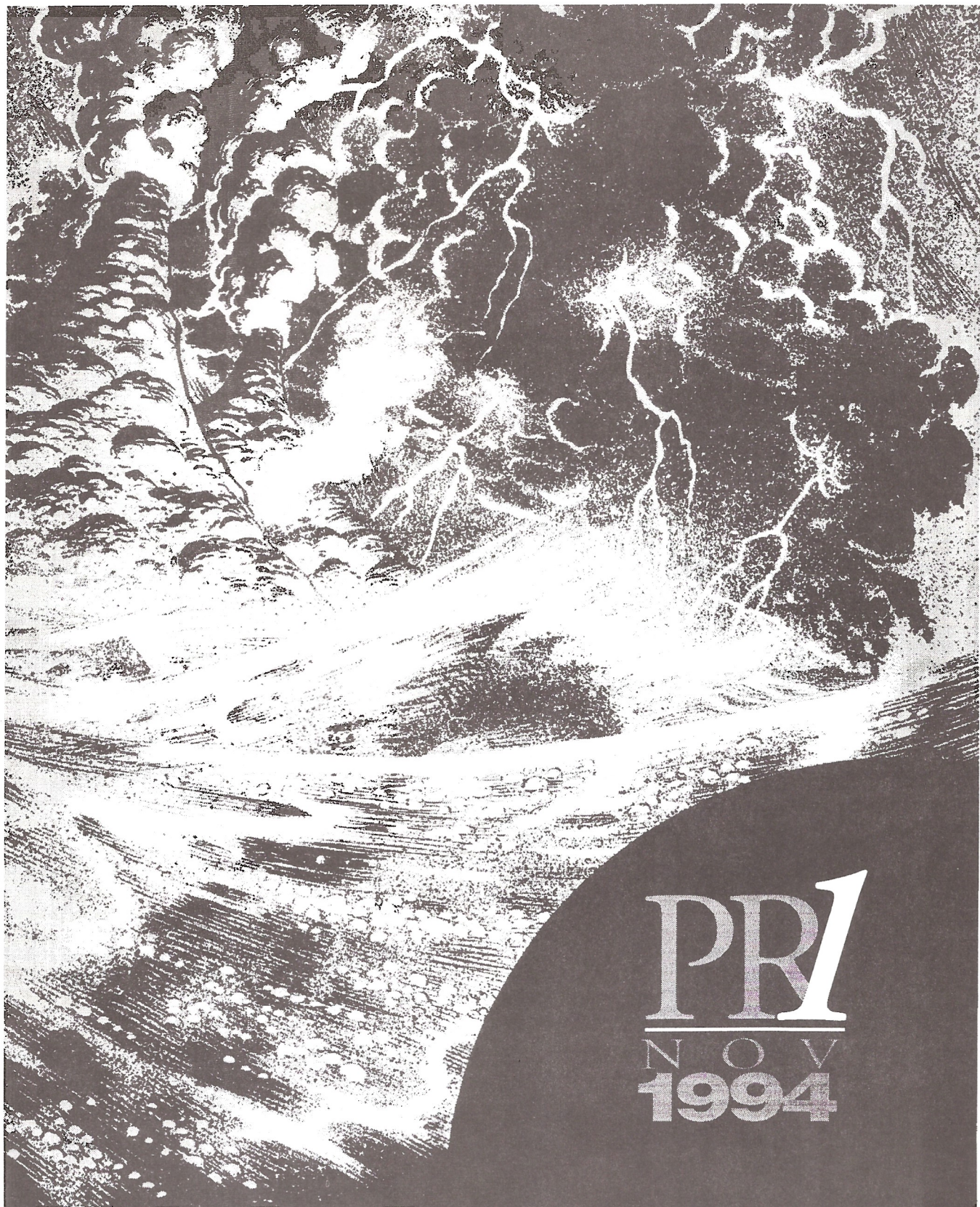


# EVOLUTION

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## THE NEXT STEP



**PR1**  
NOV  
1994

**P R O G R E S S   R E P O R T   O N E**



# EVOLUTION

THE NEXT STEP

# PR1

NOV  
1994

## Committee

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Graham Taylor .....	Treasurer
Simon H Le Gros Bisson .....	Programming
John Bray .....	Ops
Mary Branscombe .....	Publications Manager
Pat McMurray .....	Site Liaison
Mark Charsley .....	Membership and General Secretary
Steve Glover .....	Official Voice of Doom and Gloom

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Hotel Liaison .....	Tim Illingworth Hugh Mascetti Eddie Cochrane

## Membership & Enquiries

Attending membership is £20, £12 supporting or child rate (between 5 and 14 on 5th April 1996 – children under 5 are free). These rates are valid until 18th April 1995. Contact us at: Evolution, 13 Lindfield Gardens, Hampstead, London NW3 6PX, UK

E-mail: [general\\_bmh@ee.ic.ac.uk](mailto:general_bmh@ee.ic.ac.uk)  
[membership\\_mcharsley@cix.compulink.co.uk](mailto:membership_mcharsley@cix.compulink.co.uk)

## Advertising Rates

£40 per A4 page fan rate, £100 professional. Deadlines for PR2 1st March 1995, PR 3 1st October 1995, PR4 7th January 1996. To guarantee your ad in a particular PR, please book a month in advance. Contact Mary Branscombe 18 High Street, Twerton, Bath, Avon BA2 1BZ

E-mail: [maryb@cix.compulink.co.uk](mailto:maryb@cix.compulink.co.uk)

## Acknowledgments

Thanks to our guests for their help, Rhodri who got us into this, Mr Cadbury's Parrot for sustenance. Special thanks to Tanais for page designs.

## Creditz

Page designs by Dancing Fox Productions. Edited by Mary Branscombe. Printed by PDC Copyprint.

## Guests of Honour

Vernor Vinge Dr. Jack Cohen  
Colin Greenland Bryan Talbot

## Start here!

**W**elcome to *Evolution* and our first Progress Report! I'm glad to say we have plenty of progress to report to you, most importantly on the site – see below for details. We're very happy with our new hotel but if you are unable to attend a con outside Brighton, we will refund your membership. Our committee has often been described as a mixture of experience and enthusiasm and we're certainly finding it a useful combination. We'd like to

introduce ourselves to you and to tell you something about our Guests of Honour. We hope you'll find the work of Jack Cohen, Colin Greenland, Bryan Talbot and Vernor Vinge as exciting as we do.

Also in this PR, you'll find *The Adventures of Little Rex*, a dinosaur making great leaps in evolution, plus some *Evolution* recipes, to prove the *Conspicuous Consumption* bid at *Sou'Wester* wrong – we have a deep and abiding interest in food! The list of current members is on the back page – please check your details.

This PR isn't only going to *Evolution* members – if you haven't yet joined, you'll find a membership form enclosed.

Like all conventions, we're looking for volunteers to help out. We need people in the following areas: almost everywhere (especially *QuarkXPress*-savvy DTP people). If you would like to help with transport, Ops, security, publicity or any of the many other tasks that an Eastercon

brings in its wake, please contact us at the *Evolution* address.

We'll need to work out what we have to do as well as who we have to do it with, so please be patient if we don't get back to you immediately – we will be in touch.

Similarly, if you have any good ideas about what you'd like to see at *Evolution*, we'd like to hear from you.

- Mary Branscombe  
Publications Manager

*Mary Branscombe*

## The Hotel – bad news and good news...

**F**irstly, we're sorry to tell you our plan to hold *Evolution* in the Brighton Metropole has fallen through. After *Sou'Wester*, we went to the Metropole to negotiate a contract, but they decided they didn't want our business. We believe they consulted a previous manager and decided they didn't want fannish business because of various problems at *Conspiracy*. This was a great disappointment to us.

We have not been able to find another suitable site in Brighton. We still like the town of Brighton very much, but it appears hotels there don't want, or can't handle, our business.

## The Good News

Instead, we have found an excellent hotel, never before used by an Eastercon. The Radisson Edwardian is a 459 bedroom 5 star hotel near Heathrow and Archon, the *Star Trek* con held there, was a great success. The staff are friendly and the facilities excellent. We particularly like the large glass atrium with swimming pool. The hotel promises affordable meals and drinks at pub, not hotel, prices.

Room rates, per person per night, including full English Breakfast are: double or twin £30, triple £28, single occupancy of a double room £50. These rates also apply during the previous and following week, if you fancy a longer stay in London.

## Getting There

Heathrow is easy to reach from all parts of the country. Coaches run from many towns directly to the airport (including RailAir links from Reading and Woking) and there's a courtesy bus to the hotel. The Underground from central London takes about 40 minutes. Of course, access by air is easy! If you're driving, the hotel is just off the A4 and near the M4.

## Getting Around

Heathrow is also a good centre for visiting other places, if you can drag yourselves away from the convention! Royal Windsor, Hampton Court and Richmond Park are nearby, with the Chilterns and Oxford just 40 miles away. There's a nice pub around the back of the hotel. The courtesy bus takes you back to Heathrow – not the gastronomic desert it's reputed to be. Buses and tubes get you to west London villages: Teddington, Hammersmith, Hounslow and Ealing (with the best fish & chip restaurant for miles around). It's easy to get to Southall, which has plenty of good Indian restaurants. Of course, there's always central London, with museums, bookshops, the West End, bookshops, restaurants, bookshops, pubs, and – oh, did we mention the bookshops?

- Pat McMurray  
Site Liaison



# Meet the committee

**B**ridget Hardcastle (also known as Bug) started going to conventions at *Eastcon '90* and never got around to stopping as people keep persuading her to part with money for the next con. Running an Eastercon came as a surprise but is turning out to be A Good Thing.

She is also involved with ICSF (Imperial College SF Society) and goes to see the Rocky Horror Picture Show far

too often. She is known for her fondness for chocolate, which she expounds upon at length in *Obsessions*, her fanzine, and likes Eastercons as they are a great excuse to get given chocolate.

In real life she is doing a PhD in silicon micromachines ("It's like science fiction every day", enthuses Bridget).

*Bridget*

**I**n real life Mary Branscombe is a features editor on a PC magazine and not at all used to talking about herself in the third person, except on the Internet. She reads voraciously and enjoys anything from Barbara Hambly and Charles de Lint to hard SF via E.E. "Doc" Smith and Philip Jose Farmer and is waiting avidly to see if H Beam Piper has re-incarnated as Harry Turtledove.

Previous con experience: gained in the bar at UKCAC and SCAM. Most likely to say: Hang on, I've only got another 10 pages to read, Have we got any Häagen-Dazs left?, Where's your biography for PR 1? Least likely to say: No, honestly, I'd love to hear all about your collection of...

*Mary Branscombe*

**B**orn on the Channel Island of Jersey, Simon Bisson lives Borehamwood where his local supermarket was once the Death Star.

Simon used to play with fast computers, very fast lumps of metal and electromagnetic launchers at Bath University - until the money ran out. He no longer wears T-shirts and bermuda shorts at the GEC Hirst Research Centre's Network Systems Group whilst building the infobahn.

Not an urban person, he walks, climbs and builds narrow gauge steam railways up Welsh mountains. A self-professed

net.nomad, he's often found complaining about the weight of the Iron Chicken, his portable Internet site. Fannishly he reads far too much SF, and was the accidental founder of the *Bath SF Discussion Group*. These days, he just gets grabbed by masked strangers and forced to run conventions.

He blames it all on watching the Apollo-11 moon landing on a flickering black and white TV at goodness knows what time in the morning at a rather impressionable age.

*Simon Bisson*

**P**at McMurray: I'm 32 and I'm Irish, almost six feet tall, married to Rona - and two cats, Sophie and Silk. A graduate in Mathematics, I work in London as a salesman-cum-engineer.

I like animals, especially cats, and own a Mac named "Gimme Cookie!" I've been reading SF all my life starting with Heinlein, Fisk and Christopher - favourite authors today include Gene Wolfe, Iain (M) Banks, Mary Gentle, Frederik Pohl, Umberto Eco, Paul Leyner, Nevil Shute and Henry Treece. I have several thousand books and creaking shelves

I like beer and vodka and will eat almost anything. I can survive long periods of time without too much sleep and I have a very silly sense of humour.

My first convention ever was *Helicon*, Easter 1993, but even then I was working (hidden away in the Green Room). I'm also a regular drinker at the 'Tun in London, where coherence on my part is not guaranteed.

*Pat McMurray*

**M**ark Charsley is Membership and (when he turns up) General Secretary. He's been known by many names over the years, but most people know him as 'that bloke in the waistcoat'. He isn't really aardvark enough to refer to himself in the third person, so I'll switch mid-sentence. I ran the newsletter of the *Oxford University SF Group* for a bit and was best knurdler at *Helicon's* Dead Dog Party. I've been addicted to

cons since I was bullied into buying an *Illumination* membership by Dave Clements and have a couple of ideas about improving them. I work (in the loosest possible sense of the word) at GEC Hirst, and my interests include stand-up comedy, comics, computers, films, hive minds, light-hearted RPGing and recovering from glandular fever.

*Mark E.W. Charsley*

**S**teve Glover discovered conventions in 1979. However, he used the flyer as a bookmark, so it was 1985 before he first attended a con. Since then, he's been to lots of cons (64 at the last count) and had a go at most things in fandom: fanzines, conrunning, apas, filking, a stint at co-editing *Matrix*, and up until last Easter could safely claim to have tried almost everything in congoing fandom except entering a masquerade

and running an Eastercon. Steve is the most northerly committee member, having just moved to Edinburgh. Outside fandom, he can be seen participating in those varied areas where having a beard, spectacles, good taste in beer and bad taste in t-shirts are not seen as besetting sins.

(((((\*\*\*))) All the  
(\*@|||@\*) Talk  
||| Of the  
\\|||\\ Market

Steve Glover

**G**raham Taylor is *Evolution's* treasurer, newly evolved from assistant treasurer. His conrunning origins start with *Uniconze* in 1990, when he was also treasurer. A brief experimentation with international football proved something of a dead end.

By day, he works as an actuary for an insurance company. His responsibilities

include ensuring that his company doesn't run out of money to pay its policyholders - which should make him a safe pair of hands.

SF interests include high tech and alternative reality, in particular England's remarkable and surprising successes in the 1994 World Cup.

*Graham Taylor*

...write and tell me what you'd like to do with my moose. PO Box 95

\*

JOHN, Oxford Graduate, meteorologist/programmer, beard & glasses, 26 going on 40, seeks intellectual stimulation and personal commitment from brunette, to share interests in SF with plots, really hard science, hill-walking, architecture (esp. castles and IA) and G&S. Based in Surbiton, transport nexus of SW London, will shower largesse on all comers. Every applicant to receive a sample of Old Bray's Kentish Ways, inane folklore learned on familial knees. Will bore on *Illumination* programme, *Intersection* science program and *Evolution* Ops for hours. GSOH, own teeth. PO Box EVOL96.

\*

Solitary Scottish con artist seeks glamorous...



# Why is anything ever simple?

John L. Casti

**The Collapse of Chaos: Discovering Simplicity in a Complex World.** By Jack Cohen and Ian Stewart. Viking: 1994. Pp. 496. £18, \$23.95.

SOMEONE once described Los Angeles as 38 suburbs in search of a city. I can't think of a better metaphor to describe how I felt as I began my trek through this book. For the first 200 pages or so, I tried valiantly not to be distracted by the fineries of viruses, information theory, reductionism, algorithmic complexity, the genetic code, the Game of Life, Langton's ant, Lorenz's butterfly, dialogues with alien scientists and the dozens of other intellectual goodies put on the table before me. Not once tempted by these blandishments, I steadfastly persevered in search of the city surrounded by these suburbs of the intellect. And, as they say, all things come to those who wait — provided that they're willing to wait long enough — and on page 222 I finally found the Holy Grail. The authors' mission, it turns out, is to convince the world that scientists have been focusing on the complexities of a system when what really needs explaining is its simplicities. In short, if there's all that complexity out there, why is anything ever simple? *Voilà*. From there on it was as if I were in a hot-air balloon soaring over the landscape of complex systems, being continually regaled by tales of the world below by guides intimately familiar with every nook and cranny of the territory.

The "collapse of chaos" in the title refers to the way in which complex behaviour emerging from simple rules at one level can itself give way to simple behaviour at another hierarchical level. Although one might quibble with the conflation of chaos and complexity, this process of the emergence of simple properties and patterns from complex behaviour is the key in the rapidly unfolding science of complex systems, so the authors have certainly chosen well to have it constitute the centrepiece of the second half of the book.

The authors draw a useful distinction between reductionism as a way of getting at the scheme of things and emergent behaviour, regarding the first as focusing on the inside of systems, their content, so to speak, and the latter emphasizing that which lies outside the system, its context. These are essentially dual aspects of any system, which strongly suggests that both are needed to understand fully the whys and wherefores of any complex process. Yet conventional science focuses almost exclusively on the system's context, which seems to be a bit like trying to

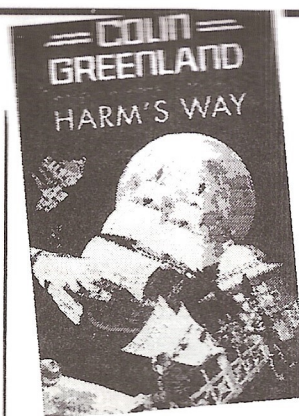
play basketball with one arm tied behind your back. It can be done, but you'll certainly do better with both arms engaged in the action. In fact, the book argues that it's flatly impossible to understand emergent phenomena if you don't look at both sides of this duality and consider the system's interactions with its environment.

To characterize emergent behaviour, the authors revive two archaic words, "simplicity" and "complicity", which to many readers (including this reviewer) may at first glance appear to be all-too-cute neologisms. But there turns out to be considerable merit to this semantic trick. Simplicity is related to the word 'simplex', meaning simple, and refers to 'regular' emergence, the kind whereby a system of rules gives rise to simple features. A good example is the appearance of the celebrated Feigenbaum constant in all period-doubling routes to chaotic behaviour. Complicity, on the other hand, is a kind of 'super' emergence, in which completely different rules converge to produce similar features. The authors cite consciousness and evolution as prime examples of this kind of emergence. So simplicity explores a fixed space of the possible, whereas complicity enlarges the space. Regardless of the appellations, these are definitely useful distinctions to draw about the behaviour of complex systems, and it is to the authors' credit that they present them in such an easy-to-digest fashion for the general reader, not to mention the scientific public.

Despite the intimidating theme, which may suggest to many a fairly dull tramp along several well-worn paths in the philosophy of science, I think most readers will be pleasantly surprised to find in this work a host of new and thought-provoking ideas about the workings of complex systems. The authors have taken considerable pains to describe their ideas in familiar terms, with many examples — mostly from biology — and have admirably made the point that something fundamental is missing in the traditional reductionist view of science.

Simplicity and complicity may or may not make their way into the scientist's lexicon, but the ideas they encapsulate about system complexity and simplicity will almost surely form the backbone of twenty-first-century science. And this book is as good an introduction to that science of the future as any you're likely to find. □

John L. Casti is in the Santa Fe Institute, 1660 Old Pecos Trail, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505, USA.



Colin

**O**f course we're not barbarians. The barbarians live a long way away, over the mountains. So remarks the young Jillian Curram to her

uncle in Colin Greenland's *The Hour of the Thin Ox* (1987). But as Greenland's novels so often show, the barbarians are always much closer than you think.

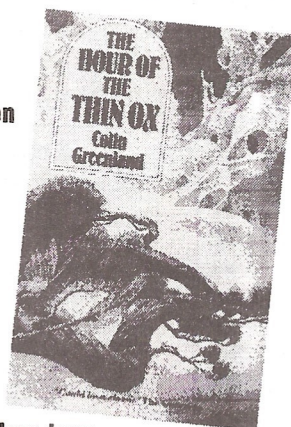
**T**ake *Daybreak on a Different Mountain* (1984), Greenland's first novel. In this, he paints a vivid picture of a society in decay. Much like the Romans, the inhabitants of Thryn have built a wall around themselves, to shut out the world, or perhaps to keep it in, while they await their god, Gomath, who will return to perfect the city. Dubilier and Lupio defy the laws of the city and flee into the wilderness, living and travelling with the tribes, the so-called barbarians. Yet who is the more barbaric: the citizens of Thryn who lift not a finger to help themselves, or the tribes who have evolved a way to survive without the dubious benefits of life in the city?

Dubilier and Lupio bring back a new, more complete vision of living and the groups are reconciled.

In the world portrayed in *The Hour of the Thin Ox* and *Other Voices* (1988) matters are far less clear-cut.

A string of small Balkan-type states view one another with suspicion and their rulers find themselves caught up in an endless round of diplomacy, with alliances constantly made and broken. Fortunes are won and lost according to the signatures on the treaty and the world is in a state of political flux. Everyone seems to have their own solution but none of them will work together to achieve a lasting peace; Greenland embodies this in the exploits of Jillian Curram, instigator of a suicide mission to protect a group of people who are quite capable of taking care of themselves, thank you very much, not because they mean anything to her but because through this she can take her own revenge on the invaders who destroyed her livelihood.

*Other Voices* shows the flip side of this picture. While Bryland fights for its freedom, Luscan has been conquered and Princess Netta



## Who is Jack Cohen?

**J**ack Cohen is an evolutionary biologist who designs alien worlds and lifeforms. His new book *The Collapse of Chaos* gives its readers a head start on the science of the future...

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# Meet the Guests of Honour

## Greenland

lives ceremonially on show, a move calculated by her Eschalan captors to reassure the populace. Again, intrigue flourishes and all it takes is one brief moment of anger for the peace to be shattered. Unlike Jillian Curram, however, Netta eschews the volatility of the heart for a more considered approach in her fight to regain her kingdom, although even she is drawn eventually into armed resistance.

Greenland's first three books ostensibly explored the eternal cycles which govern every society: peace and violence, dissatisfaction and contentment, but it also became noticeable that his female characters were gradually assuming control of his work. Some, like Jill Curram, fulfilled that age-old male stereotype, of the woman who acts first and then thinks, while others, like Netta, weigh the consequences of every move. We should perhaps have been warned...

**B**ut nothing prepared the world for *Take Back Plenty* which sprang joyously onto the SF scene in 1990. The cover proclaimed it a space extravaganza, and many readers felt this supported a trend towards literate space opera initiated by Iain Banks' Culture novels. Others enthusiastically praised Tabitha Jute, *Plenty's* protagonist, just your average spacer trying to make a living, and as it happened, female, and by virtue of that, a feminist statement. Too frequently, novels about women in space are overtly that but Tabitha's gender was entirely irrelevant in the context of the story, if of overwhelming importance to readers who were tired of seeing women portrayed either as screaming bimbos or as feminist stereotypes. In Greenland's future, women were just getting on with their work.

And yet the familiar concerns are also still there. Greenland's universe is inhabited by a range of alien species, each competing to take control, echoing the inter-state warfare of his earlier novels and indirectly posing the same questions as *Daybreak*. Who has the right answer? Much of *Plenty* is concerned with maintaining the status quo which, however dubious, is at least workable. The emphasis though is on plot rather than philosophy, with the cultural concerns moving into the background.

Instead we become involved with Marco, leader of a highly unorthodox cabaret troupe, who promises Tabitha the wherewithal to repair her beloved ship, the Alice Liddell, if she'll only take him to Plenty. It's not that Marco is a liar, you understand, just that "reality can be a little uncompromising sometimes" and by embroiling Tabitha in a complex web of lies, Marco plunges them all into a danger far greater than anyone can imagine.

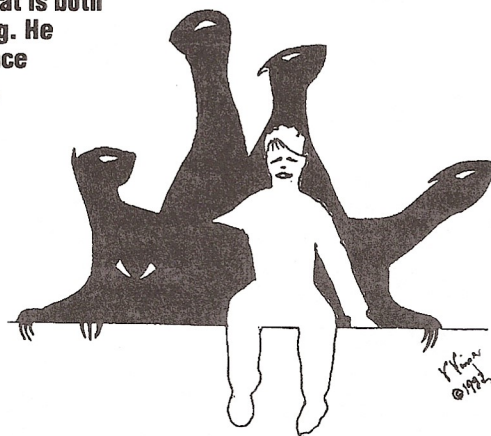
## Vernor Vinge

Vernor Vinge is the Hugo winning author of *A Fire Upon The Deep*, a fantastic journey across a dangerous galaxy, which re-defined space-opera for the '90s (and amused the many folk who recognised "the Net of A Million Lies"). Among his many other works are *True Names*, often seen as one of the first cyberpunk stories, and the *Across Realtime* diptych, where he began to explore the idea of an upcoming 'Singularity' in human evolution. Despite this indescribable future just around the corner, Vernor writes Sf that is both intelligent and entertaining. He lectures in computer science at a Californian university, and *Evolution* will be his first appearance at a UK convention.

The relationship between the human boy Jefri and the pack intelligences is a central theme in *A Fire Upon The Deep*.

-Simon Bisson

"A friend, a rescuer, an enemy? It wasn't till years later that Jefri Olsndot realized how deep and real the question had been. So many times he had sat amongst the Flenser, thinking himself safe and never seeing the pack as an older human might, as a clawed hand that delicately held him."



Jefri with the Flenser-in-Waiting

But if Tabitha Jute is struggling to keep control of her life, Sophie Farthing, heroine of *Harm's Way* (1993) has entirely lost control of hers. *Harm's Way* might best be described as a Victorian melodrama with SF overtones. The formal language and recognition of the Dear Reader's presence sends us back to a world perhaps more familiar to readers of the Brontës.

Sophie is the classic orphan girl in jeopardy, the rich heiress born out of wedlock, the disgraced child doomed to make her own way in the world, the naive ray of sunshine who improves the lives of those around her. She is, as she notes, "in harm's way" as though Fate is working against her while she is a cork bobbing in the Flux. All is, of course, resolved in the usual appropriately melodramatic fashion but once again the familiar concerns lie under

the surface, all the poignantly given the quasi-Victorian setting and the low status of women, who are forbidden

to be Pilots in a world dominated by space travel and the constant to-ing and fro-ing of alien visitors.

"My dream is a big one" says Dubilier in *Daybreak*. "It's far ahead, calling me; and at the same time it's behind me, pushing me forward! I can't be satisfied with small dreams." The dream Colin Greenland offers is confusing but all dreams are confusing; it's in their nature. It's a dream in which women participate equally in a genre that has been traditionally the preserve of men, in which humans and aliens will mix unremarked, but equally it's a dream in which baser natures will break through from time to time, where the urge to colonise and appropriate will surface time and again, as if to prove that reality is indeed uncompromising.

-Maureen Kincaid Speller

Maureen Speller is head of the BSFA and reviewer for *Critical Wave*. She describes herself as an "ancient fan" and likes cats, chilli and Paul Kincaid (in no particular order).



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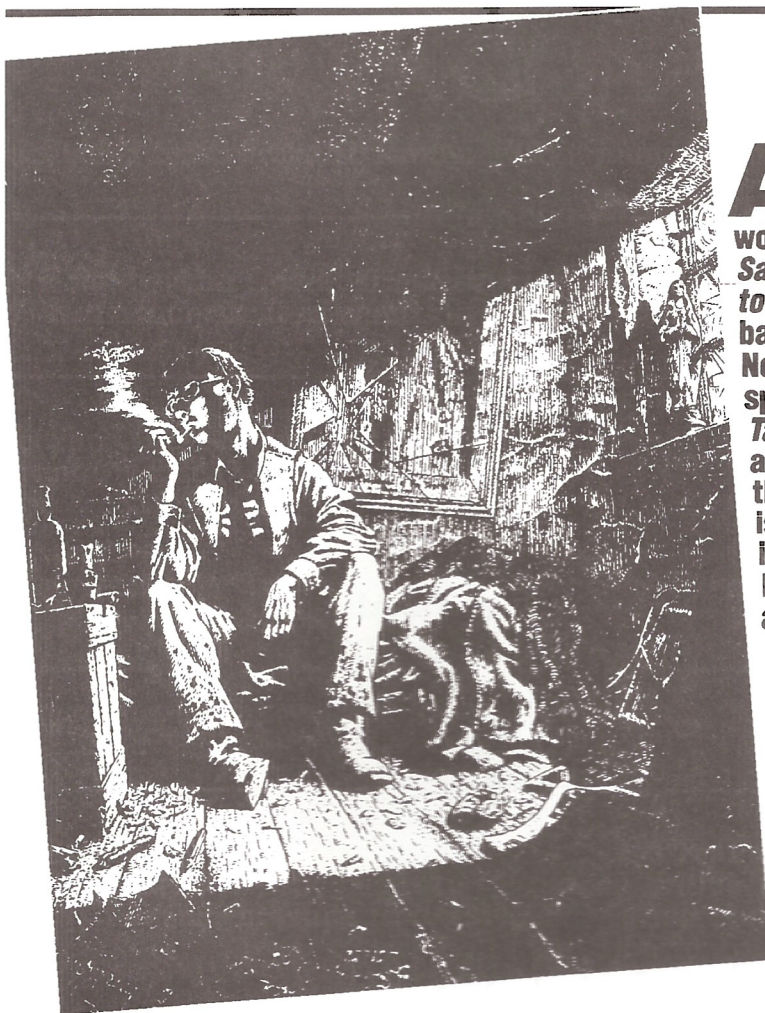
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Send a Stamped, Self-Addressed Envelope to the Above Address

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## Bryan Talbot

**A**n immensely talented artist and writer, Bryan Talbot is familiar to many people from his work on *Nemesis the Warlock* in *2000AD*. He has also worked frequently with Neil Gaiman especially on *Sandman*. Recently he was concept artist for *Return to Love*, a film directed by John Sorenson, loosely based on Ramsey Campbell's *Above the World*. Negotiations are under way with the BBC. Bryan has spent the last two and a half years completing *The Tale of One Bad Rat*, the story of Helen Potter, an abuse victim who finds that her life oddly parallels that of her favourite author, Beatrix Potter. *Bad Rat* is powerful, disturbing and profoundly moving – and it's already causing controversy with the Beatrix Potter Society backing it and the National Trust attacking it. It's on sale in October – take a look.

**B**ryan is probably still best known for *The Adventures of Luther Arkwright*, a tale of heroism and pacifism set across parallel worlds in a universe threatened by Firefrost and the disruptors, mysterious stormtroopers in black. In one parallel the Puritans still rule and Hiram Kowolsky, foreign correspondent for the New Amsterdam Herald, reports from his hideaway on London Bridge... *Arkwright* fans will be glad to know that Bryan is starting work on the sequel, which may well be finished in time for *Evolution*.

–Mary Branscombe

# Evolutionary Directions

**E**very convention needs a programme, and *Evolution* will be no different. Of course in PR1 it's a teensy bit early to give you an exact timetable, so here's a glimpse at some of the ideas we've been having.

It's an Eastercon.

Everyone knows what that means... but at *Evolution* we're thinking slightly differently. *Evolution* is going to be a convention that you leave saying "I can do that!" There'll be workshops, discussions and kaffee-klatsch. It's not going to be all big program items and talking heads this time!

Of course our choice of guests is going to affect our programme. With Vernor Vinge and Jack Cohen on hand, you'll be sure to find an item or two on the Singularity: the future of human evolution. And with Colin Greenland and Bryan Talbot around, there's bound to be a diversion into

Never mind about the guests – what's the programme going to be like? Will it be the usual panels without enough microphones?

an alternate history or two. Perhaps Bryan will inspire us to look at comics, Vernor at Hard Sf, Colin at the New Wave, and Jack at chaos.

Perhaps you'll find computers sat in the corners, ready to show you the Internet or to give you a chance at putting together an instant fanzine. You could find yourself in the bar talking astrophysics, or drinking a

cup of coffee and listening to someone explaining just how they wrote that story for *Interzone*.

For *Evolution* is really about you, the members. We want you to get involved, to start a fannish revival. We want you to run local groups, fanzines, to have a presence on the Net, to start new APAs, to boldly go where no fan has gone before... And this is

where we'll be encouraging you, giving you the tools you need to go out into the world as born-again fen! You'll have a chance to talk to folk who run some of the bigger local groups, listen to the thoughts behind a fanzine or three. You might get to listen to an APA at work, to sit in on a writer's workshop or even learn how to belly dance.

And as you get into your car, train or plane to leave *Evolution* we hope you'll take some of it away with you, as ideas and inspiration, as desires and dreams. *Evolution* isn't just an Eastercon, it's a philosophy.

Don't forget, if you've got something you want to offer *Evolution*, get in touch – write to us or e-mail [simon@fehen.demon.co.uk](mailto:simon@fehen.demon.co.uk).

**Ideas and inspiration,  
desires and dreams.  
*Evolution* isn't just an  
Eastercon, it's a  
philosophy.**

–Simon Bisson  
Programming

*Simon Bisson*



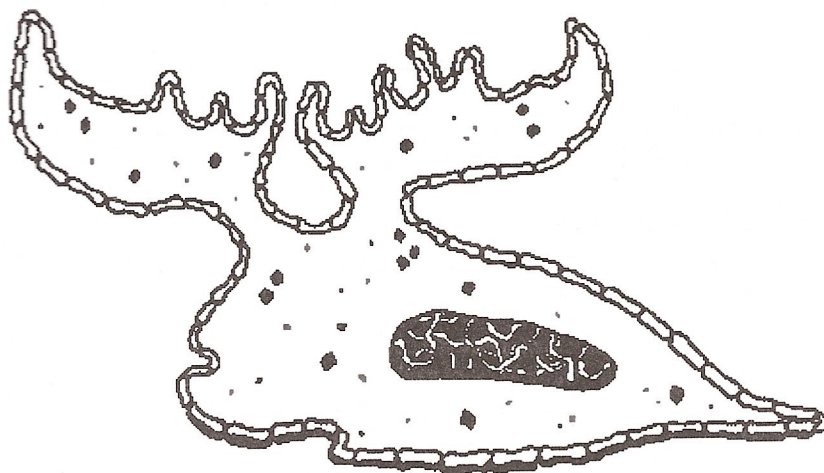
# Confabulation

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CONFABULATION  
the 1995 Eastercon

14th-17th April, 1995, Britannia International Hotel, Docklands, London  
Guests of Honour: Lois McMaster Bujold, Bob Shaw and Roger Robinson  
£20 attending/£10 supporting until 31/12/94: then £25 attending/£10 supporting  
3 York Street, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA15 9QH  
[confab@moose.demon.co.uk](mailto:confab@moose.demon.co.uk)

*Stages in the evolution of the moose*



*Step I: The Moosoeba*

Confabulation is planned to be a small and friendly Eastercon; if you haven't joined yet, then we're encouraging you to do so now. We aren't publicising the con much outside the fannish community, and we're aiming to have about 750 members. Although we can go a bit bigger than that, we may be forced at some point to close membership. In order to get a clear idea of numbers, we are encouraging people to join in advance. Our on-the-door rates, for both day and full attending memberships, will be expensive.

You can avoid both of these problems by becoming a supporting member of Confabulation now. It's only a tenner, and supporting members will be able to convert to day or attending membership at reasonable rates even if the convention has been closed. Supporting members also get all the convention publications. We will only be taking postal memberships until 31/3/95.



# THE ADVENTURES of Little Rex ... in London

The Origin

ONE DAY IN APRIL 1993, A GOOD FAIRY WITH NOTHING BETTER TO DO (IT WAS A

SLOW WEEK FOR LOOSE TEETH)

PUT THE LIVING SPIRIT OF A

BABY TYRANNOSAURUS

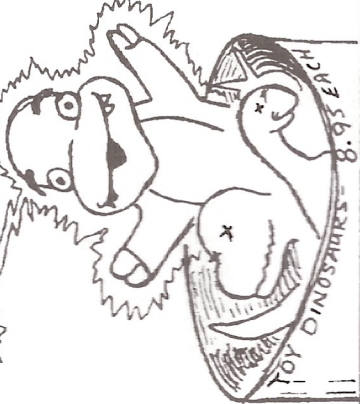
INTO A STUFFED, BLUE

TOY DINOSAUR...



Oooooo...!

ZAP!



R.G. SPRACKLAND

WHEN THE LITTLE DINOSAUR SAW ROBERT, HE JUMPED INTO HIS ARMS...



I need some chocolate-covered raisins...



...just as a real paleontologist came to shop in the same store.

AND SO BECAME A WONDERFUL FRIENDSHIP!

I like dinosaurs

me, too

I like chocolate

me, too

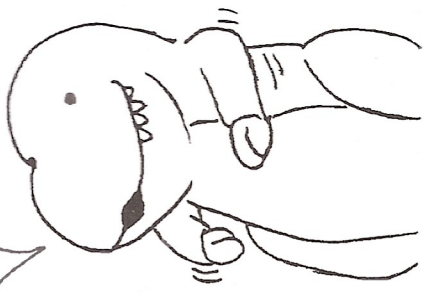
I like books

me, too



Soon after, Robert got an offer to study in LONDON

Oh, boy! What's a LONDON? Do they taste good?



FINALLY~ WEARY OF JET-LAG, THE TWO ADVENTURERS FOUND THEIR WAY TO LONDON... Home of Liz and Phil, Big Ben, Sherlock Holmes, BIG BEN, the TOWER, and, most FAMOUS of ALL -- CAPTAIN SCARLET AND THE MYSTERIONS!

WELCOME TO HEATHROW. NOW GO HOME!

ARE WE THERE YET?

ARE WE THERE YET?

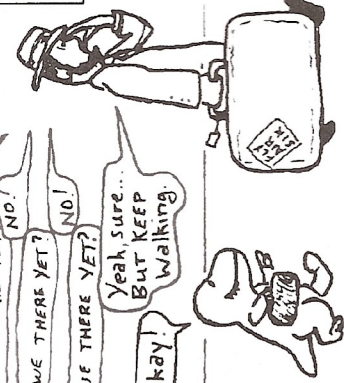
ARE WE THERE YET?

ARE WE THERE YET?

Yeah, sure... BUT KEEP Walking.

Okay!

IF YOU NEED GATEWICK YOU ARE IN THE WRONG PLACE



H.M. Customs:

U.K./E.C. Left

All Others INCLUDING Australia Right

Dinosaurs Downstairs

Right

Downstairs

©1994 RGS

Robert Sprackland is a herpetologist from San Francisco, currently living in London with his wife Teri and working at the Natural History Museum. We look forward to welcoming Little Rex to Evolution...



# INTERSECTION

## AUGUST 24-28 1995

GUESTS OF HONOUR

**SAMUEL R DELANY & GERRY ANDERSON**

ART GUEST OF HONOUR

**LES EDWARDS**

FAN GUEST OF HONOUR

**VINÇ CLARKE**

TOAST MR & MRS

**DIANE DUANE & PETER MORWOOD**



**THE**

# SCOTTISH WORLDCON

**SCOTTISH EXHIBITION & CONFERENCE CENTRE, GLASGOW**

**THE 53RD WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION.**

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MEMBERSHIP	£	US\$
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Child (Born 24/Aug/88 or later)	5	10

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# Food, glorious food

**L**et's face it, food is pretty important and as a committee, we've found it to be a potent force for binding us together into a coherent whole – there's not much more coherent than a committee stuck together with chocolate and ice cream. In the interests of fannish harmony, we'd like to share with you the food we've found so helpful, starting with Bridget's Primordial Soup Without Cabbage.

2 medium onions, chopped	2 medium leeks, chopped	4 sticks celery, chopped
2 tablespoons olive oil	4 oz smoked bacon(optional)	2 medium carrots, chopped
2 pints beef or vegetable stock	2 x 400g can chopped tomatoes	4 tablespoons tomato puree
2 oz small pasta shapes	4 oz shredded cabbage	1 pint milk
2 x 213g can red kidney beans, drained		Salt and freshly-milled black pepper

**To garnish: freshly-chopped parsley**

First acquire your ingredients and perform the necessary draining and chopping preparations upon them. Put the milk aside in a warm place. Gently cook the onion, leek and celery in the olive oil in a large pan till softened but not brown. Add bacon and cook, stirring, for another minute. Add all the rest of the ingredients except for the milk, pasta and garnish, realise your pan is too small, take out the cabbage, squash it all down a bit and bring to the boil. Worry as it all spills over the side of the pan, lower heat and simmer for 20 minutes. Add the pasta and cook for another 10 minutes or until it's tender. Adjust seasoning if necessary, and serve piping hot garnished with freshly-chopped parsley. Serve with grated Parmesan and crusty French bread. A nice dollop of sour cream probably wouldn't go amiss here, either.

Serves between two and six people, depending on how many people have brought enough food to feed the whole committee with them. **BH**

## Colin Greenland's Pancake Cake

Serves two. Pancakes are a good thing to serve to yourself and one guest, more laborious for any more than that. Quantities are a bit imaginary because I always do everything by eye and experience rather than weights and measures. Many people seem to be scared of making pancakes but they're actually good fun if you've got the right utensils. My favourite filling exploits the wonderful natural affinity of mushrooms, aubergines and slices of dead pig, but you can put anything in this if it's moist enough.

### For the pancakes

2 oz 100% wholemeal flour	quarter pint of milk
1 large egg or 2 smaller ones	dessertspoonful of oil

Mix well – a watertight bottle or beaker is good – just bung everything in and shake it a lot. The more you shake, the lighter the batter. Then you can pour it directly into the pan without messing around with ladles. Allow to stand, to give the flour time to absorb the liquid – 15 minutes, say, or longer won't hurt – shake every so often to stop the mixture separating. When you're ready to use it it should be thick and gooey but flow easily. If it doesn't, add more milk; you can always thin a batter that's too thick – the other way round is guaranteed to go lumpy.

### For the filling

frying oil	small onion	clove of garlic
6 rashers of bacon	6 oz mushrooms	1 not enormous aubergine

**shake of thyme, a little less of oregano, still less of sage**

salt and pepper if you want, but the bacon adds salt, and pepper's always best ground fresh onto the plate.

Chop everything small. In an oven-top casserole fry onion until soft, then add herbs, garlic, bacon; cook for a bit, then add aubergine and mushrooms. Make sure the mixture is not dry, then cover and simmer (very low) until the aubergine goes soft and moist. If your mushrooms produce a lot of liquid, thicken it with a couple of teaspoons of cornflour.

Light the oven and put a large ovenproof plate or dish in to warm. You can put the casserole of filling in too. Make the pancakes. The secret of pancakes is lots of egg, a heavy pan with a good undamaged surface, lots of heat and hardly any oil. (Traditionally lard, but I've never understood why.) Put just enough oil in the pan to cover the surface, pour off any excess, then heat it until it hazes and begins to smoke. Shake up batter furiously and tip in just enough to cover the bottom, tilting the pan every which way to make sure it does cover the bottom. Then leave it until the batter turns from shiny to matte, loosening the edges meanwhile if necessary. Slide spatula under pancake and turn it – I have never tossed a pancake in my life and don't see any need to make a delicate job into a hazardous one. The other thing about pancakes is the first one is always disappointing, and they only really get good as you run out of batter. I know no explanation or solution for this.

Take pan or turn down very low while you put pancake on a warm plate, top with dollop of filling, then cover and return to oven. Repeat until you have a pile of pancakes layered with filling. The advantage of this method is that you don't have to fill and roll pancakes individually and you can adjust the size of each dollop to make sure you don't run out of filling or have any left over. You can leave it in the oven long enough to cook a quick green vegetable, but no longer. Bring cake to the table and cut in half straight across the middle. **CG**

## Mary's Tiramisoara

1 tub mascapone	3 eggs	2oz sugar
2oz or lots more framboise	1/2 packet trifle sponges	2oz or lots more plain chocolate

fruit - about 2 apricots, 1 peach, 1 banana, 1 kiwi fruit

Separate eggs – mix the yolks and sugar together into a smooth, pale yellow mousse and get someone else to whip the egg whites to a fierce and frothy mass. When they've done that, take the chocolate out of the fridge, give them a big sharp knife and ask for finely sliced chocolate curls and slivers (get sticking plaster ready).

Stir the mascapone in to the yolks and sugar till smooth, then lightly mix in the egg whites. Taste in moderation, or there won't be enough to go in the dish. Slice the fruit over a bowl to catch any juice, set aside on a plate. Add the framboise to the fruit juice. Slice the trifle sponges and dip the slices quickly in the alcohol – not too long or you end up with a hand of crumbs and framboise but long enough that there's no dry spots. Place a layer in the bottom of the dish – alternatively place a layer of trifle sponge slices in the dish and pour over alcohol, which uses more framboise. Add a layer of fruit, a layer of mascapone custard and a sprinkle of chocolate. Repeat with layers of trifle sponges, then fruit, mascapone and chocolate until the dish is full. End with a layer of mascapone and the last of the chocolate.

Allow your egg whipper and chocolate slicer to help you lick the bowl out while you put the dish in the fridge for at least an hour. Serve in small bowls to about 6 people who will appreciate your genius. This dish is really Simon's variation on Tiramisu, from my original recipe, but I got fed up of being told it wasn't a 'real Tiramisu' and decided anything this alcoholic should be fannish... **MB**

## Yikes! A speaking Chair!

**Y**ou're the Chair, you write the introduction, they said. "I can't do that!" I cried. "Okay, write the afterword instead," they replied. I've not got this committee properly trained yet.

Well, here we are at the end of PR1. You will know by now that we have been successful in finding a new site after our sadly abortive negotiations with the Brighton Metropole. We are looking forward to holding an Eastercon in the Radisson Edwardian and will be bringing literature about it to future conventions so you can see for yourselves what it is like. I am eagerly anticipating the signings and programme items in the pool!

The programme is shaping up with a mixture of the serious and the silly; the hotel is ideal for the workshops we want to make a feature of, and everyone seems to be happy – even the people who have resigned! Yes, we're two down already... Rhodri James (whose fault this is) had the good sense to ship out before the bid, and our publicity officer Alex McLintock has left but has been replaced by Graham Taylor – doing Pat's job of treasurer. Pat has been shunted into site liaison (taking over from me – hooray) leaving me to take the mantle of publicity. I was going to say that Steve Glover has not got a job, but he has just found one in Edinburgh. Bert has been abducted by aliens, and Jeanette has just discovered her long lost twin. Confused? You know it makes sense.

While we were drunk at the 'Tun and not running away screaming "No, no, we shall not run an Eastercon," we thought of using the name *Vivisection*. This would let us use wonderful slogans like "Vivisection - it's a cut above the rest," and advertise breakfast as being smoked bacon, smoked kippers and smoked beagles – but somewhere along the line we settled on *Evolution*. It seemed such an apt name, and filled us with enthusiasm for doing new things with the Eastercon. The trouble is that people use our name as a noun. Some recent fanzine discussion on conventions has said (paraphrased wildly) "I remember the good old days when cons were small and great. Now they're big and full of sheep-like morons being herded around and they're too expensive. Evolution – it's crap" – which of course it won't be! Now we'd like your money. If you are a full member, thank you for your money. If you are not, please send us some! This has been a public service announcement. Thank you for listening.

*Bridget*

- Bridget Hardcastle  
Chair



# Evolving beings

**Evolution members as of 1/10/94**

We'd like to apologise in advance for any mistakes in this list. If we've mis-read your name, confused your house name for your badge name, or got your address wrong, please send corrections to Mark Charsley at the *Evolution* address or by e-mail to [mcharsley@cix.compulink.co.uk](mailto:mcharsley@cix.compulink.co.uk). If you have any membership queries, please quote your membership number when you contact us and enclose a copy of your receipt (if you have one).

Number	Type	Badge Name	85	A	Adrian Cox	88	A	G A Funnell	301	A	Dave Langford	152	P	David Peek	102	A	Helen Steele
304	A	1/2R	233	A	Dave Cox	273	A	Gamma	10	P	Richard Leigh	240	A	Arline Peyton	230	A	Andrew Stephenson
74	P	Geir Aaslid	145	P	Stephen Cox	247	A	Peter Garnett	186	A	Hans Loose	239	A	Rog Peyton	73	A	Jason Stevens
218	A	Michael Abbott	207	A	Cpt Blue	262	A	David T Garratt	52	P	Ralph Lovegrove	215	A	Roger Pinto	21	P	Ian Stewart
18	A	Andrew Adams	155	A	Paul M Cray	141	A	General Volunteer Phil	55	A	Lucy Smithers	172	P	Phil Plumbly	56	P	John Stewart
194	A	Aletia	138	A	Andy Croft	204	A	General Zed	181	P	Karen Lukawski	119	A	Mark Plummer	149	P	Martin Stewart
193	A	Alice	187	A	Rafe Culpin	173	P	Gemma	178	P	Karin Lundwall	127	A	Pomino the Kregoyne	177	P	Alys Stirling
260	A	Lissa Allcock	45	A	John Dallman	306	P	geoff@ete.co.uk	176	P	Sam J Lundwall	99	P	Alan Poppitt	209	A	Lars Strandberg
261	A	Philip Allcock	179	P	Julia Daly	252	A	Joe Gibbons	175	A	Peter Mabey	124	A	Dave Power	156	A	Marcus Streets
75	A	Paul Allwood	50	P	Mike Damesick	72	CA	Steve Glover	251	A	Bobby MacLaughlin	223	A	Josie Price	157	A	Rae Streets
46	A	Brian Ameringen	229	A	Dave Clements	1	G	Colin Greenland	254	A	Maggie Smith	293	A	Quantum Mechanic	159	P	Charlie Stross
113	P	Simon Amos	311	A	Dave Hardy	235	A	Grey Wolf	189	A	Marc	84	A	Record Demon	3	G	Bryan Talbot
214	A	Fiona Anderson	295	A	Dave Thomas	274	A	Steve Grover	40	P	Marion Naomi	258	A	Nicky Retallick	104	A	David Tamlyn
309	A	Mark F Bailey	195	A	Stephen Davies	210	A	Alan Gunn	54	P	Hugh Mascetti	47	A	John Richards	169	A	Alyson Taylor
77	A	Amanda Baker	9	A	Martyn Dawe	300	A	Urban Gunnarsson	266	A	Sue Mason	222	A	John D Rickett	105	A	Graham Taylor
246	A	John Bark	313	A	Robert Day	90	P	Tony Hammond	151	P	Robert Maughan	22	A	Roger Robinson	32	S	Terry Hunt
225	B	Michael Barker	196	A	Giulia de Cesare	265	A	Dave Harbud	170	P	Mavis T. Fairy	208	A	Mic Rogers	23	A	The Magician
226	A	Trevor Barker	42	A	Jim de Liscard	154	A	John Harold	29	A	Alex McLintock	24	A	Tony Rogers	211	A	The Menagerie
78	P	Jane Barnett	280	A	Lawrence Dean	122	A	Colin Harris	13	CA	Pat McMurray	203	A	Howard Rosenblum	15	A	The Tourist
131	P	Julia Barnsley	227	A	Zoe Deterding-Barker	256	A	Sue Harrison	194	A	Rob Meades	202	A	June Rosenblum	107	A	Tibs
130	P	Simon Barnsley	164	P	Sarah Dibb	279	A	Julian Headlong	281	A	Melusine	201	K	Michelle Rosenblum	272	A	John Trasler
294	A	Andrew Barton	93	P	Dirk	64	A	Penny J Heal	244	A	John Merry	120	P	Steven Rothman	70	P	Nicki Trasler
248	A	Bazooka!	67	P	Vince Docherty	231	S	Duncan Hedderly	199	A	Michael	61	P	Jane Routley	49	P	Neal Tringham
27	A	Chris Bell	33	S	Doctor Tones	91	A	Alasdair Hepburn	298	A	Mike Stone	69	A	Marcus L Rowland	180	A	Martin Tudor
79	P	David Bell	205	A	Paul Dormer	287	A	Jean Hoare	241	A	Rod Milner	165	P	Rufus	100	A	Larry van der Putte
41	A	Meike Benzler	232	A	David Drysdale	286	A	Martin Hoare	144	P	Mo Folorn	278	A	Geoff Ryman	263	A	Marion van der Voort
80	A	Michael J Bernardi	106	A	Dyrewulf	11	P	Mo Holkar	283	A	Derby Moir	234	A	Lena Sarah	264	A	Richard van der Voort
183	A	Bill	190	A	Roger Earnshaw	128	P	Derek Holt	62	A	Mike Moir	242	A	Bruce Saville	139	P	Alexander Vasilkovsky
81	S	Pete Binfield	57	P	Martin Easterbrook	270	S	Graeme Hurry	166	A	Mike Molloy	121	A	Sharon Sbarsky	108	P	Nico Veenkamp
6	CA	Simon Bisson	59	A	Eddie Cochrane	68	A	Tim Illingworth	163	P	Dave Mooring	284	A	Alison Scott	0	G	Vernor Vinge
271	A	Blackie	35	P	Sue Edwards	125	P	Glyn Jackson	136	A	Chris Morgan	285	A	Mike Scott	192	A	David B Wake
303	A	Jo Blake	148	S	Dave Ellis	126	P	Judith Jackson	135	A	Pauline Morgan	236	A	Angus Scott-Brown	182	A	Nick Walker
267	A	Hans-Ulrich Boettcher	71	P	Sean Ellis	129	P	JAG	94	A	Tim Morley	268	S	Maira J Shearman	109	P	Benedict Walmisley
249	A	Susan Booth	220	A	John English	5	A	Rhodri James	292	A	Steve Mowbray	101	A	Linda Shipman	245	A	Huw Walters
142	A	Jill Bradley	86	A	Allison Ewing	28	P	Jason Jarvis	30	A	Caroline Mullan	118	A	Simon A. Howell	162	P	Jo Walton
			134	P	Judith Faul	228	A	Jasper Hedger	53	P	Alison Murphy	76	A	Sion Arrowsmith	161	P	Ken Walton
			160	P	Feorag Ni Bride	44	S	Jeshelmina Fire-Hydrant Smith	89	A	Naghan the Tightfisted	143	P	Sioux	110	A	Peter Wareham
			297	A	Janet Figg	243	A	Jinx	308	A	A member of NESFA	237	A	Joyce E Slater	20	A	Pam Wells
			296	A	Mike Figg	291	A	Steve Jones	95	P	Gideon Nisbet	238	A	Kenneth F Slater	197	K	Karen Westhead
			174	A	Dave Allan Finch	146	P	Sue Jones	65	A	Nolly	299	A	Frank R Smith	58	A	Kathy Westhead
			219	S	Colin Fine	92	A	Dick Jude	158	A	Andrew Norcross	103	A	Dan Smithers	133	A	Mike Westhead
			38	P	Fiona	140	A	Richard Kettlewell	96	P	David Norfolk	150	A	Jane Smithers	198	K	Peter Westhead
			168	A	Brian Flatt	90	A	Kim Whysall	51	P	Katherine Norman	26	P	Smitty	167	A	Elda Wheeler
			185	A	Ronan Flood	111	P	Paul Kincaid	137	P	Lisanne Norman	257	A	Adrian Snowdon	255	A	Colin Wightman
			98	A	Forbidden Planet	259	A	Marek Kukula	191	A	Stephen O'Kane	277	A	Kate Soley	12	P	Bridget Wilkinson
			217	A	Mike Ford	117	P	Dorothy Kurtz	250	A	Orrile	290	A	Chris Soslowicz	63	P	Colin Wilkinson
			123	P	Foz	282	S	Christina Lake	97	A	Joan Paterson	147	A	Maureen Speller	276	S	Robert Williams
			153	A	Frank Richards	307	P	Dave Lally	31	A	Paul Marrow	224	A	Square Bear	112	P	Robert Wilson
			87	A	Anders Frihagen	37	A		17	P	Bernie Peek	212	A	James Steel	310	A	Wood Warrior