

NOVACON 44

Sometimes the Earth can save itself...

Where have you been?

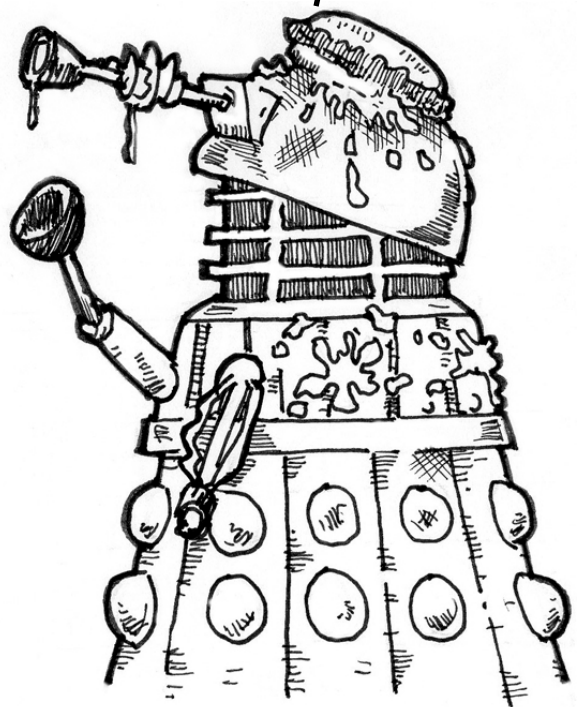
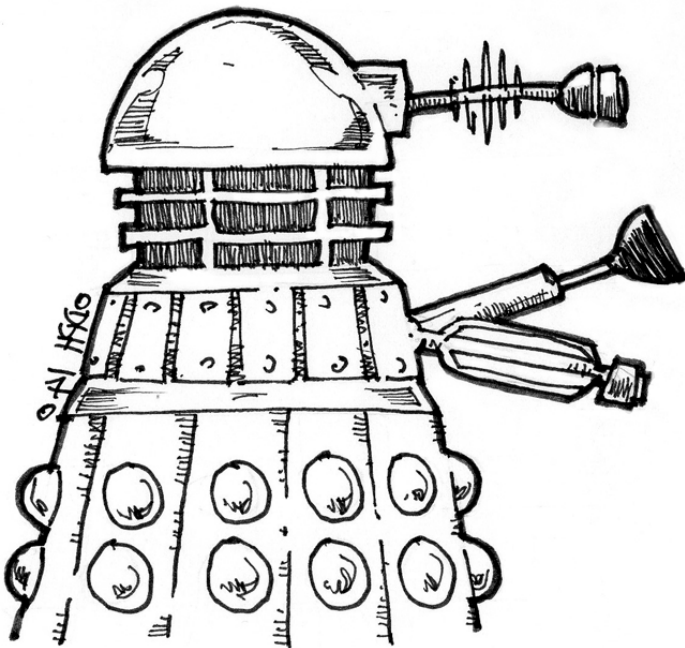
I told them all to obey or be exterminated.

They said: ' For f--- sake, everybody knows Novacon doesn't have a masquerade!'

But why did you take so long?

Then they threw tuna baguettes at me.

I had to go back for a car park token to get out.



PR #1



Park Inn Hotel

Nottingham

14-16 November 2014

Guest of Honour: Kari Sperring

Science Guest: John Gribbin

Membership Rates

Adults: £45 / 13-16 years: £12 / 12 years and under: free. Rates apply until Easter 2014 and are subject to review afterwards. Day rates will be available.

Hotel Rooms

Double or Twin: £45 pppn / Single: £63 pppn / Children under 5 years: free.
Children 5-13 years: £5 pppn (ages at the date of the convention)

Contact Details

See the website at <http://www.novacon.org.uk/> for more information.

Chair:	Steve Green	ghostwords@yahoo.co.uk
Programme:	Steve Green Theresa Derwin	ghostwords@yahoo.co.uk theresa.derwin@yahoo.co.uk
Memberships:	Steve Lawson 379 Myrtle Road, Sheffield S2 3HQ (0114 281 1572)	steve@altair-4.co.uk
Treasurer:	Ray Holloway	rrholl@brimstone2.plus.com
Hotel:	Tony Berry	morbius@altair-4.co.uk
Website:	John Harvey	john@harveyconsultancy.co.uk
Publications:	Doug Bell Christina Lake	doug_bell@tiscali.co.uk christina.l@virgin.net
Metal Mayhem:	Bellis	anders.bellis@gmail.com
Artshow:	Serena Culfeather	

PR #1 Credits

Cover illo by Sir Dave Hicks, Esq. The awesome Novacon 44 logo was created by the legendary Chrissie Harper (halloween.jill@gmail.com). Fillo on pg 9 Sue Mason.

Copyright Notice

Novacon 44 Progress Report #1 is copyright 2014 NOVACON. Articles, artwork and photographs must not be reproduced in whole or in part without the consent of the editor and/or the respective authors.

Welcome to the world of Novacon 44!

We're not new to Novacon, but have never been on the committee before, so it's been "interesting" finding out what goes on behind the scenes. This is our very first PR, so we hope it will contain enough information to get you excited about the next Novacon. This issue we're featuring our fabulous guest of honour, Kari Sperring, with an article about her multi-faceted career from Edward James. Next PR, we will bring you more on our special science guest John Gribbin and more on the rest of the programme from Theresa and Steve. We also have a contribution from another new committee member, the Swedish rock god, Bellis, with his own personal take on Novacon, as well as the full Nova Award results and some fanzine reviews from Christina to get you thinking about next year's Novas. But to start with, some words from one of our co-chairs, Steve Green.

- Doug and Christina

To Boldly Go (Again)

A Novacon chair's introduction to the first progress report is always somewhat of a juggling act. On the one hand, it's important to reassure regular attendees that the essential ambience of the event remains unchanged from year to year; on the other, they must be left anticipating fresh twists upon a format now well into middle age.

Of course, we do have a sparkling new guest of honour in Kari Sperring, not only the author of the acclaimed fantasy novels *Living With Ghosts* and *The Grass King's Concubine*, but a familiar face at our annual gathering of the fannish tribes. I've always admired the Novacon ideal that both professionals and fans are equally worthy of the spotlight, and it's sheer synergy when those aspects are intertwined within one individual. It was for this reason I invited Rob Holdstock to be GoH at Novacon 14, Charles Stross to take the title at Novacon 37 and now have such pleasure in honouring Kari.

Novacon is also known for its science programming, so I'm delighted to announce we have a terrific guest speaker in John Gribbin, a technology journalist, astrophysicist and a visiting fellow in astronomy at the University of Sussex. He's also written or collaborated on nine science fiction novels, but I'm sure no one will hold that against him.

In terms of committee continuity, I'm heartened to confirm Steve Lawson (registrations), Theresa Derwin (programme) and Tony Berry (hotel liaison) have all foolishly signed up for another tour of duty. Joining us for the first time are Christina Lake & Doug Bell (publications) and Ray Holloway (treasurer), whilst Bellis will be on hand dispensing Novacon's traditional party spirit in his own unique manner. Thanks also to John Harvey and Serena Culfeather, who are taking care of our website and artshow respectively.

In addition to our own endeavours, 2014 will also see the British Isles host both the Worldcon (in London) and the Eurocon (in Dublin). November seems an apposite juncture to look back at these two events, so please consider making your photographs and reminiscences available to us.

You will find your hotel booking form with this progress report. We've managed to negotiate excellent rates at the Park Inn: £45 per person per night for twin and double rooms, £63 per person per night for single rooms. You'll need to be a member of Novacon 44 to qualify for these rates, so head on over to www.novacon.org.uk if you haven't already attended to that. Please complete and return your form as soon as possible, as healthy booking figures strengthen our position in future discussions.

- Steve Green

KARI by Edward James

If you are trying to find Kari's books in the library, she is Kari Maund, or K.L. Maund, or Kari Sperring. The distinction is easy enough. If it is serious academic medieval Welsh history, it's K.L. Maund. If it is history aimed at the general reader, it's Kari Maund. And, of course, Kari Sperring writes fantasy fiction.



I can't remember whether I met Kari as Kari, at a science fiction convention, or as Dr K.L. Maund, in a medieval history conference. I have certainly met her in both contexts, and it must be at least twenty years, or even twenty-five years, ago. Kari can't remember either. So, we have at least two things in common: we both divide ourselves between the fantastic and medieval history, and we both have poor memories. Three things in common, actually: both of us loved Tolkien as children (though Kari discovered him at a much younger age than I did).

To some extent love of Tolkien determined both our lives. I decided I wanted to learn about early medieval history to see what lay behind Tolkien's fantasy world (and so far have been doing it for 45 years). But Kari was far more determined and focussed than I was: she knew that what lay behind Tolkien was not history so much as philology – the study of ancient languages like Old English or Old Norse. And so she went to Cambridge University as an undergraduate to the one place where you could get it all: ASNAC, the Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic. "I was going to become Tolkien," she says on her website.

She didn't get on with philology, though, and she very soon determined to become an historian instead.

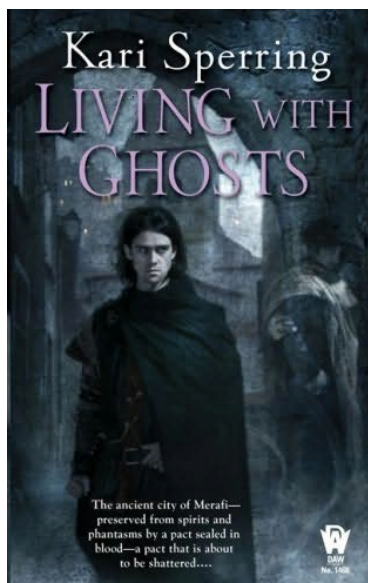
If you think that was taking the easy way out, then you don't know what it is like to be a medieval Welsh historian. Fair enough: you probably haven't met any, apart from Kari herself. They are a rare breed. The easy bit: well, just learn medieval Latin and Welsh, and, because there are so many interactions within these islands, you had better learn Old Irish and Old English too; and if you want to work in the period after 1100 or so, then Old French is quite useful; oh, and by the way, some of the modern scholarship is in German. Kari went to the source for her Old Irish: the Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies. I said "the easy bit" above: I am being ironic, of course. I went to classes in Old Irish myself, also in Dublin, and gave up: I found it fiendishly difficult.

After acquiring the languages it really *does* start getting difficult. The sources for the history of medieval Wales are not only written in complex languages, but are themselves fragmentary, confusing, and full of methodological problems. If you want to see what a ferociously technical topic medieval Welsh history can be, just open up her first book, *Ireland, Wales, and England in the Eleventh Century*, published by Boydell in 1991, or some of her numerous academic papers. But if you want to see how fascinating and exciting it can be, then try a couple of her books written for a much wider audience: *The Welsh Kings: The Medieval Rulers of Wales*, published by Tempus in 2000, and reprinted, with a much better title, in 2006: *The Welsh Kings: Warriors, Warlords and Princes*.

Better still, read *Princess Nest of Wales: Seductress of the English* (2007), which is about one of those amazing women of the High Middle Ages (Eleanor of Aquitaine is another) who impose themselves on their period by sheer force of will. She was a "seductress", as Kari's title puts it: the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* entry just says "it almost

seems as if sleeping with Nest was a routine requirement among the barons of Pembrokeshire in the early twelfth century". Her grandson, the writer Gerald of Wales, notes that thanks to her activities in bed there was only one Norman family in western Wales that was not related to him by blood. She even had a child by the future Henry I of England: Henry fitzHenry. But Kari's book shows that she was a "seductress" with a purpose: she managed to survive. Her father was the last of the independent kings of Deheubarth, in south-west Wales, and Nest lived through the Norman invasion and helped her family not just to survive but to prosper – even if one doesn't have to believe, with Wikipedia, that among her descendants were President Kennedy and Princess Diana...

It is amazing where a love of Tolkien can take you!



But Kari had another early love (Phil Nanson came along later): not only Tolkien, but Alexandre Dumas as well. She and Phil did a book together for Tempus, published in 2005, *The Four Musketeers: The True Story of D'Artagnan, Porthos, Aramis and Athos*, which is huge fun: I recommend it. She loves Dumas' narrative panache, and his larger-than-life characters. "If Tolkien was my ideal of how a writer was made, Dumas showed me what I wanted to write and how I wanted writing to make me feel."

It should be no surprise, then, that Kari's first published fantasy novel was much more Dumas than Tolkien. Kari Sperring's *Living with Ghosts* came out from DAW in 2009 (it's a matter of scandal, or at least of considerable regret, that it has not been taken up by a British publisher). The action takes place in Merafi, a town that feels like a cross between Paris and Venice, or perhaps, given the existence of

indescribable, nameless and totally squamous monsters that lurch out of the waters, a cross between Paris, Venice and Innsmouth. Its male inhabitants wield swords, and fight duels, and drink, and wench a lot: they are clearly kin to the musketeers. But this was written in the twenty-first century: there are female sword-wielders, and some of the most powerful people in town are women, and the main love interest is between the husband of the Queen's First Councillor and a bisexual male courtesan.

I confess that I hesitated several months before reading the book. I love Kari dearly: she is one of the nicest and kindest and sweetest people I know. What if I should hate the book? I took the plunge. No problems: it was splendid! Rich, full of action, full of thought and emotion, and packed with wonderful characters.

I also loved the hints about the strange cosmology and theology of Kari's fantasy world. So I was delighted to discover that her second fantasy novel from DAW, *The Grass King's Concubine* (2012), explored that side of things much more. The Grass King is one of the lords of the five elemental domains on the world in which both these novels are set: earth, fire, air, water, and darkness. She says that her elevator pitch for the novel was "it's Orpheus and Eurydice, with the French Revolution and ferrets and an astronomical water clock." That's not exactly all you need to know, but it is hardly



necessary to elaborate very much. The mythic elements are intriguing, and very much more than just a re-run of Orpheus and Eurydice; the revolutionary element adds something refreshingly different to the fantasy mix (why are there not more fantasy novels whose peasants and/or workers are on the edge of revolt?); the astronomical water clock was great, but deserved more space; and the ferrets were wonderful. (Perhaps the word order and punctuation of that last phrase should be: “and the were-ferrets? Wonderful!”)

Kari is someone who has a huge range of interests: cats, Hong Kong cinema, swords, China, orreries, manga, swords, and much else – and the much else includes helping to run science fiction conventions and talking on panels. I was so pleased to see that Kari was going to be a Guest of Honour at a convention. She has spent so much time over the years running the Green Room at Eastercons, that it will be good to see roles reversed and watch her being treated well, as she deserves. If you don't already know her, go to her panels, talk to her, and listen to her. And buy her books!

- Edward James

Hotel Update

The Park Inn hotel is on the Mansfield Road, about a mile from the centre of Nottingham. The main convention space (programme and dealers' room) is all on the ground floor, along with the bar. Downstairs is the artshow, Dave Lally programme and smaller rooms. There is also a second bar, which will be open on Friday evening and is available as lounge space at other times. Things like book-launches are held here. Last year it had a pool table and drinks machine although the pool table had seen better days.

The hotel does a good selection of bar food for the convention. It is prepared-to-order so may take a bit longer to arrive, but the wait is worth it! We will be planning to run the fixed-price carvery in the restaurant on Friday evening like before, which will ease the pressure on the kitchen staff and speed things up. At other times the standard restaurant menu will be available.

The hotel has an adjoining leisure club which guests can use although they are run separately.

IMPORTANT STUFF...

The Park Inn has 170 rooms, so plenty of space, but it's always a good idea to book early especially if you want a single room. For the first time in 3 years prices have risen by a couple of quid per person: Single rooms are £63 per night and double/twin rooms are £45 pppn. Children over 14 years pay the adult rate. The hotel has a few connecting rooms (one double and one twin) which can be used for families. Contact us if you want one of these. You can also have a cot or foldaway bed for a child put into your room at no extra cost, but you will have to pay for the child's breakfast.

The hotel does not require a deposit on your room, but if you are going to arrive after 4pm on the day (that's most of you!) you will need to guarantee the room with a credit card (no charge will be taken) so that it is not sold to someone else by the automated letting system. Please contact the hotel directly for this on 0115-935-9988.

THE NOVACON *by Bellis*

Novacon is a source of sadness for me. That might come as a bit of a surprise in view of the fact that not only have I attended a number of Novacons, including the last three - I am also a member of the committee this year, lured into the trap by my good friend Steve Green, the Chairman. The sadness, however, is of a specific variety. It stems from the sad fact that I have, so far, been close on but not totally unsuccessful in convincing my compatriots in Swedish fandom to attend, in spite of repeatedly gushing forth about this being the best convention of the year.

Because, as a matter of fact, it is.

Now, don't get me wrong. I love the Eastercons and I do attend them (or most of them), I love the Swedish conventions and I do attend them (all of them), and I do love the occasional WorldCon I attend (six or seven so far, can't remember at the moment). And any number of regional conventions you'd care to think of. But the main convention of the year, so to speak, is and remains the Novacon.

But this pertains to a specific kind of fan only. Those of you reading this, I daresay. (But please tell those of your friends who are of the same inclination as us - I'll come to that in a moment - to attend if they don't already do so, and I wish you more success than I've had with Swedish fandom).

Ok, so it's been a moment, right?

Ok, now I come to that.

The Novacon is a convention for what I would call hardcore science fiction and/or fannish fans of the trufan variety. Namely, people who **read** science fiction, who at least used to publish fanzines before this day and age of blogs and Facebook groups, fans who are - in short - fans of the written word. Old school - and new school, since it has turned out, to my surprise and satisfaction, that there are still sort of youngish people joining our ranks.

So, there you are. And what do our sort of fans like to do? Well, we don't particularly care to appear in pointed Spock ears or wield plastic swords, but we do greatly enjoy meeting old and newly found friends over a bheer or ten in the bar, we do enjoy attending programme items about science fiction **literature** and fannish trivia, we do enjoy the occasional room party, and we basically do enjoy sitting around in the bar - I'm returning to that theme, as you might have noticed - over a bheer or fifteen, having lively discussions about any subject imaginable, and a few no one could even have imagined before the convention got up and running. What binds us together is our common interest in science fiction literature and science fiction fandom, and for someone of that slant the Novacon is simply an essential must. Because there is no other convention where the ambience is so friendly, so welcoming, and where the number of attending fans is not so massively huge that you do not have time to meet and talk to all your old friends, as well as having time to make new ones. Anyone walking into a Novacon for the first time will find that it is rather astonishingly easy to make friends immediately.

I will even give you an example, one of many. Last year, a young fan called Luke Smith attended the Novacon. This was his first convention ever. He didn't know a soul. So what does he do? In the bar he walks up to me, of all people, and says "Hello!" and asks if it's ok to sit down for a bheer and a chat.

Now, you might not get the full import of this, but I'll try to fill you in. Look, he walks up to the loudest, most obnoxious person in the room, a man twice his age wearing Bausch & Lomb Ray-Ban Wayfarers, a leather jacket, death skull rings, and various other heavy metal paraphernalia, and looking for all the world like a serial killer. Somebody who would probably kill an unknown neofan on sight. Without asking first.

And Luke asks if we could sit down and have a bheer and a chat.

And that is how friendly the ambience at a Novacon is. You even dare approach the most deranged person you've seen in your entire life and ask him to sit down for a bheer and a chat! How much friendlier than that could a convention become? Now, honestly?

Point is, it worked. We did sit down for a bheer and a chat. And both Luke and I got a new friend - each other - and I then proceeded to introduce him to a number of my friends at the convention, including Greg Pickersgill no less, and within about an hour he was simply one of the gang. Close on somebody who was taken for granted - "Of course, Luke, come join us!" - and who, after a while, realised he could stop asking. He was welcome. As are all of us at this brilliant convention.

And that is really the great part of the Novacon. The size of the convention is perfect for meeting friends, old and new. And there is only one programme track, which means that there are no fillers, so to speak, but interesting and funny programme items through and through, and - also - you can attend any programme item you want to attend. There won't be any collisions. Mercy.

Oh, and did I tell you about the dead dog party? The best in fandom by far! The Guest of Honour chooses a menu, the brilliant chef at the hotel and his staff cooks the food - a number of courses - and you are invited for as many bheers of as many kinds as you can stomach, and the whole thing is not only a dead dog party, but a dinner worthy of a five star restaurant.

So, really, what is there to not like?

Well, maybe one thing, after all. The bartenders and the barmaids might have a word or two to say about The Three Musketeers. I'll fill you in.

This is the case. For the last three Novacons, Steve Green, Tim Stannard, and me have been the last fans standing. We call ourselves The Three Musketeers. We've kept the bar open all night, simply refusing to go to bed, and knocking 'em back with a vengeance. So yes, the bar staff might not entirely agree with what I say, but then again... such is life.

But Tim - Steve and me will unfortunately have to disappoint you this year. We are both on the committee, which means we will have to go to bed early.

Thus, come six a.m., no more drinks in the bar. Off to bed.

Sorry, mate, but sometimes life just sucks, doesn't it?

- (Anders) Bellis

2014 Nova Awards

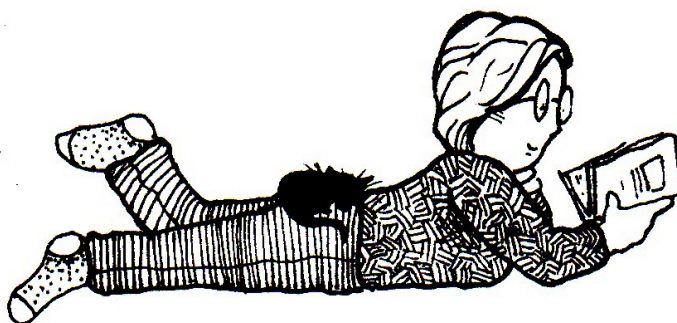
First presented in 1973, the Nova Awards celebrate excellence in British fanzines (and, since 2002, fanzines from Eire). Winners are now selected in three categories – best fanzine, best writer, best artist – and voting is open to everyone in the UK or Eire who has read at least six eligible fanzines (what we like to think of as an 'informed electorate'). You do not need to be a Novacon member to take part.

The cut-off date for eligibility is 31 August, meaning voters get at least two months before the convention to cast their ballot. Most of the titles in contention are available to read online or download, and we'll have an electronic form available on 1 September.

A full 'longlist' will be posted at the Novacon website in due course, but here are a few of those we already know about:

The Banksonian #20; *Big Sky* #2; *A Tale From The White Hart* #1; *Beam* #7; *Nowhere Fan* 2; *Raucous Caucus* 3; *Vibrator*; *Journey Planet* 18; *Ansible*; *Griff* 6; *Banana Wings* #54; *Exhibition Hall* #26; *Andromeda's Children* #6; *Refraction* #1; *Fortnightly Fix* #33

You'll find links to the majority of these at eFanzines.com. If you produce an eligible fanzine (the rules are available on the Novacon website), please spread the word among your readers.



2013 results

The 2013 Nova Awards for excellence in British and Irish fanzines were presented at Novacon 43.

Best fanzine:

1. Banana Wings
2. Head!
3. A Meara For Observers

Best fanzine artist:

1. D West
2. Harry Bell
3. Sue Mason

Best fanzine writer:

1. Mike Meara
2. Julian Headlong
3. Roy Kettle

Other Fanzines Are Available by Christina Lake

Last year's Nova Awards saw votes spread across 26 fanzines, 23 fan writers and 9 fan artists. Looking down the list of fanzines and writers, suggests two things – people tend to vote out of habit rather than on the specific work produced in a year, and that there are fanzines and writers out there that deserve to be better known. Claire Brialey reminded the Novacon audience when she and Mark Plummer picked up their latest award for the as ever excellent *Banana Wings* that other fanzines are available. This column will look at some of the fanzines and fan writers who are active and producing interesting material in the current year, and aim to show why you as a member of Novacon might be interested in reading them. Gone are the days when you have to be in the know or an active fan writer or artist to get on the mailing list of fanzines. Most of them are now available electronically on the fanzine website e-Fanzines.com. The content of fanzines has become more accessible too, while keeping that intimate insider view that has always been one of the strengths of fanzines. I suspect that if you enjoy Novacons, there are fanzines out there that might interest you too. All the titles listed below are available from e-fanzines.com, so why not give them a try?

Beam 7 - Nic Farey & Jim Mowatt (fareynic@gmail.com & jimtrash@eggoboo.com)

Beam is edited by the irrepressible combo of Nic Farey (formerly responsible for tech and assorted mayhem at Novacon, but now living out in Las Vegas) and Jim Trash (aka Jim Mowatt, current TAFF administrator). Given the characters involved it's no surprise that their fanzine is exuberant, eclectic and not too well behaved. It even has poetry, or should I say verse, in it which I'm not too sure about. It is definitely aimed at the fannish audience, that is people who go to conventions and have been around fandom for a while, but it pulls in writers who don't often write for British fanzines, such as Scottish fan Michelle Drayton-Harrold, writing on Albacons past, and Swedish fan Ahrvid Engholm on Fantastika, the most recent Swedish science fiction convention. Alan Dorey, who has recently returned to fandom gives a fascinating account of his early days in the Leeds SF group, complete with photos. It's hard to believe they were all ever that young! Rob Hansen provides part three of his excellent Corflu trip report, recounting his adventures in Portland and Seattle in an amusing, self-deprecating style which brings it all to life. However, it is debatable whether his account would meet with approval from Joseph Nicholas, who in the very next article complains about the proliferation of long, blow-by-blow trip reports from some of the Corflu regulars. He also gets on the case about overuse of colour and lack of proof-reading in e-zines. More interestingly he comments on the hidden ideology behind fanzines and the impact that this has on the kind of fanzines being published, the content they produce and their engagement with modern technology. Editor Jim Mowatt has taken this on board. *Beam* might look like a traditional fanzine, but Jim has been trying out ways of making it more interactive beyond the walls of efanazines by setting it up as a website where fans can post comments. Try for yourself on <http://beamzine.com/>

Big Sky 2 - Pete Young (peteyoung.uk@gmail.com)

This is one e-zine which might meet with Joseph Nicholas's approval. It is born digital, rather than a paper product turned into a PDF and is full of interesting content. With a page count of over 100 pages it would take a hefty stapler and even heftier bank balance to mail it out, but Pete uses the freedom of online publication to write about what interests him, to design and illustrate without the constraints of paper, and reprint articles that contribute towards the theme of the issue. In this case the theme is pulp fiction, and one of the benefits of Pete's publishing format is he can afford to include a six page spread of cover art from mid-20th century lesbian pulp fiction, and use appropriate art to illustrate some of the other articles. I'm not very well up in pulp fiction, so found it a fascinating

window on the scene. I particularly enjoyed the article the Charles Bukowski archives, not just for what it said about Bukowski but about the value of interacting with genuine artefacts from a person's life. Pete also provides an interesting set of reviews of some pulp SF, written by well-known and not so well-known SF writers, including a whole section on R L Fanthorpe and Badger Books. Other nice touches were full page headers for articles, and other intermediate pages, like the persuasively genuine looking advert for Joan the Wad, the Lucky Cornish Piskey. The only criticism I have of the format is that although reading it on the iPad was an aesthetically pleasing experience, getting to the end involved a lot of scrolling and I might easily have not made it, simply through inertia. On the other hand, that happens to me a lot in print fanzines too! But if I hadn't kept scrolling, I would have missed out on the Pete's column which included a lot of interesting writing, especially his thoughts on social media, and the value of reflection which allows him to write something more meaningful about the deaths of Margaret Thatcher and others than the immediate knee-jerk reaction of LiveJournal or Facebook. It could be argued that since Pete now lives in Thailand, the fanzine is not eligible for the Nova Award. However, with fanzines being published online, place of publication is less and less useful as a criteria, and since Pete's origins are most definitely in British fandom, I think we should continue to claim him as our own, and celebrate his achievements.

Journey Planet 18 - James Bacon, Chris Garcia and Helen Montgomery
(Journeyplanet@gmail.com)

This issue is guest edited by Helen Montgomery, and is all about social media. As an experiment, the name of the contributors have been left off the articles in case they fall foul of what Helen describes as the "cult of personality", whereby those with power in the social media world intimidate those expressing less popular opinions. Not that any of the articles she received seemed to require this anonymity as they weren't saying anything massively controversial. But it was fun playing guess the contributor, and it is an interesting thought-experiment to read articles without preconceptions (though occasionally context might have been helpful). One of the most interesting articles was "Old Fan's War", though it was more about the changing nature of fandom than social media, while "Designating a War fought between Allies" was at its best when talking about a real-world incident on a train than when discussing social media. There were some interesting observations on managing social media storms, and the claim that the immediacy of social media makes fan feuds less embittered than formerly when they were carried out over long periods via the pages of fanzines, conclusions that I've had cause to reflect on over the past weeks.

Refraction 1 - Gary S. Wilkinson (gary.wilkinson@gmail.com)

Gary S Wilkinson's very first fanzine arrives fully-formed with a confident voice, varied content and full-colour design. Gary talks about what interests him, which is mostly books, films and TV. It is clear that he is a big fan of Iain Banks, and his article about visiting the locations of *Walking on Glass* is not just about that book, but about what Iain's books have meant to him and him coming to terms with Iain's death. In "Boobs and Boiled Leather" Gary reviews *Game of Thrones*, but again has that personal engagement that makes it more than just another review of the TV show. But where Gary really comes into his own is when he talks about film as he manages to make two films I've never seen sound compelling. *American Mary* and *A Field in England* are not obvious science fiction or superhero movies, but ones that would push the buttons of many SF fans. *American Mary* is a body shock/ horror movie and *A Field in England* sounds a bit like what *The Hobbit* would be without all the cgi and fantasy or more likely *Game of Thrones* a hundred years on.

Novacon 44 Members as at 23 January 2014

1	Kari Sperring	37	Penny Hicks	73	William Armitage
2	Phil Nanson	38	Cat Coast	74	Gary S Wilkinson
3	John Gribbin	39	Martin Smart	75	Mali Perera
4	Jo Walton	40	Melica Smith	76	Alan Webb
5	Jaine Fenn	41	Pauline Morgan	77	Gerry Webb
6	Dave Weddell	42	Chris Morgan	78	Harry Payne
7	Steve Green	43	James Odell	79	Hal Payne
8	Doug Bell	44	Roger Robinson	80	Jodie Payne
9	Tony Berry	45	Mike Scott	81	Omega
10	Theresa Derwin	46	Flick	82	Adrian Snowdon
11	Christina Lake	47	David Cochrane	83	John Harvey
12	Steve Lawson	48	Anne Woodford	84	Eve Harvey
13	Alice Lawson	49	Alan Woodford	85	Niall Gordon
14	John Edwards	50	Michael Abbott	86	David Thomas
15	Julia Daly	51	Anne Wilson	87	Margaret Croad
16	Douglas Spencer	52	Andrew Patton	88	Neil Tomkinson
17	Tony Rogers	53	Austin Benson	89	Alison Tomkinson
18	Harpal Singh	54	Caro Wilson	90	Jamie Scott
19	Tim Kirk	55	Robert Smith	91	Michael Davidson
20	Peter Wareham	56	Neil Summerfield	92	Christine Davidson
21	Gwen Funnell	57	George Ternent	93	Peter Mabey
22	Sue Edwards	58	Linda Ternent	94	Roger Earnshaw
23	Julian Headlong	59	Calvin Ternent	95	Dave Hardy
24	Steve Dunn	60	Steve Davies	96	Chris Stocks
25	Dave Tompkins	61	Giulia De Cesare	97	Steve Rogerson
26	Ron Gemmell	62	Jim Walker	98	Dave Langford
27	Chris Bell	63	Tim Stannard	99	David Carlile
28	½r	64	Pat Brown	100	Pete Randall
29	Claire Briailey	65	Vernon Brown	101	Marcus Rowland
30	Mark Plummer	66	Sue Jones	102	Martin Hoare
31	Barbara-Jane	67	Alan Bellingham	103	Ray Holloway
32	Markus Thierstein	68	Colette Reap	104	Anders Bellis
33	Caroline Mullan	69	Simon Dearn	105	Luke Smith
34	Brian Ameringen	70	Paul Dormer	106	Tony Keen
35	Emjay Ameringen	71	Margaret Austin	107	Kate Keen
36	Dave Hicks	72	Martin Easterbrook		