

SEACON 03

Progress Report 4

February 2003

54th UK Easter Science Fiction Convention



GUESTS

(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

**CHRIS
BAKER**
(Fangorn)

**CHRISTOPHER
EVANS**

**MARY
GENTLE**



54th UK Easter SF Convention
18th to 21st April 2003
The Hanover International
Hinckley, Leicestershire
LE10 3JA

Phone: (+44)1455-631-122

Fax: (+44)1455-630-030

Web: www.hanover-international.com/hinckley

GUESTS

(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

CHRIS BAKER (FANGORN)

CHRISTOPHER EVANS

MARY GENTLE

TOASTMASTER

JOHN JARROLD

THE COMMITTEE

Paul Oldroyd	Co-ordinator & Programme
Chris Donaldson	Memberships
Noel Collyer	Operations
Julian Headlong	Science programme
Yvonne Rowse	Programme

Margaret Austin	Programme
Tony Berry	Hotel Liaison
Eve Harvey	Publications & Finances
John Harvey	Publications & Communications

OTHER CONSCRIPTS

Claire Brialey & Mark Plummer	Fanthology
Tim Broadribb	Tech Manager.
John Dallman	Publications
Vincent Docherty	Finances
Dave Hicks	The Return of Elmer T Hack

Membership Rates (until 1/4/03)

Full attending	£45	US\$68	Euro 75
Supporting	£22	US\$35	Euro 37

Child rates (ages at time of convention)

Infant (up to 5)	Nil		
Child (5-11)	£7	US\$11	Euro 12
Junior(12-15)	£25	US\$38	Euro 42

Thereafter on the door rates:

Weekend £60,

Day rates: Friday or Monday £15 per day

Saturday or Sunday £30 per day

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Contact Addresses

Post: Seacon 03, 8 The Orchard, Tonwell, Herts, SG12 0HR, UK

E-mail: memberships@seacon03.org.uk
info@seacon03.org.uk
programme@seacon03.org.uk

Website: www.seacon03.org.uk

eGroup: This is for members of the convention only; if you want to join contact john@seacon03.org.uk and please quote your membership number

THE CO-ORDINATOR SPEAKS

It hardly seems credible that it was almost two years ago that we realised there wasn't a bid for the 2003 Eastercon and decided in an Indian restaurant in Hinckley that we should put a bid together for the following day's bidding session. At that stage we were a somewhat different committee: Maureen Kincaid Speller, Rog Peyton and Ped Badlan have all had to resign over the period. In their place we have welcomed Tony Berry as Hotel liaison and most recently Margaret Austin as an additional Programme committee member and general Committee member without portfolio.

The last twenty months have been 'interesting'. Although we have years of convention organising experience, most of us had not been involved in running an Eastercon for some time. Expectations have changed over this period, and most of the people staffing conventions have as well. Thanks to all of you who've put up with puzzled looks and "you do it *how?*" questions, and to everyone who's been willing to volunteer to work on the convention and programme to date. We do still need more volunteers – you can fill in forms directly on the Seacon website for most jobs.

Inside this PR we finally reveal details of our planned programme which is shaping up nicely: if you wish to join any of the planned workshops or book clubs please remember to register early at the convention, as space will be limited. Details of further book clubs will be announced on our website as soon as we have arranged them. We will be running a full programme on the Friday afternoon of the convention starting at 2.30pm so please arrive early if you don't want to miss anything. Full programme details will be published on the website about two weeks before the convention.

A full read-me outside will be available at the convention, but some details of nearby restaurants are

included with this PR, together with a leaflet from the local tourist office. The nearest restaurant to the convention – Barnacles, which specialises in fish dishes – is across the road from the hotel. At present it will not open on Easter Sunday, but we're still hoping to persuade the manager to change his mind (check the website to see if we have!). If you want to book a table at Barnacles it is essential you do so early – we're told that the restaurant is usually fully booked several weeks in advance. (See the restaurant listing for the telephone number.)

Anyone who hasn't yet booked a hotel room should be aware that

all single rooms have now been allocated

There are, however, a few twins available for single occupancy (paying a slight premium). See the hotel booking form. Please book early to ensure we can allocate you a room in the hotel itself.

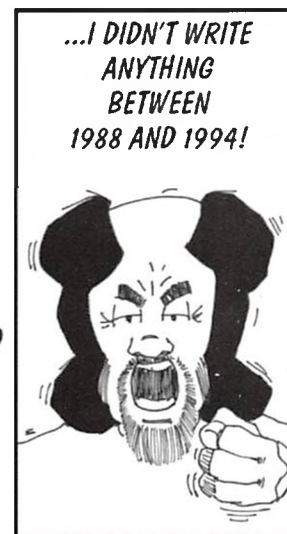
Negotiations with hotel staff have been very positive – they are looking forward to having us back – and we are hoping to build on the services and facilities that were provided at Paragon. We will be able to provide a greater range of food in the evening, and we hope to have an extended bar area.

For those of you with children, Helena Bowles and Richard Standage are in charge of the child care facilities - The Parent's Co-operative. Details are included with this PR.

If you have any questions about the convention, or queries about your membership status or room bookings, please send an email to info@seacon03.org.uk. Otherwise we look forward to welcoming you to the convention in 6 weeks!

Paul Oldroyd

The Return of **Elmer T. Hack**



THE PROGRAMME

Buffy - The Programme Filler

Well, I knew this was going to be easy. One weekend's worth of fun programming. All we had to do was 72 hours of continuous Buffy stuff. That would make *everybody* happy. Then they told me. Only *three* Buffy items the whole weekend. Grrr! Arrgh!

Well, we would have to see about that.

Hmmm. Science programme. Yes, I could do that. After all, I managed to sneak "I am Spock's Liver" into no less than five conventions. "I am Spike's Liver", yes, that sounds about right, nobody would notice that. Then there was the seriously intellectual talk from Lilian Edwards from that scholarly symposium on Buffy and Spike's Deeply Meaningful Relationship (an A-rated talk for adults and Sky viewers only). And Margaret Austin's "Where Do We Go From Here", a panel re-examining the end of Season 5 (that would be Buffy's *second* big death scene), and what *could* have happened next. After all that, a general "Joy of Slash" panel for the hardened Buffy fans, we wouldn't even have to mention Buffy in the title at all. Then we could do a panel on the greatest media creators of the 20th Century in our "Milestones" strand, and get more Joss in that way, oh, and the filkers, I'm sure they wouldn't mind doing a few songs from the Musical, and...Arrgh! Stop it! Put that down, OK, OK, no more Buffy, I promise.

So what else have we got to fill up time around our measly three Buffy items? Oh, the usual, I suppose. Our three Guests of Honour with some of their favourite things (and favourite gripes) will be on stage, a lot. Some cutting edge science stuff, including the SF Foundation's regular George Hay Memorial Science Lecture.

Lots of panels in our Milestones thread, where we will discuss the achievements of the late, and not-so-very-lamented, 20th Century in all our various fields of interest – SF, Film and TV, Fantasy, Fandom, Comics and others.

There will be a number of "Spectacles" across the weekend, for instance, on Friday evening, the Tiptree Award, being presented in the UK for the first time. At midday on Sunday we have the Beyond Cyberdrome spectacular, then later, the BSFA Award ceremony, followed by the Masquerade. Oh, and on Saturday it seems we have a play from Phil Raines and Ian Sorensen (hmm... "Matrix Remaindered", I wonder what that could be all about, and will it involve any poor, defenceless toasters).

In our F&SF strand there will be our now traditional "Not The Clarke Awards" panel where we get to discuss this year's nominees – "Kil'n People" by David Brin, "Light" by M. John Harrison, "The Scar" by China Miéville, "Speed of Dark" by Elizabeth Moon, "The Separation" by Christopher Priest, and "The Years of Rice and Salt" by Kim Stanley Robinson.

Also under the "F&SF" banner, there will be a panel on "Hard SF and Wild Romance", discussing Ken

MacLeod's "The Stone Canal", Joan Vinge's "Tin Soldier", Robert Sawyer's "Hominids", and Lois McMaster Bujold's "Shards of Honour", amongst others.

There will be a Bookclub, modelled after the Radio 4 series, to discuss particular books with their authors. Those we have so far are Mary Gentle's "Ash", and Jon Courtenay Grimwood's "Pashazade" and "Effendi".

Others will be announced on our website (www.seacon03.org.uk) as they are confirmed, to allow you plenty of time to read them before Easter. Space will be limited so you will need to sign up for these events on arrival at the con.

There will be two writer workshop strands, for pros and fans, the pro workshop will be run by Liz Holliday, the fanfiction workshop by Judith Proctor, and as is usual for these you will need to bring along a story to be workshopped, and preferably come with plenty of copies to be passed around. Again, the places will be limited, so there will be a chance to sign up for these when reaching the con. Feel free to email us for further information.

For an extra incentive, there will be a "postcard" short-short story competition in conjunction with the SF magazine 3SF (edited by Liz Holliday), see below for details.

Our "Fusion" strand will encompass all the other many diverse interests and pre-occupations of our eastercon attendees – fanzines, media, costuming, con-running (with panels on Interaction, the 2005 British Worldcon), gaming, filk, oh, and Buffy.

Lots and lots of Buffy.

Julian Headlong

3SF *The second 3SF Story on a Postcard competition*

3SF, Britain's newest sf/f short fiction magazine, is holding its second Story on a Postcard competition over the Seacon weekend. The clue is in the name — all we need is a story that can fit on the back of a postcard. To save you the trouble of getting a postcard, there's one in this package. The winning story will be published in 3SF.

The first Story on a Postcard competition was held last year over the Novacon weekend and the winner was Sabine Furlong with "Nowhere Man!", published in 3SF #2. To see your name alongside the likes of Philip Pullman, Gene Wolfe and Joe Haldeman, get your story back to Big Engine (or the Big Engine table in the Dealers Room) by the end of Sunday 20 April.

Big Engine Co. Ltd, PO Box 185, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 1GR

Ye Olde Beyonde Cyberdrome

Now we're parents we've worked out What Children Want.
So, this year, at 12.00 noon on The Lord's Day, we're transporting you back to when life was nasty brutish and short.
Luckily, it's also the Golden Age of drunks.

Ye are invited to a **Middle Ages Tournament**.

Jousts, quintains, pointy metal things, chains and ye clash of metal upon... well... gaffa, probably.
Hosted by ye creme of Medieval Aristocracy and ye foremost strolling players of Christendom in a blur of **Heraldic Splendour**

(Unless interrupted by Robin Hood and her Merry Catamites).

Robot-Smiths emulating ye illustrious 'Sir Richard' Brave Sir Robin and 'The Baby Eating Bishop Of Bath And Wells' will find ye **S.C.R.A.P. Robot Workshop** open from Thursday to Sunday morning to demonstrate Ye Chivalric Arts.

Following ye hugely successful 'Sprokkette Idol: Sprokkettes In Manacles', is **Holy Idol**, an 'Inquisition' to find pure young ladies to form Ye **Blessed Sisters of Maria** to perform during ye Tournament. Those wishing to audition may drop into ye 'Wimple Workshop' in ye **Chaos Costume** to learn how to make **Wimples** and... revealing robes really.

Knowledge of Latin, a virtue... Knowledge of Sin will do just as well.

More information on this year's event. **Historically Accurate** details of previous BC's and Handy Hints on ye **ESSENTIALS** of organise a BC:-

www.beyondcyberdrome.org.uk

Bring ye own soft fruit.

Your Host: **SMS**

(On behalf of Mr M. Greeley: '*Silver Angel Enterprises*' etc.)
'Silver Angel Enterprises' is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The League of Fan Funds' End of the Pier Extravaganza **BSFA Awards**

This convention may be landlocked but let us bring a little seaside fun into your lives with sideshows, competitions, special events, a children's fancy dress competition, and maybe even fortune-telling and pony rides, all proceeds to be distributed by the League of Fan Funds.

Interested in helping? Got a really good idea for a sideshow? Want to donate prizes or auction goods? Contact lff@brisingamen.demon.co.uk

And featuring, for one year only:

The Tiptree Bake Sale

One of the ways the Tiptree Award funds itself is through bake sales. We thought it would be fun to run a Tiptree Bake Sale at Seacon. We need volunteers willing to bake for us ... maybe a few scones or some fancy biscuits. It doesn't have to be much but we need the contributions otherwise the table will be bare.

If you're interested in baking, helping on the day or just want more information, contact bakesale@brisingamen.demon.co.uk

NewsflashNewsflashNewsflashNewsflash

Seacon03 is delighted to announce that it will be welcoming the latest TAFF winner - Randy Byers. Randy hails from Seattle and is the first Past President of the Fringe Fan Writers of America. Intrigued - well you'll just have to ask him at Seacon03.

Convention attendees are eligible to vote for the BSFA Award - ballot forms will be provided at the convention. The shortlist is:

NOVEL

Jon Courtenay Grimwood, *Effendi*; M. John Harrison, *Light*; Gwyneth Jones, *Castles Made of Sand*; China Mieville, *The Scar*; Christopher Priest, *The Separation*; Kim Stanley Robinson, *The Years of Rice and Salt*.

SHORT STORY

Greg Egan *'Singleton'* (*Interzone* 176); Neil Gaiman, *Coraline*; Sean McMullen, *'Voice of Steel'* (*SciFiction*); Paul Park, *'If Lions Could Speak'* (*IZ* 177); Charles Stross, *'Router'* (*Asimov's* 9/02); Michael Swanwick, *'Five British Dinosaurs'* (*IZ* 177).

ARTWORK

Peter Gric, *'Experiment 1'* (*TTA* 31 cover); Dominic Harman, *IZ* 179 cover; Fraser Irving, *'My Name is Death'* (*2000AD Prog* 1289); Joachim Luetke, illustrating *'The Routine'* (*TTA* 31); Richard Marchand, *'Obliquitese'* (*TTA* 32 cover).

RELATED PUBLICATION

Nick Gevers interviews Chris Priest (*IZ* 183); David Langford, intro to *Maps: The Uncollected John Sladek*; Oliver Morton, *Mapping Mars*; Lucius Shepard, *'The Timex Machine'* (electricstory.com); Fred Smith, *Once There Was a Magazine*.

Winners will be announced on Sunday evening.



HOW I MISSED OUT ON A FORTUNE

It goes way back - way back into the very early beginnings of Andromeda Bookshop - oh! come ON now, it ain't been THAT long ago since it disappeared!

For those of you that DO remember those glorious days, imagine those primitive premises set in the heart of Birmingham's red light district? Well, not perhaps REAL red light but we were in a run-down area right next door to a porno bookshop, three doors away from a 'marital harmony' shop and immediately beneath a brothel. Yes, now the truth can be revealed. That's why we had stains down the walls (WATER stains! WATER stains!) from the 'shower' rooms above.

Into our premises in the early 70s, there came one Master Christopher Baker, schoolboy of a mere 13 years old. Did he REALLY come to our shop to buy comics or was he 'perusing the neighbourhood', looking for youthful fun? Get him drunk at the convention and you may find the truth.

Fangorn, or Chris to use his nickname, remembers that he came into Andromeda for the first time in early 1974, a mere 3 or 4 months after we opened in Birmingham city centre. I remember chatting with him about artwork and a few days later he returned with samples of his own work. To say that I was blown away would be an understatement. His work showed more maturity and talent than I'd seen in ANY artist previously. I could see that here was a talent that would make a big impression, not just on the SF/Fantasy world but, on the art world in general. A couple of pieces he'd done impressed me so much that I asked for permission, and was allowed, to reprint on the cover of Andromeda catalogues. For FREE!!!

A friendship was formed and he regularly showed me sketches and drawings he'd done. Until one day he came into the shop looking exceedingly unhappy. He was about to leave school, wanted a career in art, but his father wanted him to go into a factory, into 'a job with security' because there was no money in artwork. What should he do? I had no hesitation in telling him to ignore his father's wishes and get into ANY art job going. Looking back, I feel rather guilty about telling Chris that. Who was I to tell someone to risk their whole future on my taste in artwork?

But Chris DID take my advice and went to work at Cadbury's, designing the wrapper for some new chocolate bar they were introducing to an unsuspecting public. Not exactly the move forward I'd expected!

However, in his spare time Chris painted fantasy scenes and started selling them at Novacons and Eastercons. Dave Holmes and I bought most of those early pieces. WE could see the future!

After getting commissions for cover art from several publishers, Chris was asked to do the comic-strip (Oh! All right, GRAPHIC novel) version of David Gemmell's LEGEND. Scripted by Stan Nicholls, this turned out to be a gem!

Planned as a paperback only book, I'm proud to admit that I pushed (persuaded) the publishers to do a limited edition hardcover. They didn't think it would sell. It sold out before publication and now sells on the second-hand market for well into



Progress Report 4 Stop Press

The Parents Co-operative

Helena Bowles and Richard Standage

This year child care facilities will be run by us. For those many who don't know us, Richard is a registered children's nurse and I am a registered nurse. We both have the requisite police checks as well as experience of our own children (eight and five) plus experience working with children in playgroups, nursery and hospital settings. Over the last few years we have run a very low key informal children's room at Novacon. We were able to keep this informality as Novacon is a small convention where we know most of the members, and certainly the few who use childcare during the con. For Eastercon we will be radically changing this approach to comply as fully as possible with national guidelines and fully with local authority regulations.

Details will change in the run up to the convention, but broadly what we plan is for three sessions per day, the first probably starting fifteen minutes before the main programme stream. This is likely to run for 3 hours. There will be an afternoon session of approximately 3 hours followed by an EARLY evening session of about 1½ hours for parents who wish to eat with friends sans offspring. We anticipate this evening session will be for over fives only – borderline cases negotiable! Any one child may only attend two session out of the three.

In order to comply with regulations regarding the number of adults per child, for each session used one parent **MUST** volunteer for one shift at a time booked in advance – hopefully at a time convenient to him/her. He or she will not definitely have to work this session, but must be available to do so should we need extra hands on deck to deal with the number of children. Richard will technically be manager and I will be deputy manager. At least one of us will be present with volunteers at every session.

To make sure we have the right number of adults, each session will not be simply a drop in one. Morning sessions must be booked the evening before and afternoon/evening sessions booked the morning of the same day. This means if you want the first session that will cover the opening ceremony we need to know **BEFORE** the convention!

In order to ensure children's safety we will have a sign-in/sign-out policy accompanied by digital photography of each adult. This means that only the person who drops the child off can collect them. On the first session attended by each child there will be a short form to fill in regarding likes/dislikes, fears, illnesses, allergies etc. We must also have either a mobile phone number or a good idea of where you will be so the DCM can locate you if necessary. There will also be a booklet for parents with our room phone number/mobile number, details of our emergency procedures for illness/fire alarms etc.

So nobody gets overburdened with work we still require volunteers! Thank you to those who have already volunteered. We would also like to know in advance roughly the number and ages of those children likely to be attending, so we can have a plan of structured activities appropriate to each likely age group planned in advance.

If anyone has any ideas/comments/criticisms/queries etc we can be reached directly at:

38 Harold Road, Smethwick, West Midlands, B67 6LJ or Richard@standage-bowles.freeserve.co.uk (Please reference any E-mail with RE: CRECHE)

The Book Club

An addition to the line up for the Book Club is Christopher Evans who will be discussing his book "Aztec Century".

More details of the Book Club will be posted on the web site – so check out www.seacon03.org.uk regularly for this and many more updates

Eating outside the hotel - Restaurants in the Hinckley area

A little bit of web searching has revealed the following list of restaurants within 3 miles of the Hotel – there you go there is somewhere to eat outside the hotel! This is of course a preliminary list and the classifications might not be totally correct yet.

Posh Nosh

Barnacles Restaurant (0 yards) Watling St, Hinckley Tel. 01455 633220.

It's up market and expensive, BOOKING ESSENTIAL and probably not open on Easter Sunday. But it's right across from the hotel.

Indian

The Noor Tandoori (1.7 miles) 48 Coventry Rd, Hinckley. Tel: 01455 618389

The Balti Raj (1.7 miles) 126 Coventry Rd, Hinckley Tel: 01455 615311

Passage To India (1.8 miles) 77-79 Castle St, Hinckley Tel: 01455 619707

Leeja Tandoori (1.8 miles) 93-95 Castle St, Hinckley Tel: 01455 615022

Spice Bazaar (1.8 miles) 3-5 New Buildings, Hinckley Tel: 01455 616198

Kinara Balti & Tandoori House (1.8 miles) 316 Coventry Rd, Hinckley Tel: 01455 633955

Amid Balti House (2.0 miles) 47 Derby Rd, Hinckley Tel: 01455 250788

Oriental

Tai Pan (1.6 miles) 20 Rugby Rd, Hinckley Tel: 01455 615109

The Royal Dragon (2.2 miles) Watling St, Hinckley Tel: 01455 632424

Italian

Altro Mondo Restaurant (1.8 miles) 26 The Borough, Hinckley Tel: 01455 619259

Fish and Chips

Tilton Road Fish Bar (0.9 miles) 14 Tilton Rd, Hinckley Tel: 01455 635945

Chris's Fish & Chips (1.6 miles) 108 Northfield Rd, Hinckley Tel: 01455 615174

London Road Chip Shop (1.7 miles) 147 London Rd, Hinckley Tel: 01455 230096

The Fish Bar (1.8 miles) 27 The Borough, Hinckley Tel: 01455 615730

Pubs

The Hinckley Knight (200 yards) Watling St, Hinckley Tel: 01455 610773

The Harvester At Hinckley (200 yards) Watling St, Hinckley Tel: 01455 615408

The Butlers House (0.9 miles) 34 Windsor St, Hinckley Tel: 01455 234342

Fast Food

KFC (1.7 miles) 12 Market Pl, Hinckley Tel: 01455 891151

McDonald's (1.8 miles) 17 The Borough, Hinckley Tel: 01455 636993

Little Chef (2.2 miles) A5 Watling St, Hinckley Tel: 01455 615213

Pot Luck (we've yet to establish the classification for the following)

The Windsor Tiffin (0.9 miles) 47 Windsor St, Hinckley Tel: 01455 615151

Oliver's (1.8 miles) 2-3 Hansom Ct, Hinckley Tel: 01455 233291

The Castle Restaurant (1.8 miles) 5 The Borough, Hinckley Tel: 01455 637925

The Stage Door (1.8 miles) Stockwell Head, Hinckley Tel: 01455 632349

Trent Road (2.0 miles) 55 & 55a Trent Rd, Hinckley Tel: 01455 251247

Mista Chris's Bistro (2.0 miles) 53 Derby Rd, Hinckley Tel: 01455 449508

The Watergate (2.0 miles) Coventry Rd, Hinckley Tel: 01455 896827

Kingfisher (2.1 miles) 2 John St, Hinckley Tel: 01455 614113

The Milestone At Hinckley (3.0 miles) Stoke Rd, Hinckley Tel: 01455 619221



Volunteer Request Form

All Eastercons work through the efforts of the volunteer staff, so would you like to help at Seacon03? If so we want to hear from you, previous experience is not necessarily required (but of course would be appreciated), just enthusiasm and a willingness to give up some of your time to help the convention run smoothly.

First timers can find gophering a great way to get to know other convention attendees.

Please tick the area you are interested in

- Tech Ops (It might be useful if you know what an XLR is.)
- Stewarding Dealers room
- First aiders (A current first aider certificate is required)
- Registration desk Artshow
- Gophering (Go for this, go for that!)
- Children's room I'd like to take advantage of a parent's co-operative children's room and of course I'll be pleased to help out.
- Other (please specify)

Name:..... Membership No:

Address:
.....
.....

Phone No:

e-mail:.....

Please return this form to:

Noel Collyer
26 Northampton Road
Croydon, Surrey, CR0 7HA



Art Show Exhibition Request

If you wish to display your artwork at Seacon03 please complete the following so that we ensure that space is reserved for you.

Please provide an estimate of how much space you require.

Name: Membership No:

Business Name (if applicable) :

Address:

.....

.....

.....

Phone No:

e-Mail:

Please return this form to:

Noel Collyer, 26 Northampton Road, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 7HA

three figures!

A certain person - one Stanley Kubrick - saw this graphic novel, was greatly impressed and eventually contacted Chris, asking him to work on his planned movie A.I. from Brian Aldiss's short story. Kubrick, along with Stephen Spielberg, was Chris's favourite movie director. Can you imagine how he must have felt? He told Chris that he could recognise, from his work on the graphic novel, that Chris was a frustrated movie director. How true! Chris ended up working for Kubrick for several years. At a salary you'd be VERY proud of.

After Kubrick's untimely death, Chris thought that his movie work was over. Until several months later, one Friday afternoon, he was working in his office, when the phone rang...

"Hello, is that Mr Christopher Baker?"

"Yes, I'm Chris Baker."

"Oh, good. This is Mr Stephen Spielberg's secretary. I'll just put you through to Mr Spielberg. Just hold a second."

"Oh, I'm so sorry. We seem to have a problem with Mr Spielberg's phone. We'll ring back in a few minutes."

At this point, Chris started going through the list of names of 'friends' who would be likely to wind him up. But, a few minutes later, this lady rang back say-

ing that the problem was solved and she would put him through to Mr Spielberg. But the same fault happened again. Chris was convinced it was a hoax, but later admitted that he didn't leave the house all weekend!

Then, on Monday, Mr Spielberg's office rang again and Chris found himself talking to The Man. Spielberg wanted him to finish work on A.I. and would he like to come to Hollywood and work there? I would LOVE to have seen Chris's face at that point!

Chris went out to Hollywood, worked with Spielberg and finished the movie. He came home and then found himself inundated with offers from American film directors. On his return, he came into Andromeda and thanked me for all the encouragement I'd given him as a teenage artist and said that none of it would have been possible if I hadn't told him to defy his father - he owed it all to me.

You've never seen me cry have you? Hey, I wasn't getting mushy about Chris's thanks. Look at the title of this article. How rich would I be if I'd gotten this young innocent kid to sign me as his agent with me taking 75%. I REALLY missed out! Still he's promised to buy me a pint at this con.... No, I'll buy you one Chris - you deserve it - one HELL of a talent that I'm proud and honoured to have known all these years. Help I can give for free - but you have a talent second to none.

Rog Peyton

Back to the Future

It's about 10 in the morning. I stare at the glass, all I see is distorted double reflections of myself in the black mirror of the tube train's window. It's been a painful trek from there to here, from the decaying Victorian resort on the south coast to this stainless steel tube tunneling under the estates of west London. The window zips into brightness, a voice reminds us where we are, and to take all our luggage with us, and we all scramble out into the white fluorescent cavern.

Later, as we ride the slidewalk towards the arrivals hall and the swarming hotel shuttles, it seems that I have achieved my dream, I've finally made it, I'm here, in the future, and it has all come true, SF has won. I'm very happy. I've got my passport in my pocket. It has "Don't Panic!" written on it in large friendly letters (actually, in black felt tip).

The first person I see as I cross the lobby's van der graaf carpeting is John Brunner. I don't recognise him, obviously. It's 1978 and I'm at my first ever SF convention, Skycon, held at the Heathrow Hotel, London.

And I don't know anybody here, in this bright electric future.

But that would change.

Of course I knew I was living in the science fiction age. I read New Scientist cover to cover every week (still do), and my favourite comic made it clear I was living in the World of Tomorrow.

Fred Hoyle and Chandra Wickramasinghe had just upset the scientific establishment (and badly strained Clarke's First Law) by claiming viruses came from outer space. The Taito Corporation of Japan had gone one better and presented to us evidence of actual Space Invaders - the first massively popular electronic videogame had landed in our pubs with an unearthly green glow and a strange beep beep noise. The first Z80 processor was shipped. Clive Sinclair launched the MK14 computer kit - a harbinger of things to come.

And Louise Brown was born.

Louise Brown was born in Oldham General Hospital on the 25th July 1978. She shares that birthday with Rosalind Franklin, the subject of my last historical piece. Rosalind was a world-class scientist, Louise is a nursery nurse in Bristol. Her claim to scientific fame is as the world's first human being to be conceived by in-vitro fertilisation. Since then there have been a third of a million more test tube babies.

1978, three quarters of the way through the 20th Century, and already you could see the shadow of the Singularity. It would come as a result of the advances underway in biology and medicine, electronics and computing, hard materials science and immaterial software, and strange new economics and politics. It would reshape the world. Tomorrow would be different, there would be new things under the sun. There **would** be lemon flavoured tooth picks.

Because 1978 was also the year of The Hitchhikers

Guide to the Galaxy. And I seemed to be the only person at the con with a tape of it in my pocket. Now all I needed to do was to find a cassette player. Damn. No Walkmans yet. But I managed. It was a very popular tape, as I recall, a good icebreaker. I've still got it somewhere.

Meanwhile the seeds of H2G2 were being sown in Palo Alto, where Xerox had just invented the TCP/IP protocol for electronic messaging over a network. And in Chicago the worlds first BBS opened. It was called, with stunning originality, the Computerized Bulletin Board System, and was run by Ward Christensen and Randy Sues. Their BBS ran on a system with two 8 inch floppy drives and with a 300 bps modem. Christensen was the system operator, soon shortened to *sysop*, he was the first. There would be more.

During all this world shaking stuff, the background sound track was playing *very loudly* – Blondie's "Parallel Lines", Tangerine Dream's "Cyclone", Kate Bush's "Kick Inside" and "Lionheart", Warren Zevon's "Werewolves of London" and Gerry Rafferty's "Baker

Street", plus The Tourists, and *cough* the Hawklords. Sorry about that.

That year saw the first publication of "Up the Walls of the World" by James Tiptree Jr, "Vertigo" by Bob Shaw, "White Dragon" by Anne McCaffrey, and "Dreamsnake" by Vonda McIntyre (this last book would go on to win the Hugo and Nebula awards the following year).

While in 1978 the Hugo and the Nebula awards were won by the novel "Gateway" by Fred Pohl; novella "Stardance" by Spider and Jeanne Robinson; short story "Jeffy is Five" by Harlan Ellison. The novelette split, the Hugo going to "Eyes of Amber" by Joan D Vinge, and the Nebula to "The Screwfly Solution" by Raccoona Sheldon (otherwise known as James Tiptree Jr, aka Alice Sheldon). It was quite a good year for science fiction. And for SF cinema. The Hugo and Nebula awards both went to a little known art house film, called "Star Wars".

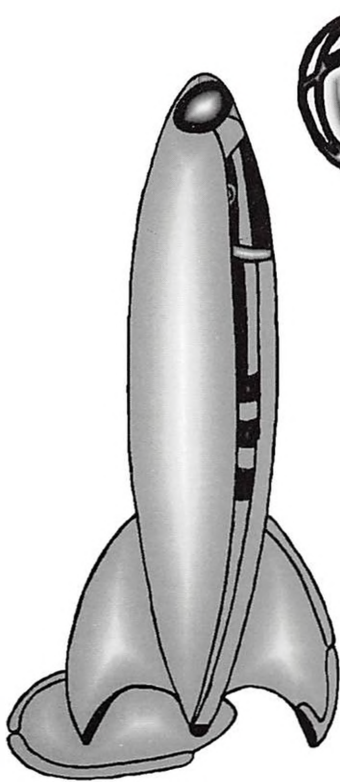
And the Singularity was only eleven years away.

Julian Headlong

MEMBERS

joined between 23/10/2002 and 14/02 2003 (all Attending except where marked (S) for Supporting)

406	Jae Lesley Adams	533	Christopher James Dollin	399	Erhard Leder	525	Laurie Ramey
531	Lissa Alcock	419	Fran Dowd	411	Vikki Lee	526	Tim Ramey
532	Philip Alcock	523	David Dryden	466	Michael Li	527	Miranda Ramey
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442	Helen Armstrong	418	Cathryn Easthope	493	Mike Llewellyn	454	Anders Reutersward
503	Neal Asher	521	David Elder	511	Alistair Lloyd	455	Patrik Reutersward
504	Caroline Asher	540	Richard Fennell	429	Anne Looker	397	Jenny Rigby
501	Katharine Atkin-Wright	482	Karen Joy Fowler	508	Ian R MacLeod	535	Justina Robson
502	Toby Atkin-Wright	486	Sabine Furlong	470	Juliet Marillier	396	Angela Rosin
530	Sandy Auden	487	Nigel Furlong	439	Keith Martin	395	Andy Sawyer
537	James Bacon	488	Karen Furlong	451	Janet Maughan	552	Kim Schettig
464	Doug Bell	513	Bruce Toby Gavin	452	Robert Maughan	471	Alison Scott
519	Gabriella Bennemann	542	Martin Glassborow	436	Catherine McAuley	505	Jamie Scott
490	Sharon Bennett	543	Helen Glassborow	536	Helena McCallum	497	Mike Shine
469	Stephanie Bierwerth	544	Margaret Glassborow	515	Simon McGrory	459	Neil Simpson
547	Pete Binfield	480	Jeanne Gomoll	522	Alison McInnes	407	Martin Sketchley
548	Emma Binfield	398	Mike Gulliman	512	Andrew McMurry	424	Ian Snell
551	Olaf Blaauw	514	Peter F Hamilton	400	John Meaney	529	Ken Standlee
421	Kate Bodley	550	Erik Hammege	401	Yvonne Meaney	438	Jason Stevens
412	Christopher Brooks	416	Alun Harries	404	Farah Mendlesohn	538	Neil Stewart
509	Ian Brooks	500	James A Hartley	483	Debbie Miller	447	Bjorn Tore Sund
516	Barbara Brooks	437	Penny Heal	431	Nick Mills	462	Steph Swainston
443	Tanya Brown	560	Samantha Heaton	453	Ian Millsted	441	Charlotte Taylor
445	Robert Bryson	520	Anders Hedenlund	489	Brian Milton	432	Alison Tomkinson
449	Gillian Bryson	425	Zandy Hemsley	468	Andy Minky	433	Neil Tomkinson
494	Marion Byott (S)	426	Judi Hemsley	481	Pat Murphy	434	Rachel Tomkinson
472	Stephen Cain	448	Sidsel Horvei	450	Paul Neads	517	Darren Turpin
473	Marianne Cain	553	Oliver Humphreys	549	Vanessa Nijweide	518	Jo Turpin
474	Jonathan Cain	554	Tom Hunter	423	Ruth O'Reilly	408	Nick Walker
402	Diane Capewell	410	Steve Jeffery	444	Mark Olson	414	Huw Walters
403	Stuart Capewell	422	Debra Kerr	446	Priscilla Olson	458	R Wardzinski
528	Graham Clark	392	Stephen Kilbane	460	Michael Pargman	492	Freda Warrington
557	Andy Claydon	559	Kim King	555	Andy Parker	430	Pam Wells
558	Carol Claydon	559	Steve King	510	Spike Parsons	545	Andy West
463	Michael Cobley	478	Ellen Klages	476	Jodie Mei Payne	556	Keith White
440	Gary Couzens	507	Alan Kobayashi	477	Harry Payne	417	Peter Wilkinson
456	Christopher Cowan	496	Lisa Konrad	506	Omega Payne	541	Peter Wilkinson
420	Mark Crouch	498	Jocelyn Konrad-Lee	435	Greg Pickersgill	461	Neil Williamson
428	Damian Cugley	499	Jaylan Konrad-Lee	413	Marion Pitman	457	Matthew Woodcraft
524	Tony Cullen	415	Linda Krawecki	546	Michael Pohl	393	Katharine Woods
479	Scott Cuslis	465	Christina Lake	409	Chris Priest	405	Pete Young
534	Jim DeLiskard	485	Colin Langeveld	491	Jenny Quin		
427	Jeremy Dennis	394	Peter Lavery	475	Roseanne Rabinowitz		



i N T E R

A C T I O N

The 63rd World Science Fiction Convention

4-8 August 2005

Glasgow, United Kingdom

Guests

Greg Pickersgill

Robert Sheckley

Christopher Priest

Lars-Olov Strandberg

Jane Yolen

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Membership Rate:	£30/€ 50	£75/€ 120	£32/€ 53	Free
(Rates valid until 21 st April 2003.)				

For further information contact: **Interaction**, 379 Myrtle Road, Sheffield S2 3HQ, UK

General Enquiries

info@interaction.worldcon.org.uk

Membership Enquiries

memberships@interaction.worldcon.org.uk

Other Contact Details and Information

<http://www.interaction.worldcon.org.uk>

The Hanover International Hotel is located on the A5 at its junction with the M69 (Junction 1). It's about 300 yards south on the A5.

HOW TO GET THERE

Travelling by Road

Without doubt the easiest way to get to the Hanover is by road. As always there are many ways to get from A to B so here are a few.

From the South - M1 northbound

Exit the M1 at junction 21 and join the M6. This is the start of the M6 so you cannot go in the wrong direction. Continue along the M6 to junction 2 and join the M69 - again the motorway starts here so there is only one direction to go - north towards Leicester. Exit the M69 at junction 1 and go round the roundabout under the motorway to turn right onto the A5 (signed for London and Milton Keynes). The hotel is about 300 yards on the left.

From the South East - A14 westbound

The A14 meets the M1 at the M6 interchange (junction 21). Join the M6 going north and follow the instructions above.

From the South - M40 northbound

Exit from the M40 at junction 15 and join the A46 heading towards Coventry. After 19 miles turn right onto the A45 and travel 2 miles to the junction with the A46. Take the A46 north to its junction with the M69. Join the M69 and go north towards Leicester. Exit the M69 at junction 1 and go round the roundabout under the motorway to turn right onto the A5 (signed for London and Milton Keynes). The hotel is about 300 yards on the left.

From the South West - M5 northbound

Exit from the M5 at junction 4A and join the M42 - it starts here so you cannot go in the wrong direction. Continue on the M42 until it meets the M6 at junction 7. Join the M6 in a southbound direction (heading towards London and Coventry). At junction 2 join the M69 and go north towards Leicester. Exit the M69 at junction 1 and go round the roundabout under the motorway to turn right onto the A5 (signed for London and Milton Keynes). The hotel is about 300 yards on the left.

From the North - M1 southbound

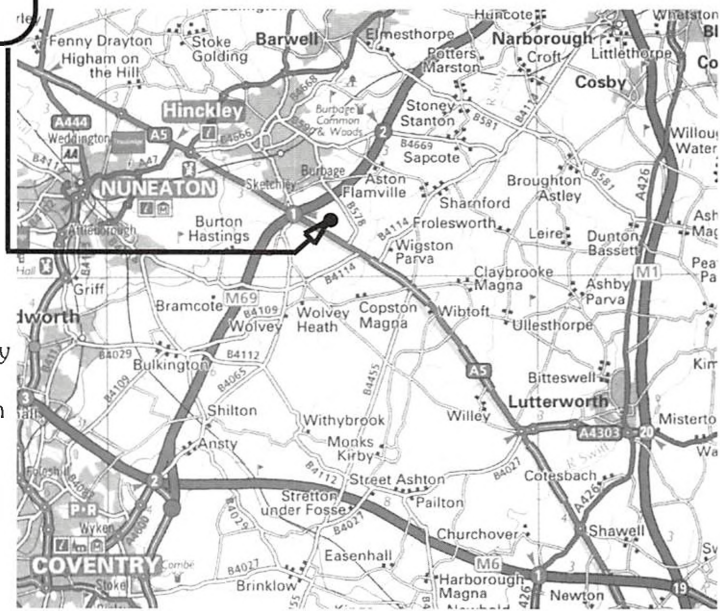
Exit the M1 at junction 21 and join M69 heading south towards Coventry. Exit M69 at junction 1 (NOT junction 2)*. Go round the roundabout under the motorway to turn right onto A5 (signed London and Milton Keynes). The hotel is about 300 yards on the left.

From the North - M6 southbound

Exit the M6 at junction 21 and join the M69 and go north towards Leicester. Exit the M69 at junction 1 and go round the roundabout under the motorway to turn right onto the A5 (signed for London and Milton Keynes). The hotel is about 300 yards on the left.

Travelling by Rail

Hinckley Railway station is about 2 miles from the hotel. Direct trains run from Birmingham New Street, Coventry, Nottingham and Leicester. The frequency is approximately every half hour but it does vary so do



check! Travel from London is from St.Pancras changing at Leicester and, according to the Virgin Rail web site, takes approximately two hours. Talking of which, this is a good place to start to plan your journey by train - www.virgintrains.co.uk - their online timetable is very good. Remember, the sooner you book a rail journey the cheaper it is. Taxis can be obtained from the taxi hut at the railway station.

Travelling by Bus

National Coaches do not appear operate a service to Hinckley, the nearest they go is Nuneaton. From there you would need to get a taxi. If you want to brave the coach journey then have a look at www.gobycoach.com which has an online booking facility.

Travelling by Air

The nearest airports are Birmingham International and East Midlands. If you arrive at Birmingham Intl. rail travel to Hinckley is possible by changing at Birmingham New Street. Otherwise it's down to taxis. Many overseas fans will be arriving at Heathrow, in which case take the Underground into London and St. Pancras station. Here you can get a train via Leicester as noted above.

Out and About

People seem convinced that Hinckley exists in a vacuum - it doesn't. Enclosed with this PR you will find not only a leaflet from the Tourist Office, but also a list of the restaurants that you can find within a 3 mile radius of the hotel. You will need to drive or catch a taxi - but this is very cheap and we will warn the local firms to expect a busy time!

Parking

The hotel car park costs £1 per day, which is added to your hotel bill. The hotel say the barrier will be manned throughout the weekend, so you will need to get a token from reception if you leave at any time. Or get a few and keep them in your pocket!

*Warning: Don't be misled into thinking you can easily reach the hotel from J2 of M69. You can't. Worse than that you can't get back on the motorway again at this junction.

HOTEL ACCESSIBILITY

First, this place has my total thumbs up for accessibility, design, comfort in both bedrooms, con areas and public areas - and my favourite, the pool and Jacuzzi! They are also, I was told by the hotel liaison lady who escorted me round, used to running many Special Needs conferences for schools so are well aware of the needs of the disabled.

It is all built on the flat with slight slope up or down to new levels but these are hardly noticeable. Corridors in public areas are decently wide too which is nice,

My only warning is there is a fair bit of walking from the main restaurant to the conventions rooms and bedrooms, so if you have walking problems, really do consider hiring a wheelchair from the Red Cross as there are not chairs or seating along the route.

The hotel itself is an interesting building, a mix of part park with associated glass hot houses - you think - and exterior exotic pool/lake, a fountain, and a smooth tiled approach to the main entrance and glassed area. Was a short "walk" in my chair to the entrance - disabled spaces could be nearer but the hotel can do something I am sure. Certainly there is a drop off area for those not driving their own cars like me.

Once inside, I was stunned by the enormous and lovely reception lounge, complete with resident Greek God. Why they chose Poseidon to hold up the ceiling rather than Atlas or a Titan is strange, but he's certainly imposing. This is also a lounging area for afternoon teas with small tables. Off it is a fully glass sided area they plan to use as an overflow breakfast area I believe - again beautiful.

The restaurant is off this area and again very pleasant by any comparisons with previous venues, and easily accessible for the disabled in a wheelchair like me.

Access to all the main con areas is down a long corridor with small fake shop windows set in it called Main Street. I felt this was much more an American Conference centre than a British hotel. That's a positive

comment by the way, having seen a few US centres and many British hotels by now.:

There is a shop in the hotel for essentials, and buying the gifts on display in the fake windows. The pool is gorgeous and semi-tropical, I believe part of their Health Centre which also operates separately from the hotel side.

The Rotunda will be the main gathering area and doesn't have the homely comfort of the reception area but it is very well lit from natural light and the white walls, plenty of soft seating and is one of those areas everyone at some time has to go through so is ideal for the main con lounge. Central to it is a spiral staircase up to the rooms plus just off it are the lifts.

I was shown a couple of the ground floor bedrooms and they are very nice and roomy - no shoe boxes here! The normal twin/ doubles had more than enough room for me to have my wheel chair in overnight and for 2 folk to move around.

Convention rooms are ramped too, whether by design or the hotel's own mobile ramps, with good access doors. Rooms are good sizes and pleasant to be in from what I remember.

Yes there are two smaller function rooms up a steep flight of stairs, but as the con will not use them for anything essential to members, that in itself is no problem. No hotel can be perfect, but this one is really lovely. To be honest, I liked it as much as the Adelphi in Liverpool from a Con-goers view point for the great central lounge where you can see most people passing through at some point, corridors not too narrow, access good for all public areas we are using etc.

Last word. The Snooty Fox bar is very small and cosy. Please be aware of disabled fans in wheelchairs and let them in too. It's easy to not even notice us when in our chairs we only reach up to waist level on you tall lads.

Lisanne Norman

Treading boldly

The 2nd International Week of Science and Science Fiction

19-25th May 2003 in Timisoara, Romania.

Hosted by the H. G. Wells SF Society, Timisoara.

A small gathering for four days of informality followed by a two-day, single stream convention for science fiction professionals, personalities and fans in a cultural city close to the borders of Hungary and Serbia. The International Week provides a rare opportunity for members of the eastern and western SF communities to meet. It is neither a tourist holiday, nor a SF convention or an adventure encountering different civilizations. It is *more* than a combination of these three. Translator guides (English, French and possibly German) will be provided for groups of several visitors and the principal languages will be English and Romanian.

With: Danut Ungureanu (Romanian SF writer), Ian Watson (English SF writer); István Nemere (Hungarian SF writer); H.G. Wells (English writer, our Week's Ghost of Honour) and Vince Docherty (Scottish SF fan and Worldcon organiser, our Fan Guest of Honour)

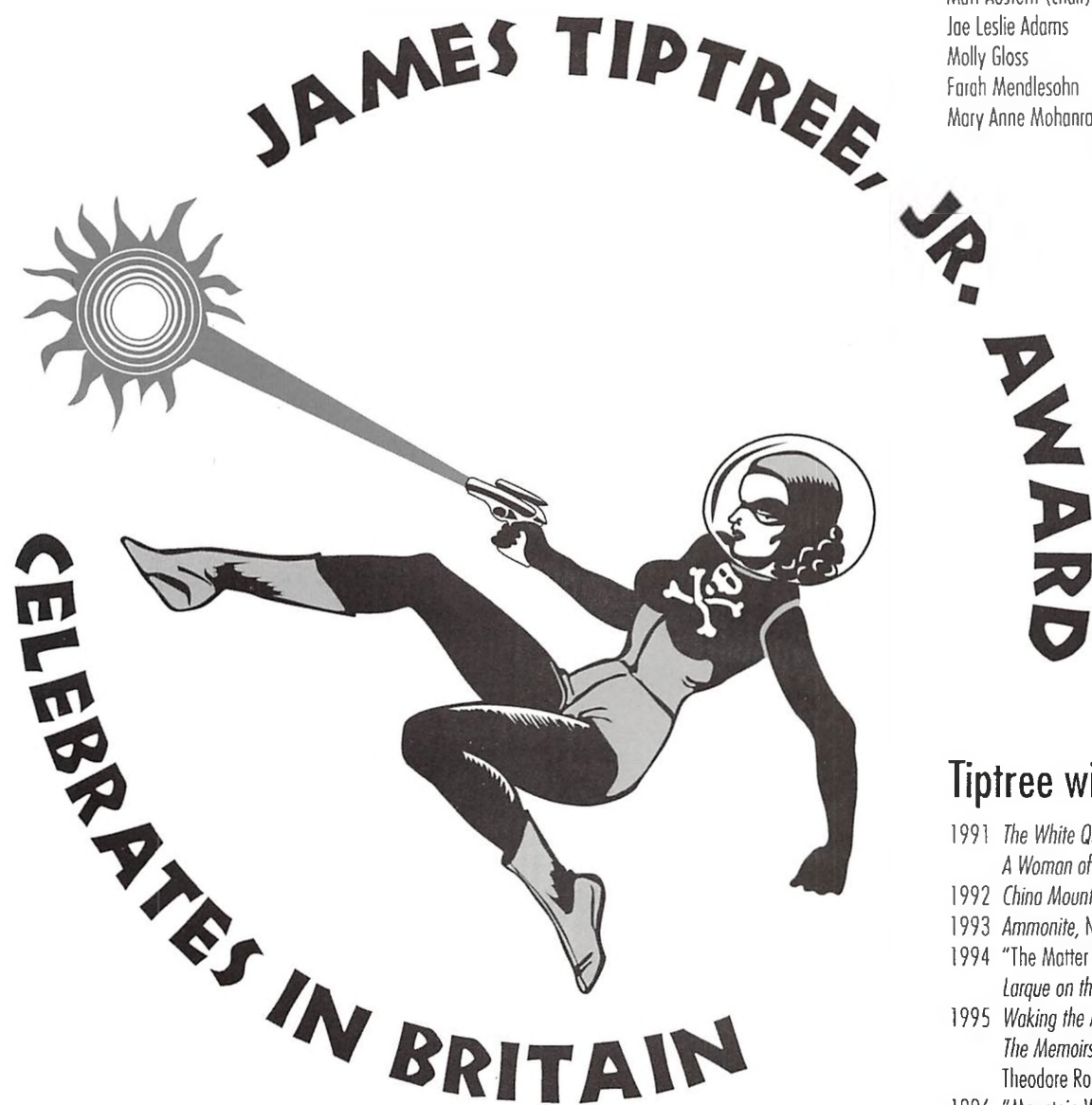
All presented by the Week's toastmaster

Roberto Quaglia (Italian SF writer and Vice President of the European SF Society)

Details in English are provided on, and through the sponsorship of,
www.concatenation.org

Judges for the 2002 Award

Matt Austern (chair)
Jae Leslie Adams
Molly Gloss
Farah Mendlesohn
Mary Anne Mohanraj



The Tiptree Literary Award Council is delighted to announce that Seacon will host the Tiptree annual award ceremony — April 18–21, 2003. The winner or winners will be announced in mid-February and will be invited to attend Seacon to accept their award.

James Tiptree, Jr. Award

An annual literary award for science fiction and fantasy that explores and expands the roles of women and men, ...for work by both women and men
<http://www.tiptree.org/>

Tiptree winners

- 1991 *The White Queen*, Gwyneth Jones
A Woman of the Iron People, Eleanor Arnason
- 1992 *China Mountain Zhang*, Maureen McHugh
- 1993 *Ammonite*, Nicola Griffith
- 1994 "The Matter of Seggri" Ursula K. Le Guin
Larque on the Wing, Nancy Springer
- 1995 *Waking the Moon*, Elizabeth Hand
The Memoirs of Elizabeth Frankenstein, Theodore Roszak
- 1996 "Mountain Ways," Ursula K. Le Guin
The Sparrow, Mary Doria Russell
- 1997 *Black Wine*, Candas Jane Dorsey
"Travels with the Snow Queen," Kelly Link
- 1998 "Congenital Agensis of Gender Ideation," Raphael Carter
- 1999 *The Conqueror's Child*, Suzy McKee Charnas
- 2000 *Wild Life*, Molly Gloss
- 2001 *The Kappa Child*, Hiromi Goto
- 2002 **To Be Announced**

Annotated Tiptree lists, including short lists, can be found at www@tiptree.org

