

# Ansible



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From David Langford, 94 London Road, Reading, Berks, RG1 5AU. UK. Website news.ansible.org. ISSN 0265-9816 (print); 1740-942X (e). Logo: Dan Stoffan. Cartoon: Brad W. Foster. Available for SAE or when Owl Friday falls on a Wednesday.

**Ebooks Amok at the Bar.** Still more free downloads at the TAFF site, [taff.org.uk/ebooks.php](http://taff.org.uk/ebooks.php)... *Running Amok in the Fun Factory* is an anthology of favourite UK convention reports selected and introduced by Graham Charnock. *Temple at the Bar* by sf author and early UK fan William F. (Bill) Temple, edited and introduced by the ever-industrious Rob Hansen, collects Temple's humorous fanzine writing from 1938 to 1960—with many a dig at his good friend Arthur C. 'Ego' Clarke. Further titles are on the way, including at least one December release.

## The Devil Makes the Law

**Peter S. Beagle**, long in bitter dispute with his former manager Connor ('Freff') Cochran, now finds it necessary to issue a statement that Cochran 'did not write my stories, as he is now claiming publicly. They are my work, and no one else's—as are all my other books, all the way back to that first one, published in 1960, when I was twenty-one. They are my legacy. [...] For fifteen years, over the counsel of true and knowledgeable friends, I trusted Connor Cochran implicitly with all that I believed to be of any real value: my work, and the future of my legacy. I was certain beyond any question that he was a man of honor and creativity. I will forever regret that I was wrong.' (October 2017)

**Gregory Benford** on Margaret Atwood's 'Peace Prize' awarded by the German book trade (see A360): 'Atwood lifted much of *Handmaid* from Heinlein. Yet the world thinks she's an original.' (File 770 comment, 15 October) Two days later, Atwood received the 2017 Franz Kafka international literary prize at a ceremony in Prague.

**Kazuo Ishiguro**, author of the sf novel *Never Let Me Go* and the fantasy *The Buried Giant*, won the 2017 Nobel prize for literature.

**H.B. Marriott Watson** (1863-1921), author of the 1893 'The Devil of the Marsh', is not among us to challenge 'The Gas Fields of Mars' (*Bewildering Stories*, 2009) by Scott Wilson. In this blatant plagiarism, 'Marsh' is cunningly replaced by 'Martian gas'—'I have the Martian gas in my blood'—and 'witch or devil of the marsh' by 'demon or devil of the Gas Field', etc. etc. When an alert reader detected this naughtiness in October 2017, *Bewildering* removed the story from its website. [MFO]

**Peter Nicholls** retired to a Melbourne nursing home earlier this year owing to the continuing advance of Parkinson's Disease, and is no longer in email communication with fandom or professional colleagues. [CC] Clare Coney writes: 'He's not unhappy. He's living in the moment.' Let's remember the standing ovation Peter received at the 2014 Worldcon for creating the 1979 *SF Encyclopedia* and shaping its later editions.

**J.R.R. Tolkien** is the subject of a canonization campaign by the Catholic Fellowship for 'Tolkien: 'We are pursuing Tolkien's Cause for Sainthood in the Catholic Church.' (Causefortolkien.org) The first Mass praying for this process to begin was held in Oxford Oratory on 2 September, the 44th anniversary of his death. [F770] Good grief.

## Conus

Until 28 Jan • **Tove Jansson** (exhibition), Dulwich Picture Gallery. £15.50; £7 concessions. See [tinyurl.com/y725rdsr](http://tinyurl.com/y725rdsr).

3-5 Nov • **Sci-Fi London Experiment** at EXP, Swan Wharf, 60 Dace Rd, London, E3 2NN. £28 or £15 per day; the announced all-night film session has been cancelled. See [sci-fi-london.com/exp/](http://sci-fi-london.com/exp/).

4-6 Nov • **Armadacon 29**, Future Inns, Plymouth. £35 reg; day £20 (concessions £30 and £15). Contact Moor Cottage, Cardinham, Bodmin, Cornwall, PL30 4BR; or see [www.armadacon.org](http://www.armadacon.org).

4-5 Nov • **Gollancz Festival**, Phoenix Artist's Club & Foyles, London. Saturday: Foyles £25 all day (£12 a.m., £15 p.m.), Phoenix £30 a.m. and £30 p.m. Sunday: Foyles only, £20 p.m. See [gollanczfest.com](http://gollanczfest.com).

6 Nov • **Ghost Stories at Keel Hall**, SCR, Keele University. 7:30-9:30pm. Free booking: 01782 734340 or [tinyurl.com/ya4caog3](http://tinyurl.com/ya4caog3).

6 Nov - 5 Dec • **Grandville: Force Majeure** (Bryan Talbot exhibition), Orbital Comics, London, WC2H. See [tinyurl.com/ycjz55s](http://tinyurl.com/ycjz55s).

10-12 Nov • **Novacon 47**, Park Inn, Nottingham. £50 reg (may rise before con); under-17s £12; under-13s free. Contact 379 Myrtle Road, Sheffield, S2 3HQ. Online registration at [www.novacon.org.uk](http://www.novacon.org.uk).

11 Nov • **A Day of Horror** (HWA UK), Royal George, 133 Charing Cross Rd, London, WC2H 0EA. 1pm-6pm. Free. See [hwauk.org/news/](http://hwauk.org/news/).

22 Nov • **BSEA Open Meeting**, Artillery Arms, 102 Bunhill Row, London, EC1Y 8ND. 5/6pm for 7pm. With Anne Charnock. Free.

25 Nov • **Sledge-Lit, QUAD Centre**, Derby. 10am-6pm. Tickets £25. See [www.derbyquad.co.uk/events/sledge-lit-3.aspx](http://www.derbyquad.co.uk/events/sledge-lit-3.aspx).

27 Nov • **J.G. Ballard and the Sciences** (conference), LAB 9, Anglia Ruskin University, East Road, Cambridge, CB1 1PT. £20 reg; £10 concessions. Lunch not included. See [tinyurl.com/y9zdyje5](http://tinyurl.com/y9zdyje5).

2 Dec • **Dragonmeet** (gaming), Novotel London West, W6 8DR. 9am-midnight. £10 reg with group discounts: [www.dragonmeet.co.uk](http://www.dragonmeet.co.uk).

3 Dec • **Stars of Time** (media), Tropicana, Weston-super-Mare. 10:30am-5:30pm. £6.50; child £3.50. See [www.starsovertime.co.uk](http://www.starsovertime.co.uk).

9 Dec • **2017: A Clarke Odyssey** (conference), Canterbury Christ Church University. Attendance rates now announced: £65, concessions £50, including lunch etc. See [2017aclarkedydessey.wordpress.com](http://2017aclarkedydessey.wordpress.com).

30 Dec - 2 Jan • **Steampunk New Year**, Mercure Hotel, Leicester. See [www.asylumsteampunk.co.uk/steampunk-new-year-2017](http://www.asylumsteampunk.co.uk/steampunk-new-year-2017).

2-4 Feb 2018 • **Enharmonicon** (filk), Best Western Hotel, Marks Tey, Colchester. £37 reg/£25 unwaged, rising 1 Dec; under-18s £1/year of age; under-5s free. See [www.contabile.org.uk/enharmonicon/](http://www.contabile.org.uk/enharmonicon/).

30 Mar - 2 Apr 2018 • **Follycon** (Eastercon), Majestic Hotel, Harrogate. £70 reg (rising to £80 on 1 December while the other rates remain unchanged); £45 YA/unwaged; £30 child (5-17) and supp; under-5s free. Cheques to Eastercon 2018 c/o 19 Uphall Rd, Cambridge, CB3 1HX. Credit cards (preferred) accepted at [www.follycon.org.uk](http://www.follycon.org.uk).

19-22 Apr 2018 • **Dead by Dawn** (horror film festival), Filmhouse Cinema One, 88 Lothian Rd, Edinburgh, EH3 9BZ. £90. Box office 0131 228 2688. Online booking via [www.deadbydawn.co.uk](http://www.deadbydawn.co.uk).

26 May 2018 • **LawGiver 4** (Judge Dredd), Hilton Doubletree Hotel, Bristol. Booking from Jan/Feb 2018. See [tinyurl.com/mmw3awd](http://tinyurl.com/mmw3awd).

8-10 Jun 2018 • **Lavecon** (sf/fantasy/gaming), Sedgebrook Hall Hotel, Northants. Booking awaited at [www.hwsevents.co.uk/shop-1](http://www.hwsevents.co.uk/shop-1).

4-6 Aug 2018 • **Nine Worlds Geekfest** (multimedia), Novotel London West, Hammernessmith, London—venue now confirmed. £99 reg (this will rise); children free. Book online at [ninenworlds.co.uk](http://ninenworlds.co.uk).

29-30 Sep 2018 • **Nor-Con** (media), Norfolk Showground Arena. Tickets at various prices awaited at [www.nor-con.co.uk](http://www.nor-con.co.uk).

12-14 Oct 2018 • **Lakes International Comic Art Festival**, Kendal, Cumbria. £35 reg; £25 concessions. 'Friday gala' extra, £8/£5. Day rates: Sat £22/£17, Sun £19/£14. See [www.comicartfestival.com](http://www.comicartfestival.com).

**Rumblings**. Matthew D'Ancona, in a strongly pro-sf article centred on *Blade Runner 2049*, mentions that 'the Science Museum (of which I am a trustee) is planning a definitive exhibition of science fiction and its influence for 2020.' (*Evening Standard*, 11 October)

## Infinitely Improbable

**As Others See Us**. 'It gave me a feeling I identify with my teenage years, back when I used to visit a store that carried science fiction, comic books, and porn: one-stop shopping for shame.' (Eliot Borenstein, *Huffington Post*, 30 October)

**Awards**. Booker Prize: George Saunders, *Lincoln in the Bardo*. [MJE]

**Bibliomania**. For the fan who has everything including that 1953 limited edition of *Fahrenheit 451* bound in asbestos, the French publisher Super Terrain is releasing a 'heat sensitive' *F451* whose black-coated pages reveal the text beneath only when fire is applied. [AW] Next, the long-awaited H.P. Lovecraft collection bound in gorgonzola?

**R.I.P.** Jack Bannon (1940-2017), US actor whose genre tv series include *Tarzan*, *Lord of the Jungle* (1976-1979), died on 25 October aged 77. [PDF] • Gerald Bishop ('Ye Gerbish'), UK fan most active in the 1970s—London First Thursday meetings, convention committees (often as projectionist for con film showing) and the 1971-1974 fanzine *Howl of Feedback*—died on 9 October. (CAMRA East Anglia mailing list) [PT]

• Brent Briscoe (1961-2017), US actor in *The Green Mile* (1999), *The Dark Knight Rises* (2012), *Atlas Shrugged: Who Is John Galt?* (2014) and

*Twin Peaks* (2017), died on 18 October aged 56. [GW] • **Dian Crayne** (1942-2017), US author and fan who published sf stories 1974-1988 as Dian Girard and novels as J.D. Crayne—including the thriller *Murder at the Worldcon* and the Captain Spycer space-opera trilogy 2005-2009—was found dead on 4 October; she was 75. [F770/AIP] • **Paul Day** (Jean-Paul Breault-Day, 1937-2017) Boston-born chemist who ran the Black Hole book shop in Adelaide from 1978 to 1984, died circa 6 October aged 80. [MD] • **Digby Diehl** (1940-2017), US editor, author and critic whose books included the EC Comics study *Tales from the Crypt: The Official Archives* (1996), died on 26 September aged 76. [AIP] • **Roy Dotrice** (1923-2017), famously versatile UK actor whose credits include *Tomorrow* (1970), *Space: 1999* (1975), *Beauty and the Beast* (1990s), *Alien Hunter* (2003), *Hellboy II* (2008) and *Game of Thrones* (2012); he also recorded the audiobooks, died on 16 October aged 94. [PDF] I fondly remember him as Albert Haddock in *Misleading Cases* (1967-1971). • **Roger Garland** (1950-2017), UK illustrator of J.R.R. Tolkien's works for Allen & Unwin, Unwin Hyman and HarperCollins from 1981 to the early 1990s, died on 26 October aged 67. [TG] • **ElizaBeth Gilligan**, US author of the Silken Magic trilogy opening with *Magic's Silken Snare* (2003) and concluded this year after delays caused by illness, died on 9 October. [GVG] • **Robert Guillaume** (1927-2017), US actor in *The Kid with the Broken Halo* (1982), *John Grin's Christmas* (1986), *Fish Police* (1992), *The Meteor Man* (1993), *The Lion King* (1994), *Crystal Cave* (1996), *Alchemy* (1996), *Merry Christmas George Bailey* (1997), *13th Child* (2002) and the *Half-Life 2* videogames, died on 24 October aged 89. [SG] • **Yoji Kondo** (1933-2017), Japanese-US astrophysicist who wrote sf as Eric Kotani—including the *Island Worlds* trilogy with John Maddox Roberts, opening with *Act of God* (1985)—died on 9 October aged 84. [GVG] • **Rosemary Leach** (1935-2017), UK character actress whose credits include *The Plague Dogs* (1982), *The Tomorrow People* (1995) and *The Great Ghost Rescue* (2011), died on 21 October aged 81. • **Umberto Lenzi** (1931-2017), Italian director of *Nightmare City* (1980), *Ironmaster* (1983), *Ghosthouse* (1986), *The Hell's Gate*, *House of Lost Souls*, *Nightmare Beach*, *The House of Witchcraft* (all four 1989), *Black Demons* (1991) and others, died on 15 October aged 86. [BQ] • **Federico Luppi** (1936-2017), Argentinian actor in *Guillermo del Toro's Cronos* (1993), *The Devil's Backbone* (2001) and *Pan's Labyrinth* (2006), died on 20 October aged 81. [GW] • **Trevor Martin** (1929-2017), UK actor who was first to play the Doctor on stage—in *Doctor Who* and the *Seven Keys to Doomsday* (1974)—and also featured in 1969 tv and 1999 radio versions of the show, died on 5 October aged 87. [SFS] • **Julian May** (1931-2017), US author whose sf debut was 'Dune Roller' (1951, filmed as *The Cremlators*) and who is best known for her long *Pliocene Exile/Galactic Milieu* series opening with *The Many-Colored Land* (1981), died on 17 October aged 86. [ARB] She was active in 1940s fandom and in 1952 chaired the Worldcon, the first woman to do so. • **John Mollo** (1931-2017), UK costume designer who won an Oscar for his work on *Star Wars* (1977) and was also involved with *Alien* (1979), *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980), *Outland* (1981), *Greystoke* (1984) and *Event Horizon* (1997), died on 25 October aged 86. [GW/MR] • **Iona Opie** (1923-2017), folklore expert who with her husband Peter published *The Oxford Dictionary of Nursery Rhymes* (1951), *The Oxford Nursery Rhyme Book* (1955), *The Classic Fairy Tales* (1974) and much more, died on 23 October; she was 94. Her many honours include a 1999 CBE. [PDF] • **Charles Osborne** (1927-2017), Australian author, critic and former UK Arts Council director whose books include *Kafka* (1967) and *The Bram Stoker Bedside Companion* (edited 1973), died on 23 September aged 89. *Interzone* received its 1982-1983 Arts Council grant during his administration. [MJE/PF/DP] • **Michael Satran**, US game designer who besides sourcebooks and adventure modules for various game systems wrote the fantasy novel *Hellbow Rune* (2014), died on 28 October. [SFS] • **Milt Stevens** (1942-2017), US fan since 1960, who published fanzines for many APAs including *FAPA* and co-chaired the 1984 Los Angeles Worldcon, died on 2 October; he was 75. [GG via GC] • **Birgitta Margaretha Ulfsson** (1928-2017), Finnish-Swedish actress who played Moonmamma in the Swedish live-action *Moomintroll* tv series, died on 8 October aged 89. [PDF]

**As Others Research Us.** Interviewing Ross Noble about the Mel Brooks Young *Frankenstein* musical, the *Daily Express* conveyed that this production was based on the novel by Bram Stoker. [DS]

**Outraged Letters.** **Mike Christie:** 'A snafu trivia item reg Hufner that many people probably won't know: Hefner joined the *Weird Tales* Club and listed his address in the magazine in 1943—see the Wikipedia article on *Weird Tales*, which cites Robert Weinberg's history of *WT*. (I wrote the article, which is how I know about it.)' (2 October)

**Magazine Scene.** Steve Davidson of *Amazing* had a long dispute with NBC about their plans to produce another Spielberg *Amazing Stories* tv series while diligently not making the agreed payment to him as trademark holder. 'I want nothing to do with NBC and I want them to have nothing to do with *Amazing Stories*', he wrote in frustration on 11 October. Ten days later, though, perhaps after NBC had noticed the storm of bad publicity from fandom, a new deal was in the offing after all. As a result, *Amazing* hopes 'to pay better than SFWA rates for at least one short story per week'. (Amazingstoriesmag.com, 21 October)

**As Others Introduce Us.** 'Vonnegut's invention of ice-nine, a substance capable of freezing all the world's water in rapid contagion, makes the book in some sense a piece of science fiction, and like most sci-fi, the book will disappoint any reader who insists on the evolving, three-dimensional characters of the realist novel. But unlike most sci-fi novels, as well as most realist ones, *Cat's Cradle* doesn't concern itself with the creation of a coherent world corroborated in all its details.' (Benjamin Kunkel introducing *CC*, Penguin Modern Classics, 2008) [DA]

**Random Fandom.** **Rusty Hevelin's** collection of 10,000+ fanzines is being transcribed into searchable digital form as a crowdsourced online 'DIY History' project at the University of Iowa. Anyone can sign up to help: see [diyhistory.lib.uiowa.edu/hevelin](http://diyhistory.lib.uiowa.edu/hevelin). [KB] • **Andrew I. Porter** found more sf in *Jeopardy!*: "'Any member of the World Science Fiction Society can vote for this literary award, which has led to some drama.' No one could answer, 'What is the Hugo Award.'" (27 October)

**The Dead Past.** **20 Years Ago:** 'Anne Rice was ruled innocent of libel when a New Orleans judge held that her abuse of a local café as "an abomination ... gaudy, tacky ... less dignified than a flophouse," was constitutionally protected. Horror critics, concerned to describe Rice's works only in legal, constitutionally protected ways, may or may not have been taking notes.' (*Anisile* 124, November 1997) • **30 Years Ago:** Steve Green had a flashback to that October/November 1987 weekend when 'Martin Tudor and I published the first issue of *Critical Wave*, at Novacon 17 and Nicon II. How time flies ...' (Email, 24 October) • **40 Years Ago:** The Guardian Award for Fiction was recently presented to Mike Moorcock for his novel, *The Condition of Muzak*, last of the Jerry Cornelius series. And that's all the of news you're likely to get this issue—unless you hadn't noticed a new BBC tv sitcom featuring a housewife marooned on a space station, if indeed that's even worthy of note.' (Peter Roberts, *Checkpoint* 85, Winter 1977)

**C.o.A. Duncan Lunan's** announced move to Ireland (see A362) fell through 'due to unexpected problems and plain bad luck'; he's back in Troon though not at the former address. • **Andy & Angela Richards'** *Cold Tonnage Books*, Poundwater, Farway, Colyton, Devon, EX24 6EG.

**Fanfundry.** **TransAtlantic Fan Fund.** John Purcell writes: 'Nominations for the 2018 East to West TAFF race, bringing a European Fan to the San José WorldCon next August, are officially open. Nominations close 30 November 2017, and the tentative voting dates are 4 January to 4 April (90 days, and not another day longer) in 2018'. See his newsletter at [taff.org.uk/news/TaffNews01.pdf](http://taff.org.uk/news/TaffNews01.pdf). Email: askance73 at gmail dot com, or Euro admin Anna Rafferty at [Anna.rafferty@taff.com](mailto:Anna.rafferty@taff.com).

**Editorial.** The laser eye treatment that I nervously awaited last issue was a great success, instantly clearing the fog that had made it impossible to read with my right eye all this year. Morale is hugely improved. For eyesight and other reasons I've been reluctant for some while to commit to attending sf conventions, and don't yet know when or if I'll get back into the habit again. Apologies to everyone who was looking forward to buying me copious drinks at Novacon 47.

**Whog's Masterclass.** **Inner Secrets of Bestseller Research.** 'According to dictionary.com, a "regent" is someone appointed to oversee an organization while its leader is incapacitated or absent.' (Dan Brown, *Origin*, 2017) [MMW] • **Dept of Pencil Sentience.** 'Frank folded his notes up and slid them into his coat pocket. The pencil hurried after them.' (Philip K. Dick, 'Human Is', 1955 *Startling*) [JC] • **Year of the Sex Olympics.** 'What did they have in common anyway? Good sex. They'd trained for the Twin Cities Marathon together.' (Theresa Monsour, *Cold Blood*, 2004) [PB] • **Nerve Endings Dept.** 'She was tired of it, and her own resentments toward him had begun to grow like warts on the ends of her nerves.' (Tami Hoag, *Prior Bad Acts*, 2006) [PB]

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