

BRUM GROUP NEWS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE

BIRMINGHAM SCIENCE FICTION GROUP

NOVEMBER 2013

ISSUE 506

HONORARY PRESIDENT: BRIAN W ALDISS, O.B.E.

COMMITTEE: VERNON BROWN (CHAIRMAN); PAT BROWN (TREASURER);
VICKY STOCK (SECRETARY); CAROL GOODWIN (NEWSLETTER EDITOR);
DAVE CORBY (PUBLICITY OFFICER); WILLIAM MCCABE (WEBSITE);

VICKY STOCK (MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY);

NOVACON 43 CHAIR: YVONNE ROWSE

WEBSITE: www.birminghamsfgroup.org.uk/

EMAIL:

bhamsfgroup@yahoo.co.uk

FACEBOOK:

www.facebook.com/groups/BirminghamSFGroup/

TWITTER:

@BirminghamSF

THERESA DERWIN & ADRIAN

MIDDLETON

1ST NOVEMBER



Theresa Derwin is a member of the Birmingham Science Fiction Group. Her interests are horror, SF and fantasy. She writes humorous fiction and has published short stories in various publications including her own anthology, MONSTERS



December 6th - Christmas Social at The Selly Park Tavern, Selly Oak
(see details inside newsletter)

ANONYMOUS. She is also responsible (jointly with Yvonne Rowse) for the programme at this year's Novacon. She is editor and co-director of Fringeworks Press, a small publishing company set up by Adrian Middleton. Further information can be found at www.terror-tree.co.uk and www.theresa-derwin.co.uk

Adrian Middleton is a Birmingham writer and editor. He has written and edited many fanzines and has a particular interest in *Dr Who*, comics and roleplaying games. In 2011 he set up an independent press called Fringeworks, since which time the company has published more than a dozen horror and fantasy anthologies, with no less than five SF anthologies and projects in the pipeline. The latest publication, WEIRD TRAILS is an anthology of urban fantasy stories set in Digbeth, Birmingham. More details of Fringeworks publications and submission guidelines can be found at their website, www.fringeworks.co.uk

In September this year they staged a new one day conference, ANDROMEDA at The Custard Factory in Digbeth. This meeting will give us a progress report on Fringeworks, slides and stories from Andromeda One and news of future projects including ANDROMEDA TWO in September 2014. CG

The meeting will take place in the conference room on the first floor of The Briar Rose Hotel, Bennetts Hill, off New Street.

The doors open at 7.30pm and the meeting will normally commence at 8.00pm so please arrive early, get your drinks from the bar on the ground floor, and be seated in plenty of time. The entrance fee for our January AGM is free and the August and December socials are ticket only events. All other meetings the entrance fee is £3.00 for members and £4 for non-members

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL FRIDAY 6TH DECEMBER - A REMINDER

(Full details were in last month's Newsletter.)

The Social will be held at The Selly Park Tavern, 592 Pershore Road, Selly Oak, where we have hired the Skittles Room for our own use from 7 - 11pm. Tickets are £10 each which includes a buffet but not your drinks.

With this newsletter is a ticket application form. Please complete it as indicated and hand it to Pat, with money, at the November Group Meeting. Or send it to the Membership Secretary, together with a cheque/postal order, at the address on the back page of the Newsletter. As there are sometimes problems with the postal system if you apply by post please send her an email at the same time in case your application is

delayed. THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS MONDAY 25th NOVEMBER. However, by that time NOVACON will have happened and there may not be any tickets left.

REMEMBER THAT TICKETS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE ON THE NIGHT - GET THEM NOW! VB

AND WHAT DID YOU THINK?

THE LETTER COLUMN OF 'BRUM GROUP NEWS

Anything to say about the Group, meetings or SF in general? Email your opinions or queries to me at goodwined@yahoo.com

NEWS IN BRIEF

British literary agent **Dot Lumley (nee Houghton)** has passed away. She started her career in publishing before becoming an agent. Her clients included many science fiction, fantasy and horror novelists Mercury astronaut **Scott Carpenter** died on October 10th. In 1962 he was the fourth American in space and the second to orbit the Earth. His death means that John Glenn is now the only surviving member of the seven Mercury astronauts Author **Richard Kearns** has passed away. He published mainly short stories, of which the most well-known was "The Power of the Press". His story "Grave Angels" was nominated for the Sturgeon Award. He was editor of the SFWA Bulletin for a short time in the 1970's Film critic **Stanley Kauffmann** has died. He was also an acquisitions editor for Ballantine Books and in 1953 he purchased FAHRENHEIT 451 from Ray Bradbury. He also bought DEATH OF A SALESMAN before moving into a full time role as a film critic Science fiction writer **John Boyd** died in October. His first novel in 1968 was THE LAST STARSHIP and he produced several more SF novels including THE DOOMSDAY GENE and BARNARD'S PLANET. Using his real name, Boyd Upchurch he also published historical novels and a non-fiction book which examined the McCarthy era witch hunts Harper Voyager is to publish a new fantasy series by **Robin Hobb**. The first novel, FOOL'S ASSASSIN will be published to coincide with the author's appearance as Guest of Honour at WorldCon in 2014 **Raymond Feist** is to publish a new fantasy series, The War of Five Crowns. The first in the series is expected to be published in May 2014 Helsinki has announced a bid for **Worldcon 2017** after finishing second in the 2015 race. Japan and Montreal are also in contention for 2017 In the 50th Anniversary year of *Dr Who*, nine lost episodes have been found in Nigeria. All from the

Patrick Troughton era, they include four of the five missing episodes from *The Web of Fear* (where the Yeti are in the London Underground) and five missing episodes from *The Enemy of the World* meaning that this serial is now complete Also regarding *Dr Who* a petition has been started to have the Empire State Building lit up in Tardis Blue colour The **Jim Baen Memorial Writing Contest** has been announced. It is jointly sponsored by Baen Books and the National Space Society. Stories need to “explore the promise of space exploration”. Stories should be no more than 8000 words and set in a near future (no more than 60 years) and involve manned space exploration. Submission guidelines at www.williamledbetter.com/contest.htm. Closing date February 1st 2014 Reminiscent of the 1958 Fritz Leiber story “The Wanderer”, astronomers have announced the discovery of a gas giant planet that does not orbit a star Lord Rees, the Astronomer Royal said in an address to the Wired 2013 conference that **"It's better to read first rate science fiction than second rate science – it's a lot more fun, and no more likely to be wrong"**. He speculated on space exploration in the near future, including the likelihood that China would put a man on Mars and that private companies would be the driving force in space flight. Further details at www.wired.co.uk/news/archive/2013-10/18/martin-rees CG

HALLOWEEN THEMED EVENTS AROUND BIRMINGHAM

There appear to be quite a few forthcoming horror-themed events in the Midlands which are obviously due to Halloween. As there are so many I have decided to group them together rather than include them in the normal forthcoming events section.

- **HALLOWEEN HORROR READINGS, 31st October at Pat Kavanagh pub, Moseley** KnightWatch Press present an evening of candlelit readings by writers including Jasper Bark, Chris Amies, Adrian Middleton, Theresa Derwin and Dave Jeffery. Followed by showing of DAWN OF THE DEAD film. From 7 pm. Price £3. Prebook by Paypal to theresa.derwin@yahoo.co.uk Free book to first 20 people.
- **SHOCK AND GORE SEASON, 25th October – 3rd November at Electric Cinema, Southside, Birmingham** Films include THE WICKER MAN, V/H/C 2 and National Theatre Live screening of FRANKENSTEIN (two versions with Benedict Cumberbatch & Jony Lee Miller alternating as The Creature)

- **JEKYLL AND HYDE**, 31st October - 9th November at **Blue Orange Theatre, Great Hampton Street, Jewellery Quarter**. Play starts at 7:45 pm. Tickets £10. Box Office 0121 212 2643 or at www.blueorangetheatre.co.uk
- **HALLOWEEN SILENT MOVIE SPECIAL: NOSFERATU**, 31st October at **Birmingham Town Hall** Screening of the 1922 classic with live organ accompaniment, 7:30pm £15 plus online transaction fee. Book at Town Hall/Symphony Hall Box Office or www.thsh.co.uk
- **DRACULA**, 29th - 30th November at **Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa**. Starts at 7:30pm. Tickets £13. Box Office 01926 334 418 or www.warwickdc.gov.uk/WDC/RoyalSpaCentre CG

FORTHCOMING BOOKS

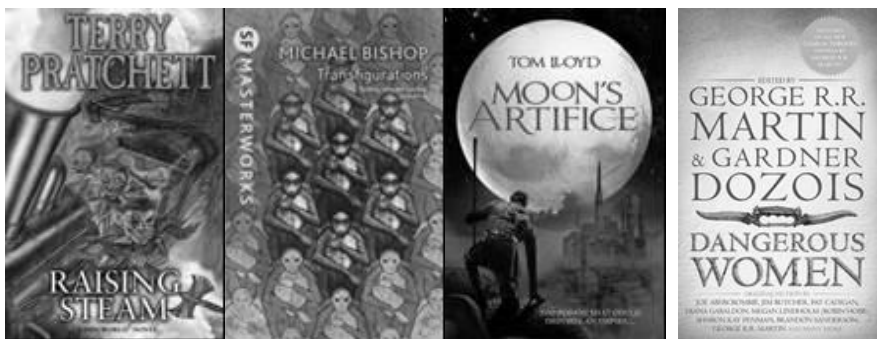


THE ALCHEMY PRESS BOOK OF URBAN MYTHIC edited by Jan Edwards & Jenny Barber / Alchemy Press/ 270 pgs / £10.99 paperback / ISBN 978-0957348936 / October 14th. New short story collection of urban fantasy.

LEGENDS: STORIES IN HONOUR OF DAVID GEMMELL by Joe Abercrombie, Tanith Lee, James Barclay, Ian Whates / NewCon Press / 272 pgs / £29.99 Limited edition Hardcover / ISBN 978-1907069567 / November 4th. New epic fantasy stories in tribute to David Gemmell.

SHAKE ME TO WAKE ME: THE BEST OF STAN NICHOLLS by Stan Nicholls / NewCon Press / 216 pgs / £9.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1907069529 / November 4th. Collection of short stories

LIMIT by Frank Schatzing / Jo Fletcher Books / 1152 pgs / £25 hardback / ISBN 978-1849165150 / November 7th. SF by bestselling German author. Near future SF. Lunar hotel and space elevator are under threat.



RAISING STEAM by Terry Pratchett / Doubleday / 384 pgs / £20 hardback / ISBN 978-0857522276 / November 7th. The invention of the steam engine causes problems in Ankh-Morpork.

TRANSFIGURATIONS (SF Masterworks) by Michael Bishop / Gollancz / 336 pgs / £8.99 paperback / ISBN 978-0575093096 / November 14th. Daughter of missing anthropologist investigates the alien Asadi.

MOON'S ARTIFICE by Tom Lloyd / Gollancz / 432 pgs / £20 hardback & £14.99 paperback / ISBN 978-0575131163 (hardback) & ISBN 978-0575131170 / November 21st. Fantasy. Moon's Artifice is a poison that could destroy an Empire.

DANGEROUS WOMEN edited by George RR Martin & Gardner Dozois / Harper Voyager / 784 pgs / £20 hardback / ISBN 978-0007549405 / December 3rd. Anthology of new fantasy stories CG



BOOK REVIEWS

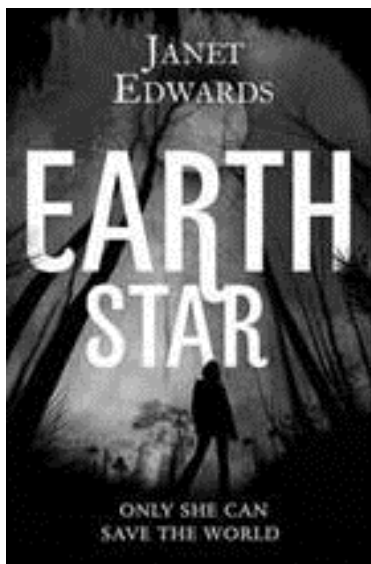


(REVIEWERS please note: - all reviews should be emailed direct to me at goodwincd@yahoo.com Deadline for each issue is 14 days prior to the date of the monthly meeting).

EARTH STAR by Janet Edwards

Harper Voyager / 400 pgs / £7.99 paperback / ISBN 978-0007443505

Reviewed by Theresa Derwin



BSFG Member and regular attendee Janet Edwards is the author of the *EARTH GIRL* trilogy, science fiction for adult and young adult readers, set in a distant future where humanity portals between hundreds of colony worlds . . . except for the unfortunate few whose immune system can't handle living anywhere else but Earth.

In the first book, *EARTH GIRL*, Jarra was sent to Earth at birth to save her life and abandoned by her parents. She can't travel to other worlds, but she can watch their vids, and she knows all the jokes they make. She's an "ape," a "throwback," but this is one ape girl who won't give in.

Being an 'ape' Jarra is subject to continual discrimination despite being awarded the Artemis medal for her heroic actions in the first novel. The majority of norms have left earth to live on other colonized planets expanding into the universe. Jarra is isolated, trapped on planet Earth and unable to pursue the military career she so wants.

Edwards captures the essence of 18-year olds even creating her own future teen lingo/jargon, which resonates. The new academic term starts and Jarra's team are at Eden to begin an archaeological dig. Unable to leave the planet due to her immunity deficiency Jarra accepts that she can never enter the military. At least she does until she and her 'twoing' partner Fian are conscripted in an emergency to the military to help with what may be evidence of first contact. They are working for the Alien Contact

Programme, which has been activated. Of course the worry sets in straight away, because Jarra will die if she goes offworld.

Edwards' SF elements are strong and speak of her knowledge of the genre, with portals between sectors and planets for transport, hover bags and food dispensers, which are common place and feel real. This novel is bursting with energy and it is refreshing to see a number of powerful, strong female characters particularly in the military. And Jarra is a great female representative too; although being an 'ape' she is the daughter of heroes and a Military Honour Child. A thoroughly enjoyable YA book that will appeal to adults too.

TD

(Review copy kindly donated by Janet Edwards)

MARAUDER by Gary Gibson

Pan Macmillan Tor / 376pgs / £18.99 Hardback / ISBN 978-0230748903

Reviewed by Jim Pearce

MARAUDER is a worthy sequel to Gary Gibson's brilliant *Shoal* trilogy (STEALING LIGHT, NOVA WAR and EMPIRE OF LIGHT) being set approximately two hundred years after its conclusion. As in the *Shoal* trilogy the lead character is a strong feisty woman spacecraft pilot, Megan Jacinth, who displays many of the characteristics so strongly exhibited by Gibson's previous heroine, Dakota Merrick. As in his previous novels there is a strong cast of 'supporting' characters whose actions display both the best and worst of human nature all bound up in a smoothly depicted and gripping tale.



There are three strands to this story which are effortlessly blended together in this gripping tale. The first follows Megan and the consequences of her attempt to rescue her friend Imtiaz Bashir (Bash) who she thought was dead. At the start of the story she has found out he is a captive in the hands of her once lover but now greatest enemy, Gregor Tarrant. The second strand takes place 12 years earlier when she and Bash are persuaded to steal a Nova drive ship, by Tarrant and his truly despicable colleague Sifra, and take it halfway across the galaxy to intercept an alien vessel known as the Wanderer/Marauder.

In the course of this trip she discovers the inhumane motives of her new colleagues and their employer, General Schelling and Bash loses his mind. This voyage ends in a disaster from which she barely escapes leaving her companions for dead. The final strand of **MARAUDER** covers the fate of a young woman, Gabrielle who is the Speaker Elect of the Domarchy, a state on the planet Redstone. She is expected to enter a semi-derelict Magi starship that is the source of the Demarchy's dominance of the planet after which she will swiftly rise to 'heaven'! She is rescued from this fate during a planet wide disaster by her bodyguard and lover Karl Petrova and as a consequence her, Megan's and the other characters' paths collide.

Readers of the *Shoal* Trilogy will recall that Magi starships are the remnant of a culture of starfaring peoples originating in the Large Magellanic Cloud about 2 million years ago. This civilization was destroyed as the result of the discovery of Maker caches containing faster than light nova drive technology and the consequent nova wars. One good consequence of this story is the discovery of the Maker's objectives and the possibility that there may be yet another book in this 'universe' resolving this problem. If so I eagerly look forward to reading it. *JTP*

(Review copy kindly donated by Pan Macmillan Tor)

DARK EDEN by Chris Beckett

Corvus / 400 pgs / £8.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1848874640

Reviewed by Carol Goodwin

This novel was the winner of the 2013 Arthur C Clarke Award for SF published in the UK in the previous year. The story is set on a planet with no sunlight but which surprisingly has life. Small islands of light and warmth exist between cold, dark deserts. In these oases, fuelled by geothermal energy, plants and animals generate their own light. Warmth is provided by the tree-like plants. One hundred and sixty three years ago, five people with a damaged space-craft found this dark planet which they called Eden. Three chose to try and navigate the damaged vehicle back to Earth to mount a rescue whilst two, Tommy and Angela chose to remain.

Now the 500 descendants of their incestuous union huddle in one such haven, next to the remains of the ruined "Landing Veeckle", waiting for rescue from Earth. They have no technology and some of them suffer from genetic defects ("batfaces" and "clawfeet"). Trapped by the need to remain where they can be found and the extreme cold and dark beyond the edge of the plant life, they are starting to exhaust their resources.

A schism forms between some of the younger members, led by John Redlantern, who want change and the majority who insist on remaining. The split leads to violence and changes to the social structure.

John Redlantern's group are developing ways to explore the dark but are forced to leave early in a hunt for other areas of light in which to live.

I liked that the science in this story seemed plausible to me. Dark planets (either a long distance from or without a star) do exist and some of these would be large enough (or orbit a gas giant) to maintain volcanic activity. Indeed only this month, astronomers have discovered a planet without a star. Also, the ecology of the world is convincing. There are micro-organisms on Earth which derive energy from inorganic compounds rather than light, and which produce oxygen as a waste product. These are found round volcanic vents ("black smokers") deep in the ocean.

The plot is reasonably well-paced and the characters for the most part seem convincing. For example, the "hero", John Redlantern is flawed and indeed is not the main factor in the breakaway group's achievements. A different character narrates the story in each chapter so we get to see the



point of view of both sides of the conflict. The story is easy to read and does come to a conclusion although there is plenty to still be explored and resolved. The author's ability to create a convincing alien world reminded me of Brian Aldiss (*Helliconia Trilogy*) or Hal Clement (*THE NITROGEN FIX* in particular). I believe a sequel is planned and I would definitely read it.

CG

(Review copy kindly donated by Corvus)

***THE BLOODLINE FEUD* by Charles Stross**

Tor / 564 pgs / £9.99 paperback / ISBN: 978-1-447237617

Reviewed by Pauline Morgan.

For those who do not look closely enough, buying this book could be a mistake especially for fans of Stross's writing. The reason? This is not a new book.

When Stross originally conceived the idea it was for this volume. The powers of publishing prevailed, said it was too long and cut it in two. If you have read *THE FAMILY TRADE* and *THE HIDDEN FAMILY* you have also read *THE BLOODLINE FEUD*. This is how Stross intended it.

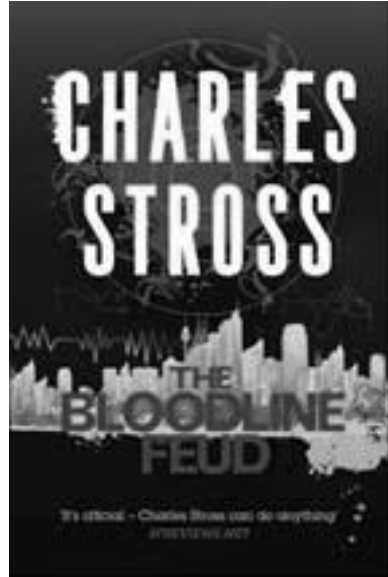
So if you already have, or have read the first two books in this series, you may skip the rest of this review.

THE BLOODLINE FEUD begins with investigative journalist Miriam Beckstein having a very bad day. She and her researcher Paulette have got what they think is the scoop of the decade, having the data to prove that a couple of high profile firms are laundering drugs money. When the editor in chief pulls the plug on the story and has both women escorted from the building she realises that the company that owns the newspaper must also be involved. This is also the day that her adoptive mother, Iris, decides to give her the newspaper cuttings and few items that belonged to her biological mother, an unnamed woman who was found dead. Amongst the items is a locket. Inside is a strange pattern. As she stares at it, Miriam suddenly finds herself in virgin woodland with a splitting headache. Initially excited about her discovery, Miriam's outlook changes when she first discovers a very poor village, and then is kidnapped from her bed.

As she quickly discovers, she is the long-believed-dead member of a feudal Clan in this parallel world and an heiress. At the time when her mother was found dead, there was a nasty internecine war going on. Currently, there is a truce but her reappearance as an adult triggers a recommencement of hostilities, with Miriam the target of several assassination attempts. She finds it difficult to know who she should trust. She also finds out that the reason for the wealth of the Clans is drug smuggling.

This new world, the one she was actually born in, is very mediaeval in its attitudes, particularly towards women. That, Miriam is not going to accept. As a result, when she finds a different locket on one of her attackers and a way to a third world she decides she is going to set up an alternative trade, one that does not involve drugs and one that allows more autonomy to women.

A complaint often levelled at part works is that one volume often appears to end half-way through a sentence. This is more likely to be the publisher's decision than the author's. In **THE BLOODLINE FEUD**,



Stross has had the opportunity to reunite the orphan volumes. The result is a far more satisfactory read and a wise decision. If you haven't read any of this series, this is the place to start.

PM

(Review copy kindly donated by Pan Macmillan Tor)

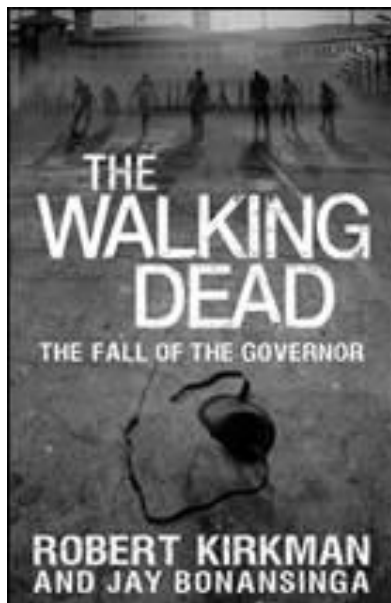
THE WALKING DEAD: FALL OF THE GOVERNOR PART ONE

by Robert Kirkman and Jay Bonansinga

Tor / 245 pgs / £7.99 paperback / ISBN 978-0330541381

Reviewed by Theresa Derwin

The third entry in the novelisation of the *Walking Dead* franchise and in particular the continuation of the story of the enigmatic Governor, **FALL: PART ONE** is the strongest of the novels so far. For those who are not familiar with *The Walking Dead*, this started as a series of well-regarded graphic novels and was adapted into a successful TV series now in its fourth season. Set in the USA it tells the story of a group of survivors after an infection has decimated the population and turned many victims into shuffling zombies. It is strongly character-driven and although there are horrific set-pieces the focus is more on how the characters must compromise and adapt to survive.



The novel starts with secondary characters to get the reader immersed into the world of Woodbury, where the Governor reigns. The Governor has successfully organised the barricading and the defence of Woodbury to provide a haven from the outside. It is two years since the dead were first reanimated, and to keep the town of Woodbury in check, the Governor puts on regular 'gladiatorial' style shows in which residents fight each other in an arena filled with chained up zombies.

We first meet fighters Bruce and Gabe in the arena. The scenes here are brutally honest about death (its smell and the sight of it) and incredibly visceral. Lilly, who appears in the second book, has become disillusioned after a failed coup to overthrow the Governor in the last book. She is now *persona non grata* yet is tolerated in the town. She is also very isolated and

lonely given her outsider status and soon becomes involved with one of the young men in the town.

Lilly is warned by Nurse Alice to keep her doubts about the town to herself. The only reason Dr Stevens and Alice are allowed to stay in Woodbury, following their involvement in the failed coup, is the fact that they are the only medical staff in Woodbury and are needed.

The enjoyable aspect of this book, is the inclusion of iconic characters from the TV series and the graphic novels; Rick (who needs no introduction to WD fans) and a certain hooded warrior woman clashing a machete, which brings the excitement and tension to a whole new level.

This novel takes place roughly near mid-season three when Rick's group are holed up in the prison (a defensible refuge from the undead) and Rick and the Governor first meet. As a result, it left me wanting more and eager to grab the DVD series or the graphic novels to see what happens next.

Their strongest collaboration to date.

TD

(Review copy kindly donated by Pan Macmillan Tor)

NEW CINEMA FILM RELEASES

Listings should not be necessarily taken as recommendations. Release dates are subject to change. View at your own peril!

GRAVITY - Release date November 8th. An accident in space leaves an astronaut and medical engineer fighting to survive.

THE HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE - Release date November 21st. Sequel. Adaptation of YA science fiction novel. Heroine Katniss must compete for survival against winners of previous Hunger Games.

CARRIE - Release date November 19th. Re-make of Stephen King story of bullied and troubled teenage girl with telekinetic powers.

FROZEN - Release date December 6th. Disney Fantasy animation. Anna travels across frozen landscape to stop the magic that creates eternal winter

THE BOOKSMITH - NEW, USED & ANTIQUATED BOOKS

Open Saturdays 10 am till 3 pm. Weekday viewing by appointment

Call John on 07544 900525 or Mike on 07544 900551

Unit 2, Arena Studios, 3 Marston Road, Sutton Coldfield B73 5HH

For queries or further information please email us at info@thebooksmith.co.uk

10% discount for members

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

All details are correct to the best of our knowledge, we advise contacting organizers before travelling. Always enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope when writing to any of the contact addresses.

Any information about forthcoming SF/Fantasy/Horror events is always welcome - please send to Carol at goodwincd@yahoo.com

ROBIN HOBB, 29th October, Birmingham. Fantasy author Robin Hobb discusses her work followed by book signing. Books will be available for purchase. 12 till 1pm (daytime) at Guild Council Chambers, University of Birmingham. Tickets: Free but must be booked by sending email request with names of attendees to events.birminghamnewst@waterstones.com Part of Birmingham University "Book to the Future" first literature festival from 24th to 29th October. Events are open to public. Other events and bookings are at www.birmingham.ac.uk/colleges/artslaw/events/btff

WORLD FANTASY CON, 31st October - 3rd November, Brighton. Guests of Honour include Alan Lee, Brian Aldiss and Tessa Farmer with China Mieville as Master of Ceremonies. Numbers are limited so book early. Attending membership £125 at <http://wfc2013.org/howtojoin01.html>

IRISH DISCWORLD CONVENTION, 1st - 4th November, Limerick. Ireland. Various guests including Dr Jack Cohen. Membership is 50 Euros from www.idwcon.org

NOVACON 43, 8th - 10th November 2013, Nottingham. Guest Of Honour: Jo Walton. Membership is £45. See www.novacon.org.uk for details

ARMADACON 25, 15th - 17th November, Plymouth. Guests include Neil Gorton (FX creator), Frances Hardinge (author) & David Wake (author). Membership is £30 at www.armadacon.org

CONVENTIONS

E-M CON (EAST MIDLANDS CON), 16th March 2014, Nottingham. First year of one day mixed media convention. Guests to date include Virginia Hey (Farscape), Craig Charles (Red Dwarf) and Sam Stone (horror/fantasy writer). Tickets £8.50/£12 (early bird). Details at www.em-con.co.uk/

SATELLITE 4 (EASTERCON), 18th - 21th April 2014, Glasgow
Guests of Honour include John Meaney, Juliet McKenna, Alice & Steve Lawson, Jim Burns, Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell and Sir Terry Pratchett (limited appearance subject to health). £65/50 concessions. Membership form at www.satellite4.org.uk

LONCON 3 (WORLDCON 72), 14th - 18th August 2014, London. Held at ExCel exhibition centre. Guests of Honour include Chris Foss, and Robin Hobb. £95 Adult membership. See www.loncon3.org

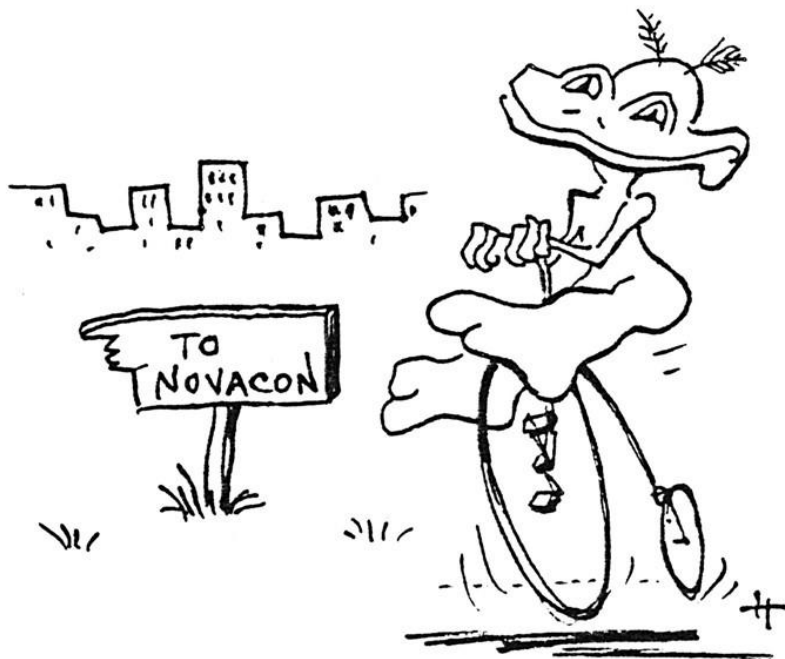
ANDROMEDA TWO, 20th September 2104, Digbeth, Birmingham. Guests of Honour are Sam Stone and Dave Hardy. Other guests include Stan and Anne Nicholls, Tom Fletcher, Jaine Fenn, etc. Early Friday registration will include movie double bill at the venue. £20 until 31st December (£18 for Brum SF Group members). Price from January 1st is £25 (£20 Brum Group)

FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE BSFG

December 6th - **CHRISTMAS SOCIAL** - Skittles and buffet

January 10th - Annual **AGM** and Book Auction

February 14th - Annual **SF Quiz**



(Illustration courtesy of Dave Hardy)

BRUM GROUP NEWS #506 (November 2013) copyright 2013 for Birmingham SF Group. Articles, artwork and photographs must not be reproduced in whole or part without the consent of the editor and/or the respective authors. This issue produced by Carol Goodwin (goodwincd@yahoo.com). Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the committee or the general membership or, for that matter, the person giving the 'opinion'. Thanks to all the named contributors in this issue.

ABOUT US... The Birmingham Science Fiction Group meets on the second Friday of each month. Membership is £16 per year per person (or £21 for two members living at the same address). This includes the 12 free issues of the Newsletter plus reduced entrance fee at each meeting. Cheques should be made payable to 'The Birmingham Science Fiction Group' and sent to our Membership Secretary, 10 Sylvan Avenue, Northfield, Birmingham, B31 2PG