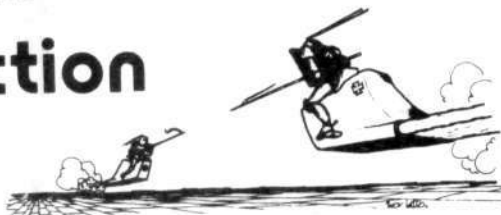


Birmingham Science Fiction Group

(Honorary Presidents: Brian W. Aldiss and Harry Harrison)



NEWSLETTER 101

JANUARY 1980

The Birmingham Science Fiction Group meet on the third Friday of every month at THE IVY BUSH, on the corner of Hagley Road and Monument Road. New members always welcome. This meeting on Friday, 18th January, at 8.00 p.m.

JANUARY MEETING - Friday January 18th.

This, as you all know, is the time of the Annual Elections. All nominations are to be given, IN WRITING, to a committee member before the voting (hopefully). The positions falling vacant are :-

Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity, Newsletter Editor.

The post of Novacon Chairman is non-votable, being selected by the previous committee, Novacon 10 chairman being Rog Peyton.

Please remember to vote and be prepared to be nominated.

P.S. Don't forget the Membership rate is now £2.00 dont delay, pay today.

NOMINATIONS SO FAR

		<u>PROPOSED BY</u>	<u>SECONDED</u>
NEWSLETTER	Chris Morgan	R. Peyton	M. Field
SECRETARY	Arline Peyton	S. Eling	D. Hardy
TREASURER	M. Thorpe	D. Holmes	R. Peyton
CHAIRMAN	D. Hardy	I.S. Warner	E. Stachelski

Further nominations can be made from the floor.

DECEMBER MEETING:

This was of course the Christmas Party with entertainment provided by various people showing off their brilliance by playing charades. Unfortunately I missed the first team competition so I don't know who won (sorry). But the highlight of the evening for all who attended was undoubtedly the second heat in which the current Editor's team soundly beat the ex-Editor's team. The only casualty was I.S. Warner who complained later of bruised shins. After this the whole event degenerated into a free for all with 'prize' books including two 'Blade' books.

After the charades came music supplied by David Hardy, I believe, and, a superb buffet laid on by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Bradbury (I am sure the rest of the Group will concur in my heartfelt thanks to Ray and his wife for their hospitality since we moved to the Ivy Bush in August).

The evening's programme was brought to an end by the drawing of the raffle (I seem to recall an inordinate number of Committee members or their brides-to-be winning prizes). Thanks to Cathy Holmes for selling tickets for this and other raffles.

Bring Your
Auction Material
Anything ~ Books, Mags,
Grannies, Budgies,
Anything.

Welcome back to quiz-land and we're off and running with the answers to last month's questions - I know they're not really necessary but I suppose I had better observe the normal formalities. So, taking question 1. - Sorry Honorary President, Sir, but "Great Balls of Fire", "Mechanismo", and "Planet Story", all published by Pierrot just seemed the best possible way to start us off.

Question 2. - When Lije Bailey found R.Daneel outside it was "the Naked Sun", with "Foundation", "The Martian Way", and "The Stars Like Dust", and, of course, they're all by Isaac Asimov.

Question 3.- Answering each question - "It Came From Outer Space", "The Creature From The Black Lagoon", and "Tarantula", with me ending up as the "Incredible Shrinking Man" - all films directed by Jack Arnold for Universal-International Films.
So, easy were'nt it ???.

NOTE

Steve Green is Preparing an article on SF Fandom, using the BSFG and Novacon as examples, so any contributions with any anecdotes about the early days will be gratefully appreciated; It will net you a free copy of "Closer to The Edge" and your work will be credited - All contributions to: _ Steve Green, 33 Scott Rd, Olton, Selihull.

SROCK! HORROR! DAVID HARDY INVADES THE AIRWAVES!!

Group Chairman David Hardy advanced the BSFE's plans for world domination on Friday night/Saturday morning (Jan. 4th/5th) by guesting on "Round Midnight" on BBC Radio 2 between about 12.30 and 1.00 David talked about his new book "Energy and the Future" describing possible future energy sources to the presenter whose name escapes me, but (shame on you Dave) he didn't plug BSFG once! Disgusting, that's what I call it. Anyway, good luck to him on his new book.

FEBRUARY MEETING FEBRUARY 15TH.

No definite arrangements have been made as yet but don't let this put you off. I'm sure the new committee will come through and no doubt will give us a glittering array of talent to choose from.

REVIEWS OF RECENT PAPERBACKS

THE OLD MEN AT THE ZOO by Angus Wilson, Panther 1979, £1.50, 345 pages.

Reviewed by Chris Morgan.

While only marginally classifiable as SF, because it is set against the background of Britain involved in a European war of the 1970s, this is a splendid novel about the fortunes and eccentricities of the staff of the London Zoo. It is narrated by Simon Carter, the only professional administrator among a host of animal specialists who are every bit as odd as the animals themselves. Carter is the only senior man at the zoo under the age of forty. He despises his elderly colleagues yet is conceited and priggish himself---a bit of an old woman. Inside the zoo there is tragedy, much manoeuvring for personal prestige, and attempts are made to alter the zoo's public image. Outside the zoo there are political confrontations and international disagreements, leading to war and the bombing of London---which means the bombing of the zoo as well. This is an extremely entertaining book, witty and full of incident. It's a good read, even though the SF content is minute. C.M.

SPACEHOUNDS OF I.P.C. by B.E."Doc"Smith, Panther 1979, 85 pence, 223 pages.

Reviewed by Pauline E.Morgan.

The spaceliner Arcturus, on a regular flight to Mars, is attacked, cut into little pieces and towed away by Jovians. This is the story of how a man and a woman, trapped in one of those pieces, escape and build a radio transmitter from stone axes and bits of flint to tell their friends back home where they are, without once going to bed together. This tale originally appeared in Amazing Stories in 1931, which explains why the details of physics and planetary conditions are so wrong (and why there's no sex). Despite the various inaccuracies and impossibilities I found myself enjoying this. It's very fast moving, possibly "Doc"Smith's best book. P.E.M.

EARTH GULF by Trevor Hoyle, Panther 1979, 95 pence, 189 pages.

Reviewed by Pauline E.Morgan.

Frank Kersh, a science writer on a routine assignment, becomes involved with a series of Earth-shattering events. A research station at the bottom of a mile-deep mine shaft under a mountain, where the Sun's emission particles are being measured, becomes the focus of these events. The first two parts of the book are spoiled by an excess of technical data which will have meaning only to regular readers of New Scientist. The story, like the mountain, falls apart in the closing stages. Not very convincing. P.E.M.

IRISH GHOST STORIES edited by Joseph Hone, Panther 1979, 90 pence, 175 pages.

Reviewed by Pauline E.Morgan.

These ten stories have been specially written for the volume by Irish authors. All are either set in Ireland or have very close links with the country. They have been carefully chosen to contrast markedly with each other, varying from "Brock" where a faithful sheepdog carries on with its job after death, to a vengeful ghost in "The Captain of the Pipes", to "Gaelgeist", which features a composite spirit of all that is foul in Irish history. P.E.M.

THE STARS ARE THE STYX by Theodore Sturgeon, Dell 1979, \$2.25, 382 pages.

Reviewed by Chris Morgan.

This is a marvellous collection of ten novelettes, with a superb cover. Highly recommended. C.M.

SPECIAL VIDEO EVENING

There will be an Appollo Video Evening at Dave Holmes' place of residence on FRIDAY FEBRUARY 1ST. If you wish to go SEE DAVE AT THE JANUARY MEETING. Please do not just turn up - He won't like it. The full programme will be announced at the AGM.

NOVACON 10

Supporting membership is £2 and is to be sent to:-

Krystyna Bula
c/o Nurseryland,
183 Shenley Road,
Boreham Wood,
Herts.

G o H is Brian Aldiss and, important, this membership will be CLOSED AS FROM OCTOBER 1ST. So send your membership in as soon as possible.

Anne McCaffrey will not be coming to Brum soon as she has a bad illness and she has been advised not to travel. Hope you have a speedy recovery Anne, from all at the Brum Group.

PERSONAL NOTE

After doing this job for X months, I have not decided to stand for next year, but I strongly advise any new fan that if they want to become more involved in the group, then get nominated onto the committee! You get shouted at and blamed when things go wrong but overall one has a nice glow when you look back and think 'I was part of that', and as a bonus you get to meet a lot more people, whether threatening them for artwork or illo's or even just participation in an event, or even socially. All in all it's worth it.

Yours, The Editor!!

FILL IN AND TEAR OFF AT DOTTED LINE

.....
HEREWITH ENCLOSED £2.00 FOR SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP FOR NOVACON 10

NAME & ADDRESS.....

CHEQUES AND POSTAL ORDERS MADE OUT TO NOVACON 10 AND SENT TO

KRYSTINA BULA
c/o NURSERYLAND
183 SHENLEY ROAD
BOREHAM WOOD
HERTS