

BRUM GROUP NEWS

Price: FREE

Price: FREE

The monthly newsletter of the Birmingham Science Fiction Group

(Honorary Presidents: Brian W Aldiss and Harry Harrison)

Group Chairman - Tony Morton, Secretary - Anne Woodford, Treasurer - Alan Woodford,
Publicity Officer - Steve Jones, Newsletter Editor and Novacon 27 & 28 Chairman - Martin Tudor.**BRUM GROUP CHRISTMAS MEETING:****Friday 5 December, Beer & Skittles Evening!**

at the Samson & Lion in Wordsley. There is just one place left on the bus (costing £11.00 per person which includes travel from and back to Birmingham city centre), *however if you make your own way to and from the pub* just £9.00 will cover a choice of basket meals (Scampi, Chicken Portion or Vegetable Lasagne); *amazing* prizes; and the hire of the skittle alley - if you're interested call Carol Morton on 01384 825386 before 9pm on Thursday 4th December!

There will also be a raffle - with wonderful prizes, and review copies will be available as usual.

COMING SOON TO TALK TO THE BRUM GROUP:**Friday 13th February 1998 Stephen Baxter;****Friday 13th March 1998 Graham Joyce;****Friday 10th April 1998 Tom Holt;****Friday 15th May 1998 Robert Holdstock.**

The BSGF meets from 7pm in the Top Floor Bar of the Tap & Spile, Gas Street, Birmingham city centre on the second Friday of each month (unless otherwise notified). The annual subscription rates (which include 12 copies of this newsletter and reduced price entry to formal meetings) are £15.00 per person, or £18.00 for 2 members at the same address. Cheques etc. should be made payable to "The Birmingham Science Fiction Group" and sent to: Alan Woodford, The Treasurer, 81 Harrold Road, Rowley Regis, Warley, West Midlands, B65 0RL, (e-mail enquiries via: bsfg@bortas.demon.co.uk).

Book reviews, review copies and other contributions and enquiries regarding the Brum Group News to: Martin Tudor, Newsletter Editor, 24 Ravensbourne Grove, Willenhall, West Midlands, WV13 1HX (e-mail to martin@empties.demon.co.uk).

Merry Christmas to all our members!

Colophon

The contents of this issue are copyright 1997 the BSFG, on behalf of the contributors, to whom all rights revert on publication. Personal opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the committee or the membership of the BSFG.

Text by Martin Tudor except where stated otherwise.

This issue was printed on the CRITICAL WAVE photocopier. For details of WAVE's competitive prices contact Martin Tudor at the editorial address on the cover.

Many thanks to: ALAN & ANNE WOODFORD for producing the address labels; YVONNE ROWSE and TONY MORTON for their pieces; MICHAEL JONES and YVONNE ROWSE for their book reviews; thanks also to SFX, WHAT'S ON, LOCUS, the BBC, the Birmingham EVENING MAIL, TONY BERRY and DAVE LANGFORD for the news in the Jophan Report and Events Listing.

A Statement from the Chair by Tony Morton

You may remember that the out-going Treasurer, Sarah Freakley, was unable to present last year's accounts at the BSFG's AGM "due to illness". Unfortunately as we were to discover it wasn't that straight-forward.

As agreed with Sarah, Alan Woodford (the incoming Treasurer) went to her home with his wife (and BSFG Secretary) Anne Woodford, shortly after the AGM. On collecting the cash box and some (but not all of) the relevant papers, Alan was informed that Sarah had "borrowed" the £85 cash from the cash box but would settle up very shortly....

Alan left, contacted the banks and building societies regarding transferring accounts and discovered the accounts failed to balance by considerably more than the £85 mentioned. When Alan and Anne queried this with Sarah she said she would attend the February meeting to repay the £85 "borrowed" and volunteered to pay off the remaining shortfall at £50 per month, or (if we preferred) get a loan so that she could repay it all at once.

This matter was discussed at the committee meeting on the 29th of January and it was decided that given Sarah's good reputation and the amount of hard work she had put into the Group over recent years we should give her every opportunity to explain her actions and to repay the apparently missing money.

Sarah did not attend the meeting in February, nor did she repay the £85, but in a letter to the committee in that month she admitted to "borrowing" money from the cashbox and failing to bank profits from Novacon 26. Effectively, once Alan had checked the accounts, there was a shortfall of about £400.

The matter was discussed with the Legal Officer, Tim Stannard, who outlined the

various options available to us. After lengthy discussion the Committee agreed that, as Sarah's letter had admitted to this "borrowing" and indicated her willingness to repay the money by monthly instalments, we should give her the opportunity to do so.

We therefore replied to her outlining the schedule of repayments, while Alan arranged for her to receive a paying-in book to avoid any delays in the repayments.

Over the next few months Ann and Alan Woodford regularly visited Sarah both to remind her of her obligation and to update the committee.

Things did not go according to plan: due to Sarah's ill-health, she lost her job and "couldn't afford to pay". Several other delays compounded the situation and by May only £80 had been repaid.

By July no further money had been received, despite reminders and Tim, our Legal Officer, advised us it was probably too late to instigate theft proceedings.

Unfortunately August passed as well (due to other commitments and holidays, etc) before we could make further arrangements. By then Sarah's telephone number was unobtainable (cut off, we later learned), but thanks to Anne and Alan again visiting her, we knew she was at the same address.

We therefore started proceedings through the County Court for a Small Claims action. This is currently going through the

system and will hopefully resolve the situation.

We can only say that in the light of Sarah's previous work for the BSFG, her recent bouts of ill-health and the periods of unemployment which resulted, we felt it only fair to give her every opportunity to repay the money. It was only when it became obvious that she intended to procrastinate forever, that we finally resorted to legal action. We all hoped the money would have been paid back by now to make this an easier item to report. Events proved otherwise.

Despite these problems I would like to continue as Chairman next year to "see through" this court action and to help return the BSFG to a more secure financial footing.

BSFG: Committee Posts by Bernie Evans

With the AGM looming on the 9th January 1998, it's time for all you enthusiastic members to send in your nominations for committee posts. You can, of course, nominate from the floor at the meeting if you wish, but if you KNOW you will be standing, please send in your written nomination (and platform of no more than 250 words) so it can be printed in the January edition of BRUM GROUP NEWS for everyone to see.

Written nominations must reach Martin Tudor by the 27th of December 1997. He can be contacted either at the December

Beer & Skittles, by post to 24 Ravensbourne Grove, off Clarkes Lane, Willenhall, WV13 1HX or e-mail to martin@empties.demon.co.uk.

So what positions are there?

CHAIRMAN: Will chair and keep order at all meetings, and will also hold regular committee meetings (at least one committee meeting per quarter). Will contact speakers, arrange accommodation where necessary and ensure they get to the meeting on time.

SECRETARY: Should be able to type, attend all committee meetings and produce minutes of these to be sent to all Committee Members. Likewise the AGM or other Group meetings. May also be asked to write to prospective speakers, etc.

TREASURER: If you don't know what a Treasurer does, don't bother to apply!

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Has to produce the newsletter every month. Access to a computer and desktop publishing software and/or a word processor is an advantage, but not a necessity, a typewriter and a pair of scissors will suffice. The ability to type AND meet a monthly deadline ARE a necessity, as is the ability to drag contributions out of people, ditto artwork. A knowledge of design/layout is also an advantage.

PUBLICITY OFFICER: Will produce A4 posters, A5 flyers, and so on for meetings, and arrange for them to be displayed in local shops, libraries, and as

many other outlets as possible. Will also produce general publicity for the Group, and contact radio and tv if necessary. Enthusiasm and the ability to produce new IDEAS are an important factor.

In addition two other ORDINARY MEMBERS may be appointed by the Committee any time during the year at the discretion of the Committee.

So, that's who we need. Which do YOU want to do?

Jophan Report #110 by Martin Tudor

The 1997 Nova Awards were presented at Novacon 27 in the Abbey Hotel over the weekend of 14-16 November 1997. The full results were as follows (the figure in parenthesis indicates the points scored under the voting system):

Best Fan Artist

1. Sue Mason (107)
"Did someone shoot D. West?"
2. Dave Mooring (84)
3. D. West (80)
4. Dave Hicks (47)
5. Steve Jeffery/Esjay (45)
6. Anne Stokes (20)
7. Jim Barker (19)
8. Shep Kirkbride (6)
9. Harry Turner (1)

Fanwriter:

1. Mark Plummer (95)
"Er... Thanks..."
2. Claire Brialey (53)
3. Dave Langford (39)

The Newsletter of the Birmingham Science Fiction Group

4. Christina Lake (38)
5. Mike D Siddall (30)
6. Alison Scott (26)
7. Mark McCann (24)
- 8= Maureen Kincaid Spellar (23)
Ian Sorensen (23)
- 10 Paul Kincaid (15)
- 11 Martin Tudor (11)
- 12 Alison Freebairn (12)
- 13 Pam Wells (13)
- 14= Tanya Brown (5)
John Dallman (5)
Bridget Hardcastle/Bug (5)
Steve Jeffery (5)
- 18= Judith Hanna (4)
Dave Hicks (4)
- 20= Marianne Cain (3)
Eve Harvey (3)
Mike Scott (3)
- 23= Chuck Connor (1)
Steve Davies (1)
Tommy Ferguson (1)
Tobes (1)

Fanzine:

1. Banana Wings (135)
"Thank you all for embarrassing Mark more than I would ever have believed possible!"
2. Attitude (76)
3. Plokta (67)
4. BW (30)
- 5= Bob (28)
Snufkins Bum (28)
7. Gotterdammerung (26)
- 8= Never Quite Arriving (19)
Shooting Stars (19)
10. Sqiggledy Hoy (10)
11. Year of the Cow (8)
12. Wallbanger (7)
13. TAFFlon Tudor (6)
14. Strange Delusions (5)

15. FTT (4)
16. Balloons over Bristol (3)
- 17= Babes with Attitude (2)
Railings (2)
- 19= Immaculate Infection (1)
Pogonophobia (1)
Thingummybob (1)
Drunken Fuckwit (1)
Gerald (1)

Also at Novacon 27 the annual raffle for the RNIB's Books for the Blind project raised £177.00. £87.38 was raised for TAFF through the TAFF Turkey Readings and the United Fan Funds auction on the Sunday night raised £361.50 (of which £50 has gone to GUFF, £150 to Friends of Foundation and £161.50 to TAFF).

The new owners of Abbey Hotel are paying for a half million pound refurbishment and we heard on Friday 28th November 1997 that despite the best efforts of the management (who were *delighted* with the business they did at Novacon) to move the date to January 1998 the builders will have to do the six weeks of work in November 1998. Which means Novacon is yet again looking for a new home! (Novacon 28 is still scheduled for 13-15 November 1998 with Guest of Honour Paul J McAuley. Attending membership costs £28.00, rising after Easter 1998. Venue to be announced. Contact: Carol Morton, 14 Park Street, Lye, Stourbridge, DY9 8SS.)

In RAY BRADBURY'S TALES OF THE BIZARRE, Ray Bradbury continues to introduce dramatisations of his macabre short stories on Thursdays at 11pm on Radio 4 (FM 92.4-94.6)/LW 198). The

third of the six stories to be aired is "The Scythe" on 4th December, followed by "The Wind" on 11th December.

The Saturday Playhouse on Saturday 6th December (Radio 4, 2.30pm) features a tale of mystery and the supernatural from Ellis Peters, better known for her Brother Cadfael stories. "Flight of a Witch" is also set in Shropshire but in the sixties - a woman disappears for five days and uncanny parallels are drawn between this and events in the 18th century, but this time a murder is committed....

Iywel Bennett begins an eight-part radio reading of Bram Stoker's DRACULA on Friday 12th December at 9.15pm on Radio 2 (FM 88.0-90.2). This version has been abridged and produced by Jane Marshall.

Forthcoming Events

The BRUM GROUP CHRISTMAS MEETING

on Friday 5th December 1997

will be a Beer & Skittles Evening!

The venue is the Samson & Lion, Brierley Hill Road (near Swan Lane), Wordsley.

There is just one place left on the bus (costing £11.00 which includes travel from and back to Birmingham) other than that, if you **MAKE YOUR OWN WAY TO THE PUB** just £9.00 will cover a choice of basket meals (Scampi, Chicken Portion or Vegetable Lasagne); *amazing* prizes; the hire of the skittle alley. Call Carol Morton on 01384 825386 before 9pm on Thursday 4th December!

Please Note

**The Pick Up Points for those who have booked places on the bus for the Beer and Skittles are as follows:
Birmingham 7pm PROMPT at the coach stop by the Bar St Martins, in the Rotunda and at around 7.20-7.30pm at Barclays Bank, Lye.**

Until 31 January 1998: RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET Shakespeare's previously lost rock'n'roll cult classic is playing at the New Vic Theatre, Etruria Road, Newcastle-under-Lyme. Call 01782-717962 for details.

5 December 1997-24 January 1998: THE SNOWMAN - Raymond Briggs magical story featured with an extended original score, at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre. Call 0121-236-4455.

6 December 1997: ROBERT RANKIN will be signing copies of BRENTFORD CHAINSTORE MASSACRE (hb, £16.99) from noon at Andromeda Bookshop, 2-5 Suffolk Street, Birmingham. **STORM CONSTANTINE** will also be signing copies of her latest works. Call 0121-643-1999 or check their web site on <http://www.andromedasf.co.uk> for details.

15-17 January 1998: STAGE 2/DR FAUSTUS: a cast of 100+ young people enact the struggle of good versus evil and the deadly consequences of overreaching pride bringing Marlowe's text to life at the MAC. Call 0121-440-3838.

The Newsletter of the Birmingham Science Fiction Group

11-15 February 1998: BBC TOMORROW'S WORLD LIVE, Halls 6-8, National Exhibition Centre. Call 0181-948-1666.

13 February 1998: STEPHEN BAXTER will be addressing the Group, from 7pm at the Tap & Spile, Gas Street, Birmingham.

13 March 1998: GRAHAM JOYCE, winner of the 1997 British Fantasy Award, for his novel **THE TOOTH FAIRY**, will be addressing the Group, from 7pm at the Tap & Spile, Gas Street, Birmingham.

13-16 March 1998: CORFLU UK US-style, fannish, relaxacon, in the Griffin Hotel, Boar Lane, Leeds. **£25.00 attending to Corflu**, c/o Ian Sorensen, 7 Woodside Walk, Hamilton, ML3 7HY.

21-22 March 1998: MEMORABILIA Europe's largest sf, film, cult tv, pop and comic collector's fair at the NEC. Call Made in Heaven on 01899-221622.

10 April 1998: TOM HOLT will be addressing the Group, from 7pm at the Tap & Spile, Gas Street, Birmingham.

10-13 April 1998: INTUITION, the 49th British National Convention, Jarvis Piccadilly and Britannia hotels, Manchester. GoHs: Ian McDonald, Martin Tudor, Connie Willis. Attending £30.00, supporting £15.00, to: Intuition, 1 Waverley Way, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey, SM5 3LQ.

15 May: ROBERT HOLDSTOCK will be addressing the Group, from 7pm at the Tap & Spile, Gas Street, Birmingham.

21-24 August 1998: THE WRAP PARTY to celebrate the conclusion of **BABYLON 5**, the Radisson Edwardian Hotel, Heathrow, London. Confirmed guests include: J Michael Straczynski, Harlan Ellison, Dr Jack Cohen, John Ridgeway, Bryan Talbot, Adam "Mojo" Lebowitz, John Matthews. Attending £65.00 (instalment scheme available), to The Wrap Party, PO Box 505, Reading, RG1 7QZ.

11-13 SEPTEMBER 1998: FANTASY-CON 22, the convention of the British Fantasy Society. At the Albany Hotel, Birmingham, Guest of Honour Freda Warrington, with more guests to be announced. Contact: c/o BFS, 2 Harwood Street, Stockport, SK4 1JJ. (This is a temporary contact address pending the organiser's house move.)

13-15 November 1998: Novacon 28, Guest of Honour Paul J McAuley. Attending membership costs £28.00, rising after Easter 1998. Venue to be announced. Contact: Carol Morton, 14 Park Street, Lye, Stourbridge, DY9 8SS.

2-5 April 1999: RECONVENE, 50th National British Convention, Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool. GoHs: Peter S Beagle, John Clute, Jeff Noon. Attending £25.00 to Reconvene, 3 West Shrubbery, Redland, Bristol, BS6 6SZ.

27 December 1999 - 2 January 2000:
MILLENNIUM. Venue to be announced, but definitely in Northern Europe (probably a BeNeLux country or UK), £3.00 (f10.00) per year, to be deducted from eventual membership fee. Contact: Malcolm Reid, 186 Casewick Road, West Norwood, London, SE27 0SZ.

Although details are correct to the best of our knowledge, we advise readers to contact organisers prior to travelling. Always enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope when writing to any of the above contact addresses. Please mention the BRUM GROUP NEWS when replying to listings or advertisements.

If you know of any events which you think may be of interest to members of the BSFG please send details to the Editor (e-mail martin@empties.demon.co.uk).

If you have attended any events or seen any films or videos that you would like to recommend to other members (or warn them about) please feel free to write a report or review and send it to the editorial address.

Novacon 27: A Report by Yvonne Rowse

How was it for me? Pretty good actually.

I went to my first Novacon feeling some trepidation. I'd been to Interwhatsitsname at Easter and felt rather out of it. I knew Novacon was smaller and worried that a

single sad person would stand out more. I'd been told that the best way to meet people was to 'gopher' but I spend most of my life gophering for my kids and I wanted a break from the whole thing.

Well it was great. The hotel was good. The beer was very good. The bar staff were cute. The fans were friendly. The food was good. The tea was drinkable! The panels were interesting. If you were ever short of something to do you could wander into the maze of corridors, close your eyes, turn round three times then spend a happy hour trying to find your way out meeting unlikely but friendly people on the way.

And wasn't Peter Hamilton nice? Not only nice, but interesting. I must admit, with shame, that I hadn't read any of his books until a fortnight before the convention. I'm a bit behind the times and my local bookshop is not large. Now I've read the first series and I'm hooked.

I enjoyed the book auction; I even bought two books. I found Jack Cohen's talk very interesting although I was disturbed to realise that most of my knowledge consists of 'lies for children'. I especially enjoyed the panel about future law. The subject matter was almost as interesting as the interplay between the panellists.

I spent too much money on books in the dealers' room. I drank too much. I didn't dance enough. I didn't sleep enough. I loved it.

So what about next year? I've got my cheque written out. Next year I want to

stay until Monday. Next year I'm going to do some gophering. Next year I'm going to make a list of all the books I've already got so I don't buy duplicates on the second hand stands. Next year I'll give the BSFA tombola a pound and refuse to take any books. Next year I'll pack clothes for a tropical climate. I can hardly wait.

Book Reviews

SILENT ZONE by Stephen Molstad
Voyager, 268pp, hb, £16.99,
Star Rating: *
Review by Michael Jones.

Seemingly, Molstad has already produced a novelisation of the movie INDEPENDANCE DAY. Here he provides a prequel telling something of how the alien UFO used in the movie to cripple the invasion fleet came to be available - it was, of course, captured in the famous 1947 Roswell Incident, the foundation on which so much UFO lore has since been erected. In fact, this story takes place some 25 years later and is set mostly in Area 51, another ufologfist's icon. The original research team has largely run out of steam, but a bright new boy is brought in who picks up the pace and makes significant new discoveries. Alas, his results are suppressed and it all comes to naught.

I considered this to be a truly fifth-rate book. The plot is scarcely believable (but then, isn't most stuff about UFOs?), the characters are shallow and unconvincing

and the writing is just plain awful. Worse still, although this has to be a part of a greater story beginning at Roswell and concluding with the events of INDEPENDANCE DAY, there appears to have been little or no effective attempt to fill in the gaps (even by implication) so that SILENT ZONE just hangs there, lacking any meaningful link to either before or after.

In my experience, writings about UFOs rarely contain much credibility, whether purporting to be factual accounts or more overtly fictional. If the events of INDEPENDANCE DAY were to be shown of the drama of visual impact by being put into written form it is unlikely that anything worth-while would be left. This book suffers from the same problems and lacks even a modicum of literary merit to make up for its other shortcomings.

IN THE OCEAN OF NIGHT
by Gregory Benford,
Vista, 333pp, pb, £5.99
Star rating: ***
Review by Yvonne Rowse.

I picked this up to review thinking it was a new book. It's not of course. It was first printed 20 years ago. Never mind. I won't have to wait for the rest of the series.

It took me a while to warm to the main character, Nigel Walmsley, the (British) astronaut sent to destroy Icarus, an off-course asteroid about to smash into the Earth. While planting the bomb he discovers that Icarus is an ancient

spaceship. He defies orders and explores the ship. It sends a signal before he destroys it.

Some years later another alien artefact, the Snark, arrives from deep space, attracted by the signal from Icarus. After feeding endless streams of information to the artefact, the politicians develop cold feet, rightly as it turns out, and send Nigel up to destroy it. He doesn't. The Snark makes off back to its makers, the pervasive machine civilisations.

A woman exploring the moon is downed by a third alien artefact. Nigel, of course, goes up to help with the investigation. They spend a lot of time trying to access the alien computer on the ship, which, unlike in the movies, doesn't interface with Windows 95. After months of careful, methodical pressing of buttons they (accidentally) press the lot. When I do that with my computer it crashes but it turns out to be just what the alien computer needs. It resists being switched off and beams something at Nigel that changes him, raises him to a higher plane of consciousness.

I gather, from reading the ads at the back that this book connects up with the series where the organic lifeforms are battling the machine civilisations. I'm not rushing to read them. After all I've got 50 books waiting to be read but I've put them on my get round to buying sometime list. Incidentally, Benford has a talent for titles. IN THE OCEAN OF NIGHT, TIDES OF LIGHT, SAILING BRIGHT ETERNITY. Wow.

I liked this book far more than I expected to. Some of the descriptive writing was lovely although not everything worked for me. The background civilisation fascinated me. Perhaps my difficulty with Nigel is that he openly disobeys four times in critical situations and he never gets sacked. Jealousy then.

THE SCIENCE OF JURASSIC PARK AND THE LOST WORLD by Rob DeSalle & David Lindley
HarperCollins, 194pp, hb, £12.99,
Star Rating: ****

Review by Michael Jones.

The scientific rationale behind JURASSIC PARK was always a bit suspect: just how suspect is revealed in this excellent little book. The authors do not set out to do a hatchet job - instead they take the basis of the films quite seriously and go step-by-step through the whole process of "How to Build a Dinosaur", explaining exactly what has to be done at each stage. This gives them plenty of opportunities to introduce such phrases as "not quite that easy", "highly implausible", "insurmountable problem", "enormously difficult" and even "this won't work", so that by the end of the book the reader realises that there is actually very little chance of it happening in the immediately foreseeable future. However, as they say in their introduction, none of the problems they have identified along the way is insoluble in principle.

All of which does in fact seem to justify JURASSIC PARK as a piece of sf - an extrapolation of existing knowledge which, while skirting round some of the

practical details, does not actually contravene any of the fundamentals of scientific knowledge as it at present exists. That's all right then - we can watch the film without worrying about having been conned.

The authors are excellently qualified, being respectively associate curator at the American Museum of Natural History and a professional science writer and they have composed their booking an informal, chatty style which renders it very accessible without in any way detracting from the merit of its contents. To my mind they have achieved just the right balance between popularisation and rigor and the result is worth reading in its own right even if you are not a particular fan of the Spielberg productions.

* * * * *

The "Star Ratings" are:

- * = *Crap, beyond belief.*
- ** = *Crap, but readable.*
- *** = *Not too bad, really.*
- **** = *Pretty good actually.*
- ***** = *BUY IT!*

Please remember that reviews of books should reach Martin Tudor at 24 Ravensbourne Grove, off Clarkes Lane, Willenhall, WV13 1HX (or e-mail martin@empties.demon.co.uk), within ONE MONTH of your taking the book.

A number of people still owe reviews, please ensure that these, along with reviews of books picked up at the last two meetings are mailed to Martin Tudor by this month's meeting. The following list includes the name of the person, the title

and author of the book and in brackets the month when the book was picked up for review:

Michael Jones: NIGHT LAMP by Jack Vance (1/97); SHADOWS OVER INNSMOUTH ed Stephen Jones (9/97).

Robert Jones: TIMESCAPE by Gregory Benford (2/97).

Steve Jones & Friends: THE RUINS OF AMBRA! by Melanie Rawn (3/97); MAGNIFICAT by Julian May (3/97); THE REALITY DYSFUNCTION by Peter F Hamilton (3/97); THE SANDMAN BOOK OF DREAMS ed Neil Gaiman & Ed Kramer (4/97); MILLENNIUM ed Douglas E Winter (6/97); THE DISCWORLD COMPANION by Terry Pratchett & Stephen Briggs (6/97); BABYLON 5: TO DREAM IN THE CITY OF THE SORROWS by Kathryn M Drennan (7/97); THE FIFTH SACRED THING by Starhawk (9/97); THE PAVILLION OF FROZEN WOMEN by S P Somtow (9/97).

Pauline/Chris Morgan: MY HERO by Tom Holt (1/97); GIBBON'S DECLINE & FALL by Sheri S Tepper (1/97).

Carol Morton: SORCERIES ed. Katherine Kerr (2/97); RAGE OF A DEMON KING by Raymond E Feist (3/97); SORCERERS OF MAJIPOOR by Robert Silverberg (3/97).

Tony Morton: STARBORNE by Robert Silverberg (2/97); TITAN by Stephen Baxter (8/97); TIMELIKE INFINITY by Stephen Baxter (8/97).

Yvonne Rowse: THE STONE CANAL by Ken MacLeod (9/97).

Alan Woodford: THE HOUSE IN THE BORDERLAND by William Hope Hodgson (1/97); THE FIFTH ELEMENT by Terry Eison (6/97).

Novacon 28 Membership Form

Date: 13-15 November 1998.

Guest of Honour: Paul J McAuley.

Venue: To Be Announced.

Attending membership costs £28.00 until Easter 1998, after which it will rise again. Cheques/Postal Orders should be made payable to "Novacon 28" and sent with your completed form to: Carol Morton, 14 Park Street, Lye, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY9 8SS. (Or handed over at a BSFG meeting.)

Membership I enclose £ for membership(s) of Novacon 28
Name: Phone No:
Address:
.....
.....

Badge Name(s) Please complete this section if you want a fannish name on your badge. We would prefer to use your real name for sending items through the post.
Name: Badge Name:
Name: Badge Name:

Gophers I am willing to volunteer as a gopher YES/NO
(please delete as applicable)
I will arrive at the con (specify time and day)
I have experience in/with (please specify)
.....

Book Room Please reserve me tables @ £15.00 each

Art Show Please reserve me Art Board space in the Art Show

Queries, Suggestions, Ideas, Requests etc

We can only act on your ideas/problems if you tell us about them, so this is, what this action is for. (Please continue on a separate sheet of paper if needed.)