

BRUM GROUP NEWS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE

BIRMINGHAM SCIENCE FICTION GROUP

APRIL 2011

ISSUE 475

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& **HARRY HARRISON**

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Friday 8th April 2011

ROBERT RANKIN

at the Old Joint Stock

It's been nigh on a quarter of a century since Robert Rankin came to the Brum Group. It was the first talk he ever gave – one of the funniest, side-splitting talks we've ever had. The only slideshow ever presented without a projector! And now, finally he is back to give what is likely to be the very last talk he gives (but who can really believe what Robert says – everything he writes is pure fiction anyway). But why has it taken 25 years to ask him to return, you might ask? Well, we've asked him but it's coincided with other

May 13th - JOHN MEANEY, author of SF novels *TO HOLD INFINITY*, the *Nulapeiron* trilogy, etc. He also writes as 'Thomas Blackthorne'.

events and mainly it's because we often found it impossible to contact him. He has changed his email address every 6 months and given his publisher instructions not to forward mail. Or that's the way it seemed.

His first book was *THE ANTIPOPE*, a hilarious story of a resurrected Pope set to the background of a pub in Brentford featuring the dart-throwing abilities of Jim Pooley and John Omalley. *The Brentford Trilogy* consists of several books (er, yes, certainly more than three) all featuring Pooley and Omalley. Later books featured alien invasions, famine, Elvis Presley, sprouts, etc.

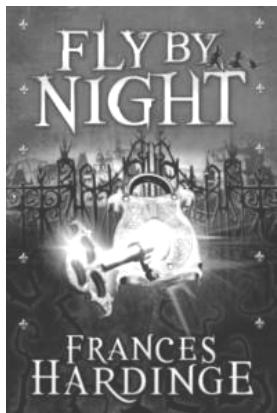
Now he is a bestselling author of more than 30 books and we are indeed fortunate to welcome Robert back to the Group for what promises to be a highlight in our 40th Anniversary Year. RGP

The meeting will take place in the theatre on the top floor of the Old Joint Stock, Temple Street, Birmingham. From the front door go to the reardoor on the right-hand side. Take the lift to the top floor following the signs to the Robert Rankin meeting.

The doors open at 7.30pm and the meeting will 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 this meeting is £3 for members, £4 for non-members

THE FANTASY WORKS OF FRANCES HARDINGE: AN OVERVIEW by Pauline Morgan

Frances Hardinge is published as a children's writer as all her books to date feature as a lead character, children aged around thirteen. The violence, where necessary, is without gore and sex is not an issue. Her first three books are totally different from each other in both settings and approach. The fourth, *TWILIGHT ROBBERY*, reprises the characters of *FLY BY NIGHT*.



The fantasy world of *FLY BY NIGHT* consists of a number of states, each of which think their ruler has the greatest claim to the kingship of the whole of the land. Everyone believes in the Beloved, icons or saints that have dominion over everything. As there are so many of them they are allotted only a part of the day to themselves. Names of children are decided by the hour of the Beloved under whose auspices they were born. Mosca Mye was unfortunate enough to be born under the influence of Palpitattle, He Who Keeps Flies Out of Jams and Butterchurns. As the novel begins, Mosca is planning to run away from the village where she has grown up, first with her father, then with her Uncle and Aunt. She flees, having accidentally set her

Uncle's mill on fire, releasing the prisoner Eponymous Clent and stealing Saracen,

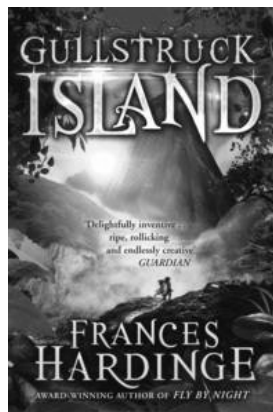
a homicidal goose. They head for the city of Mandelion one step ahead of the law. Chaos follows in their wake. Humour is provided by the antics of Saracen and the fact that everything that Mosca and Clent try seems to backfire.



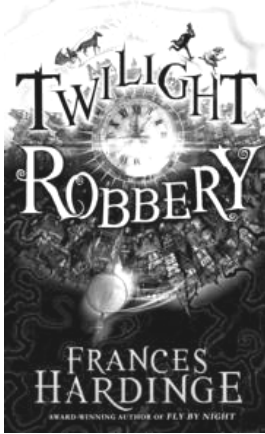
VERDIGRIS DEEP is a much darker story. It has a contemporary setting and revolves around three children, Ryan, Chelle and Josh. Like all youngsters their age, they like to test the boundaries of authority. The night they find themselves stranded without money in Magwhite sees Josh collecting coins from the bottom of an old wishing well to pay for their bus fare. This annoys the spirit of the well who decides that as they have stolen the wishes offered to her with the coins, the three children must pay reparations by granting the wishes. This is not as easy as it seems as they first have to discover who has wished and what they have wished for. To help, the well spirit has given them certain abilities. Ryan grows eyes between his

knuckles, Chelle cannot stop herself repeating the thoughts of a wisher when she is near them and Josh develops an affinity with electricity. As they discover, the wish they have to grant is not the one that was voiced at the time but the one that was in the heart of the wisher. Most of these are dark.

GULLSTRUCK ISLAND is another change in direction. The island itself is the original home of a race generally known as the Lace. They have stories about the volcanoes they share their home with and try not to be noticed by them. Truth about the behaviour of the mountains is now wrapped up in lore. When the Cavalcaste invaded from the mainland their primary aim was to obtain land to give to their dead ancestors. They disobeyed all the warnings about the volcanoes. The Lost are people who are born able to send their senses out from their bodies and so observe things from afar. The best can send each sense out separately. They form the communication infrastructure for the island. The problem is that often these children appear to be



imbeciles. Arilou is the first Lost to be born to the Lace for a very long time and it is time for her to be tested. Her sister, Hathin, cares for her and pretends to translate her speech. Arilou is important socially and financially to the tribe so she must pass but during the testing all the Lost on the island die mysteriously – all except Arilou. As the only survivor she must be hunted down and killed by the conspirators who have caused the tragedy. As Hathin and Arilou flee, the reasons for the deaths slowly unfolds.



TWILIGHT ROBBERY, returns to the world of Mosca Mye, Eponymous Clent and Saracen the goose. This time they end up in the town of Toll. Toll is the only place to cross the river. Visitors pay to get into the town and pay to get out three days later. If they do not have the money to leave they become citizens. Those with good names, born under a beneficial Beloved become part of the day-time Toll. Mosca had a night name so has to enter the night-time Toll. At dusk and dawn the guild of locksmiths lock or unlock half Toll. The plot is complex, involving abduction, treachery, politics and superstition and has a vein of humour running through it, largely provided by Saracen.

Hardinge may be promoted as a children's writer but she makes no concessions in language, style or complexity of the themes she develops. These are the kind of books that can be enjoyed by adult and child alike.

PM

FLY BY NIGHT, Macmillan, £6.99 paperback, 436pgs. ISBN: 978-0330418263

VERDIGRIS DEEP, Macmillan, £6.99 pbk, 328pgs. ISBN: 978-0330441902

GULLSTRUCK ISLAND, Macmillan, £6.99 pbk, 500pgs. ISBN: 978-0330441919

TWILIGHT ROBBERY, Macmillan, £9.99 hardcover, 523pgs. ISBN: 978-1405055390

ARTHUR C CLARKE AWARD – THE NOMINEES

The short list for the Arthur C. Clarke Awards have been announced. The winner will be announced at the SCI-FI-LONDON Film Festival on Wednesday April 27, 2011, in London. The winner will receive £2011 and a commemorative engraved bookend. Although Tim Powers's Declare was published in the United States in 2001, Clarke eligibility is based on UK publication, and the novel was not published in the United Kingdom until 2010.

ZOO CITY by Lauren Beukes (Angry Robot)

THE DERVISH HOUSE by Ian McDonald (Gollancz)

MONSTERS OF MEN by Patrick Ness (Walker)

GENEROSITY by Richard Powers (Atlantic)

DECLARE by Tim Powers (Corvus)

LIGHTBORN by Tricia Sullivan (Orbit)

JIM BAEN MEMORIAL CONTEST – THE WINNERS

The winners of the 2011 Jim Baen Memorial Writing Contest, sponsored by Baen Books and the National Space Society, have been announced. The contest looks for stories which explore the promise of space exploration. The winner will be published as the featured story on the Baen Books main website and paid at the normal paying rates for professional stories and receive an award, membership to the 2011 International Space Development Conference, a year's membership in the National Space Society, and a prize package containing various Baen Books and National Space Society merchandise.

Grand Prize: "That Undiscovered Country" by Nancy Fulda

2nd Place: "Gemini XVII" by Brad Torgersen

3rd Place: "Natural Selection" by Michael Simon

OUT OF THIS WORLD

The British Library will host its first ever exhibit of science fiction literature. The exhibit, which will be called "Out of this World: Science Fiction But Not As You Know It" will include works by Mary Shelley, Edward Bulwer-Lytton, Francis Godwin, Cory Doctorow and China Miéville, among others as it traces the evolution of the genre. The exhibition runs from 20 May - 25 Sept and appearances by Iain M Banks, Brian Aldiss and Michael Moorcock are promised. There's a nice display of images on <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-12860638> but full details can be found at <http://www.viewlondon.co.uk/whatson/out-of-this-world-science-fiction-but-not-as-you-article-612190-16498.html>

ALT.FICTION

Alt.Fiction marks its fifth year with a fantastic weekend for readers and writers of science fiction, fantasy and horror. Bringing together some of the UK's leading talent in the genre, Alt.Fiction presents a full programme of readings, panels, workshops, podcasts and much more over two days, giving you the chance to hear from your favourite authors, find out more about the world of publishing and learn more about the writing process.

Alt.Fiction is a weekend not to be missed for book lovers and budding writers. This year's Guests of Honour are bestselling science fiction author Alastair Reynolds and acclaimed comic book writer and novelist Dan Abnett. They will be joined by speakers Tony Ballantyne, Cathy Brett, Keith Brooke, Mark Chadbourne, Peter Crowther, Stephen Deas, Paul Finch, John Jarrold, Juliet McKenna, Mark Morris, Graham McNeill, Adam Nevill, Mark Charan Newton, Sarah Pinborough, Robert Shearman, Adrian Tchaikovsky, Ian Whates, Conrad Williams, Chris Wooding and many more.

It commences 10.00am on Saturday 25th June until midnight and 10.00am on Sunday 26th until 5.00pm. Weekend passes are £45; a Saturday-only pass is £30 and Sunday-only pass is £20.

Tickets from either <http://www.derbyquad.co.uk/altfiction> or from QUAD Box Office on 01332 290606



NEWS IN BRIEF . . .

.... Fantasy and SF author **Diana Wynne Jones** (b. 1934) died March 26 after a long fight with cancer. Primarily an author of books for younger readers, she has written over 40 books plus 7 collections of short stories. *EARWIG AND THE WITCH* will be published by HarperCollins this summer Author **Edward Wellen** (b.1919) died on January 15 of congestive heart failure. Wellen wrote numerous science fiction and mystery short stories, as well as mystery novels **Christian Karl Gerhartsreiter**, who has also gone by the names Clark Rockefeller',

‘Christopher Crowe’ and ‘Christopher Chichester’ has been charged with the 1985 murder of LA fan and LASFS member **Jonathan Sohus**. Gerhartsreiter, who was using the Chichester name at the time, was a tenant of Sohus and his wife, **Linda**. Both Jonathan and Linda disappeared in 1985, but only Jonathan’s remains have been found Actor **Roy Dotrice** has achieved an entry in the GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS for the greatest number of characters voiced in an audio book. Dotrice created and maintained voices for 224 distinct characters in his record of the 28-disc unabridged GAME OF THRONES by **George R R Martin** The estate of **RA Lafferty**, including rights to his 29 novels and 225 short stories, is currently up for sale. Interested bidders can send e-mail to laffertyestate@gmail.com The winner of the James Tiptree, Jr. Award, given annually for gender-bending speculative fiction, has been announced - BABA YAGA LAID AN EGG by **Dubravka Ugresic** **Al Feldstein** and **Ellen Datlow** have been named winners of this year’s Lifetime Achievement Awards by the Horror Writers of America. Felstein is known for his lifetime work in comics, beginning with EC in 1948. Datlow has a long history as a horror editor. The awards will be presented during the Stoker Awards Banquet at the Stoker Weekend at Long Island Marriott Hotel and Convention Center which is scheduled to run from June 16-19 **Judge Denny Chin** has rejected the Google Books Settlement, saying that the search engine’s agreement was too broad and “would arguably give Google control over the search market” for books. The agreement between Google and the Authors Guild and the Association of American Publishers was dismissed without prejudice, which means that Google and the organizations can revise the agreement and resubmit it in a way that gives better protection to copyright owners According to a press release issued by **Warner Brothers Pictures**, the studio-based production company Alcon Entertainment is in ‘final discussions’ to secure the film, TV and other rights to make prequels and sequels to director **Ridley Scott**’s 1982 movie BLADERUNNER *RGP*

RECOMMENDED SF BOOKS – Rog Peyton

Despite my research on what is in print and what is out of print, Helena at Waterstones managed to prove me wrong! Apparently DREAMSNAKE and KINDRED are both available. And I’ve found copies of Robert Silverberg’s TOWER OF GLASS should anyone want that. (I can bring it to the Rankin meeting)

And here’s the next ten. Please note that these 10 books are NOT my favourite ten – I’ve just picked books from the 100 at random. Another 10 next month.

The five currently in print are:-

Alfred Bester – THE STARS MY DESTINATION (aka TIGER! TIGER!) (1956) A marooned spaceman, Gully Foyle, seeks revenge on the ship and crew

that left him to rot. He is marked by hideous facial tattoos, and haunted by his own flaming double – a novel of ultimate revenge (Gollancz SF Masterworks 978-0575094192 £7.99)

Orson Scott Card - ENDER'S GAME (1985) 1st in series. Winner of both the Hugo and Nebula Awards. Andrew Wiggin (Ender) is a child genius, trained from 8 years old to lead Earth's forces against the aliens.(Orbit 978-1857237207 £7.99)

Christopher Priest - INVERTED WORLD (1974) Winner of the BSFA Award. "I had reached the age of six hundred and fifty miles." is the first line of this brilliant novel, that features one of the genuine 'new' ideas in SF. (Gollancz SF Masterworks 978-0575082106 £7.99)

Keith Roberts – PAVANE (1968; expanded 19??) In 1588 Queen Elizabeth I is assassinated and the Spanish Armada conquers Britain. In 1968, Catholicism and the Inquisition have kept technology at bay – no phones, no electricity... but rebellion and change are about to take place. (Gollancz SF Masterworks 978-1857989373 £7.99)

Walter Tevis – MOCKINGBIRD (1980) The future is a world without art, reading and children, a world where people would rather burn themselves alive than endure. Even Spofforth, the most perfect machine ever created, cannot bear it and seeks only that which he cannot have - to cease to be. But ultimately a novel of great beauty. (Gollancz SF Masterworks 978-0575079151 £7.99)

And those currently **out of print...**

John Brunner - TELEPATHIST (aka THE WHOLE MAN) (1965) A psychological portrait of a deformed human with telepathic powers who gradually learns to use these powers in psychiatrically curative ways.

Algis Budrys - WHO? (1958) A US scientist is sent into the USSR but is involved in an accident and his head is rebuilt in a metal casing by the Russians. But on his return to the USA, the question is, who has returned - their scientist or a spy trained to act like their scientist?

Robert Heinlein - THE DOOR INTO SUMMER (1957) Dan Davis was tricked by an unscrupulous business partner and a greedy fiancée into spending thirty years in suspended animation just when he was on the verge of a success beyond his wildest dreams...

Kim Stanley Robinson - THE WILD SHORE (1984) The USA has been virtually wiped out by neutron bombs and has been quarantined by the rest of the world. Many years later, the society in Orange County want the quarantine lifted...

Robert Silverberg - UP THE LINE (1969) Judson Daniel Elliott III is a Time Courier taking tourists to key events in history. He is warned not to alter the past, particularly having relationships with his female ancestors. But rules are often broken...

RGP



BOOK REVIEWS



(**REVIEWERS** please note:- all reviews should be emailed direct to me at rog [dot] peyton [at] btinternet [dot] com) **Deadline for each issue is 14 days prior to the date of the monthly meeting.**



THE WAY OF KINGS by ***Brandon Sanderson***

**Gollancz / 1007pgs / £20.00
hardcover ISBN: 978-0575099036 /
£16.99 trade paperback ISBN: 978-
0575097346**

Reviewed by Jim Pearce

THE WAY OF KINGS is set in the storm lashed world of Roshar where millennia ago mankind landed up after they and the Almighty were thrown out of the Tranquiline Halls (aka Heaven) by the Voidbringers who then followed them. Many wars were fought before the Voidbringers were finally defeated, or so it was alleged, by men supported by ten angelic Heralds and ten orders of knights known as Radiants. Other than a few vague legends only a number of powerful

suits of armour and terrible swords, known as shardplate and shardblades remain.

Six years before the 'current date' the King of Alethakar, one of Roshar's many kingdoms, is assassinated at the behest of the Parshendi and a war of revenge is being fought by his son supported by his ten barely subordinated 'Highprince' vassals.

THE WAY OF KINGS is mainly the story of three widely different characters. The first is Dalinar, the assassinated king's brother and uncle of the new king, who is a legendary soldier with a strong sense of honour trying to follow the principles set out in the codex 'The Way of Kings'. He is increasingly weary of fighting, especially the current war which due to the rivalry between the 'Highprinces' has ground to a stalemate. He is plagued by dreams of ancient times and legendary wars, visions that lead many to believe he is going mad. The second is Kaladin, a young man who originally was training to be a surgeon and by circumstances turned into a brilliant spearman and then by treachery condemned to the most miserable level of military slavery. Due to his sense of honour and caring for the weak he must suffer and struggle to survive and rise

again. The third, Shallan, is a naïve but brave and brilliant young woman. She seeks to train under the eminent scholar and heretic Jasnah, the King's sister, in order to plan a daring theft to save her impoverished noble house from ruin.

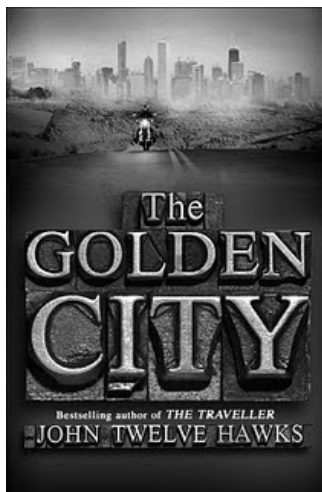
The story of these three is supported by a number of other well constructed characters such as Szeth-son-son-Vallano, the assassin; Syl an elemental sprite attached to Kaladin; Adolin, Dalinar's eldest son and heir; the current King Elhokar and his mother the enigmatic Navini and sister Jasnah; Kabsal an ardent (priest) and Sadeas one of Dalinar's fellow 'Highprinces', once a friend and now a rival/enemy.

This massive but very enjoyable book is the first part of a sequence to be known as the *Stormlight Archive*, which is purported to be as important to the genre as Robert Jordan's *Wheel of Time* odyssey, and it might well be. As long as it is I did not find any of it unnecessary; it flowed well and was full of engaging characters. I look forward to the next part of this epic tale. *JTP*

THE GOLDEN CITY by John Twelve Hawks

Corgi / 488pgs / £7.99 paperback ISBN: 978-0552153362

Reviewed by Theresa Derwin



Have you ever wondered what has happened to Dan Brown lately? Fear not. I am about to reveal all . . .

The publicity sheet that came with my review copy declares “John Twelve Hawks lives off the grid, and only his agent knows who he really is. He speaks through a digital voice changer so as not to reveal his true identity!” Well, sorry to disappoint Corgi, but I think I know the mysterious identity of the writer. I'd be tempted to put my life savings on it that Mr Twelve Hawks is in fact Dan Brown of THE DA VINCI CODE fame.

Apparently, THE GOLDEN CITY is the long awaited conclusion to the *Fourth Realm* trilogy. In John Hawks' creation, there are six realms, or worlds. A Traveller can cross over these worlds unaided by the technology required by us mere mortals. Tagged as “a riveting blend of high tech thriller and fast paced adventure”, the novel finds Traveller Gabriel attempting to find his beloved Maya, a Harlequin, or assassin, who has become trapped in a deadly alternative reality. At the same time, his brother and fellow Traveller Michael, aligned with the shadowy Brethren, follows his own path to power. It smacks a little of Charles Stross' *Merchant Princess* series meets THE DA

VINCI CODE with a dash of KANE AND ABEL. Which brings me to my earlier point. We have;

A sinister religion – Check

Globe trotting adventure – Check

Freaky assassins – Check

Hidden rooms – Check, and;

Lots of French that it is assumed the reader automatically understands – Check.

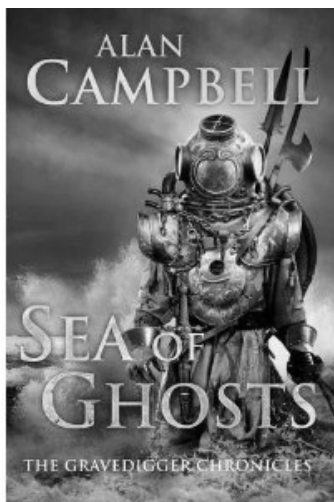
Now here's the clincher; excessive and unnecessary info dumping. This has long been a technique employed by Mr Brown, and not always to good effect. Unfortunately Mr Twelve Hawks uses the same technique far too much and in the strangest instances, to the extent that it almost feels that there are two writers at work here, making the novel disjointed. Whilst I accept the novel does rattle away at a rapid pace, I had intense difficulty connecting with the characters. The only character that really breathes is Mr Hollis, who is somewhat intriguing, with the rest of the ensemble cast coming across like bland bit players. As such, this is a tricky book to rate, but I will say this. It isn't a particularly bad book, and if you're a fan of the trilogy or Dan Brown it's worth a look. But not for me – sorry.

TD

***SEA OF GHOSTS* by Alan Campbell**

Tor / 437 pgs / £16.99 hardcover ISBN: 978-0230742949

Reviewed by Jim Pearce



This book is the first part of *The Gravedigger Chronicles* a new series by the author of *The Deepgate Codex* trilogy. It is set in an ecologically damaged world that is slowly drowning after a genocidal war between mankind and their brutal oppressors the Unmer, a powerful civilization of sorcerers and dragon-mounted warriors. Mankind only won the war with the aid of a sisterhood of telepaths, the Haurstaf, and an Unmer renegade. When the Unmer realised that they couldn't win the war they distributed untold thousands of 'ichusae', little glass bottles that when opened release an unending flow of toxic brine. Immersion in this liquid turns unprotected skin into leathery 'shark skin'; drowning in it turns people into the living dead who metamorphose into stone when they are exposed to dry air. In

turn the Haurstaf hold the world to ransom.

Colonel Thomas Granger, one of the last of the Gravediggers, an erstwhile elite imperial infiltration unit, insults the emperor he once served and takes refuge by becoming a jailer in Ethugra - a city of brine flooded streets and gaols. After six years of this new grimy existence he takes possession of two new prisoners, one of whom, Ianthe, turns out to be the daughter he never knew he had. She has an extraordinary psychic talent which could be a threat to the Haurstaf and all the world's power mongers.

SEA OF GHOSTS, as well as being written from the viewpoint of Tom Granger and Ianthe, tells the tales of Ethan Maskelyne the unappointed ruler of Ethugra, an amateur scientist and avid collector of Unmer esoterica and Sister Briana Marks head of the Haurstaf sisterhood.

SEA OF GHOSTS is a book worth persevering with. If I had not been reviewing the book I would have abandoned it after the first hundred pages or so. However I am glad that I did not as the story improved immensely into a rich dark tale of ancient and current enmity, treachery and unshakeable loyalty. I'm now looking forward to reading the next episode in *The Gravedigger Chronicles*.

JTP

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

All details are correct to the best of our knowledge, we advise contacting organisers 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 are always welcome - please send to me at rog [dot] peyton [at] btinternet [dot] com

The Central Library SF and Fantasy Reading Group meets on Thursdays at 5.45pm to 7pm monthly, in GP5 on the 5th Floor at the Central Library, Chamberlain Square, B3 3HQ. It's a small friendly group meeting to discuss SF & fantasy books. Contact person is Pam Gaffney on (0121) 303 3398. Future books to be discussed to be announced

ILLUSTRIOUS is the 2011 Eastercon to be held at the Hilton Metropole Hotel, the NEC, Birmingham over the Easter weekend 22-25 April. Guests of Honour are US author **DAVID WEBER** and UK author **PETER F HAMILTON**. Artist GoH is none other than our own **DAVID A HARDY!** Fan GoH is **VINCE DOHERTY**. More info: <http://www.illustrious.org.uk/>



NOVACON 41 will be held over the weekend of November 11th to the 13th at **The Park Inn, 296 Mansfield Road, Nottingham. NG5 2BT.** The **Guest of Honour** will be SF author **JOHN MEANEY.** Further details can be found on the website <http://novacon.org.uk/>

FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE BSFG

May 13th - SF author JOHN MEANEY (who will also be Guest of Honour at Novacon 41 this year)

June 10th - Happy Birthday BSFG! 40th Anniversary Special Meeting to be held at the Old Joint Stock with special guests (health permitting) **BRIAN ALDISS** and **HARRY HARRISON.**

July 15th – SF author and mathematician IAN STEWART

***** PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE TO FRIDAY 15TH *****

Aug 12th - SUMMER SOCIAL at the Black Eagle

Sep 9th – tba

Oct 14th – SF author DAVID WINGROVE author of the *Chung Kuo* sequence.

Nov 4th – tba

BRUM GROUP NEWS #475 (April 2011) copyright 2011 for Birmingham SF Group. Designed by Rog Peyton (19 Eves Croft, Bartley Green, Birmingham, B32 3QL – phone 0121 477 6901 or email rog [dot] peyton [at] binternat [dot] 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 and to William McCabe who sends me reams of news items every month which I sift through for the best/most entertaining items.

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 Secretary, 4 Foxwell Road, Bordesley Green East, Birmingham, B9 5SG