

# BRUM GROUP NEWS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE

## BIRMINGHAM SCIENCE FICTION GROUP

JANUARY 2013

ISSUE 496

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

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# Annual General Meeting and Book Auction Friday 11th January 2013

A Happy New Year to all our members from the committee. We hope that you enjoyed your Christmas and that the New Year will be a good one.

January is once again the time for the Annual General Meeting followed by the Book Auction. The Annual General Meeting is a legal necessity. A new committee needs to be elected and is also the time for you to voice your views on

**FEBRUARY 8th - the annual QUIZ. A pub-style quiz with prizes for the winners**

the Group and any changes you would like to be considered. Full details of the committee member roles and requirements were included in the November newsletter so there has been plenty of time for you to consider at length which posts you would love to stand for. To stand for a Committee post you must be a member of the group and ideally should have been a member for at least 12 months.

The Agenda for the AGM together with the Constitution is included in this mailing. **PLEASE BRING IT WITH YOU TO THE MEETING.**

The AGM is usually completed very quickly and we can get on with the main event of the evening - **the Auction**. Rog will once again be trying to empty our wallets/purses with as little pain as possible. But we do need items to sell so please donate. To quote Rog - "other members need the items you've finished with. They are not aware of that yet but it will be my job to 'persuade' them."

All of the proceeds go to help the running of the Brum Group - without the money raised from auctions we would most likely have to increase the membership fees. So please bring a few items with you - books, magazines, fanzines, artwork, posters, DVD's, CD's etc 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.*

## ***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 rog [dot] peyton [at] btinternet [dot] com or Carol at [goodwincd@yahoo.com](mailto:goodwincd@yahoo.com)

## ***CAROL MORTON 1957-2012***

Arriving at this year's Novacon, I was immediately informed by Alice Lawson that Carol Morton had died the previous day. No other information was known at that time.

Carol learned about the Brum Group in the early 80's when we announced that Anne McCaffrey would be our speaker. She enjoyed the meeting so much that the following month she and her husband Tony came along and joined the Group.

She was soon to get involved in organising Novacon and was a committee member on Novacons 22,24,25,27 and 28, and she was chair on Novacons 23, 26 and 29 - a run of eight very successful years. Alongside all this fan activity, Carol

was practising her considerable talent in arts and crafts and was soon selling her wares at Novacons and Eastercons.

For some unknown reason she dropped out of the Brum Group about a dozen years ago though Arline and I would see her selling her glassware and artwork at various canal functions over the years, particularly at the Stourbridge Bonded Warehouse end-of-year celebrations. Somewhere along the line she had health problems and even stopped those appearances.

Arline and I attended her funeral and sadly there was only one other fan there - Noel Collyer who had travelled all the way from London. She is survived by her husband Tony and their son Ian.

Carol was a hugely talented person who will be greatly missed. She gave a tremendous amount of time and energy to the Brum Group and should be remembered for that. *RGP*

## ***SIR PATRICK MOORE, 1923 - 2012***

### ***An Obituary by David A. Hardy***



A supergiant that has shone brightly in the sky at night for so many years has finally been extinguished, leaving a vacuum which will be very difficult to fill. On 9th December 2012 Sir Patrick Moore (Patrick Alfred Caldwell-Moore) died peacefully at his home in Selsey, Sussex, after being in poor health for several years. He was single-handedly responsible for sparking an interest in astronomy and space in thousands of people, many of whom became professionals in the fields of astronomy and science. He was always generous in sharing his enthusiasm with others, and replied to all letters. He insisted that he was purely an amateur astronomer, and he had no degrees, apart from several honorary doctorates. He became a member of the British

Astronomical Association at the age of 11 (its youngest, at the time; 50 years later he became its President) and a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1945. He was awarded an OBE in 1968, a CBE in 1989, and was knighted in 2001.

I can speak personally of him because I had known, and especially worked with, Patrick for longer than just about anyone else; the first book I illustrated was his *SUNS, MYTHS AND MEN*, in 1954 when I was 18, launching my own career as an astronomical and SF artist, illustrator and writer that lasts into the present day (see [www.astroart.org](http://www.astroart.org)). In 1957 I was his first artist on *The Sky at Night*, and continued to be so for many years; I also appeared several times as a

guest on the programme, talking about space art, the IAAA and depictions of Mars. (See <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q9Y4C9UFBxs&feature=youtu.be>)

*The Sky at Night* went out every month without a break, and he presented all but one, in 2004 when he got food poisoning as a result of what he called 'a dodgy duck egg'. Patrick presented the image of an eccentric, with his baggy suit, RAF tie askew, wild hair and shaggy eyebrows holding precariously onto his trademark monocle; but this image shielded a razor-sharp mind with a memory like a computer. Just name any astronomical object and he could trot out all of its relevant details: size, distance from the Sun or Earth, rotation period, whatever ... In recent years, with the advent of digital technology, some of his homemade demonstrations, featuring cricket balls, pencils, electric light bulbs and such, became rather a joke - but they got his message across, and were probably more memorable because of it. He was of course also a musician and had perfect pitch, playing piano and xylophone and composing a number of pieces. He hated rock music; making his close friendship with Queen guitarist Brian May seem more surprising, but they were very close until the end. They also shared a passion for stopping cruelty to animals, such as fox hunting and the badger cull. Patrick was also a keen cricketer.

Patrick had an interesting relationship with UFOs (It was in fact an appearance on a discussion programme about these that led to his first *Sky at Night*). While claiming to have an open mind, he actually regarded people who believed in flying saucers as cranks, and kept a file of the letters he received. Having replied politely, saying that this was 'somewhat outside his field', a few weeks later the sender would receive a letter from 'L.F. Antyne' or 'R.T. Fischall' in Tunbridge Wells or elsewhere, drawing them out on their beliefs or experiences! I well remember taking photographs of a model 'Adamski' saucer hanging by a thread from one of the apple trees in his garden, with Patrick pointing melodramatically at it ... He was also extremely scathing about astrology, and the worst thing any interviewer could do was to introduce him as an astrologer (as did happen. I believe the person lived).

Politically, his views were sometimes controversial, especially on the subject of immigration (and don't mention the Germans!). In the 1980s he briefly formed his own political party, the United Country Party; he once told me: "I'm thinking of starting the Politically Incorrect School of Sociology - and the acronym says it all." He served as a Navigator in the RAF during the War, having lied about his age and somehow falsified his medical report, and became engaged to his only sweetheart, Lorna, who was killed while driving an ambulance during the Blitz. After this, he says, he never looked at another woman.

He wrote science fiction, though at a juvenile level, and I painted covers for a number of these, such as *CAVES OF THE MOON* and *PLANET OF FEAR*. Actually, although 'of their time', many of these stories are pretty good - Patrick did not lack imagination. He always claimed not to be able to draw or paint himself; yet he produced many accurate maps of the Moon, which astronauts like Armstrong and Aldrin (both of whom he met) acknowledge as being helpful when planning lunar landing sites. He met Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space, and also

claims that when he was an RAF recruit he met and chatted to Orville Wright - a remarkable and possibly unique record. But then, Patrick led an extraordinary life, and his legacy will live on long after him. I sincerely hope that the BBC will continue to broadcast *The Sky at Night*, perhaps with its current team of younger astronomers, as it is the ONLY regular astronomy programme on TV in this country - and quite possibly anywhere. But it will surely be impossible to find another main presenter with the knowledge, enthusiasm, presence and charisma of Patrick Moore at his best.

Patrick has said that when he dies "my frame can be chopped up and used for research - I shall have no further use for it." He also said that instead of a funeral he has left ample funds for a party at his home, at which a tape will be played, in which he gives notice that he is about to do his best to blow out a candle; if he manages it, everyone will know that he is still around. Whether this will happen - I can only say, in his own famous words: "We just don't know!" *DAH*

## ***SPACE DAY - British Interplanetary Society - West Midlands Group***

*BBC Stargazing LIVE* is back in 2013. It aims to encourage everyone, from the complete beginner to the enthusiastic amateur, to make the most of the night sky. As well as TV programmes, this will bring together astronomical societies, museums and discovery centres, country parks and local authorities to present exciting events including planetarium shows, rocket making, star parties, alien activities and night time star cruises as well as topical talks and discussions all contributing to a national stargazing celebration.

As part of the *BBC Stargazing LIVE* series of events, the West Midlands branch of the British Interplanetary Society are hosting SPACE DAY on Saturday 12th January at the Droitwich Library in Droitwich Spa. There will be lots of organisations associated with space and science present so if you want to meet an astronomer, space authors or rocket scientists this is well worth a visit. There will be representatives from Spaceflight UK, Midland Spaceflight Society, Bromsgrove Astronomy, RAF Cosford, the Institute of Physics and the Royal Gunpowder Mills and most importantly our own **Birmingham Science Fiction Group**. There will also be talks including a never before shown interview with UK astronaut, Helen Sharman. There are also children's activities including fancy dress and model making. The event is free admission and the address is Droitwich Library, Victoria Square, Droitwich Spa, WR9 8DQ. The event runs from 9.30 to 16.30. Further details can be found at <http://www.bis-space.com/2012/11/27/7669/space-day-2>. For details of other *BBC Stargazing LIVE* events check the BBC website at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/thingstodo/project/stargazing-live> *CG*

## ***NEWS IN BRIEF ....***

....Astronomer and broadcaster **Sir Patrick Moore** died peacefully at his home on December 9th. Well-known as the presenter of the long-running BBC *Sky at*

*Night* series, he was also a serious astronomer, writing dozens of books and his research was used by both the Russian and US space programmes .... **Gerry Anderson** (aged 83) passed away in his sleep on the 26th December. His science fiction based puppet shows such as *Fireball XL5*, *Thunderbirds*, *Stingray* and *Captain Scarlet* and others were loved by many generations of children (and adults). He had been suffering from Alzheimer's since 2010. Determined to remain positive, he was an active supporter of the Alzheimer's Society, launching their fundraising Gloucester Memory Walk in July .... Weta digital effects editor **Eileen Moran** died on December 3 from cancer. Moran worked on several major film series including *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *X-Men*, *Fantastic Four*, and, most recently, *The Hobbit*. She won four Visual Effects Society Awards between 2006 and 2010 .... **Angela Carter's** NIGHTS AT THE CIRCUS has been declared the winner of the best fictional work to have won the James Tait Black Prize since its creation in 1919. She beat other past winners such as DH Lawrence, Graham Greene and Evelyn Waugh .... The Science Fiction Writers of America (SFWA) announced that **Gene Wolfe** will be named SF Damon Knight Grandmaster at the Nebula Awards in May 2012 .... **Amazing Stories** will be launching a beta version of its social magazine online on January 2nd, which will feature more than fifty bloggers including authors, reviewers, fans and more .... **Raymond Feist** has announced that his *Riftwar Saga*, which began thirty years ago with *MAGICIAN* will finish with the thirtieth volume, *MAGICIAN'S END* due for publication in March 2013 .... If you are planning to visit Chicago soon, then you could watch the play **A CHRISTMAS CAROL staged in Klingon**. Characters appear as Klingons, Vulcans etc and apparently there is "added bloodshed". There are also English subtitles if you don't happen to speak Klingon! .... Dutch-backed foundation, **Mars One** has more than one thousand volunteers for its mission to land four astronauts on Mars in 2023, followed by four additional 'crew' every subsequent two years. Selection will begin in the first half of 2013. Supporters of Mars One are reported to include NASA scientists, a Nobel physicist and an astronaut. There is one little catch however; this is a one-way trip with no plans for any returns to Earth .... NASA's **Voyager 1** spacecraft is nearing the edge of the solar system and is expected to enter interstellar space soon. It has encountered an unexpected 'magnetic highway' with a large jump in the number of interstellar high energy charged particles flowing towards the sun .... NASA scientists plan to **capture and relocate an asteroid** as big as two double decker buses and turn it into a space station orbiting the moon which could then be used as a staging post for a manned Mars mission ... Small press **Clarion Publishing's Monico imprint** has published Jaine Fenn's short story collection *DOWNSIDE GIRLS* and has reprinted two Ben Jeapes works, some of which were previously published in *Interzone* .... **Alchemy Press** is open for short story submissions (for its 2013 anthologies) from 1st January to end of March 2013 ([www.alchemypress.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.alchemypress.blogspot.co.uk)) .... Birmingham-based **Fringeworks Publishing** has released its first fantasy anthology *AIN'T NO SANITY CLAUS*. Also see website <http://www.fringeworks.co.uk/blog/> for ongoing story submission themes and guidelines.

CG



# BOOK REVIEWS



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

**TRIGGERS** by Robert J. Sawyer

Gollancz / 340 pgs / £14.99 trade paperback / ISBN: 978-0575129580

Reviewed by Pauline Morgan.

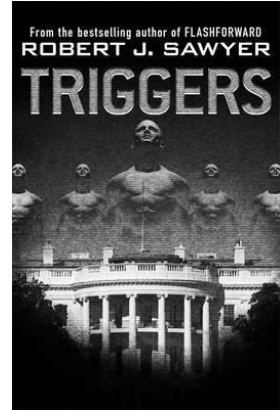
Robert Sawyer is an author who likes to play games with the minds of his characters. In *FLASHFORWARD* (the novel on which the TV series was loosely based), it was the switching of the Large Hadron Collider at CERN which caused the effect of those present seeing images from their future lives. Sadly this was a brilliant idea that had a short life as time and technology quickly overtook the events of the novel.

*TRIGGERS* is likely to be equally ephemeral as it is set only a few years in our future. The idea that forms the basis of the plot seems slight and slightly silly, yet the execution is absorbing. This is why plot summaries should always be taken with a pinch of salt.

The setting is the United States in about five years time. A Republican, Seth Jerrison, is the occupant of the White House. There have been a series of terrorist bomb attacks in major cities. They cause localised devastation but also send out an electromagnetic pulse that scrambles electronics. As *TRIGGERS* opens, Jerrison is planning a massive counterstrike against the terrorists. Giving a speech at the base of the Lincoln memorial, Jerrison is shot. He is rushed to the nearest hospital where surgery saves his life. During that surgery, a bomb goes off in the White House, reducing it to rubble.

In the same part of the hospital, though on a different floor, Professor Ranjip Singh is using experimental equipment to try and alleviate the traumatic memories of a veteran of the Iraq war. As the bomb goes off, the electromagnetic pulse screws with the apparatus. The result is that twenty-one people in range of the machine suddenly have access to one other person in the group. For some this is a relatively benign effect, for others it is more problematic. As our own memories are often triggered by smell or sight or factors of circumstance, so access to these new memories is obtained by a trigger. One of the affected people has access to the President's memories. Susan Dawson, who is now reading the memories of Ranjip Singh, is the head of the President's security. It is her primary job, now, to find who that person is because having the President's memories is a potentially catastrophic breach of National Security.

The situation he has set up allows Sawyer to explore the ways people think and the things that trigger different kinds of memory and the way this can impact on a person's beliefs and behaviour. As might be expected from a skilled writer, Sawyer doesn't stop with just a simple connection between members of the group but pushes the idea much further. Perhaps the ending is a little idealistic but maybe this is what the world need at the moment - a bit of faith that the impossible might happen. Packed full of very believable characters,



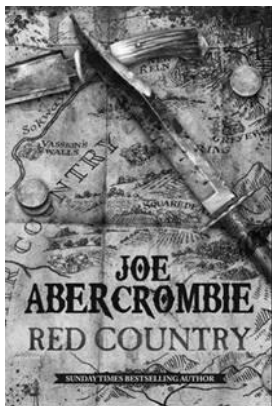
there is nonetheless a tendency to try and get every ethnic and religious group into this mix – a representative of every aspect of American society. That said, this is the kind of book that should be read and enjoyed now before time overtakes it and we know that it was all a pipe-dream.

PM

**RED COUNTRY** by Joe Abercrombie

Gollancz / 451 pgs / £18.99 hardback (£8.99 eBook) / ISBN: 978-0575095823

Reviewed by Jim Pearce



RED COUNTRY is the 6th book by Joe Abercrombie that I have read and it confirms in my mind his eminent position as a writer of grungy, dirty, violent but compelling fantasy fiction. It may not be his best when compared with BEST SERVED COLD but is still a very enjoyable read. This tale is set in his *Circle of the World* universe and is an alternative take on ‘cowboys and Indians’. In it, Shy South returns home from selling her farm’s crops to find her farm burnt down and her young sister and brother stolen. Together with her cowardly stepfather, Lamb, she sets off in pursuit. Lamb however is not all he seems, (being a character well known to readers of Abercrombie’s *First Law Trilogy*) neither is Shy as she has a murky past of her own. To facilitate their pursuit across the grasslands to the ‘Far Country’, to where it seems the kidnappers are heading, and for mutual protection from the Ghosts (Indians) they join a

‘Fellowship’ (wagon train) led by the legendary scout ‘Dab Sweet’.

The second major strand of this story follows the misadventures of Nicomo Cosca, the Captain General of the ‘Company of the Gracious Hand’ a company of so-called mercenaries, an ill disciplined bunch of cowardly parasitic jackals. They are infesting the ‘Near Country’ and move onto the ‘Far Country’ in the pursuit of rebels on the behalf of the ‘Middlerland Inquisition’, and of course any loot that they can pick up along the way.

Other characters of note are: Temple who is a weak, ineffectual but multitalented drunkard refugee from the ‘Company of the Gracious Hand’ who meets up with Shy on her trek across the grasslands; The Mayor and Papa Ring, the leaders of the gangs who rule ‘Crease’ (a place named after a fold in a map) that is the Fellowship’s destination in the Far country; Cantliss, the dastardly kidnapper; and finally Sergeant Friendly, a compulsory counter and henchman of Nicomo Cosca (first met in BEST SERVED COLD)

All these and many more collide violently at Crease with some expected and unexpected outcomes. All is explained by the end of the story. Lurking around the edges of the tale is Caul Shivers, another character from BEST SERVED COLD.

All in all a very enjoyable book well worth reading. I look forward eagerly to Joe Abercrombie’s next novel.

JTP

**WHISPERS UNDERGROUND** by Ben Aaronovitch

Gollancz / 418 pgs / £12.99 hardcover / ISBN: 978-0575097643

Reviewed by Pauline Morgan.

After the predominance of urban fantasy novels set in America, it is good to see a number emerging that use London as their background. Suzanne McLeod’s series about spell-cracker Genny Taylor has a London populated with traditional mythical creatures such as dryads, witches and trolls and includes the ubiquitous vampires. Kate Griffin on the other

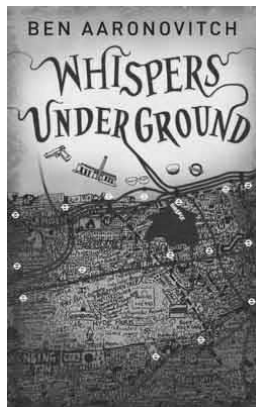


hand looks at a more deep rooted magic with her protagonist Matthew Swift having become the Midnight Mayor and who has the safety of the City's continued existence in his hands. Swift inhabits a far grittier and violent London underworld than Genny Taylor does. Ben Aaronovitch takes a different approach. His series of novels, which started with *THE RIVERS OF LONDON*, is more of a police procedural with touches of added magic.

In *WHISPERS UNDERGROUND* (the third instalment of the series) the first person narrator, Peter Grant, is still a novice where magic is concerned but he is able to detect when it has been used. Brought up on a sink estate, he joined the police force but now belongs to a small, elite group of specialists brought in when the regular police think magic might be involved. In this case, it is when the corpse of an American art student is found on the platform of Baker Street Station. He has been killed by being stabbed in the back with a piece of pottery that holds a residue of magic. The investigation is complicated by the fact that the father of the dead youth is a US senator and the authorities are worried about a diplomatic incident, especially when an FBI agent turns up. She takes it upon herself to interfere with the investigation, showing no regard for the protocols of the country she is in.

Following the tentative line of clues, Grant and his colleagues are led down into the underground network. Not only does this bring Grant closer to solving the crime but teaches him more about the magical substrate that underlies London for although he has a talent for magic, he has to be taught spells and in that respect he is still very much a novice.

The approach and ambiance of this novel is very different from either McLeod's or Griffin's work and as such would probably appeal to a different kind of readership. Like many genre crime novels, this does not become too convoluted but unlike them, Grant, although having issues concerning magic, is not really a maverick loner kicking against authority. It is a good, light read that straddles the crime/fantasy boundary. *PM*



## ***NEW CINEMA FILM RELEASES***

Listings should not be necessarily taken as recommendations. View at your own peril!

***V/H/S*** - Release date January 18th Found-footage horror film linking together five short stories

***MONSTERS INC (3D)*** - Release date 18th January Re-issue of the humorous Pixar animation about monsters scaring children - now with added 3D

***WARM BODIES*** - Release date 8th February A zombie develops fond feelings for the girlfriend of one of his victims. *Twilight* with zombies?

***WRECK-IT RALPH*** - Release date 8th February Disney animation where Ralph, a video game villain wants to be a hero

## FORTHCOMING BOOKS

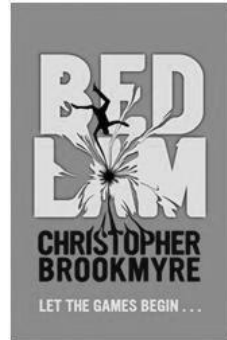
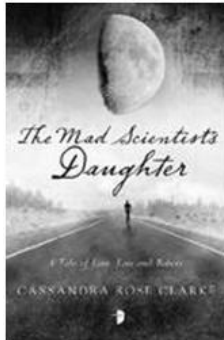


***A MEMORY OF LIGHT (Wheel of Time 14)*** by Robert Jordan and Brandon Sanderson / Orbit / 912 pgs / £25 hardcover / ISBN 978-1841498720 / January 8th Billed as the final volume, this popular fantasy concludes with a Last Battle to save humanity and the world.

***ADAM ROBOTS: SHORT STORIES*** by Adam Roberts / Gollancz / 400 pgs / £12.99 hardcover / ISBN 978-0575130340 / January 17th Short story collection with SF themes.

***TUF VOYAGING*** by George R R Martin / Gollancz / 448 pgs / £18.99 hardcover / ISBN 978-0575129511 / January 17th SF novel featuring Haviland Tuf, owner of the last working seedship and his adventures protecting colonists against disaster in a universe of rogues.

***WOOL*** by Hugh Howey / Century / 576 pgs / £9.99 hardcover / ISBN 978-1780891231 / January 17th In a post-apocalyptic world, humans survive in an underground vault. Jules, as one who does not follow the rules will be “allowed” outside.



***THE BEST OF ALL POSSIBLE WORLDS*** by Karen Lord / Jo Fletcher Books / 400 pgs / £20 hardcover / ISBN 978-1780871660 / January 31st (also available as paperback on same release date for £14.99 / ISBN 978-1780871653) SF where the Sidari, once the rulers of the galaxy, are now rare and facing extinction.

***THE MAD SCIENTIST'S DAUGHTER*** by Cassandra Rose Clarke / Angry Robot / 416 pgs / £8.99 paperback / ISBN 978-0857662644 / February 7th Finn is a robot tutor to the young Cat. When the government grants rights to the robot population, Finn must struggle to find a place in the world.

***BEDLAM*** by Christopher Brookmyre / Orbit / 384 pgs / £17.99 hardcover / ISBN 978-0356502137 / February 7th Ross Baker finds himself inexplicably trapped in the virtual reality of a violent SF video game and must find the way out

## **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](mailto:goodwincd@yahoo.com)*

**Patrick Moore's Celestial Marathon**, 8th January, Birmingham. ThinkTank Planetarium presents Sir Patrick Moore's challenge to locate 50 famous celestial objects. Tickets: £6 at ThinkTank Planetarium from 7pm to 9pm. Details at [www.thinktank.ac](http://www.thinktank.ac)

**Horror on Sea**, 18th to 20th January, Southend-On-Sea. This seaside horror festival showcases independent horror and fantasy films. It takes place in the Park Inn Palace Hotel (Church Road, SS1 2AL). Tickets: Weekend pass £50. Details [www.horror-on-sea.com](http://www.horror-on-sea.com). Email: [horror@thewhitebus.org.uk](mailto:horror@thewhitebus.org.uk)

**Liesel Schwarz and E J Swift signing**, 8th February, London Double signing by Steampunk/Fantasy authors of CONSPIRACY OF ALCHEMISTS and OSIRIS at the London Forbidden Planet Megastore from 6 to 7pm. Address is 179 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8JR ([www.forbiddenplanet.com/events](http://www.forbiddenplanet.com/events))

## **CONVENTIONS**

**REDEMPTION '13, 22nd - 24th February 2013, Coventry** Multimedia SF Convention run "by fans for fans". To be held at the Britannia Hotel, Coventry. Guests include Virginia Hey (*Farscape*) and Kim Newman (author). Adult weekend £70 until 11th February. Details at [www.conventions.org.uk/redemption/](http://www.conventions.org.uk/redemption/)

**SCI-FI WEEKENDER (formerly SFX Weekender), 1st - 3rd March, Hafan Y Mor, North Wales** Commercial multi-media convention. Guests include Craig Charles (*Red Dwarf*), Brian Blessed, Peter Davison (*Dr Who*) and Robert Rankin. Writers from Angry Robot, Harper Voyager, Orbit and Black Library. Various prices depending on level of access/accommodation. See [www.scifiweekender.com](http://www.scifiweekender.com)

**EIGHT SQUARED CON (EASTERCON 64), 29th March-1st April, Bradford.** To be held at the Cedar Court Hotel, Bradford, UK. Guests of Honour: Walter Jon Williams, Freda Warrington, Anne Sudworth and Edward James. Registration is £60 which will be held until Jan. 31st 2013. Website is [www.eightsquaredcon.org/](http://www.eightsquaredcon.org/)

**FUTURA, 15th June, Wolverhampton.** One day SF convention at the Wolverhampton Light House. Guest of honour Ian R Macleod. More information at [www.alexdavisevents.co.uk](http://www.alexdavisevents.co.uk)

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

**LONCON 3 (WORLDCON 72), 14th - 18th August 2014, London.** Held at ExCel exhibition centre. Guests of Honour include Iain M Banks, Chris Foss, Robin Hobb. £95 Adult membership. See [www.loncon3.org](http://www.loncon3.org)

### ***FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE BSFG***

Feb 8th - **Quiz**

Mar 8th -local urban horror author **JAMES BROGDEN**

Apr 12th - Honorary President and SF author **BRIAN ALDISS OBE**

May 10th - tba

June 14th - authors' agent **IAN DRURY**

July 12th - **RICHARD DENNING** on self-publishing

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