

# BRUM GROUP NEWS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE

## BIRMINGHAM SCIENCE FICTION GROUP

JULY 2013

ISSUE 502

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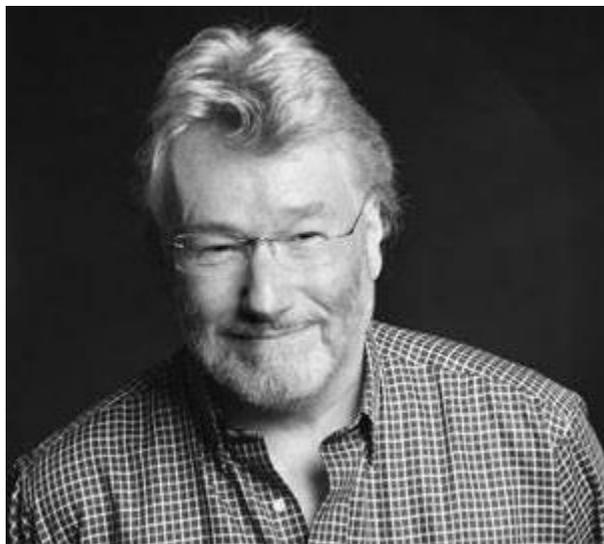
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## IAIN BANKS 1954 - 2013



I first met Iain Banks at his publisher's annual Roadshow in 1985 when they were announcing to the trade the forthcoming publication of WALKING ON GLASS and the paperback of the previous year's novel, THE WASP FACTORY. Iain had been asked to talk about his books and in typical Banksie fashion he was throwing in many amusing asides. I

August 9th - Summer social at THE BULL in Price Street, Birmingham

was chuckling away but soon realised I appeared to be the only one in the room doing so. Afterwards I introduced myself and said “You’re a science fiction fan, aren’t you?” He looked totally gobsmacked and said “Yes, but how did you know?” We chatted about SF and his books and I realised I had a connection with him and decided that I’d be reading his books immediately. I read both and through his publisher arranged a signing at ANDROMEDA. They weren’t SF but I thought many customers would enjoy them. Taking him for a meal afterwards I told him about fandom and conventions. He turned up at his first convention a few months later (MEXICON, I think) and fitted in like a piece in a jigsaw. He ‘got’ fandom immediately and everyone else seemed to ‘get’ him, too. He became a regular at cons and on Sunday mornings could often be seen buying bottles of champagne for everyone.

Forget the giant spaceships, forget the literary masterpieces but remember the person. He was funny, witty, clever, always cheerful and one of the most generous people I’ve ever met. Fame didn’t change Iain - he remained true to his principles throughout his career. He never saw himself as ‘better’ than others.

At the end of March he emailed me and said, “Tomorrow, weather permitting, we travel to sunny Redditch by train to buy an eye-wateringly fast car (a V10 BMW M5). I reckon if I’m going to save on the next quarter century of personal carbon emissions, I’m allowed to indulge my petrol-head inclinations for a couple of months. Mwah - ha - ha...”

The weather was atrocious the following day and I never discovered whether he got to buy that car or not. He loved fast cars and I really hope he did get to drive it. *RGP*

## ***SUMMER SOCIAL MEAL - 9TH AUGUST***

We still have some tickets left for the August meal, which is only one BSFG meeting away. It’s to be at The Bull in Price Street, a few minutes’ walk from the City centre, a small old traditional pub with a separate dining area with good beer as well as good food. Details were given in the June Newsletter.

If you would like to join us please see Pat at the July meeting with a £5 deposit. She can show you the current menu and give printed directions on how to get there. If you cannot get to the meeting please email Pat asap via the Group email address given on the front cover of this newsletter. *VB*

***THE BOOKSMITH - NEW, USED & ANTIQUATED BOOKS***  
*Open Saturdays 10 am till 3 pm. Weekday viewing by appointment*  
*Call John on 07544 900525 or Mike on 07544 900551*  
*Unit 2, Arena Studios, 3 Marston Road, Sutton Coldfield B73 5HH*  
*Email at [info@thebooksmith.co.uk](mailto:info@thebooksmith.co.uk) 10% discount for members of the BSFG*

# ***RICHARD DENNING - JULY 12TH***

Richard Denning works as a GP in the West Midlands. Since 2009 he is also a self-published author with seven books published to date. His books feature horror or fantasy elements often with a strong historical setting. Two of his books (THE AMBER TREASURE and THE LAST SEAL) have been awarded BRAG medallions (an award for self-published or independent books). Another novel, SHIELD MAIDEN has won Literary Classics Silver Award (for children's literature). Apart from writing, his main interests are games of all types. He is the designer of a board game based on the Great Fire of London and has other designs "in the pipe line". He is also the organiser of the UK Games Expo (the UK's largest Hobby Game convention



which goes on every May in Birmingham) that attracts around 3000 or more visitors. His talk will cover the many lessons he has learned in his self-publishing journey. As well as what not to do he will be discussing things such as how to produce an ebook, how to get a book edited, producing a good cover and the process of making both e-books and audio books. Further information can be found at his website [www.richarddenning.co.uk](http://www.richarddenning.co.uk)

*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.

## ***MEMBERS' NEWS***

**Dave Hardy** appeared on ITV News Central on 6th June, - if you missed it can be seen on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=p8Uhe6taTF4&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p8Uhe6taTF4&feature=youtu.be)

**Pauline Morgan** (writing as Pauline Dungate) is interviewed around her story "One Man's Folly", which features in THE ALCHEMY PRESS BOOK OF ANCIENT WONDERS, on the Alchemy Press website <http://alchemypress.blogspot.co.uk/>

**Janet Edwards'** new novel, **EARTH STAR** will be published on 15th August.

Fringeworks Publishing will be publishing a two volume anthology **ANDROMEDA'S OFFSPRING** featuring strong female leads in an SF context by a host of fantastic authors. Volume One includes stories by BSFG members **Sean Jones** (writer name Chatterton) and **Pauline Morgan** (as Pauline E Dungle). Ten per cent royalties will be donated to TAFF. You will be able to buy volume one via Amazon or at the one day SF and Fantasy event **Andromeda One** in Birmingham on 21st September (see below)

**Theresa Derwin** is organising a one-day SF, fantasy and horror convention, **Andromeda One** to take place on Saturday 21st September. The venue will be the Custard Factory in Birmingham, and features science-fiction, fantasy and writers and publishers including Guests of Honour Paul Cornell and Jaine Fenn. Tickets are £25 each with a £5 discount for BSFG members who email Theresa at the address below (use the "contact me page and tab" to send email) Details at <http://terror-tree.co.uk/andromeda-one/> Payment by cheque or paypal.

## ***LOCUS AWARDS 2013***

The winners of the 2013 Locus Awards were announced during the Locus Awards Weekend in Seattle on 28th to 30th June.

**Science Fiction Novel:** REDSHIRTS by John Scalzi (Tor; Gollancz)

**Fantasy Novel:** THE APOCALYPSE CODEX by Charles Stross (Ace; Orbit UK)

**First Novel:** THRONE OF THE CRESCENT MOON by Saladin Ahmed (DAW; Gollancz)

**Young Adult Book**

RAILSEA by China Miéville (Del Rey; Macmillan)

**Novella:** "After the Fall, Before the Fall, During the Fall" by Nancy Kress (Tachyon)

**Novelette:** "The Girl-Thing Who Went Out for Sushi" by Pat Cadigan (Edge Of Infinity)

**Short Story:** "Immersion" by Alette de Bodard (Clarkesworld 6/12)

**Anthology:** EDGE OF INFINITY by Jonathan Strahan, ed. (Solaris US; Solaris UK)

**Collection:** SHOGGOTHS IN BLOOM by Elizabeth Bear (Prime)

**Non-Fiction:** DISTRUST THAT PARTICULAR FLAVOR by William Gibson (Putnam)

**Art Book:** SPECTRUM 19: THE BEST IN CONTEMPORARY FANTASTIC ART by Cathy Fenner & Arnie Fenner, eds. (Underwood)

**Artist:** Michael Whelan

**Editor:** Ellen Datlow

**Magazine:** Asimov's

**Publisher:** Tor

## **BRITISH FANTASY AWARD FINALISTS 2013**

The nominees have been announced. The winners will be announced at the World Fantasy Convention in Brighton in November. A full list of nominations can be found at [www.britishfantasysociety.co.uk](http://www.britishfantasysociety.co.uk)

### **BEST FANTASY NOVEL**

BLOOD AND FEATHERS by Lou Morgan (Solaris)

THE BRIDES OF ROLLROCK ISLAND by Margo Lanagan (David Fickling Books)

RAILSEA by China Miéville (Macmillan)

RED COUNTRY by Joe Abercrombie (Gollancz)

SOME KIND OF FAIRY TALE by Graham Joyce (Gollancz)

### **BEST HORROR NOVEL (THE AUGUST DERLETH AWARD)**

THE DROWNING GIRL by Caitlin R. Kiernan (Roc)

THE KIND FOLK by Ramsey Campbell (PS Publishing)

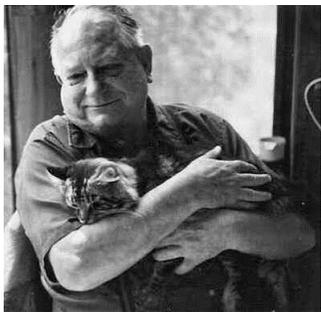
LAST DAYS by Adam Nevill (Macmillan)

SILENT VOICES by Gary McMahon (Solaris)

SOME KIND OF FAIRY TALE by Graham Joyce (Gollancz)

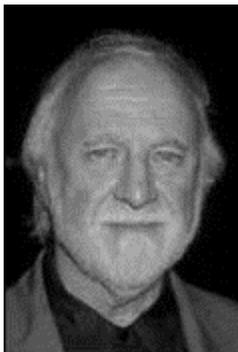
## **JACK VANCE AND RICHARD MATHESON**

Perhaps it is just that one notices more as the years go past but the past few months seem to have been a particularly bad time in terms of losing major contributors to the SF field. Following the sad news of Iain Banks, we have also lost Jack Vance



and now Richard Matheson. Both Jack Vance and Richard Matheson were people whose work I greatly admired. As a young person my only real access to science fiction was either through my local library or television and cinema.

Having been converted to the science fiction cause as a child through Edgar Rice Burroughs, Andre Norton and Hugh Walters (a Birmingham author who not many will probably remember) Jack Vance was one of the first science fiction authors I discovered in the adult section of the library. His books were not full of technology like some authors but I loved Jack Vance for the strange societies he imagined and his wonderful use of language and dialogue. My first encounter was *The Demon Princes* series. Later I discovered more of his work such as *The Dying Earth*, *Lyonesse* and many more. As a prolific writer there is still much of his work I have not managed to find and read. He was an enormous influence on the field of science fiction having won Hugo (THE DRAGON MASTERS, THE LAST CASTLE, THIS IS ME, JACK VANCE!), Nebula (THE LAST CASTLE) and World Fantasy Awards (Lifetime Achievement, LYONESSE:MADOUÇ). He was also made an SF Grandmaster in 1997.



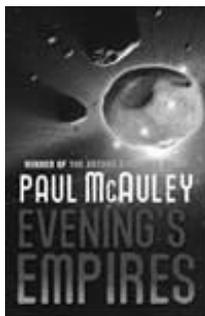
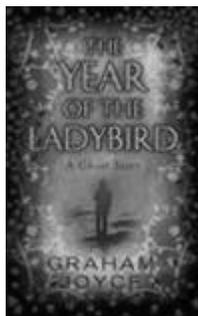
Richard Matheson is probably most well known in the SF field as the author of **I AM LEGEND** (adapted as a film three times (**LAST MAN ON EARTH**, **THE OMEGA MAN** and **I AM LEGEND**)). My introduction to Richard Matheson's work was initially through film and television. It was only later that I appreciated that many of the genre/films I enjoyed were written by Richard Matheson. I saw **THE OMEGA MAN** before I read the far superior novel. He also wrote many other film and TV programmes including **THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING MAN** (adapted from his novel), many of *The Twilight Zone* episodes, *Star Trek* episode "The Enemy Within" and the Roger Corman adaptations of Edgar Allen Poe including the my personal favourite, **THE RAVEN**. He received the World Fantasy and Bram Stoker Awards for Life Achievement and was inducted into the Science Fiction Hall of Fame. Two great talents who are sadly no longer with us. CG

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

.... Author **Richard Matheson** has died at the age of 87. His works include **I AM LEGEND**, **WHAT DREAMS MAY COME** and **THE SHRINKING MAN** all of which were turned into successful films. He also wrote for *The Twilight Zone* (including the famous "Nightmare at 20,000 feet" starring a young William Shatner. He received Lifetime Achievement Awards for both Fantasy and Horror and was inducted into the Science Fiction Hall of Fame .... Author **Parke Godwin** has died. Godwin won the World Fantasy Award for his story "The Fire When It Comes." Other work included an Arthurian saga, a Robin Hood series and the satirical series beginning with *WAITING FOR THE GALACTIC BUS*. His final two novels were published under the pseudonym Kate Hawks .... Winners of three awards were announced at the 2013 Campbell Conference. Molly Gloss won the **Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award** for her short story "The Grinnell Method." Adam Roberts won the **John W. Campbell Memorial Award** for his novel **JACK GLASS**. The first **Lifeboat to the Stars Award** was won by Kevin J. Anderson and Steven Savile with their novella "Tau Ceti" .... The inductees into the **Science Fiction Hall of Fame** this year are **David Bowie**, **HR Giger**, **Judith Merrill**, **Joanna Russ** and **JRR Tolkien** .... A new park of reclaimed land in Tacoma is to be named after **Frank Herbert**, who lived in the town in the 1950's .... The **World Science Fiction Blog** (run by Lavie Tidhar) will no longer be updated. Previous content will still be available on the website .... A "last interview" with **Iain Banks** with *The Guardian* is online at [www.guardian.co.uk/books/2013/jun/15/iain-banks-the-final-interview](http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2013/jun/15/iain-banks-the-final-interview) .... Debut author **Seth Patrick** has received a £750,000 book and film deal for his first novel **REVIVER** .... **Edinburgh Book Festival** (10th to 26th August) will include appearances by genre authors including Margaret Atwood, Lauren Beukes, Neil Gaiman and Ben Aaronovitch (see

[www.edbookfest.co.uk](http://www.edbookfest.co.uk)) .... Astronomers have discovered the Gliese 667C solar system contains **three planets in the “Goldilocks” zone** ie where liquid water could exist. The system is 22 light years away .... The **Celestis Sunjammer** **spaceflight** to be launched next year will deploy a solar sailcontain remains from **Gene Rodenberry, Majel Barrett Rodenberry (his wife), James Doohan** and a single strand of hair from **Arthur C Clarke**. The latter is very appropriate as the spacecraft, which will deploy a solar sail, is named after Clarke’s short story about a sun-yacht race. CG

## ***FORTHCOMING BOOKS***

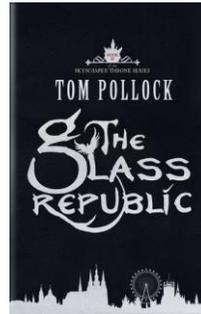


***THE YEAR OF THE LADYBIRD*** by **Graham Joyce** / Gollancz / 272 pgs / £12.99 hardcover / ISBN 978-0575115316 / June 20th Supernatural coming of age story set in the hot summer of 1976

***EVENING'S EMPIRES (Quiet War 3)*** by **Paul McAuley** / Gollancz / 384 pgs / £20 hardcover / ISBN 978-0575100787 / July 18th Marooned on a barren asteroid, a young man begins a quest for revenge and explanations.

***TERRA*** by **Mitch Benn** / Gollancz / 272 pgs / £12.99 hardcover / 978-0575132085 / July 18th SF written by successful comedian/songwriter. A human girl, Terra has been raised by aliens and is about to start school on her adopted planet.

***BROKEN HOMES (Rivers of London 4)*** by **Ben Aaronovitch** / Gollancz / 368 pgs / £14.99 hardcover / ISBN 978-0575132467 / July 25th Humorous Urban Fantasy. Detective Peter Grant investigates odd happenings in Elephant and Castle.



***PHOENICIA'S WORLDS*** by Ben Jeapes / Solaris / 416 pgs / £5.29 mass market paperback / ISBN 978-1781081273 / July 30th Tragedy strikes an Earth colony. Fetching help relies on a slower than light journey on the starship *Phoenicia*.

***SATAN'S REACH (Weird Space 2)*** by Eric Brown / Abaddon Books / 352 pgs / £5.29 mass market paperback / ISBN 978-1781081310 / July 30th SF. Telepath Den Harper rescues an orphan girl and encounters the dreaded aliens known as The Weird.

***THE GLASS REPUBLIC (The Skyscraper Throne 2)*** by Tom Pollock / Jo Fletcher Books / 464 pgs / £12.99 hardcover / ISBN 978-1780870106 / August 1st Urban Fantasy. A scarred girl, Pen searches for her “mirror-sister” in London-Under-Glass.

***TIME IS THE FIRE: THE BEST OF CONNIE WILLIS (SF Masterworks)*** by Connie Willis / Gollancz / 496 pgs / £8.99 paperback / ISBN 978-0575131149 / August 8th Collection of short stories from SF Grandmaster.

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

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

***THE WORLD'S END*** - Release date July 19th A group of old friends reunite for a pub crawl but become involved in an alien invasion. Comedy featuring Nick Frost and Simon Pegg

***KICK ASS 2*** - Release date 19th July Sometimes violent comic book adaptation with awkward wannabe superhero, Kick Ass facing supervillain, Red Mist

***THE WOLVERINE*** - Release date 25th July. *Marvel* superhero (from *X-Men* films and comics) travels to Japan.

***THE CONJURING*** - Release date 2nd August. Horror with paranormal investigators in a New England farmhouse



# BOOK REVIEWS

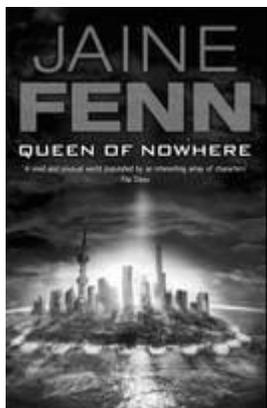


(REVIEWERS please note:- all reviews should be emailed direct to me at [goodwincd@yahoo.com](mailto:goodwincd@yahoo.com) Deadline for each issue is 14 days prior to the date of the monthly meeting).

***QUEEN OF NOWHERE* by Jaine Fenn.**

**Gollancz / 340 pgs / £14.99 enlarged paperback / ISBN: 978-0575096998**

**Reviewed by Pauline Morgan.**



When an author lovingly creates a universe, giving it a plausible background history and spreads it over a vast area of space, it seems a shame to waste it on one book. Jaine Fenn has set all five of her novels against the same background. The universe is recognisable because of certain features carried over from one to another but the overlap of characters and worlds, though present, is mostly incidental.

The main plot thrust is the idea that a race known as the Sidhe once dominated humanity as it spread throughout the universe. After a rebellion, it is generally believed that the Sidhe were all killed. A small group believe otherwise. In other novels in this series we have met three of them, Jarek, Taro and Nual. Nual is actually Sidhe but has turned against her kind. She is also an Angel - a physically and mentally enhanced assassin. Taro, her lover, is on his

way to becoming an Angel, but his implants are new. Jarek owns a space ship. Between them, they have cut off the source of the kernels needed to pilot the translight space ships. They are not the only ones engaged in the battle against the Sidhe.

*QUEEN OF NOWHERE* follows the efforts of Bez to bring down the Sidhe. We first met her in *GUARDIANS OF PARADISE*, the third book in this sequence, when Jarek asked her to decipher information he had stolen from a wrecked Sidhe ship. She is a databreaker and probably the best hacker in known space. For a long time, Bez has known that the Sidhe are still around, influencing human activity from within. The information Jarek shared with her has given her a good idea of who and where they are. Her problem is how to expose them all, preferably simultaneously so they cannot alert each other, change their identities and hide. Bez has set up a network of people in positions to do small but significant acts which will have larger consequences and help her achieve her ends. She is aware that the Sidhe probably know what she is up to and she needs to stay one step ahead. To this end she has spent years building up funds in various places and has a bank of identities to assume to help her physically navigate space.

As Bez closes in on the information she needs to put her plan into action, she feels the Sidhe network closing in around her. At one point, she enlists Jarek's help to get her out of a sticky situation but pulls a disappearing trick when she discovers that Nual is Sidhe.

For much of the time she feels that she is fighting a lone battle - she dare not trust anyone - but on Tarsset station, a space-hub and a way station between destinations, she encounters Imbarin Tierce. He becomes an unlikely ally in her life's work.

In a situation as complex as the one that Fenn has set up, it would be impossible for a handful of adventurers, which is basically what Jarek and co. are, to bring about the downfall of a race that has had centuries to embed itself into human society. The

introduction of another prong of attack is a good move and Bez is an interesting character. She is skilful and highly motivated.

In each of the novels in this series there is a different flavour depending on the setting for the segment of the tale. Bez, though, passes through the hubs where space traders congregate too quickly to fully appreciate the lives of those in the different echelons of the society within the complex structures (which are different from the floating cities of PRINCIPLES OF ANGELS but where the lives of the inhabitants were explored in greater depth). QUEEN OF NOWHERE does progress the story and there is enough left hanging to make the reader look forward to the next instalment. *PM*

### **REVIVER** by Seth Patrick

**Macmillan / 409 pages / £12.99 hardback; £8.99 eBook / ISBN: 978-0230765016**

### **Reviewed by Jim Pearce**

Due to be published on the 20th June 2013, this is Seth Patrick's first novel and the film option has already been taken up by Legendary Entertainment (the film company behind Christopher Nolan's *Batman* franchise). On reading it I can see why. It is fast moving, has great characters that will readily transfer to the big screen, has a bit of romance and lots of plot twists and turns.

Described as urban noir horror by Macmillan there are some scenes that are gruesome but thankfully these do not dominate. In fact there are no more bloody bodies than would be expected of most detective/thriller novels, probably fewer than many.

REVIVER is the story of Jonah Miller who is a 'Reviver' being able to wake the recently dead. In the United States, where the story is set, there are two types of Reviver. Those working in the private sector to provide the bereaved with a few final minutes with their loved ones and those working for the 'Forensic Revival Service (FRS)' who are called in by the police to gain information from the dead about their own demise. This testimony is accepted in the courts. Jonah works for the FRS and is considered, despite his troubled past, to be one of their best. At the start of REVIVER Jonah, while reviving the victim of a brutal murder, encounters a terrifying presence. Something is watching/waiting. His superiors are convinced that it is only in his mind and that he is suffering from stress. Jonah is not convinced.

Then Daniel Harker, the first journalist to bring revival to public attention is brutally murdered and Jonah finds himself dragged into the hunt for answers. Working with Harker's daughter Annabel, Jonah searches for those responsible and soon finds himself embroiled in a number of conspiracies cumulating in a threat that if not stopped in time will put humanity in danger.

I must confess that I do not like 'horror' stories but I did very much enjoy REVIVER and could hardly put it down being engrossed right from the very first page. The main characters are very likeable and their interaction gives the plot cohesive depth. Even the 'villains' are not gross - you can understand why they are doing what they do. The only really foreseeable part of the story is the epilogue, but this did not diminish my enjoyment of this book. It does however leave the way open for a sequel, and if Seth Patrick writes one I certainly want to read it. *JTP*

*(Due to a mix-up, two separate reviews were submitted for this book so in the interests of fairness, one was printed in the last issue and one in this issue)*



## **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)*

**Magical Books - From the Middle Ages to Middle-earth, 23rd May – 27th October, Oxford** Exhibition at the Bodleian Library (Broad Street, Oxford OX1 3BG) featuring original artwork and manuscripts from JRR Tolkien, CS Lewis, Alan Garner, Susan Cooper and Philip Pullman. Admission Free [www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/bodley/whats-on/](http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/bodley/whats-on/) (Tel: 01865 287400)

**Charlaine Harris signing, 18th July, Birmingham** Charlaine Harris, author of the *Sookie Stackhouse* novels will be discussing her novel DEAD EVER AFTER at Waterstones New Street from 7:30pm. Tickets £5 (£3 Waterstones cardholders). Details at 0121 681 4333

**Shock and Gore Festival, 19th - 25th July, Birmingham** Film festival featuring horror, fantasy and science fiction. Films include THE WORLD'S END (Nick Frost and Simon Pegg), GREMLINS 2, and DALEKS: INVASION EARTH 2150 AD, ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK, THEY LIVE (John Carpenter Alien invasion) and BRAM STOKER'S DRACULA. Various venues include Electric Cinema and Custard Factory. More details [www.shockandgore.co.uk](http://www.shockandgore.co.uk)

**Ray Harryhausen Double bill, 19th July, Birmingham** Custard Factory from 18:30. RAY HARRYHAUSEN: SPECIAL EFFECTS TITAN documentary & JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS film. Tickets £10 ([www.shockandgore.co.uk](http://www.shockandgore.co.uk))

**Ben Aaronovitch signing, 26th July, London** The writer will be signing BROKEN HOMES from 6 - 7pm at Waterstones London Megastore (179 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JR)

**Tom Pollock signing, 2nd August, London** The writer will be launching THE GLASS REPUBLIC (Jo Fletcher Books) from 6 - 7pm at Waterstones London Megastore (179 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H

**Writing Fantasy Fiction, 17th August, Sarehole Mill** From 12.30 - 4pm "In a setting which inspired Tolkien, we will look at the importance of world building, the fine line between genre expectation and cliché, and how fantasy fiction relates to and comments on the real world. With guest speaker Stan Nicholls, award winning, million-selling author of the *Orcs* series." Cost £ 25 plus booking fee. [www.eventbrite.com/event/5617786952](http://www.eventbrite.com/event/5617786952)

**Neil Gaiman signing, 22nd August, Birmingham** Neil Gaiman will be signing copies of his new novel THE OCEAN AT THE END OF THE LANE at Waterstones New Street from 11 - 1pm. No booking possible - time limited so arrive early to avoid disappointment. If you are unable to attend there will be a very limited availability to reserve a signed copy. Phone store at 0121 681 4333

## **CONVENTIONS**

**EDGE-LIT 2, 13th July, Derby.** Literary event considering Science fiction, fantasy and horror writing. Guests of Honour Mike Carey, Tricia Sullivan and Stan Nicholls. Venue is QUAD (Market Place, DE1 3AS). Tickets £25 Website [www.derbyquad.co.uk/special-event/edge-lit-2](http://www.derbyquad.co.uk/special-event/edge-lit-2) Phone: 01332 290 606

**NINE WORLDS GEEKFEST, 9th – 11th August, Heathrow.** New fan run “multi-themed mega convention”. Guests include Jaime Fenn, Ben Aaronovitch, Charles Stross, Stan Nicholls and Anne Gay. Tickets £85 <http://ninenworlds.co.uk/>

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

**NOVACON 43, 8th – 10th November 2013, Nottingham** Guest Of Honour: Jo Walton. Membership is £45. See [www.novacon.org.uk](http://www.novacon.org.uk) for details

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

## **FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE BSFG**

August 9th – **SUMMER SOCIAL** (new venue the Bull near Aston University)

September 13th – Loncon 3 (Worldcon 2014) chair **ALICE LAWSON**

October 11th – TBA

November 1st – TBA

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

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

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