

BRUM GROUP NEWS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE

BIRMINGHAM SCIENCE FICTION GROUP

OCTOBER 2014

ISSUE 517

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

COMMITTEE: VERNON BROWN (CHAIRMAN); PAT BROWN (TREASURER);
VICKY STOCK (SECRETARY); CAROL GOODWIN (NEWSLETTER EDITOR);
DAVE CORBY (PUBLICITY OFFICER); WILLIAM MCCABE (WEBSITE);
VICKY STOCK (MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY); THERESA DERWIN (ORDINARY
MEMBER); NOVA CON 44 CHAIR: STEVE GREEN

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RICHARD ASHTON

10TH OCTOBER

RICHARD ASHTON has been a costume entertainer for the past six years. He appears as the 10th Doctor (David Tennant), Legolas (from THE LORD OF THE RINGS) and recently as the new Dr Who, Peter Capaldi. This recently led to him gaining a role in the

Virgin Media advertisements as David Tennant's body double.

As well as his costume appearances he has his own company, "It's an Ashton". This produces accurate props and costumes for

November 7th - Author Storm Constantine

industry and private collectors. Some of the props it has produced include full-size Daleks, Cybermen heads and the laser rifle from the James Bond film MOONRAKER. He will be talking to us about his work over the years in costuming and working with David Tennant. He will also be talking about some of the props he has built and the processes involved and finally, something about his future ventures as the new Doctor Who. 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 goodwincd@yahoo.com

THE 2015 AGM – VERNON BROWN

Chronologically it may be three months to next year's AGM when the 2015 Officers will be elected, but in terms of contact time during which anyone considering standing can discuss with the current committee what a post involves it's only two Meetings, a couple of hours at most. So if you are considering standing please email me (bhamsfgroup@yahoo.co.uk), without commitment, as soon as possible so that any explanatory material necessary may be brought to show you. VB

THE COMMITTEE OFFICERS DUTIES

The following "Job Descriptions" are outlines of the basic duties of each Officer. However, there is a great deal of interaction and working to common deadlines between the various posts and

some reports, such as the Financial Report and the Minutes, are made to an established format.

GENERAL DUTIES (and a requirement)

To help organise BSFG Meetings throughout the year.

To attend monthly Committee meetings in the City Centre, usually on the Wednesday evening of the week preceding the week in which the Group Meeting is held.

To assist other Committee members in their duties as necessary.

To present a report at the AGM.

To have email access at home.

OFFICERS' DUTIES

CHAIRMAN

To chair Committee meetings and present a report.

To chair Group Meetings, introduce and thank the Speaker.

To negotiate with hotels and other organisations on behalf of the Group.

To organise, prepare and supervise the annual Christmas Social.

To liaise with the Secretary in arranging the Committee meeting agenda.

SECRETARY

To communicate with Speakers on behalf of the Committee.

To communicate with other persons and organisations on behalf of the Committee.

To present a report at Committee meetings.

To take and circulate ASAP Records of Committee meetings.

TREASURER

To maintain the current BSFG Bank Account.

To attend Group Meetings, arriving early and ensuring that the Meeting room is prepared for Group use.

To collect admission money etc at Group Meetings.

To liaise with the Membership Secretary in the collection of membership fees etc.

To present a detailed current Financial Report at Committee meetings.

To present an Annual Financial Report at the AGM.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY (This post and the post of Secretary may be held by one person)

To maintain BSFG Membership records.

To organise the collection of membership subscriptions, renewals etc.

To liaise with the Treasurer as necessary.

To present a report on current membership numbers at Committee meetings.

PUBLICITY OFFICER

To advertise the BSFG by all means possible.

To present a report at Committee meetings.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

To maintain contact with sources of potential information for the Group Newsletter.

To edit and produce master copy to an agreed format ready for printing.

To organise printing of the Newsletter, and to distribute it, to a specific timescale.

To liaise with book publishers for review copies.

To present a report at Committee meetings.

ORDINARY MEMBERS - one of whom will be...

WEBSITE MANAGER

To maintain the BSFG Website to an agreed format and to update it as necessary.

To present a report at Committee meetings.

The other **ORDINARY MEMBER**

To contribute to the efficient functioning of the Committee.

To present a report at Committee meetings.

HALLOWEEN THEMED EVENTS AROUND BIRMINGHAM

There appear to be quite a few forthcoming horror-themed events in the Midlands which are obviously due to Halloween. As there are so many I have decided to group them together rather than include them in the normal forthcoming events section.

- **DRACULA'S GHOST: A SEQUEL, 22nd October at Old Joint Stock, Birmingham.** Starts at 8pm. Tickets £10. Box Office 0121 200 0946 or www.oldjointstock.co.uk
- **FRANKENSTEIN, 24th October - 8th November at Blue Orange Theatre, Great Hampton Street, Jewellery Quarter.** Play starts at 7:45 pm. Tickets £10. Box Office 0121 212 2643 or at www.blueorangetheatre.co.uk
- **FRANKENSTEIN SCREENING, 30th October at Electric Cinema, Southside, Birmingham.** Screening of Danny Boyle's 2011 FRANKENSTEIN (with Benedict

Cumberbatch & Jonny Lee Miller). £10.
www.theelectric.co.uk or 0121 643 7879

- **DRACULA - THE KISSES**, 30th - 31st October at the **Mac Centre, Birmingham**. All female cast version. Price £14.
www.macbirmingham.co.uk or 0121 446 3232. Warning: Some partial nudity
- **HALLOWEEN SILENT MOVIE SPECIAL: THE CAT AND THE CANARY (1927)**, 31st October at **Birmingham Town Hall** Screening of the 1927 classic with live organ accompaniment, 7:30pm £15 plus online transaction fee. Book at Town Hall/Symphony Hall Box Office (0121 780 4949) or www.thsh.co.uk
- **ALIENS: THE MOVIE**, 31st October - 1st November at **National Space Centre, Leicester**. Late night screening of ALIENS plus movie props exhibition. Tel: 0116 261 0261 or www.spacecentre.co.uk CG

BRITISH FANTASY AWARDS 2014

The 2014 British Fantasy Award winners were announced on September 7th. The ceremony was at FantasyCon in York.

Best Fantasy Novel (Robert Holdstock Award): A STRANGER IN OLONDRIA by Sofia Samatar (Small Beer Press)

Best Horror Novel (August Derleth Award): THE SHINING GIRLS by Lauren Beukes (Harper Collins)

Best Short Story: "Signs of the Times" by Carole Johnstone (*Black Static*, #33)

Best Anthology: END OF THE ROAD edited by Jonathan Oliver (Solaris)

Best Collection: MONSTERS IN THE HEART by Stephen Volk (Gray Friar Press)

Best Small Press: The Alchemy Press (Peter Coleborn)

Best Comic/Graphic novel: DEMETER by Becky Cloonan.

Best Artist: Joey Hi-Fi

Best non-fiction: *Speculative Fiction 2012* edited by Justin Landon and Jared Shurin (Jurassic London)

Best Magazine/Periodical: *Clarksword* edited by Neil Clarke, Sean Wallace and Kate Baker (Wyrn Publishing)

Best Film/Television episode: “Rains of Castamere” from GAME OF THRONES (David Benioff and DB Weiss (HBO))

Best Newcomer (the Sydney J Bounds Award): Ann Leckie for ANCILLARY JUSTICE (Orbit)

British Fantasy Society Special Award (Karl Edward Wagner): Farah Mendelsohn.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Author **Graham Joyce** has died at the age of 59. He had been diagnosed with lymphoma last year. He was well known to many members of the Brum Group and was always an interesting and erudite speaker and will be greatly missed. He was the author of twenty one novels and many short stories.

He won many awards including winning the British Fantasy Award a staggering six times (**DARK SISTER, REQUIEM, THE TOOTH FAIRY, INDIGO, MEMOIRS OF A MASTER FORGER, and SOME KIND OF FAIRY TALE**).... Actor **Richard Kiel** died on September 10th. He was most well-known for his role as Jaws in the James Bond films, **THE SPY WHO LOVED ME** and **MOONRAKER**. His unusual appearance meant that he was often cast as a monster or villain, from his first appearance as an alien Kanamit in *The Twilight Zone*. He appeared in many films and TV programmes including *The Man from UNCLE* An auction of part of **Ray Bradbury's** estate sold for \$494,408. Items included the original Dean Ellis' painting used for the 1969 cover of **THE ILLUSTRATED MAN** collection (\$45,894) and his Hugo Award for **FAHRENHEIT 451** (\$28,734) Author **Ursula K LeGuin** is to receive the Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American

Letters. The mainstream and prestigious award is for individuals who “have made an exceptional impact on the country’s literary heritage” Author **Greg Bear** had emergency cardiac surgery in September but is reported to be recovering well The **Man Booker shortlist** includes an SF author, **Karen Joy Fowler** for her novel, **WE ARE ALL COMPLETELY BESIDE OURSELVES** SF Novel, **THE MARTIAN** by **Andy Weir** has been included in the new W H Smith Richard and Judy Autumn list The co-executive producer of HBO’s **GAME OF THRONES** is reported to be adapting **Kim Stanley Robinson’s Mars Trilogy** for television. CG

FORTHCOMING BOOKS

(NB Prices given are Recommended Retail Price and may be available at cheaper prices)



WAR DOGS by **Greg Bear** / Gollancz / 304 pgs / £16.99 paperback / ISBN 978-0575100992 / October 23rd. Military SF. Marines fight against an alien beachhead on Mars

RETRIBUTION (Drakenfeld 2) by **Mark Charan Newton** / Macmillan / 400 pgs / £16.99 hardback / ISBN 978-0230766846 / October 23rd. Fantasy. Officer Lucan Drakenfeld hunts the murderer of a priest.

A MAN LIES DREAMING by **Lavie Tidhar** / Hodder & Stoughton/ 288 pgs / £18.99 hardback / ISBN 978-1444762921/ October 23rd. Trapped in Auschwitz, a man dreams of an alternate London where a former dictator is now a Private Investigator.

THE WOLVES OF LONDON (Obsidian Heart 1) by Mark Morris / Titan / 352 pgs / £7.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1781168660 / October 24th. Fantasy. After stealing the Obsidian Heart Jewel, a thief is pursued by unearthly assassins.



THE SLOW REGARD OF SILENT THINGS by Patrick Rothfuss / Gollancz / 176 pgs / £12.99 hardback / ISBN 978-1473209329 / October 28th. Fantasy. In the abandoned rooms underneath The University, former student, Auri watches for hidden dangers and mysteries.

WAISTCOATS AND WEAPONRY (Finishing School 3) by Gail Carriger / Atom (Little Brown) / 304 pgs / £7.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1907411618 / November 4th. Victorian Fantasy. Educated as a lady assassin, Sophronia defends her friends including lady werewolf, Sidheag.

COMING HOME (Alex Benedict 7) by Jack McDevitt / Headline / 368 pgs / £14.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1472207579 / November 6th. Space Opera. Rescue mission to retrieve the spaceship *Capella* trapped in a spacewarp, frozen in time.

WILLFUL CHILD by Steven Erikson / Bantam Press / 350 pgs / £16.99 hardback / ISBN 978-0593073070 / November 6th. SF. *Star Trek* style spoof with Captain Sawback and his crew on the starship, *Willful Child*.

NEW CINEMA FILM RELEASES

Listings should not be necessarily taken as recommendations. Release dates are subject to change. View at your own peril!

THE BABADOOK - Release date October 24th. Australian horror. A boy has nightmares about a monster in an eerie pop-up book.

HORNS - Release date October 29th. Daniel Radcliffe as a man who grows horns and new abilities. Adapted from Joe Hill book.

GHOSTBUSTERS - Release date October 31st. One night only re-release of the 1984 film.

INVASION OF THE BODYSNATCHERS - Release date October 31st. Re-issue of the 1956 classic about people being replaced by duplicate “pod-people”.

OUJA - Release date October 31st. Horror. Supernatural nastiness when teens try to contact a dead friend.

INTERSTELLAR - Release date November 7th. SF. Scientists and explorers travel through a wormhole. Director Christopher Nolan (INCEPTION, THE PRESTIGE etc).



BOOK REVIEWS



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

THE OVERSIGHT by Charlie Fletcher

Orbit / 436 pgs / £14.99 hardback / ISBN 978-0356502892

Reviewed by Carol Goodwin.

One of the major problems with modern fantasy is the over use of standard tropes. It is refreshing therefore to see a story which doesn't rely on the almost default vampires and werewolves. Instead **THE OVERSIGHT** incorporates far less familiar figures from British and Irish folklore and this works extremely well in my opinion. From the sinister bone magic of the Sluagh, the disturbing breath-stealing Alp to even the Officers of the Oversight the author demonstrates a great deal of imagination.

THE OVERSIGHT is set in an alternative Victorian England, where humanity is largely unaware of the other “magical” creatures which share their world. These “supranatural” have interbred over the centuries leading to hybrid or “mongrel” humans who possess extra power or magical abilities above the norm. Some of these form “The Oversight”, a secret society who police the boundaries between normal humanity and the “supranatural” and defend against that portion of the “supranatural” who would prey on the “mundane”. Organised into “hands” of five, the members are volunteers, each with different abilities. However the Oversight are struggling, reduced to their last “hand” of five members and various factions are plotting to destroy them. When a drunkard brings a girl to their London House, they look to have finally found a new recruit. However the girl is an unwitting trap set by their enemies. Her actions lead to many complications and the girl herself must fight to regain her memories and free will. The action is set in two main locations, the urban landscape of London and a travelling carnival and the contrast between the two works well rather than just having a pure urban fantasy.



This is Charlie Fletcher’s first adult novel (after the successful and enjoyable children’s fantasy *Stoneheart* trilogy). He has also been a successful screenwriter and film editor for many years and I think this experience shows in his writing. Throughout the book there is a strong sense of both menace and the macabre without unnecessary graphic description. The various characters seem very believable and diverse. Dialogue in particular is well used and avoids the use of modern English idiom which often jars in other novels set in the past. Educated characters especially use more formal and wider vocabulary that you associate with earlier eras. Although the story uses a Victorian setting it is definitely not steampunk – no airships or weird science in sight. For those of you who like Fantasy, this is an excellent read and thoroughly recommended. The characters are

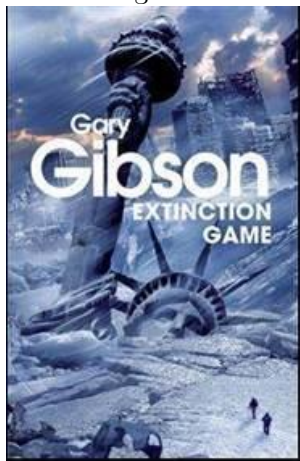
well-drawn and I wanted to know more about them. The book reaches a conclusion but there is still a significant amount of back story and future developments to be explored. I am definitely looking forward to the sequel. (The paperback is due out this November).
CG

***EXTINCTION GAME* by Gary Gibson**

Pan Macmillan Tor / 341pgs / £18.99 hardback / ISBN 978-0230772700. Reviewed by Jim Pearce

Jerry Beche should be dead. Instead, he's rescued from a desolate Earth where he was the last man alive. He's then trained for the toughest conditions imaginable and placed with a crack team of specialists on an isolated island. Every one of them is a survivor, as each has withstood the violent ending of their own alternative Earth. Their new specialism? To retrieve weapons and data in missions to other apocalyptic versions of our world. But why?

EXTINCTION GAME is another excellent book from an outstanding novelist who is, in my opinion, fast becoming one of the great modern British writers of Science Fiction. I fully agree with the jacket quote from *The Guardian* that he is to be considered alongside the leading triumvirate of British hard SF writers: Alistair Reynolds, Peter F Hamilton and Neal Asher. All of whom are authors that I really enjoy reading.



To me *EXTINCTION GAME* is a masterful blend of two SF sub-genres, Post Armageddon and Alternative Reality. Written as a murder mystery and not Space Opera, it is very different from his excellent *Shoal Sequence* trilogy and its spin-off *MARAUDER*. There is nothing 'flashy' about the storyline just solid high class writing which leave the reader quietly satisfied and eager for the next book by this author.

EXTINCTION GAME is written from the point of view of the main character which is a departure from the *Shoal Sequence* in which he wove several story lines into a rich tapestry. This was not

needed as it was basically one person's story and as such worked very well indeed. That said, the 'hero' Jerry Beche, was ably supported by a reasonable number of other characters to provide context to the tale. In doing so Gary Gibson wisely only used one 'flash back' in the narrative and this was very appropriate in providing background at an apposite moment. Don't get me wrong I enjoy flash backs as long as they are not overdone and are fitting to help the reader understand and enjoy the storyline.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading *EXTINCTION GAME*, look forward to rereading it and can wholeheartedly recommend it to others.
JTP

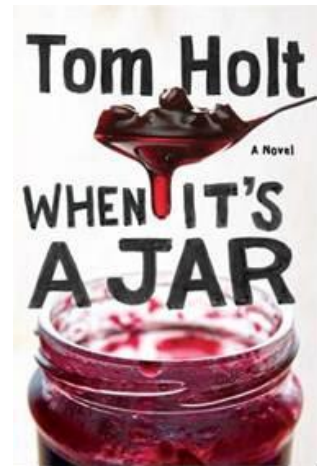
***WHEN IT'S A JAR* by Tom Holt**

Orbit / 353 pgs / £8.99 paperback / ISBN: 978-1841497822

Reviewed by Pauline Morgan.

Humour is a very difficult thing to write successfully. One of the problems is that not everyone finds the same things funny. Personally, if someone claims a book made them laugh out loud, I usually find it far too silly. Then I don't go for slap-stick comedy movies either. I don't object to the absurd because it is how the characters react that provides the interest and humour. The witty line can be appreciated. Too much, so-called humour is forced as if the author has decided that the characters haven't done anything laddish for a while and invents a daft action for them. I suppose it is the smugness of both author and characters who seem to think they have done something clever that I object to. True humour doesn't work like that. It should seem almost incidental.

Tom Holt is one of the few authors that can put his characters into absurd situations and allow them to deal with it with wit. In *WHEN IT'S A JAR*, the main character Maurice Katz is a man hoping to keep his job when redundancies loom. His life begins to go weird when, travelling home on the underground, he overhears a conversation between three women who are knitting. It sounds as if



they are talking about him. The knowledgeable reader will recognise them as the three Fates. When, later, he wakes up to find a nine-headed snake on the foot of the bed he is understandably annoyed. He doesn't mean to kill it, though. He hopes this is a dream but when the corpse doesn't disappear, he calls Stephanie/Steve, a friend from school who joined the army. She calls a clean-up squad and sometime during the removal, Steve disappears. In trying to find her, he gives up trying to keep his job and eventually turns to another person from school, George, who is now very wealthy for a loan to pay the rent.

The weirdness around Maurice escalates. The new job he acquires after an interview conducted under the influence of a truth drug, involves finding boxes in a basement and leaving them to be collected. Curious, he hangs around until the collectors of the boxes arrive and finds they are the same guys who removed the creature from his bedroom when Steve disappeared. From here, the plot begins to get surreal, involving spatial interdimensions, alternative realities and a man in a glass bottle. Woven through it are mythical figures, doughnuts and the question 'Where is Theo Bernstein?' Maurice has been delegated hero of this particular situation but constantly feels that he is floundering against the warped forces of the universe, and doughnuts.

Tom Holt's plots really defy description and this is a book that just needs to be enjoyed. Don't worry if it doesn't make sense.
PM

LOCK IN by John Scalzi

Gollancz / 336 pgs / £14.99 Trade Paperback / ISBN: 978-0573134348. Reviewed by Jim Pearce

LOCK IN is a great blend of two of my favourite genres, speculative or science fiction and crime mysteries and is written by a master of his craft.

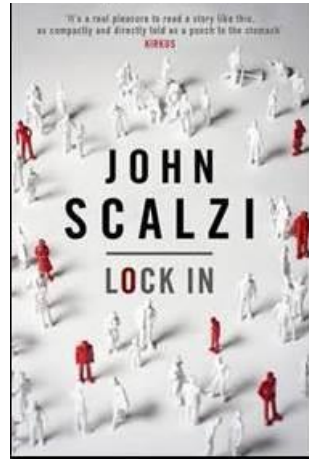
In about fifteen years from now the world is beset by a new pandemic virus (known as Haden's syndrome) affecting about 2.5 billion people and resulting in around 400 million deaths. Most of these fatalities are from the initial flu-like symptoms but a significant number are from the second and third stages. These are meningitis-like with cerebral and spinal inflammation and in a significant

number result in complete paralysis of the voluntary nervous system resulting in the ‘lock in’ of its victims. In the US alone this amounts to about 4.35 million persons. There is another effect, a very few of those infected suffer no physical or mental decline despite significant changes to their brain structure. Some of these persons go on to become ‘integrators’.

Large scale research has led to the development of ‘embedded neural nets’ for ‘lock in’ victims via which they can control android-like ‘Personal Transports’ or PTs commonly known as ‘threeps’ or more derogatively as ‘clanks’. Via these the ‘locked in’ can interact with normal society and lead a productive life. However by borrowing an integrator’s body they can more intimately and anonymously experience life.

The action in **LOCK IN** is set about 20 years after the first outbreak of the disease. Written in the first person it follows a Haden’s victim, Chris Shane a rookie FBI agent, during his first week on the job. Naturally his first case is Haden’s related. As with all of the John Scalzi books that I have read **LOCK IN** is very well written with a highly likeable and humane hero ably supported by a cast of friends, colleagues and enemies. Readers are provided with a clear picture of the world in which Chris lives and works. In this book like most detective novels there are useful coincidences which are central to the solving of the mystery; otherwise the story would not flow. These for instance include the skills of one of Chris’s new house mates and the experiences of his FBI partner.

In **LOCK IN**, John Scalzi has cemented his position as one of today’s best SF writers, like all of his previous books this one is worth reading more than once. *JTP*



CONVENTIONS

BRISTOLCON, 25th October, Bristol. Guests of Honour include Jasper Fforde, Jon Courtenay Grimwood and Emma Newman. At the Doubletree Hotel, Bristol. Tickets £20 at www.bristolcon.org

NOVACON 44, 14th - 16th November, Nottingham. Guest of Honour: Kari Sperring and Science Guest: John Gribbin. Cost £45. Details at www.novacon.org.uk

PICOCON 32, 14th - 15th February 2015, Imperial College, London. Guest of Honour Cory Doctorow. Guests of Honour tba. Cost £10. Info: www.icsf.org.uk/picocon.

REDEMPTION '15, 20th - 22nd February 2015, Coventry. At Britannia Hotel. Guest of Honour: Miltos Yerolemou (others tbc). Tickets £70 at www.smof.com/redemption

SCI-FI WEEKENDER, 19th - 22nd March, Hafan Y Mor, North Wales. Commercial multi-media convention. Various prices depending on level of access/accommodation. See www.scifiweekender.com

DYSPROSIUM (EASTERCON), 3rd - 6th April 2015, London. Guests of Honour are Jim Butcher, Seanan McGuire, Herr Doktor and Caroline Mullan. To be held at the Park Inn, Heathrow, London. Attending £70, Supporting £25. Details at www.dysprosium.org.uk

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 goodwinced@yahoo.com

CHELTENHAM LITERATURE FESTIVAL, 3rd - 12th October. Various events. Science Fiction and Fantasy interests include Ben Aaronovitch, Mitch Benn, Joe Abercrombie and a tribute to Douglas Adams. Details: www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/literature/whats-on

METROPOLIS screening, 11th October, Birmingham. Screening of silent classic with live score from Pink Floyd tribute band. Mac Centre Birmingham. Price £14. www.macbirmingham.co.uk or 0121 446 3232.

BOOK TO THE FUTURE, 14th - 18th October, Birmingham. Events on writing and writers at Birmingham University - open to all. Details: www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/colleges/artslaw/events/btff

BRITISH SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION, 29th October, London. David Bradley (SFX magazine) interviewed by Scott K Andrews. Location: Upstairs at The Artillery Arms, 102 Bunhill Row, London. EC1Y 8ND. Free entry (non-members welcome). Open from 6pm for 7pm start.

NATIONAL SPACE CENTRE, 23rd October, Leicester. Visit by NASA Astronaut, Dr Stan Love. Centre entry £13. Lecture then free but limited seats on first come basis available from 10 am. Free upgrade to annual pass for entry tickets in advance. Tel: 0121 261 or www.spacecentre.co.uk

FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE BSFG

November 7th – SF and fantasy author **Storm Constantine**

December 5th – **Christmas Social**

January 9th – **Annual General Meeting**

February 13th – **Quiz**

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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