

BRUM GROUP NEWS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE

BIRMINGHAM SCIENCE FICTION GROUP

APRIL 2019

ISSUE 571

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ZEN CHO

April 12th

Our guest this month is the highly-acclaimed Fantasy author, **Zen Cho**.

She was born and raised in Malaysia but now lives in the UK. She recently moved to Birmingham and we are delighted to welcome her as our guest.

She is the author of *SPIRITS ABROAD*, a short story collection (published by Fixi in 2014) and two historical fantasy novels, *SORCERER TO THE CROWN* (2015) and *THE TRUE*



May 12th - SF author, Daniel Godfrey

QUEEN, with the latter only being published in March this year. Both books are published by Ace (US) and Macmillan (UK)). She is a winner of the Crawford Fantasy Award and the British Fantasy Award for Best Newcomer, and a finalist for the Locus Award for Best First Novel and the Campbell Award for Best New Writer. *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 for members and £6 for non-members.

Membership Fee Increase & Revised Renewal Dates

As discussed at the AGM, the Birmingham SF Group has been losing money for the past few years and action needs to be taken now. Member numbers have fallen and membership fees have not changed in the last 19 years (in 2000) whilst costs have inevitably risen. The group has been subject to increases in direct costs, such as the cost of the room hire, speakers' travel and subsistence, increases in printing and postage costs etc. In 2016 and 2017 the group had losses of around £1000 each year, and only avoided a similar loss in 2018 due to a cash injection from Novacon (though this was amalgamated funds from three years). Novacon itself is also facing similar problems of reducing members and increasing costs. They will also need to budget extra funding for the major 50th Anniversary convention in 2020, so it is unlikely we will receive any significant contribution from them over the next couple of years.

One of our major costs is printing and posting the newsletter, which alone was over £1000 last year. This is despite already taking some cost saving measures on the newsletter costs in 2018, including halving the number printed, not sending paper copies to publishers and limiting the number of pages. The cost of including Ansible is sponsored by Ian and Lou Morley and does not come from BSFG funds anymore.

However, these measures are nowhere near enough to cover the group's costs and while we have a reserve, we are rapidly eroding it. At the January AGM, it was made clear that without an increase in income that the group will only remain viable for 3 or 4 years. Therefore, as directed by the AGM we have examined our costs in detail and are proposing the

following changes. Other possibilities to cut costs will also be examined throughout the year. **Please read carefully and let us have any comments or suggestions as soon as possible at bhamsfgroup@yahoo.co.uk so that we can consider them as we propose an implementation date of 1st June.**

1. Ian Morley via Durdles Books has volunteered to print the newsletter for the group at cost. This will allow us to make a substantial saving compared to the commercial printer we have been using. As most people at the AGM seemed to want to continue having a printed newsletter this will also allow us the option to avoid imposing two tiers of membership (with and without a printed newsletter) which appeared unpopular at the meeting. This changeover of printing has started with this issue.
2. The exact fees that would need to be charged if we operated a two-tier membership fee structure are difficult to determine until we have definite numbers but there are certain fixed costs that cannot be avoided. For example, halving the number of printed copies will reduce but not halve the cost. Even if everyone agreed to switch to an electronic newsletter, **fees would still need to rise** to cover other costs.
3. On its own, the above action regarding the newsletter will not be enough to cover the group's expenses and membership fees will have to rise. **We propose a rise to £29 per year for a single member and £39 for joint members.** Although this is a substantial rise it is still just under £3 per month, for which you get a £3 discount on entry and the newsletter posted to you. It should also be remembered that although this is a large increase the fees have not risen for nearly 20 years. The committee recognises that the membership fees should have risen by small increments in the past to prevent this necessary action. Due to the urgency of the financial situation, it is proposed that the membership fee increase will be implemented for all renewals from 1st June 2019.
4. We will also be moving gradually over the next year to everyone having the same renewal month [March]. To phase this in throughout the year, those members whose renewal is due in 2019 will pay a pro-rata amount for 2019 to March 2020. This pro-rata amount will be based on the revised fee structure indicated in point 3 above. For example, if your renewal is due in June you will pay for 9 months, to take your subscription through to **March 2020**. For the few members whose renewal is due in Jan/February 2020, you will pay for 13 or 14 months

to take the renewal to **March 2021**. This means that for this year only (2019-2020) everyone will have a different renewal amount. However, the membership secretary will let you know your individual renewal amount with your renewal letter. From March 2020 every member will be renewing in March annually.

5. Assuming the above proposals are agreed, then a personalised statement of your future membership fees will be included in the next newsletter posting.

The more members we have the easier it is for us to maintain the necessary financial basis a group like ours needs to exist, and the committee encourages all members to promote our group and our meetings. This is especially true for those members who are active on social media, or are members of other similar groups. Please do not hesitate to contact Dave Corby or Ian Morley (via the bhamsfgroup@yahoo.co.uk email address) if you require promotional materials, ideas on where to promote our group, or contacts via social media.

The committee recognises that the increase in the membership fees is substantial, but asks members to understand that it is due to the membership fees not being increased for such a long period. Collectively without this action we will lose our historic group, and on an individual basis the camaraderie and enjoyment that the group brings. *CG*

THERESA'S CULT CORNER – Theresa Derwin



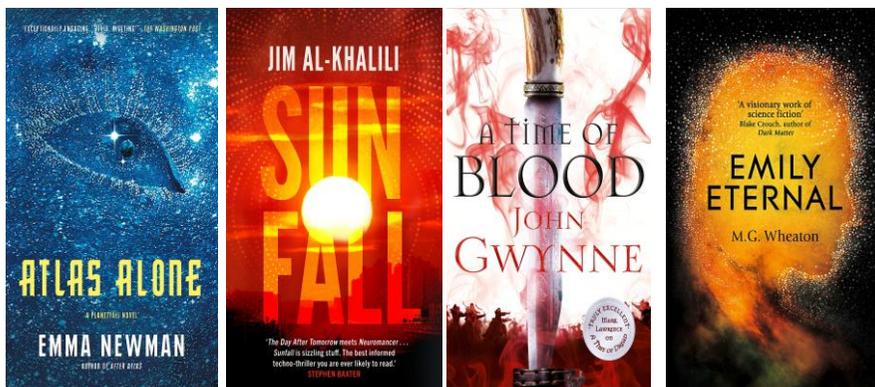
Some of you may remember that last April we had author Mike Carey as a guest at the group. Well, Mike is also GoH for Novacon 49, this November. Mike is particularly well known for penning the spin-off comic run of *Lucifer*, based on the Neil Gaiman creation, which appeared initially in the *Sandman* comics. In the TV series, which runs on Amazon Prime at the moment, a very shady character called Mike Carey is actually killed off, in honour of the writer.

Well, the series was cancelled at the end of Season 3, but thanks to a #SaveLucifer Twitter campaign, it was brought back from hell and taken over by Netflix, who have just finished filming season 4.

I was one of the lucky thousand-plus fans to attend LUXCON 1 - a convention for fans of the show held in Brighton in January. It was excellent fun, the cosplays were inventive, and meeting some of the stars was an awesome experience. Actually, as TV and media conventions go, *Starfury* organisers are one of the best, and are holding at least another three cons this year - a few in Birmingham at the Metropole Hilton. Those include Crossroads 2 (a *Supernatural* TV series con) and Vampire Ball in October, with guests from *Buffy* and *Angel*. (Photograph: Me with my halo – Angelic?) TD

FORTHCOMING BOOKS

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

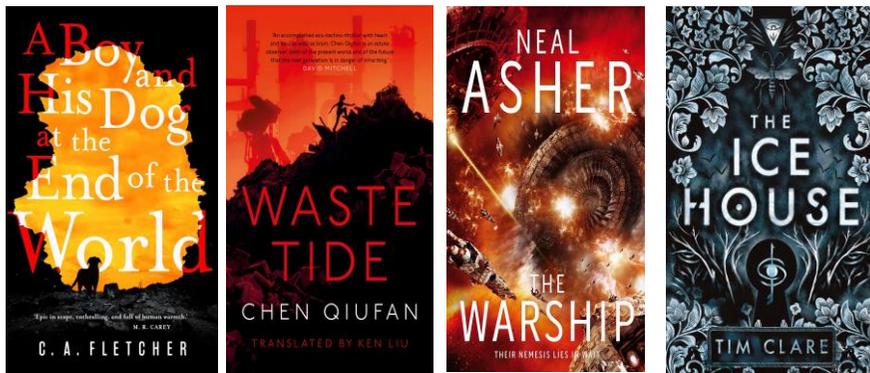


ATLAS ALONE (Planetfall 2) by Emma Newman / Gollancz / 320 pgs / £14.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1473223929 / April 17th. SF. On a colony spaceship, one woman's hunt for a mass murderer uncovers disturbing plans for the future colony.

SUNFALL by Jim Al-Khalili / Bantam Press / 384 pgs / £16.99 hardback / ISBN 978-0593077429 / April 18th. SF. Scientists try re-activating Earth's failing magnetic field whilst fanatics try to stop them.

A TIME OF BLOOD (Of Blood and Bone 2) by John Gwynne / Macmillan / 496 pgs / 18.99 hardback / ISBN 978-1509812981 / April 18th. In a war between demons and angels to rule humanity, can light triumph over evil?

EMILY ETERNAL by M G Wheaton / Hodder & Stoughton / 304 pgs / £14.99 hardback / ISBN 978-1473681958 / April 23rd. SF. Emily is an AI on the run, with the secret to restoring the Sun which is dying.



A BOY AND HIS DOG AT THE END OF THE WORLD by C A Fletcher / Orbit / 384 pgs / £14.99 hardback / ISBN 978-0356510910 / April 25th. SF. A lonely child pursues the thief who stole his dog through a post-apocalyptic world.

WASTE TIDE by Chen Quifan / Head of Zeus / 352 pgs / £18.99 hardback / ISBN 978-1784977931 / April 30th. SF. Mimi's job is picking through hazardous electronic trash. But a war between exploited poor and callous rich is about to erupt and Mimi must decide her role.

THE WARSHIP (Rise of the Jain 2) by Neal Asher / Macmillan / 480 pgs / £18.99 hardback / ISBN 978-1509862504 / May 2nd. SF. Two opposing fleets guard the accretion disk of a black hole that hides lethal technology.

THE ICE HOUSE by Tim Clare / Canongate Books / 416 pgs / £14.99 hardback / ISBN 978-1786894816 / May 2nd. An assassin plots the death of her master, but it requires the life of an ageing child-of-war from our world.

CG

CINEMA FILM RELEASES

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

AVENGERS: ENDGAME - Release date April 25th. Marvel. A devastated group of superheroes try to undo Thanos' universe-changing actions.

TOLKIEN - Release date May 3rd. Biopic about the early, formative years of the author, J R R Tolkien.

THE CURSE OF LA LLORONA - Release date May 3rd. Horror. The spirit of a weeping woman preys on children

POKEMON DETECTIVE PIKACHU - Release date May 10th. Live Action/CGI. A boy joins forces with an intelligent talking Pikachu who wants to be a detective!
CG

NEWS IN BRIEF

Photographer Felix Kunze posted an image of **8 of the remaining Apollo astronauts**, at the 115th annual Explorers Club Dinner in March, celebrating 50 years since the Moon Landing. The men



are from left to right, Charlie Duke (Apollo 16), Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin (Apollo 11), Walter Cunningham (Apollo 7), Al Worden (Apollo 15), Rusty Schweickart (Apollo 9), Harrison Schmitt (Apollo 17), Michael Collins (Apollo 11), and Fred Haise (Apollo 13). Jim Lovell was not in attendance. **Buzz Aldrin** is the one wearing a rocket ship patterned suit, four gold rings and American flag socks! **Janet Opal Asimov** (nee Jeppson) has died. She was a psychiatrist, psychologist and SF writer (often as J O Jeppson). She wrote adult and children's SF. She wrote six SF novels, her first being **THE SECOND EXPERIMENT** (1974). She

also wrote 10 volumes of children's SF series, the *Norby Chronicles*, co-written with her husband, Isaac Asimov Pioneering Russian cosmonaut **Valery Bykovsky**, has died aged 84. His first flight was in 1963 and he held the unbroken record for longest solo spaceflight of 5 days The **Gemmell Awards** have announced that after ten years, they will be closing with immediate effect. This is due to a lack of suitable volunteers for committee roles, and also insufficient manpower to cover all the tasks involved Hugo and Nebula Award-winning SF author, **Vonda N McIntyre** (DREAMSNAKE, THE MOON AND THE SUN, *Star Trek* novelisations etc) has announced that she has been diagnosed with inoperable pancreatic cancer Fantasy author **Philip Pullman** has won the J M Barrie Award for "recognition of a lifetime's achievement in delighting children" **Margaret Atwood** will launch her **HANDMAID'S TALE** sequel, **THE TESTAMENTS** with a live interview at the National Theatre which will be broadcast around the world **Octavia Butler's** **WILD SEED** is to be adapted for television by Amazon British Fantasy author **Ed McDonald** was the victim of malicious #MeToo smears and online bullying. He has been completely exonerated A planned **all-female spacewalk** had to be cancelled because there was only one medium size suit available. Astronaut Christina Koch was replaced by her male colleague American Vice-President has said he wants NASA to return to the Moon within 5 years Actor David Tennant is to narrate **THE WAR OF THE WORLDS** in a new **H G Wells audiobook** collection CG



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**)

SORCERER TO THE CROWN by Zen Cho

Pan / 371 pgs / £7.99 paperback / ISBN 978-1447299462

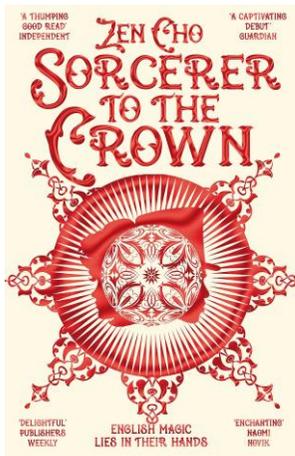
Reviewed by Pauline Morgan.

The challenge in reviewing a book by the guest at a Brum Group meeting before the event is to say enough to encourage members to come along and hear what they have to say and ask questions but not too much that may pre-empt the discussion at the meeting itself.

In writing *SORCERER TO THE CROWN*, Zen Cho has set herself a number of formidable tasks. First, as she was born in Malaysia, she is writing in a second language. Most of us find holding a conversation in another language daunting enough, so to construct a novel in it would be a formidable task. This novel, though, shows a competency in English that many native speakers don't have.

The next hurdle Zen Cho set herself was in setting the novel in an historical period. There are many writers who set their books in the past thinking they can get away with minimal research in the area 'because there is no-one alive to contradict them' forgetting all the sources that are available to the historian. *SORCERER TO THE CROWN* is set during the Napoleonic wars with France but almost entirely amongst 'society'. As the war was overseas, it didn't have much impact on the daily life of the wealthier classes. The feeling that politics is best left to others comes across nicely, the characters being more interested in the behaviour of their peers (not the ones in the House of Lords).

This book, though, is fantasy. This is a world in which magic is



real and flows from Fairy across to the familiar world where it can be used by practitioners of thaumaturgy. These are exclusively male, since it is believed that the female mind would not be able to cope. The fact that female working class servants use spells is irrelevant. The society has immediately drawn distinctions of class and sex, prejudices that were common in the period. Add to this the fact that very few people were acquainted with people of other cultures other than as novelties or members of ambassadorial parties, some of the characters have a lot to contend with. Getting

the flavour of the society right with all its mores is not an easy task.

Add into this mix of magic and prejudice, Zacharias Wythe. Although undoubtedly the Sorcerer Royal by ownership of the Staff of Office there are those who believe that this should be taken from him. Their reasons? He is unsuitable, being only the adopted son of the previous Sorcerer Royal. It is indisputable that he can wield magic but he is really a manumitted slave. Then there are the rumours that he

murdered his predecessor, nor does he have a familiar – a volunteer from Fairy who has willingly consented to be his companion. More importantly, he has done nothing to stop the magic running out as the flow from Fairy into Britain has stopped.

Not content with having one character facing difficult odds, Zen Cho introduces us to Prunella Gentleman. She is living on sufferance at a school for Gentlewitches. They are not taught the skills of magic use but conversely, how to suppress it. Prunella's father had been a lodger of the school's proprietor before his death, leaving her behind as a small child. She has to contend with being an orphan, having magical gifts and having a (missing) mother who was probably a native of India.

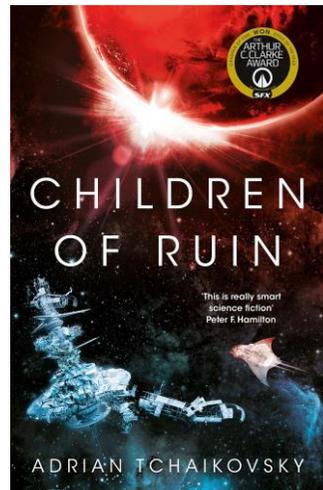
In *SORCERER TO THE CROWN*, Zen Cho tackles the problems setting her tale in a historical culture alien to many of her readers and uses it to explore topics which are still very current in today's society. The sequel to this novel, *THE TRUE QUEEN* has recently been released (21st March). *PM*
(Review copy kindly donated by Pan Macmillan)

***CHILDREN OF RUIN* (*Children of Time 2*) by Adrian Tchaikovsky**
Tor / 576 pgs / £18.99 hardback / ISBN 978-1509865833

Reviewed by Carol Goodwin

In writing this review, I find myself desperately trying to avoid spoilers so as not to give away some of the surprises and plot twists that certainly added to my enjoyment of this book. *CHILDREN OF RUIN* is the sequel to the Clarke-Award winning *CHILDREN OF TIME*, which followed the development of an uplifted spider civilisation and its conflict with the remnants of humanity.

The sequel is set a couple of generations later. With the help of the AI/uploaded personality of Avrana Kern, spiders and humans are now working together co-operatively, albeit with imperfect understanding at times. When faint radio signals that appear to be human are detected, a spaceship is despatched to investigate. The joint expedition of spiders, humans and a copy of Avrana Kern find far



more than they bargained for. Their first encounter is with another spacefaring species (one as yet confined to this solar system), another product of Avrana Kern's uplift virus used by the original human settlers they came to find. However, their initial attempts at contact are unsuccessful and factions of the new species turn hostile when an image of a human is beamed to them. Some of the crew are captured whilst others flee towards the nearby planet of Nod, where they start to discover what happened to the small group of humans who first arrived in the system thousands of year ago. But Nod holds a deadly secret, one which explains the hostility they have faced and it is a threat to all the Earth-descended species. It becomes a race against time, as the captured crew struggle to devise a means of exchanging information with their captors, a species that has no spoken language, quickly enough to prevent the remaining crew orbiting Nod from a disastrous mistake.

The scale of imagination and world-building in this novel is superb. It is a book full of scientific ideas and questions about how we as humans might approach and adapt to communicating and living with new species, especially ones who don't primarily use verbal methods. The author has clearly done his research in this area, and it is refreshing to see science fiction which doesn't just assume aliens will think or communicate like us. It brought to my mind the film, *ARRIVAL* where similarly computers are used to help handle the complexity of the information exchange with a non-verbally oriented species. As one expects of this author, the biology of his creatures is also incorporated into their behaviour and attitudes; these are not just humans "under the skin". There is a lot to think about in this novel, and I thoroughly enjoyed that, though it may not be to everyone's taste. On the other hand, this is also an exciting and at times action-packed adventure as well. There is real tension and menace and some scenes which are scary enough to belong in a horror novel. I also applaud that unlike many writers, violence and aggression are not seen as the only possible solution to problems. As I have come to expect, the characters are nuanced; all have their own viewpoints and justifications, each with some merit. All in all, this is a worthy sequel to *CHILDREN OF TIME* and I can see this also being nominated for many awards. If you like intelligent and superior science fiction, I definitely recommend this book.

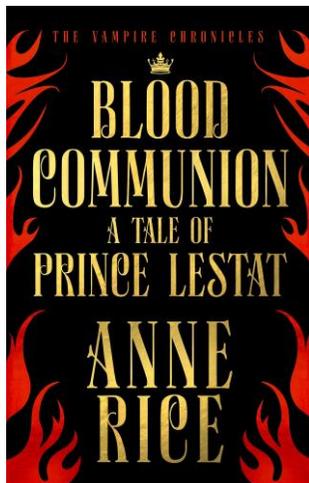
CG

(Review copy kindly donated by Pan Macmillan)

***BLOOD COMMUNION: A Tale of Prince Lestat* by Anne Rice**
Chatto & Windus / 253 pgs / £20 Hardcover / ISBN 978-1784742058
Reviewed by Pauline Morgan.

Vampires have been a staple in both folklore and fiction for a very long time, even Bram Stoker's *DRACULA* had its roots in myth. Since then, the idea of the vampire has evolved away from the evil, blood-draining monster with no redeeming qualities, into the charismatic upstanding citizen found in the pages of such as Charlaine Harris or Lynsay Sands. Don't be fooled, though, these vampires can still be dangerous. Anne Rice can, to some extent, be regarded as starting the revolution with her 1976 novel *INTERVIEW WITH A VAMPIRE*.

BLOOD COMMUNION is the thirteenth novel in the *Vampire Chronicles* series. The central character is once again Prince Lestat - a title given to him by the elders of the vampire tribe. These vampires are immortal but not unkillable, though disposing of a very old one becomes more difficult and they retain many of the features of Stoker's Count Dracula. At the point this novel begins, Lestat is restoring his ancestral Chateau to be the focal point of a Court to which all blood-drinkers (as they usually refer to themselves as) will be welcome. The artisans working on the place are human and unaware that vampires exist. Much of the novel is taken up with the refurbishment and the setbacks Lestat encounters.



Early on, he is drawn away from the project. An old vampire, Dimitri Fontayne, living in Louisiana asks for help dealing with a bunch of maverick blood-drinkers who are threatening him. Lestat takes them out easily but Fontayne warns Lestat that he has other enemies. One, Roshamandes, Lestat knows about and other members of his court have been urging him to kill this vampire, something Lestat is reluctant to do while he is not an immediate threat. Baudwin is a different matter. When he threatens Fontayne he has to be dealt with. The bulk of the action in the book, though, deals with the problem of Roshamandes which comes to crisis point when his companion, Benedict, decides he has lived long enough and commits a ritual death in front of all those

gathered at the Court. Roshamandes blames Lestat and seeks revenge on him.

The overall feeling of this book is that Rice is tying up loose ends left over from other novels drawing the sequence to a close. Many of the characters here will be familiar to those who have read the other books in the *Vampire Chronicles*. Starting here is not a good move as the relationships between them are only sketchily drawn. There is a big flaw in the book. At the end, the invitation goes out to all the blood-drinkers of the world to attend the Grand Ball. Some five thousand turn up. Now, older vampires can exist by taking small amounts of blood from prey but younger ones kill to satisfy their needs. Lestat has furnished comfortable cells under the castle and filled them with the scum of the earth - murderers, assassins and cut-throats - gathered from around the world. There would have to be a lot of them and the supply replenished regularly to feed that number of fledglings. In this day and age, even the most worthless would be missed and disappearances in such numbers questioned. The blood-drinkers would not be able to stay under the radar permanently.

Ultimately, though, this is a book for those who have followed the series. *(Review copy kindly donated by Chatto & Windus)* **PM**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

All details are correct to the best of our knowledge, we advise contacting organizers before travelling. Any information about forthcoming SF/Fantasy/Horror events is always welcome - please send to Carol at goodwincd@yahoo.com

MORT (Terry Pratchett) play, 4th - 13th April. Death takes an apprentice. The Grange Playhouse, Walsall, WS1 2QB. £10 www.ticketsource.co.uk/fellowship-players. Tel: 01922 630495.

SFF FILM SCREENINGS, 13th - 27th April. At Mockingbird Cinema. Includes ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW double bill (13th £ 27th) and HARRY POTTER MARATHON (21st April). Custard Factory, Digbeth. Book: www.mockingbirdcinema.com 0121 224 7456

STUDIO GHIBLI films screening, 15th - 18th April. MY NEIGHBOUR TOTORO (15th, 18th), PONYO (16th) and KIKI'S DELIVERY SERVICE (17th). £4.25. www.macbirmingham.co.uk

COMIC POTENTIAL, play, 16th - 18th May. The Luke Players present Alan Ayckbourn's comedy about an android that develops a sense of humour and human emotions. MAC (Midlands Arts Centre). Tickets £7 - £9. www.macbirmingham.co.uk from mid-April.

BACK TO THE FUTURE, PIXAR and THE GOONIES in concert, 16th - 28th April. Film screenings with live music accompaniment. Symphony Hall. £27.50 - 92 at Box Office (0121 780 49490 or www.thsh.co.uk)

JEKYLL & HYDE, 18th - 27th April. Birmingham Repertory Theatre, £10 - 20. Box Office 0121 236 4455 or www.birmingham-rep.co.uk

BATMAN 1966 screening, 19th April. Batman's 80th year celebratory screening. Millennium Point, 7pm. www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/batman-1966-film-screening-tickets-59124827952

LIBRARY OF SCREAMS, 25th April. A mysterious librarian shares tales of the macabre, based on works by E F Benson & WH Harvey. The Coffin Works, Fleet Street, B3 1JP. £15. <https://the-coffin-works.arttickets.org.uk/the-coffin-works/>

LOVECRAFT AFTER DARK, 30th April. One-man play. Jonathan Goodwin plays Cornelius Pike. At Birmingham & Midland Institute, Margaret Street, B3 3BS. 6:30pm. £8-10. See <https://bmi.org.uk/event/>

JAMES BROGDEN Book Launch, 11th May. Local author (and former BSFG guest) launches his latest novel, **THE PLAGUE STONES** at Foyles, Grand Central Birmingham. 6:30pm. Free. Book at www.foyles.co.uk/Public/Events/Detail.aspx?eventId=3883

CHRIS BAKER (FANGORN): A FANTASTIC VOYAGE, 19th June, Birmingham. SFF Artist Chris Baker (well known to the group) talks about his work. At RBSA Gallery, 4 Brook Street. Booking Essential. 6 - 8:30pm. Info at www.rbsa.org.uk. Free to RBSA Friends/Non-members £5. Book: Gallery /0121 236 4353

AN EVENING WITH HELEN SHARMAN, FIRST BRITISH ASTRONAUT, 22nd June. Helen Sharman talks about her

experiences. At Town Hall, Birmingham. £20.50 - 53. At Box Office, 0121 780 49490 or www.thsh.co.uk

IN CONVERSATION WITH MARGARET ATWOOD, 28th October. Symphony Hall. £20.50 - 38. Box Office (0121 780 49490 or www.thsh.co.uk)

CG

CONVENTIONS and EXHIBITIONS

NEW APOLLO 50th ANNIVERSARY exhibition, 23rd March - 3rd November, Stoke on Trent. A special exhibition featuring 50 models, memorabilia etc. Free entry. The Potteries Museum, Stoke on Trent.

YTTERBIUM (Eastercon 2019), 19th - 22nd April, Heathrow. Guests of Honour Frances Hardinge, Sydney Padua, John Scalzi & DC. At the Park Inn, Heathrow, London. Membership £80 (£90 after 1st April) at www.ytterbium.org.uk/

CYMERA BOOK FESTIVAL, 7th - 9th June, Edinburgh. Festival of SF, Fantasy & Horror Writing. Tickets for individual sessions at www.cymerafestival.co.uk

EDGE-LIT 8, 13th July, Derby. Literary SF/Fantasy festival. Guests of Honour Anne Charnock, Tim Lebbon & Sarah Lotz. Tickets £30 at www.derbyquad.co.uk/whats-on/events/edge-lit-8

TOLKIEN 2019, 7th - 11th August, Birmingham. 50th Year Anniversary of Tolkien Society, MacDonald Burlington Hotel (New Street). £95 www.tolkiensociety.org

WORLDCON 2019, 15th - 19th August, Dublin. Guests of Honour Ian McDonald, Jocelyn Bell Burnell, Steve Jackson, Diane Duane, Ginjer Buchanan and Bill & Mary Burns. Convention Centre. 235 Euros. <https://dublin2019.com/>

FANTASYCON, 18th -20th October, Glasgow. Guests of Honour to be announced. Golden Jubilee Conference Hotel, Glasgow. £65. www.fantasycon.org

BRISTOLCON, 26th October, Bristol. Guests of Honour Diane Duane, Gareth Powell & Andy Bigwood. Doubletree Hotel. £20. Details at www.bristolcon.org

NOVACON 49, 8th - 10th November, Nottingham. Guest of Honour is Mike Carey. Nottingham Sherwood Hotel (same venue - name has changed), Nottingham. Tickets £49 till end of Eastercon. Details at www.novacon.org.uk

FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE BSFG

May 10th - SF author **Daniel Godfrey**

June 14th - Fantasy authors **Jeannette Ng and Micah Yongo**

July 12th - SF authors, **Christopher Priest and Nina Allan**

August 9th - Summer Social

September 13th - tbc

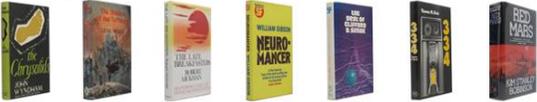
October 11th - Space scientist, **Dr Amaury Triaud**

November 1st - tbc (NB early in month due to Novacon)

December 6th - Christmas Social

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Durdles Books is run by Ian & Lou Morley, BSFG members
Some expensive items but we have books to suit all budgets



BSFG Members: use code BSFG18 for 10% order discount
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