

newsletter



The Bulletin of The Irish Science Fiction Association

SEPTEMBER 1976

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

Last month's Members' Meeting was an informal one and was held at the Sportsman Inn, Mount Merrion. The members who turned up were quite happy with the pleasant surroundings and since everyone we have spoken to hopes that these monthly get-togethers will continue, we intend to continue to use the Sportsman Inn as our venue. The upstairs room where we met on August 29th was too large for our present requirements so, the committee have accepted on your behalf the management's offer of the use of the smaller function room downstairs. This provides a quiet and intimate private room complete with bar facilities which will be set aside solely for I.S.F.A. members and friends.

We hope that as many members as possible will set aside the last Sunday of each month in order to come along for a chat amongst fellow Science Fiction fans. Approximately 36 members turned up on the 29th despite the fact that some of them had to travel from the opposite side of the city. There is a good bus service to the Sportsman Inn and it is very well signposted and lit. If we get enough requests we shall print a small map and section of bus guide in the next newsletter. The committee sincerely hope that everyone will get along at least once to sample one of the informal meetings. Please let us know what you think of them.

MORE NEWS OF OUR FORTHCOMING SEPTEMBER MEETING

We hope that our next get-together will be something of an occasion. Willis McNelly, Professor of English at California State University has offered to talk to members of the Association during his stay in Ireland while attending the Science Fiction Writers' Convention. Professor McNelly (who, incidentally, wishes to become a member) is a very interesting critic of Science Fiction in literature and we hope that our meeting with him will lead to a lively and stimulating dialogue between members and our guest. The venue will be the small downstairs lounge at the aforementioned hostelry however, as yet, we do not know the date or the time. As soon as these factors are cleared up you all will be notified by postcard. We will do our best to give you as much notice as possible.

By the way, Professor McNelly (co-editor of the recently republished THE BOOK OF MARS), has obtained permission for us to reprint in our first Journal an interesting article entitled "Science Fiction - the State of the Art", which he had published in the magazine 'America'.

At present, Robert Lane and Michael Gardner are preparing the Journal between them. All of the material should be typed up onto the necessary stencils by the end of the month and then it will only be a short time before you will receive your copies of our first effort. Please be patient, we think STARGATE will prove to be well worth the wait. Robert hopes to recruit the aid of members who might be interested in helping to type up the following journals. With a little more help we could be sure that the journals will all appear on your door steps on time.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS.....

Would any member who has not, as yet, received a membership card please get in touch with Richard Gallagher who will rectify the situation immediately.

COMMITTEE NEWS.....

Committee members Chris Corrigan and Michael Kavanagh have had to step down from office owing to ill health and employment abroad respectively. Both Chris and Michael will, of course, continue on as members of the Association.

In order to spread the work-load more efficiently, David Norman is going to look after the arrangement of all functions and our Chairman, Richard Gallagher, will deal with all enquiries regarding the Association and membership. You will find Richard's address printed below.

THE SCIENCE FICTION WRITERS' CONVENTION.....

Would any members who feel that they would be able to give some of their time to help out at the Convention please get in touch with Todd Harrison via Michael Gardner, 44, Munster Street, Phibsborough, Dublin 7. Telephone: 302556. If you are interested, please don't delay. The Convention is one week away!!

Michael would also like to give you advanced notice of the Science Fiction Artwork Exhibition which will be in the Third Policeman Gallery - 23/24 South King Street, Dublin, from the 24th September to the 2nd October. The gallery will be open from 11.00am to 5.00 pm every day including Sunday.

BOOK NEWS.....

Richard Gallagher has given us the following snippet of interesting information. Patron HARRY HARRISON'S LATEST NOVEL, SKYFALL, IS TO BE PUBLISHED BY FABER ON THE 20TH SEPTEMBER. IT PROMISES TO BE ONE OF THE BEST STORIES EVER WRITTEN BY THE AUTHOR AND SHOULD ENSURE MANY MORE FANS FOR HIM. 'HIGHLY RECOMMENDED' are Richard's closing words.

NEWSFLASH.....

Belfast based SF writer James White has joined the Association and has agreed to become our third patron. We look forward to a time in the near future when Mr. White will be able to attend one of our meetings and speak to us about his work.

CHERRY CAKE AND CHAT.....

Once again, the members who turned up at Anne McCaffrey's house on the 3rd would like to extend their thanks to our patron for her hospitality and the gorgeous cherry cake. Robert highly recommends it to anyone with a sweet tooth!

ASTRONOMY.....

Paddy O'Connell has told us about the Adult Extra-Mural Studies Course in Astronomy at UCD Belfield. Anyone requiring details of this illustrated series of lectures should contact The Director, Extra-Mural Studies, University College, Administration Building, Belfield, Dublin 4. Telephone: 693244.

I.S.F.A. CONVENTION.....

Next month, David Norman hopes to give us details of our proposed I.S.F.A. Members' Convention which we hope to hold over a weekend in March, next year. We would also like to hear your views on this - encouraging or otherwise.

All queries re the Association to be addressed to Richard Gallagher, 15A Strandville Avenue, Clontarf, Dublin 3. (SAE please).