

Brum Group News

The *Free* Monthly Newsletter of the
BIRMINGHAM
SCIENCE FICTION GROUP

OCTOBER 2003 ISSUE 385

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NOVACON 33 Chairman: Martin Tudor

October Meeting (Friday 10th at 7.45pm)

GALAXY SF Magazine an illustrated talk by **PETER WESTON**

GALAXY SF was one of the great SF magazines - edited by H L Gold and later Frederik Pohl, it was home to authors such as Isaac Asimov, Clifford D Simak, Robert Sheckley, Frederik Pohl (solo and with C M Kornbluth), Alfred Bester and Cordwainer Smith.

Brum Group co-founder Peter Weston returns to the Group this month to give a talk on GALAXY. Those of you who remember Pete's previous talk on ASTOUNDING/ANALOG SF magazine will know what to expect. Pete's talk will, as before, be supported by slides of some of the wonderful and varied covers by famous artists Virgil Finlay, Ed Emsh, Mel Hunter, Chesley Bonestell, etc.

Never heard of GALAXY? Shame! Magazines were the backbone of the science fiction field and as such contain many of the great and classic SF stories.

If you do know GALAXY, come along, sit back and wallow in a nostalgic evening of great SF.

RGP

October 31st Meeting - an early November meeting! This is the evening we pay homage to **DOCTOR WHO** which is 40 years old in November...

OUR NEW MEETING ROOM

This month we are returning to the Britannia Hotel in Corporation Street for our monthly meetings. The entrance to the hotel is Union Passage almost opposite the Odeon cinema. Our meeting room will be shown on the display board in the foyer but will almost certainly be the Lichfield Room. RGP

THE CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Date: Friday 5th December 2003
Time: 7.30pm onwards (till approx. 11pm)
Place: The Lighthouse public house, Coombs Road, Halesowen
Cost: £10 per person
Programme: Meal, 9-pin skittles, prizes, a good time

Our annual social event - always enjoyed and last year's evening was so popular we're repeating it this year...

Getting there - we meet at the #9 bus stop in Colmore Row at 6.30pm. We will travel to Halesowen (about 30mins). At Halesowen we will get a taxi to the venue which should be under £1.50 each presuming 4 sharing a taxi.

What do we do when we get there? Essentially we play skittles - the original 9-pin manual game. It's a great fun evening - we play normal plus 'novelty' games to make sure that even a novice can win one of our numerous Prizes. Between games we socialise. The food is served about 8.30/8.45pm. We have our own private room, a well-stocked bar with a choice of guest beers right through to 11pm. What more do we need?

Well, we DO have to know how many are coming so that we can order the food and arrange a coach back to the city centre. During the Christmas period, coach companies will be fairly heavily booked so we need to book WELL in advance. We need to know by November 15th at the VERY latest.

Meals. Basket meals are scampi, chicken, vegetable lasagne or beefburger, all with chips and salad, or faggots, mushy peas and chips. The balti are chicken or vegetable with naan bread and salad. Please let us know your first and second choices when you buy your ticket.

When you buy your tickets please also let us know whether you will be making your own arrangements or whether you will need transport back to the city. The return transport is all included in the price of your ticket.

Please send your cheques made out to the Birmingham Science Fiction Group, together with your name and address (AND YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER), whether you want the coach back and your meal choices to Pat Brown, 106 Green

Lanes, Wylde Green, Sutton Coldfield, B73 5JH. or pay Vernon at the October meeting. PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT ALL INFORMATION SENT.

AURORA: THE FULL STORY?

Dave Hardy

Those members who came to the September meeting (an excellent one – Jay Tate certainly knows how to put over a talk!) will know that we had a visitor from the USA – Wendell Wagner, Jr., who used to live over here and come to meetings around 1990. They will also know that I announced the fact that at this, the 30th anniversary of my first attendance at a Brum Group meeting, I came not just as an artist, but as a *novelist*, and I showed my new (and first) SF book, AURORA: A CHILD OF TWO WORLDS [see review, later].

These two facts are not unconnected, unlikely as it may seem. Let me explain. In June 1990 we had a talk on dowsing by Michael Guest, which proved, shall we say 'controversial'. Wendell objected vociferously, saying that dowsing is (quote) "bullshit", on the grounds that it is not a science, that it is falsifiable, and that Mr Guest had apparently refused to offer any 'proof' or agree to a simple experiment to prove that dowsing works. Rog Peyton also objected, mainly on the grounds that (again, quote): "... I asked what the talk had to do with SF. And the answer has to be 'Nothing'! By SF I mean the field of imaginative literature we profess to be interested in. Not once did the speaker relate his talk to the literature of SF. ... And that is my biggest objection to this type of programme item." I am taking this from the July 1990 BRUM GROUP NEWS, which I happened to edit at the time.

I'm sure that it was then that a seed was planted in my mind. Thanks, Rog! And that can be dangerous; it wouldn't be the first time that such a seed has germinated (remember 'Marshmallow Moon'?) Although it was in no way the only reason for my writing this novel, I must have decided "One day *I'll* write an SF story in which dowsing features, legitimately." And I have. But I'd like to make it clear that it was not included gratuitously. It just become necessary for the story, it was part of the character of one of the crew. In fact, one might ask the question: "Is it possible for a modern SF novel to include concepts which many SF fans probably regards as 'no-no's', like UFOs, Atlantis, ghosts, dowsing – more, which will become apparent as you read – and remain credible?" Well I certainly hope so... All is explained. In fact, many of these are raised only as possible explanations for observed phenomena in the story, and are later knocked down, so don't get worried; this isn't a nut cult book!

If I may include a few more details on how this book came to be written and published: In a nutshell, AURORA really was a labour of love, the one I *had* to write, and a lot of myself went into it. I make no claims for it being a great work of literature, or having any deep philosophical message; but it is 'real SF', the sort of book I'd like to read myself, and as nobody else has (or is likely to, as it

draws a lot on my own background and experiences (of course), I did. It started life as two short stories (one of them published in ORBIT as 'Rock'), apparently totally unconnected. Then one day I realised that they *could* be linked – and taken much further into the future. It was at a period when I didn't have much work coming in, artwise, so I started typing. So it's set in World War II, in the 1970s psychedelic rock scene, and with the first, multinational expedition to Mars. Some of those scenes in WWII are based on my own life; I was ill and played inside a 'Morrison' shelter; and I had a lot of dealings with rock bands, like Hawkwind and Pink Floyd, in the 1970s. As for Mars – well, it's my favourite planet! But it's not (perhaps surprisingly) primarily a sermon on the need for humans (rather than just robots) to explore Mars. The actual story is all around Aurora – the 'child of two worlds'. But *which* worlds?

I gave it first to John Jarrold, who made some polite comments but rejected it. I made a few alterations, and Richard Evans, then at Gollancz, had it and kept it for a while. Then, one Christmas (I can't remember the year) phoned to say that he wanted to publish it. I remember his words: "Halfway through I thought 'Oh, I can see where he's going with this.' But you didn't! You took it in a quite different direction. It always gives you a little frisson when that happens." Then, very sadly for all, Richard died, and his replacement was 'cutting back on new authors' and sent it back. It then languished in a drawer for some years until Paul Barnett (my editor on HARDYWARE) suggested that I try Cosmos Books in the USA, who have published some books by him (as John Grant, some with David Langford). He also edited for me. You can see their list of authors at www.cosmos-books.com. So it may be the first novel I've written, but the road to getting it published was quite a rocky one!

DAH

< < REPLAY BOOKS will be getting Dave's book in stock but obtaining Cosmos books is proving more difficult than I thought! It's a print-to-order publisher and they only print when they have 50 orders apparently. So get those orders into me straight away! This has to be worth having. A fantasy - oops - sorry, science fiction - novel by one of our own! ((I'm sure dowsing makes it a fantasy novel!))...RGP > >

NEWS IN BRIEF

.... Awards time - **Stephen King** is to receive the National Book Foundation Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters. The \$10,000 cheque that goes with it will be returned by King to help other educational and literary programs The Heinlein Society presented the first **Robert A. Heinlein Awards** to **Michael Flynn** and the late **Virginia Heinlein** The third **Cordwainer Smith** Rediscovery Award was presented to **Edgar Pangborn** The Prometheus Awards went to: **Night Watch** by **Terry Pratchett** (Best Novel) and "Requiem" by **Robert Heinlein** (Hall of Fame Award) The Sidewise Awards for excellence in

alternate history went to THE SEVERED WING by **Martin J Gidron** and (tie) RULED BRITANNIA by **Harry Turtledove** (Long Form). The Short Form award went to "Empire" by **William Sanders** RGP

LOCUS MAGAZINE

LOCUS (the Newspaper of the Science Fiction & Fantasy Field) is now available from REPLAY BOOKS, 19 Eves Croft, Bartley Green, Birmingham, B32 3QL. The October issue will be available just about in time for the meeting. Price will be £4.99. Email me at replayer@rogpeyton.fsnet.co.uk to reserve a copy (I have two spare!) and I'll bring it to the meeting. RGP



BOOK REVIEWS



(REVIEWERS please note:- all reviews should be emailed direct to me at rog@rogpeyton.fsnet.co.uk) Deadline for each issue is 14 days prior to the date of the monthly meeting. RGP

ILIUM by **Dan Simmons**

Gollancz / 576 pgs / £17.99 hardcover, £10.99 trade paperback

Reviewed by **Michael Jones**

Rating * * * * *

At the commencement of the book there are three separate narrative strands, beginning with the Siege of Troy ("Ilium"). This is narrated by Thomas Hockenberry, a classical scholar brought from the 21st century as part of a team put in place by the actual Greek Gods of the time to observe what actually happens, and compare it with Homer's version of events as told in THE ILIAD, of which the author displays an encyclopaedic knowledge.

The second storyline follows some of the few remaining inhabitants of Earth as they lead an idle, hedonistic and largely ignorant existence on a world from which most humans have emigrated to rings of orbiting habitats. Meanwhile, among the moons of Jupiter, a group of sentient, self-aware biomechanical constructs prepares an exploratory expedition to Mars which they have found not only to have been recently terraformed but also to have suddenly begun to exhibit an unwontedly high level of quantum-shift activity.

It soon becomes apparent that the three seemingly disparate stories are actually contemporaneous: there seem to be contradictory indications of the actual time when it is all happening but it is certainly at least two thousand years in our future and could be much more. And, being contemporaneous, the stories eventually impinge on each other, coming together in a glorious conflation of classical mythology, futuristic super-science and obscure literary references, with an avatar of the Earth's self-aware biosphere and invaders from outside (maybe) the

solar system, including honest-to-god Little Green Men, all thrown in for good measure.

This is the Simmons of *HYPERION* back on top form, leading us into the twenty-first century of SF. Although it is a very long book the interest never flags, even when there is a feeling that passages could have done with a little trimming. Unfortunately, it seems to end with a lot of unresolved loose ends: however the next-to-last sentence has Hockenberry saying "'But it's going to be damned interesting to find out what happens next.'" There could be no plainer indication of a sequel to follow and it will indeed be damned interesting. MJ

TIME OUT OF JOINT by Philip K. Dick

Gollancz / 220 pgs / £6.99 / paperback

Reviewed by Dave Hardy

Rating: * * *

This is another book in Gollancz's 'SF Masterworks' series. It was written in 1959, and most of it takes place around then – or does it? Or is the world of the fifties just an illusion, maintained to convince the 'hero', Ragle Gumm, and ensure that he continues to enter a newspaper contest every day – and winning? For this is what he does, since he appears to have a knack for guessing "Where Will The Little Green Man Be Next?" in the *Gazette*, and the inhabitants of the small town of – what? The name is never actually given, and nor are its state or county. But anyway, they love him, as they would a movie star or anyone famous. And everyone seems to encourage him to continue doing the competition, and winning, almost as if their lives depended upon it. . .

But gradually, Ragle begins to wonder why this is, and what would happen if he stopped. And then his world begins to become untangled. Strange things happen. There are no radios in his town, only TVs. But Sammy, the son of his sister Margo, with whom he lives, obtains a crystal set, and on it they hear people talking, passing messages about something passing overhead. And they even mention Ragle's name. He becomes involved with a local Civil Defence group; Sammy and his friends, exploring 'The Ruins', a mysterious area of old concrete foundations which Margo is campaigning to have cleared away and made safe, find some old telephone books and a copy of a magazine containing pictures and news stories about people they've never heard of, like Marilyn Monroe. Ragle digs out more, and finds a copy of *Life* magazine with a date of 1996. There are references to bases on the Moon, Mars and Venus. From then on, he is never sure whether he is living in a real world, or one of illusion.

It is only when Dick starts to reveal the reality behind all this that the book becomes less readable and more unbelievable. Indeed, it would probably have been better if he had not tried to explain it. A very informative Afterword by Lou Stasis (?) explains that at the time when Dick wrote this, he was churning out SF stories for Ace Books, whose editor was Donald Wollheim (who often used to

re-write authors' work, without their knowledge until the story was published, to fit into his rather juvenile idea of science fiction). Dick desperately wanted to get off this treadmill, and considered *Time Out of Joint* to be the first of a new breed of novel – effectively, mainstream. He submitted it to Wollheim, knowing that it would not be accepted, and in fact it had already been accepted elsewhere. Of course, it didn't really work, and the name of Philip K Dick is forever linked with SF. But a unique, mutant form of SF, full of strange, neurotic worlds which mirror his own, probably psychotic world.

Flawed, but very readable.

DAH

ROMA ETERNA by Robert Silverberg

Gollancz / 385pgs / £10.99 / trade paperback

Reviewed by Pauline Morgan

Rating: * * * *

Imagine 2003 with the Roman Empire still the most important power in the known world. Not easy. Silverberg has done just that in this book. And shown us how we got there.

ROMA ETERNA is a series of short stories, previously published elsewhere but now collected in chronological order, tracing two thousand years of Empire. To do so, Silverberg has had to decide on the turning points that moved history in a different direction.

It begins with a speculation between two researchers. What, they argue, might have happened if the Exodus of the Hebrews from Aegyptus had succeeded. The result is that the cult of Christianity did not occur and spread throughout the Empire. Instead, the worship of Jupiter remained the principle religion through the centuries.

In another of the stories, an ambassador, alarmed by the views of an Arab, Mahmud of Mecca, arranges for him to quietly disappear, thus preventing the rise of Islam. In another century, the Emperor expends a vast amount of money and men trying to conquer the Americas, and failing, so that there is no United States of America populated by the descendants of immigrant Europeans.

As time passes, it is interesting to look for the analogues with prominent parts of European history, displaced to the environs of Rome. The events of "The Reign of Terror" involve purges of the aristocracy similar to those in Napoleonic France, though here the Republic is not restored. That has to wait for the massacre of the entire Imperial family in "Via Roma" which resembles the events in Russia before the rise of communism.

The dates of each story, given at the start of each are reckoned from the founding of Rome, making it a little difficult to place the parallels with our own history without a calculation. The main problem with the book is that, in order to appreciate the continuity of the Empire, there are frequent history lessons within the stories which otherwise interrupt the flow of the narrative. For some readers

this might be off-putting. It does however show the tremendous attention to detail needed for a work of this scope and for this Silverberg has to be admired. *PM*

AURORA by David A Hardy

Cosmos / 222pgs / \$15.99 (approx £12) / trade paperback

Reviewed by Laurence Miller

Star rating: * * * *

Another member of the BSFG joins the ranks of published novelists... well-known for his artwork, non-fiction, space and art related books, Dave has achieved another long-standing ambition with the publication of AURORA from Cosmos Books.

It starts in the Blitz one night over London or maybe not... depending on how you look at it. The main story is written in three sections: 1940, 1970's and the near-future of 2018 with another underlying story thread.

It deals with the attempt of a doomed civilisation to save humanity from its own mistakes as well as the uncontrollable external forces of a careless universe. If the attempts are successful then those who initiate the rescue will never know of the success for it will either change history so they never existed or cause a new branch of the timeline and possibly bring a happier, parallel Earth into existence. Dave neatly sidesteps the 'how' and 'why' of time travel by the simple expedient of pointing out that it makes absolutely no difference to the originators of the attempt to change history... they either continue as they are if time branches or they never exist if history changes.

In the Blitz, a few lives change to no effect but a new life is started to great effect while the 70's will bring fond memories to those of us who were old enough to appreciate the times. The near future brings hope for the space exploration aficionado with a real Martian exploration attempt... and discoveries of things that can't possibly be, but are! Finally the underlying thread helps explain and link everything together especially with its multiplicity of views from different participants concerning the same events.

Dave has produced an entertaining first novel with an interesting slant on time travel combined with some serious ethical and moral views and questions. For those of us who know him, it is also clear that he has followed the classic advice for a new novelist... "Write about what you know..." and you can find evidence for this in many places. If it has a noticeable flaw then maybe he is a little too expositional in a couple of places.

An enjoyable read and a creditable first novel... available from Andromeda in the very near future. *LM*

😊😊😊😊 FILM ROUND-UP 😞😞😞😞

BY VICKY COOK & TIM STOCK

The only SF film on at the cinema has been CYPHER (15). Starring Jeremy Northam, it is a Dick-esque story about identities and brainwashing, as Northam joins a spy agency only to find he is being double-crossed, but by whom? And who is the strange femme fatale who might be trying to help him? Full of red herrings, this film is truly surprising at the end, unlike so many of the other predictable movies out these days. Northam acts well as the guy in well over his head, and the story keeps you gripped. It hasn't been much hyped by the press, but don't let that put you off. A little gem among the dross.

This month as we have been having a debate about whether to keep the full package to Sky including all the movie channels, we decided to stay at home and watch the best Sky has to offer as far as SF movies are concerned.

THE DAY THE WORLD ENDED

Directed by Terence Gross (2001)

Story by Brian King; teleplay by Max Enscoe & Annie deYoung

Reviewed by Tim Stock

Rating: * *

This low budget made-for-TV movie tries to combine some of the more traditional ideas of alien invasion/impregnation and telekinesis. Not a particularly well known cast either, apart from Randy Quaid who can be seen in films such as INDEPENDENCE DAY, KINGPIN and even DAYS OF THUNDER, who does a good job as the 'special' boy's father. Not a remake of the 1958 film of the same name but named after it as the boy is seen watching it on video!

It starts off with a new face moving into a small 'local town' - a psychiatric doctor played by Nastassja Kinski who is coming in to work at the local school. One of the first discoveries the new doctor makes is of a boy who doesn't seem to fit in with the rest of the locals. This is the son of the town's medical doctor. The child shows some sign of having some powers that manifest when he is angry or upset - one of the bullies in the playground develops a nosebleed as he gives them a 'look'.

As the film goes on, we learn more about the boy's past and how his real mother mysteriously disappeared a few years before when he was just four years old. But not before she has managed to convince him that his real father is an alien who will return when he needs him most! This leads him to an unhealthy obsession with alien films and comics. As the boy's turmoil rises, the alien descends and goes on a bloody killing spree. The film then goes towards a climax, which leads to the question of whether the alien is real or a figment of the boy's imagination.

The film is quite entertaining in parts but lacks real creativity and is full of clichés. Not a movie to read much into but not too bad if you leave your brain at home. TS

THE SWARM

Directed by Irwin Allen (1978)

Story by William Herzog

Reviewed by Vicky Cook

Rating: * (for the imaginary bees!)

Wow, I thought to myself, a Michael Caine movie! Must be good! And look at the other stars in it - Katherine Ross, Richard Chamberlain, Richard Widmark, Olivia DeHavilland, Henry Fonda, Slim Pickens AND Fred McMurray. It had to be good! Now I rather enjoy good silly monster movies from time to time (I enjoyed JURASSIC PARK 3, silly but true), so happily settled down to this one while Tim was playing with his alien movies.

The plot is as follows: Huge swarms of killer bees seem to be randomly gathering and attacking people. When entomologist Brad Crane (Caine) discovers this he has his work cut out trying to stop them reaching Houston, and trying also to stop General Slater (Widmark) from using military tactics against them.

And that's it. Not exactly mind-bending stuff. The trouble is, this film just doesn't do the idea justice. The acting is terribly wooden, even from this batch of stars. The storyline is sloppy (though the idea that the survivors of the stings 'see' mammoth bees in front of them, is worth a giggle) and the script stilted. It doesn't help that it all looks a bit dated, with the bees shot from afar in swarms and the train scenes especially, appearing incredibly unrealistic and faked. It is hard to warm to the characters, even Michael Caine, who usually injects a reasonable warmth into his characters.

The trouble is you are never entirely sure what category to put it in - 70's disaster film, in which case it is a definite failure for reason of just being too silly, or SF monster flick, which it just about gets away with.

At the end of the day surely a big jar full of boiling water and some jam smeared around the rim would have sufficed. Hard to warm to and a bit of a struggle to believe. VC

THE RAFFLE

Raffle tickets are available as soon as you get to the meeting. You do NOT have to wait until the break when someone twists your arm - do it voluntarily. It certainly saves on ambulance call-outs! The Group needs your cash to pay visiting authors' expenses, the salubrious surroundings of our regular meeting room, etc. It's just a quid - not even the price of half a pint! And you could WIN this month's prize...

SELLING YOUR WARES...

And don't forget that YOU can bring along your unwanted books, magazines, videos, etc., and sell them to other members - NO CHARGE, NO COMMISSION. Start rummaging through your collections - you KNOW you'll never read some of that stuff again. It was very welcome to see several people selling and buying at the last 2 meetings. **BRING YOUR GOODIES!** And you can bring even more now - we have had a lift installed in the Hotel just for YOU!!!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

21-30 October: an 'SF Double Feature' exhibition at the Custard Factory Gallery, (along the Digbeth High St, past the Coach station). The opening ceremony is on the 21st 6-9pm.

FANTASYCON 2003: 21-23 November, Tillington Hall, Stafford. Guests of Honour are **Christopher Fowler** (genre: Urban Unease, Creative Director of a film and design company), and **Catherine Fisher** (genre: Children's Fantasy, Award-winning novelist and poet). Events include Author interviews, discussion panels, Ask-The- Editor, ghost stories, charity raffle, quiz, AGM, Banquet, BFS awards. Tillington Hall Hotel is conveniently situated just off M6 Junction 14, or a short taxi ride from Stafford station.

For further details go to www.britishfantasyociety.org.uk, or send an A4 SAE or 2x1RCs to FantasyCon 2003, Beech House, Chapel Lane, Moulton, Cheshire, CW9 8PQ.

The Central Library SF and Fantasy Reading Group meets on Thursdays at 5.30pm to 7pm monthly, in GP5 on the 5th Floor at the Central Library, Chamberlain Square, B3 3HQ. It's a small friendly group meeting to discuss SF & fantasy books. Contact person is Pam Gaffney on (0121) 303 3634. Future meetings and subjects are:-

October 16th - ASH: A SECRET HISTORY by Mary Gentle

NOVACON 33 - the Birmingham SF Group's very own convention will be held over the **November 7/11** weekend at the Quality Hotel, Bentley, Walsall. Guest of Honour - Jon Courtenay Grimwood. Cost of registration is £35 - send to NOVACON 33, 379 Myrtle Road, Sheffield, S2 3HQ. email - x15@zoom.co.uk

Cafe Scientifique runs speaker led discussions. They (usually) run 1st Friday of the month, 7:30 pm at the MAC, Cannon Hill. They've just changed the name to "Café Scientifique et Culturelle". Programme for the rest of the year is : -
7th November - Prof. Julian Leff - "The Unbalanced Mind: Depression and Human Relationships".
5th December - Prof. Ian Stewart - "Mathematical Infinity"

THE BRITISH COSTUME CONVENTION (SF, Media and Historical) will be held 15-16 Nov . Wardrobe (costuming), now Boundary Hotel, Walsall. £35 reg to 6 Oct, then £40; day £25 Sat, £15 Sun. Cheques to British Costume Convention, 7 Church Close, Northwood, Middlesex, HA6 1SG.
Website: www.britishcostumeconvention.org.uk

All details are correct to the best of our knowledge, we advise contacting organisers before travelling. Always enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope when writing to any of the above contact addresses.

Any information about forthcoming SF / Fantasy / Horror events are always welcome - please send to me at rog@rogpeyton.fsnet.co.uk

FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE BSFG

October 10th - to be announced

October 31st ('November' meeting!) - DOCTOR WHO 40th Anniversary Special!

December 5th - Christmas Party - Skittles & Social evening.

January - Annual General Meeting

February - astronomer Andy Lound - illustrated talk

March - SF artist Dominic Harman - interviewed by Stan Nicholls (with slides)

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Thanks to all the named contributors in this issue and to William McCabe who sends me reams of news items every month from which I sift through for the best/most entertaining items.

The **BRUM GROUP Website** address is www.bsfg.freesevers.com

NEW! ----The email address is bhamsfgroup@yahoo.co.uk ---- **NEW!**

Contributions, ideas, etc. always welcome.

WE'RE STILL WAITING FOR YOUR EMAIL ADDRESSES! SEND TO

rog@rogpeyton.fsnet.co.uk

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 Treasurer, Pat Brown, 106 Green Lanes, Wylde Green, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B73 5JH