



Ansible® 394 May 2020

From **David Langford**, 94 London Road, Reading, Berks, RG1 5AU, UK. Website news.ansible.uk. ISSN 0265-9816 (print); 1740-942X (e). Logo: **Dan Steffan**. Cartoon: **Ulrika O'Brien**. Available for SAE or boarding pass for the last flight of Dr. Ain.

VIRTUAL REALITY. This year's Eastercon bidding session took place online: the unopposed bid for Easter 2021 was Confusion (see below), with the same venue as the cancelled 2020 event. A 2022 bid is in preparation. • **BSFA Awards** are to be announced online on 17 May – expect an access link at bsfa.co.uk shortly beforehand.

The Bliss of Solitude

The Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band has at last reported a High Court success in defeating the writs issued against them by Anglo Atlantic Media Ltd and Robert Kirk Carruthers for using their own band name – whose registration as a trademark by AAM/RKC had been rejected as unlawful by the Intellectual Property Office last October. Describing Carruthers's claims as 'totally without merit', and his further intimidating writs against band witnesses as 'an abuse of process', the judge awarded the Bonzos indemnity costs of more than £50,000. (9 April)

Ezri Carlebach, looking forward to beginning an MA in SF and Fantasy at Anglia Ruskin University on 4 May, was told on 29 April that this course was cancelled and will not be offered again in the future.

J.K. Rowling's Salazar Slytherin inspired the name of a 'new' Indian species of green pit viper: *Trimeresurus salazar*. (CNN, 22 April) [EF]

Constriction

ONLINE. 7 May • **Virtual First Thursday**, 6-10pm, replacing the London pub meeting at the Bishop's Finger. See tinyurl.com/uow6hqh.

POSTPONED TO SEPTEMBER. 16-17 May • **HorrorCon UK**. See below.

CANCELLED. 21 May • **Ballard's Londons** (Roger Luckhurst talk), London. Described at acuriousinvitation.com/jgballard.html.

22 May - 3 Jan • **Fantastic Beasts: The Wonder of Nature** (exhibition), Natural History Museum, London. £18. See www.nhm.ac.uk/visit/exhibitions/fantastic-beasts-the-wonder-of-nature.html. Note that the museum is now closed, with hopes of reopening in 'early summer'.

POSTPONED TO AUTUMN. 6 Jun • **Carlisle Comic Con**, Carlisle. See www.wonkyrocketevents.co.uk/carlisle/.

POSTPONED TO NOVEMBER. 11-12 Jul • **Edge-Lit 9**, Derby – see below.

18 Jul • **Small Press Day** events throughout UK and Ireland. Likely to be postponed or held online only: see smallpressday.co.uk.

ONLINE ONLY. 29 Jul - 2 Aug • **ConZealand** (Worldcon 78), New Zealand. *New membership rates* announced 15 April (refunds available from 1 May for those who paid more): \$300NZ reg, \$150 unwaged (NZ only), \$150 YA (born after 2000), \$75 child (born 2005-2010), 'kid in tow' (born after 2010) free, \$75 supporting. See conzealand.nz.

POSTPONED TO 2021. 21-23 Aug • **Reunicon**, The Hague. See below.

14-19 Sep • **Arvon Sci-Fi and Fantasy Course**, Lumb Bank, West Yorkshire. £815 including single-room accommodation. See www.arvon.org/writing-courses/courses-retreats/sci-fi-and-fantasy/.

26-27 Sep • **HorrorCon UK**, Magna Science Adventure Centre, Sheffield Rd, Rotherham, S60 1DX. *New dates*. Tickets £45 for 11am entry, £55 for 10am; accompanied under-17s £20. See horrorconuk.com.

9-11 Oct • **Lakes International Comic Art Festival**, Kendal, Cumbria. *Weekend passes now £35; students and under-16s £25*. For day rates, see www.comicartfestival.com.

17 Oct • **Bedford Who Charity Con** (*Doctor Who*), The King's House, Amptill Road, Bedford, MK42 9AZ – *new date and venue*. 10am-5:30pm. £42.50 reg; under-19s/students £22.50; under-14s £15. More at bedfordwhocharitycon.co.uk.

22-25 Oct • **Celluloid Screams** (horror film festival), Showroom Cinema, Sheffield. £90; £85 concessions. See celluloidscreams.co.uk.

31 Oct • **BristolCon**, Hilton DoubleTree Hotel, Bristol. £25 reg; £15 concessions and under-18s, *rising to £30/£20 in June*; £35/£25 at the door; under-14s free. Online registration at www.bristolcon.org.

6-8 Nov • **Dead by Dawn** (horror film festival), Filmhouse Cinema One, 88 Lothian Rd, Edinburgh, EH3 9BZ. *New dates*. Box office 0131 228 2688. Tickets £80 from www.deadbydawn.co.uk.

7-8 Nov • **Edge-Lit 9**, QUAD Centre, Derby, DE1 3AS. £50 reg. For guests etc see www.derbyquad.co.uk/whats-on/events/edge-lit-9.

2-5 Apr 2021 • **Confusion** (Eastercon), Birmingham NEC Hilton.

GoH Dan Abnett, Dave Lally, Nik Vincent. See confusion2021.uk.

20-22 Aug 2021 • **Reunicon** (celebrating ConFiction 1990), The Hague. *New dates*. €50 reg, €25 supp. See confiction1990.com.

8-11 Oct 2021 • **Irish Discworld Convention**, Cork International Hotel, Cork. Registration details awaited at idwcon.org.

Infinitely Improbable

As Others See Us. Joseph E. Stiglitz, Nobel-winning economist, is another sufferer from skiffyphobia: 'I never go near science fiction. Not sure why. I just don't. Perhaps it's because I think it's hard enough to understand our own world and try to fix it. It's escapism to try to create another one.' (Interview, *The New York Times*, 9 April) [JB]

Awards. *Bram Stoker* (horror) novel categories: NOVEL *Coyote Rage* by Owl Goingback. DEBUT *The Bone Weaver's Orchard* by Sarah Read. YA *Oware Mosaic* by Nzondi. GRAPHIC *Neil Gaiman's Snow, Glass, Apples*. • *Compton Crook* (sf/f/h debut): *A Memory Called Empire* by Arkady Martine. • *Philip K. Dick* (paperback original): *Sooner or Later Everything Falls Into the Sea: Stories* by Sarah Pinsker. • *Otherwise* (formerly the Tiptree): *Freshwater* by Akwaeke Emezi. • *Prometheus* (libertarian) shortlist: *The Testaments* by Margaret Atwood; *Alliance Rising* by C.J. Cherryh and Jane S. Fancher; *Ruin's Wake* by Patrick Edwards; *Luna: Moon Rising* by Ian McDonald; *Ode to Defiance* by Marc Stiegler. • *Spectrum Grand Master* (fantastic art): Terryl Whitlatch.

As Others See Solaris: 'Though it's a sci-fi movie, it's about these very simple human emotions between Chris (George Clooney) and his wife Rheyra (Natascha McElhone).' (theatlantic.com, 8 April) [CW]

R.I.P. Asterisks mark reported COVID-19 deaths. • **Bruce Allpress** (1930-2020), New Zealand actor in *Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*, (2002) and *Power Rangers Jungle Fury* (2008), died on 23 April aged 89. PDF • **Reed Andrus**, US fan and reviewer whose fanzines included *Laughing Osiris* and *The Bull of the Seven Battles*, died in April. [PDF] • **Sean Arnold** (1941-2020), UK actor in *Earthsearch*, *The Lord of the Rings* (both BBC radio 1981), *Haunters of the Deep* (1984) and *Speaking of the Devil* (1991), died in April aged 79. [AW] • **Pip Baker** (1928-2020), UK scriptwriter whose credits with his wife Jane Baker include *Night of the Big Heat* (1967), *Captain Nemo and the Underwater City* (1969), 11 episodes of *Doctor Who* (1985-1987) and *Watt on Earth* (1991-1992), died on 14 April. [DWN] • ***Jay Benedict** (1951-2020), US character actor in *Aliens* (1986), *Mansquito* (2005), *The Dark Knight Rises* (2012) and others, died on 4 April aged 68. [MMW] • ***Julie Bennett** (1932-2020), US actress best known for voice work including *Yogi Bear* (as Cindy Bear in various series/films 1961-1988) and *Spider-Man* (as Aunt May, 1997), died on 31 March aged 88. [AIP] • **Merv Binns** (1932-2020), noted Australian fan who co-founded the Melbourne SF Club, ran the country's first specialist bookshop Space Age Books and published various fanzines including the Ditmar-winning *Australian SF News* (1978-1994), died on 7 April aged 85. His career achievement honours include the Chandler (1993), Big Heart (2010) and Infinity (2012) awards. [BG] • **Honor Blackman** (1925-2020), UK actress in *The Avengers* (1962-1964), *Goldfinger* (1964), *To the Devil a Daughter* (1976), *Doctor Who* (1986) and many more – a late genre credit being *Cockneys vs Zombies* (2012) – died on 5 April aged 94. • ***Tim Brooke-Taylor** (1940-2020), UK comic actor in *I'm Sorry, I'll Read That Again* (BBC radio 1964-1973, with several sf spoofs), *The Goodies* (1970-1982), *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* (1971), *The Comet Is Coming!* (1981), *Bananaman* (1983-1986) and others, died on 12 April aged 79. [CMAW] • ***John Horton Conway** (1937-2020), noted UK mathematician whose incidental work in recreational maths (such as the Game of Life) inspired many Martin Gardner columns for *Scientific American* which in turn influenced sf authors, died on 11 April aged 82. [JS] • **Dale Crain**, US comics artist (*Thor*, *Batman*) and archival editor at DC Comics, died recently in Vietnam. [PDF] • **Allen Daviau** (1942-2020), US cinematographer who worked on *E.T.* (1982), *Van Helsing* (2004) and others, died on 15 April aged 77. [CH] • **Gene Deitch** (1924-2020), award-winning US animator/director whose credits include *Popeye* (1960-1962), *Krazy Kat* (1963) and a short adaptation of *The Hobbit* (1966), died on 16 April aged 95. [PDF] •

Brian Dennehy (1938–2020), US actor in *Cocoon* (1985) and sequel, *Ratatouille* (voice, 2007) and others, died on 15 April aged 81. [AW] ● Malcolm Dixon (1953-2020), UK actor in *Flash Gordon* (1980), *Time Bandits* (1981), *Return of the Jedi* (1983), *Labyrinth* (1986) and others, died on 9 April aged 66. [PDF] ● Shirley Douglas (1934-2020), Canadian actress with voice credits in *Flash Gordon* (1996-1997), *Silver Surfer* (1998) and *Franklin* (1998-2000), died on 5 April aged 86. [PDF] ● Mort Drucker (1929-2020), US artist and caricaturist who drew many SF film/tv satires for *Mad* magazine, died on 9 April aged 91. [BT] ● James Drury (1934-2020), US Virginian actor seen in *Forbidden Planet* (1956), died on 6 April aged 85. [F770] ● Hilary Dwyer (1945-2020), UK actress in *The Body Stealers* (1969), *The Oblong Box* (1969) and *Cry of the Banshee* (1970), died on 30 March aged 74. Producer credits as Hilary Heath include *The Worst Witch* (1986). [SG] ● Sergio Fantoni (1930-2020), Italian actor in *Hercules Unchained* (1959), *Atom Age Vampire* (1960), *Mission: Eureka* (1989) and others, died on 17 April aged 89. [SJ] ● Andrew J. Fenady (1928-2020), US producer whose films include *Black Noon* (1971) and *Terror in the Wax Museum* (1973), died on 16 April aged 91. [LP] ● Henry Keith Ferrell (1953-2020), US author and editor, biographer of Wells and Orwell, who was editor-in-chief of *Omni* from 1991 to 1995, died on 11 April aged 66. [SM-B] ● Al Fitzpatrick, UK fan and con-goer who moved to Australia and then the USA – active in both countries’ fandoms – died on 6 April. [JS] ● Hy Fleishman (1927-2020), US artist for many Silver Age comics publishers in various genres including sf and horror, died on 2 April aged 92. [PDF] ● Allen Garfield (1939-2020), US actor in *Miracle Beach* (1992), *Cyborg 2: Glass Shadow* (1993), *The Ninth Gate* (1999) and *The Elf Who Didn't Believe* (2000), died on 7 April aged 80. [LP] ● Jill Gascoine (1937-2020), UK actress in *Peter Pan* (TVM 1976), died on 28 April aged 83. [AW] ● Juan Giménez (1943-2020), Argentine comics artist who worked on *Metal Hurlant*, the film *Heavy Metal* (1981) and his own ‘Time Paradox’ sequence of sf shorts, died on 2 April aged 77. [TC] ● Margot Hartman (1933-2020), US actress in *The Curse of the Living Corpse* (1964) and *Voyage to the Planet of Prehistoric Women* (1968), died on 11 April aged 86. [PDF] ● Aarón Hernán (1931-2020), Mexican actor in *Deathstalker and the Warriors from Hell* (1988), died on 26 April aged 88. [LP] ● Peter H. Hunt (1938-2020), US director whose credits include *The Mysterious Stranger* (1982) and *Touched by an Angel* (1996-2003), died on 26 April aged 81. [PDF] ● Irrfan Khan (1967-2020), Indian actor in *The Amazing Spider-Man* (2012) and *Jurassic World* (2015), died on 29 April aged 53. [AW] ● Shirley Knight (1936-2020), US actress in *The Sender* (1982), *Dad, the Angel & Me* (1995), *The Uninvited* (1996), *Ghost Cat* (2004) and others, died on 22 April aged 83. [SJ] ● Dieter Laser (1942-2020), German actor in *Lexx* (1998-2000), *The Human Centipede* (2009) and others, died on 29 February aged 78. [AIP] ● Jean Little (1932-2020), Canadian author of children’s fiction including the fairytale mash-up *Once Upon a Golden Apple* (1991), died on 6 April aged 88. [PDF] ● Ryder W. Miller (1965-2020), US Inklings critic and compiler of *From Narnia to a Space Odyssey: The War of Letters Between Arthur C. Clarke and C.S. Lewis* (2005), died on 15 March. [DAA] ● Neale Mittenstshaw-Hodge (1962-2020), UK fan and tireless worker on many conventions for many years, died on 17 April aged 58. [CO] ● Jerrold Mundis (1941-2020), US author who published stories in the 1960s *New Worlds* and wrote suspense/horror novels as Julia Withers, died on 5 April aged 79. [PDF] ● Bruce Myers, UK actor in *No Blade of Grass* (1970), *The Awakening* (1980), *The Mahabharata* (1989-1990) and *Let There Be Light* (1998), died on 15 April. [PDF] ● Nobuhiko Ōbayashi (1938-2020), Japanese director whose genre films include *House* (1977), *The Little Girl Who Conquered Time* (1983), *The Drifting Classroom* (1987), *The Discarnates* (1988) and *Labyrinth of Cinema* (2019), died on 10 April aged 82. [AIP] ● George Ogilvie (1931-2020), Australian co-director of *Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome* (1985), died on 5 April aged 89. [GC] ● Joseph S. Pulver (1955-2020), US author and anthologist best known for Lovecraftian horror and noir fiction, died on 24 April aged 64. [EM] ● Rebecca Ramsey (1966-2020), US visual effects producer whose many genre credits include *The Matrix Revolutions* (2003), *Hellboy* (2004), *I, Robot* (2004), *Spider-Man 3* (2007) and *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows 2* (2011), died on 7 March aged 53. [MMW] ● D.J. Rowe, co-founder of the Moorcock fan club Nomads of the Time Stream (‘my first fan club’ – MM) and co-editor of its magazine *The Time Centre Times*, has died aged 83. [MM] ● Adam Schlesinger (1967-2020), US bass player with Fountains of Wayne whose credits include soundtrack work for *Ice Age: Continental Drift* (2012) and *The Haunted Hathaways* (2013-2015), died on 1 April aged 52. [LP] ● Ann Sullivan (1929-2020), US animator whose credits include *The Little Mermaid* (1989), *Cool World* (1992), *The Lion King* (1994), *Atlantis: The Lost Empire* (2001) and *Treasure Planet*

(2002), died on 13 April aged 91. [AIP] ● Alexander Thynn (1932-2020), 7th Marquess of Bath, whose genre novels were *The Carry-Cot* (1972) and *The King is Dead* (1976 from his own Longleat Press), died on 4 April aged 87. ● Brian Varley, old-time UK fan since 1952 who worked on the 1954 Supermanccon and 1965 London Worldcon, and wrote the ‘Machiavarley’ column for *Scottishe*, died on 31 March. [RH] ● Tim White (1952-2020), UK sf artist who painted many book covers from 1974 onwards – his first collection being *The Science Fiction and Fantasy World of Tim White* (1981) – died on 5 April aged 68. [BE] He won the 1983 BSFA Award as best artist. ● Logan Williams (2003-2020), Canadian-born actor in *The Flash* (2014-2015), died on 9 April aged 16. [MMW] ● Hal Willner (1957-2020), US music producer whose credits include *The Duxorcist* (1987), other Daffy Duck cartoon features and *Bewitched* (2005), died on 6 April aged 63. [LP]

The Weakest Link. Mike Moorcock writes: ‘Final Jeopardy question, category British Authors: “Born in 1866, he has been called The Shakespeare of Science Fiction.” Contestant #1: “Asimov.” #2: “Clarke.” #3: “Verne.” Ho hum.’ (12 April)

Hugo Shortlist. Selections from the full list (with Retro Hugos) at conzealand.nz/blog/2020/04/08/hugo-and-retro-hugo-finalists-announced: NOVEL *The City in the Middle of the Night* by Charlie Jane Anders; *Gideon the Ninth* by Tamsyn Muir; *The Light Brigade* by Kameron Hurley; *A Memory Called Empire* by Arkady Martine; *Middlegame* by Seanan McGuire; *The Ten Thousand Doors of January* by Alex E. Harrow. ● SERIES *The Expanse* by James S.A. Corey; *InCryptid* by Seanan McGuire; *Luna* by Ian McDonald; *Planetfall* by Emma Newman; *Winternight* by Katherine Arden; *Wormwood* by Tade Thompson. ● RELATED WORK *Becoming Superman: My Journey from Poverty to Hollywood* by J. Michael Straczynski; *Joanna Russ* by Gwyneth Jones; *The Lady from the Black Lagoon: Hollywood Monsters and the Lost Legacy of Milicent Patrick* by Mallory O'Meara; *The Pleasant Profession of Robert A. Heinlein* by Farah Mendlesohn; 2019 John W. Campbell Award Acceptance Speech by Jeannette Ng; *Worlds of Ursula K. Le Guin* produced and directed by Arwen Curry. ● GRAPHIC/COMIC *Die, Volume 1: Fantasy Heartbreaker*; *LaGuardia*; *Monstres, Volume 4: The Chosen*; *Mooncakes*; *Paper Girls, Volume 6*; *The Wicked + The Divine, Volume 9: Okay*. ● DRAMATIC – LONG FORM *Avengers: Endgame*; *Captain Marvel*; *Good Omens*; *Russian Doll* (Season One); *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker*; *Us*. ● LODESTAR (YA; not a Hugo) *Catfishing on CatNet* by Naomi Kritzer; *Deeplight* by Frances Hardinge; *Dragon Pearl* by Yoon Ha Lee; *Minor Mage* by T. Kingfisher; *Riverland* by Fran Wilde; *The Wicked King* by Holly Black.

The Dead Past. 50 Years Ago, a writers’ organization wielded its awesome power: ‘The SFWA has asked its members not to buy Jerome Agel’s *The Making of 2001*, because of unsatisfactory arrangements with the contributors.’ (*Winnie* 46, May 1970) ● 20 Years Ago, Steve Sneyd sent a heartfelt status report from his Hilltop Press: ‘Poetry continues to sell like condoms at a Vatican conclave.’ (*Ansible* 154, May 2000)

Fanfundery. GUFF 2020: 102 valid ballots were received, and the winner is Alison Scott with a plurality of 50 in the first round and a majority of 52 in the second. ‘As one candidate withdrew from the race because of the current global situation ballots cast for them were allocated to the second preference.’ ● DUFF 2020: voting details for Erin Underwood’s win can be found at downunderfanfund.wordpress.com/2020/04/01/erin-underwood-wins-duff/. ● The GUFF and DUFF winners will both attend New Zealand’s virtual Worldcon this year, with hopes (as with TAFF) of a physical trip at some later date.

Thog’s Masterclass. *Secure Repository Dept.* ‘She sat there completely at her ease, her big breasts ready for any secrets.’ (Graham Greene, *Brighton Rock*, 1938) [MMW] ● *As Thingy as a Very Thingy Thing.* ‘He twisted suddenly and finished erect, his velour-padded feet sticking to the velour-carpeted deck as a velvet letter sticks to a velvet bulletin board.’ (Hank Searls, *The Pilgrim Project*, 1964) [NW] ● *Excitable Dept.* ‘Her pulse slowed to a gallop.’ (Jay Kristoff, *Nevernight 3: Darkdown*, 2019) [AR] ● *Neat Tricks.* ‘Mia woke to the ring of heavy footfalls, hackles rising down her back.’ (*Ibid*) [AR] ● *Understated Dept.* ‘Her knee collided with his groin the way falling comets kiss the earth.’ (*Ibid*) [AR] ● *Dept of Over-Egged Simile.* ‘Her face resembled poorly-kneaded pastry, with currants for eyes, a baked fig for a nose, and a mouth like a line of silvered almonds.’ (Stephen R. Donaldson, *The War Within*, 2019) [AR]

Ansible © 394 © David Langford, 2020. Thanks to Douglas A. Anderson, John Boston, Termy Cornell, Gary Couzens, Michael Cule, Paul Di Filippo, Bob Eggleston, *Doctor Who News, File 770*, Esther Friesner, Bruce Gillespie, Steve Green, Rob Hansen, Chip Hitchcock, Steve Jones, Samuel Montgomery-Blinn, Michael Moorcock, Chris Moore, Edward Morris, Chris O’Shea, Lawrence Person, Andrew I. Porter, Adam Roberts, Nigel Rowe, Joyce Scrivner, Bruce Townley, Nick Walkins, Andrew Wells, Gary Westfahl, Charles Wingate, Martin Morse Wooster, and Hero Distributors: Durdles Books (Brum Group), SCIS/Prophecy and Alan Stewart (Australia). 1 May 2020