



Ansible® 468 July 2026

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: **Teddy Harvia**. Available for SAE, or full confession of who did it – who took the strawberry jam?

The White Terror

Douglas Adams's famous quip has been adapted into an eternal truth about fandoms: 'In the beginning, *Doctor Who* was created. This has made a lot of *Doctor Who* fans very angry and been widely regarded as a bad move.' (Bluesky, 10 June) [GB] The BBC cancellation of the promised Christmas special and decision to 'put *Doctor Who* out to competitive tender this year', along with the departure of the showrunner and producer, inevitably generated much heated discussion. (BBC, 10 June)

Mel Brooks celebrated his 100th birthday on 28 June, provoking fond memories of his early comic routine as The 2000 Year Old Man.

Helen Mirren, whose many noted acting credits include such sf roles as the voice of Deep Thought in *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* (2005), was made a Companion of Honour for services to drama in the UK Birthday Honours. Malorie Blackman (*Noughts & Crosses*) and Julia Donaldson (*The Gruffalo*) became Dames; Peter Lord and David Sproxton of Aardman Animations were knighted; John Wagner, long-time *2000 AD* writer and co-creator of Judge Dredd, is now an MBE.

Michael Whelan is used to plagiarism of his artwork, but stealing his actual face for a pinball machine design seemed a bit much. After decades of wondering whether this was a false-memory hallucination, he tracked down the machine, a famous one called Time Warp that has its own Wikipedia page. And there – image perhaps lifted from his photo in the 1978 art book *Sorcerers* – he was. (Michael Whelan, Substack, 7 June) [AIP]

Concettism

2-5 Jul • **MetropolCon** (Eurocon), 'silent green' Kulturquartier, Berlin. €95 reg; reduced €75; under-12s €5. See www.metropolcon.eu.

11 Jul • **Frances Hardinge** symposium, King's College, London. 9:30am-5pm. Tickets £50 or £35 concessions, with lunch; £25 without lunch. See tinyurl.com/5aabu9d2.

16-17 Jul • **Current Research in Speculative Fiction** (conference), University of Liverpool. See crsfhome.home.blog.

SOLD OUT 17-19 Jul • **Fantasy Forest** (cosplay), Sudely Castle, Cheltenham, with camping options. More at fantasyforest.co.uk.

18-19 Jul • **Weird Worcester** (film), U of Worcester Arena. £37; £47 early entry. See www.treasuredfilms.co.uk/weirdworcester.

24-27 Jul • **Continuum** (RPG), Cranfield University CMDC. Tickets £75 or £25 per day (under-17s free) from continuumconvention.co.uk.

25 Jul • **Small Press Day**, various events throughout the UK and Ireland, and online. See smallpressday.co.uk.

1 Aug • **Northern Horizon** (*Blake's 7*), Copthorne Hotel, Newcastle. 10am-4pm. £25; 'VIP' £80. See nufcmatters.co.uk/shop/.

1 Aug • **Rebel Base North East** (*Star Wars*), Newcastle upon Tyne. 10am-4pm. £20; 'VIP' £75. Same hotel and website as the above.

SOLD OUT 7-10 Aug • **Discworld Convention**, Leonardo Hotel, Hinckley Island, Leicestershire. There is a waiting list at dwcon.org.

4-6 Sep • **Fantasy Forest** (cosplay), Hatfield House, Hatfield, with camping options. More at fantasyforest.co.uk.

1 Nov • **Comic Con**, Mercure Hotel, St Helens, Merseyside. 10am-10:30pm. Adults £5.89. More at www.ljeventsentertainment.com.

21 Nov • **Tolkien's Invented Languages** (Tolkien Society seminar), online. Free. See www.tolkiensociety.org/events/seminar-2026/.

4-6 Jun 2027 • **UK Games Expo**, Birmingham NEC. Tickets go on sale in December 2026 at www.ukgamesexpo.co.uk.

24-26 Sep 2027 • **Fantasycon**, Birmingham. Details 'coming soon' at tinyurl.com/fcon27 (Facebook), or perhaps www.hwsevents.co.uk or a dedicated website. There is no 2027 World Fantasy Convention, and the World Fantasy Awards will be presented at this Fantasycon.

15-18 Oct 2027 • **Irish Discworld Convention**, Cork International Hotel, Cork. €120 reg; concessions €70; under-18s €30; under-7s free. Membership limited to 300. Further details at idwcon.org.

Rumblings. *Norncon* (Belfast) was reportedly a success in May 2026 and will return in 2027: dates etc. are awaited at norncon.org. • *Eurocon 2029*: the Polish sf club Avangarda has announced a bid to hold Eurocon in their home city Warsaw. See eurocon.ava.waw.pl. • *BSFA* bid for

Eastercon/Eurocon 2030 (19-22 April, Birmingham): see their Facebook page at tinyurl.com/bsfa2030 with a link to the proposal, including the fallback positions of holding a non-Eurocon Eastercon or vice versa.

Infinitely Improbable

As We See Us. Tim Allen, voice of Buzz Lightyear, on *Toy Story 5*: 'I think this is honest art. Like Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov* on some sombre, wonderful level.' (*Guardian*, 11 June) [PE]

Awards. *Lambda* (LGBTQ+) sf category: *Beings* by Ilana Masad. • *Nebulas*: NOVEL *The Buffalo Hunter Hunter* by Stephen Graham Jones. NOVELLA *The River Has Roots* by Amal El-Mohtar. NOVELETTE 'Uncertain Sons' by Thomas Ha (*Uncertain Sons*). SHORT 'Laser Eyes Ain't Everything' by Effie Seiberg (*Diabolical Plots*). MIDDLE GRADE/YA *Into the Wild Magic* by Michelle Knudsen. GAME WRITING *Clair Obscur: Expedition 33* by Guillaume Broche & Jennifer Svedberg-Yen. DRAMATIC *Murderbot Season One*. COMIC *Mary Shelley's School for Monsters: The Killing Stone* by Jessica Maison. POEM 'The World To Come' by Jennifer Hudak (*Strange Horizons*). Also: GRAND MASTER N.K. Jemisin. SOLSTICE David Langford. SERVICE TO SFWA Gay Haldeman. INFINITY Roger Zelazny. • *Stoker*: ANTHOLOGY *Silk & Sinew* ed. Kristy Park Kulski. COLLECTION *Lost in the Dark* by John Langan. FIRST NOVEL *The October Film Haunt* by Michael Wehunt. GRAPHIC NOVEL *Bowling With Corpses* by Mike Mignola. LONG FICTION (tie) *Cathedral of the Drowned* by Nathan Ballingrud; 'Wolf Moon, Antler Moon' by A.C. Wise (*Reactor*). LONG NON-FICTION *Why I Love Horror* ed. Becky Siegel Spratford. MIDDLE GRADE NOVEL *Ride or Die* by Delilah S. Dawson. NOVEL *The Buffalo Hunter Hunter* by Stephen Graham Jones. POETRY *Everything Endless* by Linda D. Addison & Jamal Hodge. SCREENPLAY *Sinners* by Ryan Coogler. SHORT 'Inheritance' by RJ Joseph (*Full Throttle*). SHORT NONFICTION 'My Long Road to Horror' by Tananarive Due (*Why I Love Horror*). YA NOVEL *Shiny Happy People* by Clay McLeod Chapman.

Scientific Units. 'He got it up to one three five or so on the Richter scale, miles per hour, on that service.' (John McEnroe, TNT Sports) [PE]

Publishers and Sinners. Stephen Gallagher was also worried about the demise of the SF Gateway ebook site (see A467), and unlike me had a reply: 'This was done with the intention to bring the Gateway authors in line with the rest of Gollancz/Orion on the main site.' He and his ebooks can now be found by a search at www.orionbooks.co.uk – though not at store.gollancz.co.uk, to which sfgateway.com now redirects! Many other Gateway authors have been moved to Orion, but not all: 'No results found for Fanthorpe.' Presumably migration slowly continues. *Stephen*: 'It'll be a Good Thing when they get it right – the Gateway site was cranky and dated and had begun to feel like a bit of an Old Folks' Home.'

The Gernsback Future Is Here. The US Waymo LLC withdrew over 3,800 driverless 'robotaxis' owing to their AI-powered habit of whizzing past 'ramp closed' signs into roadworks sites and between the rows of cones marking closed-off lanes. (*The Register*, 19 June)

R.I.P. *Dafydd ab Hugh* (1960-2026), US author of *Heroing: or, How He Wound Down the World* (1987) plus various *Star Trek* and (with Brad Linaweaver) *Doom* novelizations, has reportedly died aged 65. [AT-C] • *John Blanche* (1948-2026), prolific UK fantasy artist best known for decades of work on Games Workshop's *Warhammer* and *Warhammer 40,000*, died on 1 June aged 77. [MG] His first art collection was *Ratspike* (1989) with Ian Miller. • *Ann Blyth* (1927-2026), US actress who co-starred in *Mr. Peabody and the Mermaid* (1948), died on 24 June aged 98. [SJ] • *Michael Byrne* (1943-2026), UK actor in *The Medusa Touch* (1978), *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* (1989), *Blood: The Last Vampire* (2009) and *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part 1* (2010), died on 20 June aged 82. [AIP] • *Daveigh Chase* (1990-2026), US actress in *Donnie Darko* (2001), *Spirited Away* (2001), *Lilo & Stitch* (2002) and *The Ring* (2002), died on 16 June aged 35. [AT-C] • *Lyudmila Chursina* (1941-2026), Russian actress whose films include the Yefremov-based *Tuman-nost' Andromedy* (*The Andromeda Nebula*, 1967), the fantasy *Taynaya sila* (*Hidden Force*, 2002) and the dystopian *Babushka Ada* (*Grandma Ada*, 2007), died on 10 June aged 84. [AM] • *David Daker* (1935-2026), UK actor in *Time Bandits* (1981), *Britannia Hospital* (1982), *The Woman in Black* (1989), *I Bought a Vampire Motorcycle* (1990) and genre tv series

including *Doctor Who* (1973-1979), died on 30 April aged 90. [SG] ● **Tom Dreesen** (1939-2026), US comedian and actor in *Spaceballs* (1987), died on 17 June aged 86. ● **Patrick Godfrey** (1933-2026), UK actor in *The Girl in a Swing* (1988), *Ever After* (1998), *The Miracle Maker* (1999), *Dimensions* (2011) and genre tv series, died on 4 June aged 93. [SJ] ● **David Greenslade** (1943-2026), UK composer and keyboard player whose genre work included *The Pentateuch of the Cosmogony* (1979) with Patrick Woodroffe and *From the Discworld* (1994), plus tv scores for *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1980) and *Artemis 81* (1981), died in June aged 83. [CM] ● **Anthony Guidera** (1960-2026), US actor in *Species* (1995), *The Postman* (1997), *Armageddon* (1998) and genre tv series, died on 6 June aged 65. [AIP] ● **Andy Halliday** (1953-2026), US actor who co-starred in the long-running off-Broadway cult comedy *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom* (1984-1989), died on 5 May aged 73. [AIP] ● **James Handy** (1945-2026), US actor in *Arachnophobia* (1990), *The Rocketeer* (1991), *Jumanji* (1995), *Unbreakable* (2000), *Logan* (2017) and others, died on 3 June aged 81. [SJ] ● **Anthony Head** (1954-2026), UK actor in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (121 episodes 1997-2003), *The Adventures of Merlin* (43 episodes 2008-2012), *Repol! The Genetic Opera* (2008), *Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance* (2011) and others, died on 5 June aged 72. [SJ] ● **Linnette Horne** (1955-2025), New Zealand fan who published *Cry Havoc* and was the 1999 FFANZ delegate to Aussiecon 3, died on 28 August 2025 (only recently announced) aged 69. [NR] ● **Brian Johnson** (Brian R. Johncock, 1939-2026), UK special effects artist who worked on 1950s Hammer films, *Thunderbirds* (1965-1966) and other Anderson puppet series, *Space: 1999* (1975-1977), and many more films including *Alien* (1979) – for which he shared an effects Oscar – *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980), *Dragonslayer* (1981), *The Neverending Story* (1984) and *Aliens* (1986), died on 16 June aged 86. [SJ] ● **Penelope Keith** (1940-2026), noted UK actress whose genre credits include *Ghost Story* (1974), *Aladdin* (1992), *Beauty and the Beast* (1992) and *Tales of the Tooth Fairies* (1992), died on 29 June aged 86. ● **Margaret Kerry** (1929-2026), US actress and dancer who was the live-motion model for Tinker Bell in Disney's *Peter Pan* (1953) and co-starred in *Space Angel* (52 episodes 1962-1964), died on 11 June aged 97. [F770] ● **Russell Kirkpatrick** (1961-2026), New Zealand author and map-maker whose fantasy includes the trilogies 'Fires of Heaven' (2004-2005) and 'Husk/Broken Man' (2007-2009), died on 26 June. [SJ] ● **Max Kleven** (1933-2026), US actor/stuntman/stunt arranger in *Billy the Kid versus Dracula* (1966), *Rollerball* (1975), *Omen II: Damien* (1978), *My Science Project* (1985) and others, died on 3 June aged 92. [SJ] ● **John A. Lent** (1936-2026), US academic and comics scholar who wrote or edited 91 books on his subject and was editor of *International Journal of Comic Art* since its founding in 1999, died on 16 May aged 89. [AIP] ● **Denis Lobanov** (1971-2026), CEO of the Russian sf/f publisher Knizhnyi Klub Fantastika ('Fantastic Book Club') died on 23 June. [AM] ● **Richard Mettler**, US film editor for *The Curse* (aka *Eight for Silver*, 2021) and *I.S.S.* (2023), died on 1 June aged 56. [AIP] ● **Giorgia Moll** (1938-2026), Italian actress who co-starred in *The Thief of Baghdad* (1961), died on 2 June aged 88. [SJ] ● **Luis De La Rosa Obregón** (1991-2026), Mexican animator whose credits include *Space Jam: A New Legacy* (2021) and *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse* (2023), died on 24 June aged 34. [AIP] ● **Jeff Olson**, US visual effects artist for *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* (1988), *Ghostbusters II* (1989), *Back to the Future III* (1990), *Star Trek: Generations* (1994), *The Phantom Menace* (1999), *Signs* (2002) and others, died on 21 June aged 77. ● **Anne Schedeen** (1949-2026), US actress in *Embryo* (1976), *Exo-Man* (1977) and genre tv series – in particular *ALF* (103 episodes 1986-2004) – died on 14 June aged 77. [SJ] ● **Ronnie Schell** (1931-2026), US actor in *Captain Caveman and the Teen Angels* (39 episodes 1977-1980), *Battle of the Planets* (85 episodes 1978-1980), *The Cat from Outer Space* (1978) and others, died on 12 June aged 94. [F770] ● **William Smithers** (1927-2026), US *Dallas* actor in *The Shadow* (1954), *Deathsport* (1978) and genre tv series, died on 26 May aged 98. [LP] ● **Robin Postal White** (1946-2026), US fan active since the 1960s, a member of the NY Fanoclubs group and married to the late Ted White from 1966 to circa 1976, died on 3 June aged 79. [CP] ● **Jane Yolen** (1939-2026), much loved and hugely prolific (her 450th book appeared this year) author of sf, poems, fantasy and especially fairytales, died on 11 June aged 87. [LP] Her many awards include Mythopoeic, Nebula and World Fantasy awards for specific works, and multiple career honours: Skylark (1990), World Fantasy Life Achievement (2009), SF&F Poetry Association Grand Master (2010) and SFWA Grand Master (2017). She was a guest of honour at the 1984 World Fantasy Convention and 2005 Worldcon. It was always a pleasure to meet Jane and (in allusion to a *Fantasy Encyclopedia* entry) have her dance satanically around me while calling me the Devil's Dandy Dog.

More Downsizing. *Romesh Ranganathan*: 'At the Last Supper, the disciple Judas betrayed Jesus for how many pieces of silver?' *Contestant*:

'One.' (BBC1, *The Weakest Link*) [PE]

Awards in Progress. *Clarke Award* shortlist: *Dungeon Crawler Carl* by Matt Dinniman, *The Dream Hotel* by Laila Lalami, *Luminous* by Silvia Park, *There Is No Antimemetics Division* by qntm, *When There Are Wolves Again* by E.J. Swift and *The Salt Oracle* by Lorraine Willson. ● *Mythopoeic* adult fiction shortlist: 'The Charlatan Duology' (*Book of Night* and *Theif of Night*) by Holly Black, *Audition for the Fox* by Martin Cahill, *The Bright Sword* by Lev Grossman, *Snake-Eater* by T. Kingfisher, *The West Passage* by Jared Pechacek, *Water Moon* by Samantha Sotto Yambao and *The Incandescent* by Emily Tesh. For the other four Mythopoeic categories see www.mythsoc.org/news/news-2026-06-02.htm. ● *Sidewise* (alt-history) novel shortlist: *Pagans* by James Alistair Henry, *Tobacco Republic: What If The 13 Colonies Never United?* by R.A. Moss and *Ten Incarnations of Rebellion* by Vaishnavi Patel. Short fiction list at www.uchronia.net/sidewise.

Sign of the Times. Several readers have remarked that in the 2026 Titan edition of Stephen Jones's much-reprinted anthology *Shadows over Innsmouth* – which lists star contributors on the front cover, with a fuller roster on the back – one included author usually given front-cover billing does not appear in either place. *Ià! Ià! I dare write no more....*

Editorial. I am still gobsmacked by the Solstice Award. Thanks again to SFWA and to Gay Haldeman, who accepted for me and steeled herself to read this: 'There's a famous story about a perpetual motion machine exhibited to awestruck crowds in New York in 1813. Unfortunately, one visitor was an engineer who noticed that the great wheel that turned forever seemed a little bit jerky in its motion. He started removing bits of woodwork, to reveal that the miracle of science was driven by an endless belt leading to a back attic, where an old man with a long beard was found turning a crank. Speaking as the cranky old guy in the back room of the *SF Encyclopedia*, I must say I'm thrilled to be exposed and outed like this. It's a huge and unexpected honour to join the ranks of past Solstice winners. I even have connections with a few of them. My small press has published lots of uncollected criticism by Algis Budrys, who was remembered in this award's first year. I was beta reader for many Discworld novels by my friend Terry Pratchett. Another old friend, John Clute, is co-editor of the *Encyclopedia* and patiently puts up with the jerky motions of the crank in the back room. Thank you all very much!'

Publishers and Sinners II. Subterranean Press will close down permanently in late 2027 or early 2028. [L] ● Profile Books is taking over Rebellion Publishing's genre imprint Solaris: ebooks from 1 July, physical books from 1 September, with some Solaris staff also transferring. [L]

The Dead Past. 30 Years Ago, your editor was utterly toggled: 'Sarah Lefanu's slim but sensible *Writing Fantasy Fiction* (A&C Black, £8.99) makes publishing history: the first writers' guide to recommend regular study of Thog's Masterclass!' (*Ansible* 108, July 1996) ● 10 Years Ago, a familiar attitude persisted. 'A.B. Yehoshua, eminent Israeli novelist, explains: "I deeply respect literature and expect to gain insight from a book and to identify emotionally with its characters. I therefore avoid reading suspense novels or science fiction."' (*Ansible* 348, July 2016)

Random Fandom. 2026 WSFS *Business Meeting Agenda*: 109 pages of fannish fun at tinyurl.com/ymtmnh92. Items include legitimization of virtual business meetings previously held in defiance of the constitution, ratification of the new poetry Hugo (which will need to be re-ratified in 2029), and a proposal to limit the number of Hugo finalist co-creators listed on the Hugo ballot to eight. Virtual meetings on 17 & 26 July, 1 & 9 August. ● *Garth Spencer* is recruiting for the monthly electronic 'e-APA'. Read all about it at efanzines.com/eapa/, which includes sign-up details.

Magazine Scene. *Locus* warns of phishing emails trying to sell promotions in its name, using @proton.me addresses (which *Locus* doesn't). ● The media-oriented *Starlog* (1976-2009 in print) is to be relaunched in November as an annual printed magazine and weekly email newsletter under the aegis of *Fangoria*, with Annalee Newitz as editor-in-chief. [L]

Thog's Masterclass. *Neat Tricks*. 'I felt my skin go slightly green as I glanced up ...' (Katherine Neville, *The Eight*, 1988) [BA] ● *Food Fads*. '... the women were like cheeseburgers – they were either trophies or dessert.' (Sharyn McCrumb, *Zombies of the Gene Pool*, 1992) [BA] ● *Velikovsky*, *Thou Shouldst Be Living At This Hour*. 'Jupiter's spin is now so slow it may crash into Earth at any minute or may stay in the same position – right over England. If it does, we shall never see the Sun again unless we journey to lands that aren't overshadowed.' *Six months later*: 'Jupiter was still hovering a few thousand miles up and looked like remaining there forever.' (Desmond Wilcox, *Into Existence*, 1941)

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