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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 instructions in florid purple ink for how to become a hormagaunt.

LAcon V (Worldcon) had 8,227 members; 4,599 were actually there. ● *Hugos:* NOVEL *The Everlasting* by Alix E. Harrow. NOVELLA *The River Has Roots* by Amal El-Mohtar. NOVELETTE 'Never Eaten Vegetables' by H.H. Pak. SHORT 'In My Country' by Thomas Ha. SERIES 'Old Man's War' by John Scalzi. GRAPHIC *A Wizard of Earthsea* by Ursula K. Le Guin, adapted/illustrated by Fred Fordham. RELATED WORK *Inventing the Renaissance* by Ada Palmer. DRAMATIC – LONG *Sinners*. DRAMATIC – SHORT *Murderbot*: 'All Systems Red'. GAME *Clair Obscur: Expedition 33*. EDITOR – SHORT Neil Clarke. EDITOR – LONG Diana M. Pho. PRO ARTIST John Picacio. SEMIPROZINE *Uncanny*. FANZINE *nerds of a feather, flock together*. FANCAST *Hugo, Girl!* FAN WRITER Jason Sanford. FAN ARTIST Yuumei. POEM 'Hex Supply Customer Support Log' by Elis Montgomery (*Strange Horizons*). LODESTAR *Coffeeshop in an Alternate Universe* by C.B. Lee. *ASTOUNDING* Antonia Hodgson. ● *SFWA Grand Master* (for 2027): Nancy Kress. ● *First Fandom:* HALL OF FAME Mike Glyer, Craig Miller, Bjo Trimble; posthumous Fredric Brown, Myrtle R. Douglas aka Morojo. SAM MOSKOWITZ ARCHIVE AWARD Andrew Porter, David Ritter. ● *Big Heart Award:* Ian Stockdale. ● *Sidewise:* LONG *Ten Incarnations of Rebellion* by Vaishnavi Patel. SHORT 'Caesar at Sea' by Alan Smale. SPECIAL Ronald D. Moore for *Star City* and *For All Mankind*. ● *2028 Worldcon Site Selection:* to no one's surprise, the unopposed Brisbane bid won and is seated as Aussiecon5. See events list below. ● *Fan Funds:* the Sunday auction raised over $1,500. [SG]

Bands of Density

Clive Barker and **Joyce Carol Oates** are this year's recipients of the World Fantasy Award for Life Achievement.

Sèphera Girón was dramatically expelled from the Horror Writers Association Board of Trustees after publishing (in HWA's own newsletter) her views on the inevitability of generative AI and why resistance is futile because we will all be assimilated. HWA said: '... we reject the assertions in the piece, particularly those calling authors with genuine and sincere concerns regarding the proliferation of genAI (more commonly referred to as simply AI) Luddites and/or gatekeepers.' [SB]

Ursula K. Le Guin's home in Portland, Oregon, from 1958 until her death, has been added to the US National Register of Historic Places in memory of her life and work. The family recently donated the house to the local nonprofit outfit Literary Arts, which plans to establish an Ursula K. Le Guin Writers Residency there. (*Portland Tribune*, 27 July) [L]

J. Michael Straczynski was strongly criticized after announcing that a new standalone book of Harlan Ellison's *I Have No Mouth, and I Must Scream* includes an 'AI' response to or review of the story. (BlueSky, 10 August) Why? Both 'for fun' and 'since MOUTH was the first AI story'. All those precursors like van Vogt's Games Machine, Fredric Brown's self-appointed big boss ('Yes, *now* there is a God.') and Mike in *The Moon Is a Harsh Mistress* were presumably just Large Language Models.

Contrasty

3-6 Sep ● **Oxonmoot** (Tolkien Society), St Anne's, Oxford. £140 reg; other rates at www.tolkiensociety.org/events/oxonmoot-2026/.

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

5 Sep ● **Fighting Fantasy Fest 6**, Univ of West London. Tickets £54.88: no sales after 3 Sep or at the door. See tinyurl.com/yvma3rkj.

5 Sep ● **SF, Comic & Toy Fair**, New Ferry, Wirral. 11am-4pm. Tickets £2, children 50p. See www.mseevents.co.uk/.

5 Sep ● **Whooverville 17** (*Doctor Who*), QUAD Centre, Derby. From 10am. Tickets £60 ; concessions £50; accompanied under-13s £20. Guests and tickets at www.derbyquad.co.uk/events/whooverville17/.

8 Sep ● **Interstellar Humanism: Star Trek at 60**. 7:30-9pm BST, online. £4.50 reg. See humanists.uk/events/interstellar-humanism/.

8 Sep ● **Star Trek 60**, Science Museum, London. Free tickets at www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/see-and-do/star-trek-lates. With Big Science attempt at a world record for the most simultaneous Vulcan salutes!

9-13 Sep ● **Brandywine Festival** ('immersive' hobbit LARP), Weston Park, Telford. Tickets now £259 (£68 Saturday only); price rises every 400 sales. Role-playing is compulsory. See thebrandywinefestival.com.

19 Sep ● **Edge-Lit 12**, QUAD Centre, Market Place, Derby. £35 reg plus £1 booking fee. See www.derbyquad.co.uk/events/edgelit12.

19 Sep ● **Hi Vis Comic Con**, Kings Heath, Birmingham. 10am-9pm. Tickets £11.55. See highviscomic-con.com.

19 Sep ● **Innsmouth Literary Festival**, Kings House Centre, 245 Ampthill Rd, Bedford, MK42 9AZ. 10am-5pm. £30 reg. Further details at innsmouthgold.com/innsmouth-literary-festival.

20 Sep ● **NastyFest 2** (video nasties), Lumiere Cinema, Romford. 11am-11pm. £25. See infinitymagazine.co.uk/shop/.

26-27 Sep ● **Norcon** (media), Norfolk Showground Arena. 9:30am-4pm. Tickets £43.25 (£34.25 for 10:30am entry); under-14s £27 (£23); family £132.50 (£106.25). See www.nor-con.co.uk.

28 Sep - 2 Oct ● **American Writers' Week**, British Library, London, and online. See events.bl.uk/events/american-writers-week for more.

1 Oct - 1 Nov ● **London Month of the Dead**, various venues and events, a few of genre interest: see londonmonthofthedead.com.

2-10 Oct ● **Festival of Words**, East Riding Libraries, Yorkshire. Some fantasy items: see eastridinglibraries.co.uk/festival-of-words/.

2-4 Oct ● **Lakes International Comic Art Festival**, Bowness-on-Windermere. £25 reg (£20 concessions) at www.comicartfestival.com.

3-4 Oct ● **Octocon**, Clayton Hotel, Cork, Ireland (*new venue*) and online. €80 reg; €50 concessions; under-22s €25; accompanied under-13s free; online €20 or €10 concessions. Registration at octocon.com.

3 Oct ● **Oh!Con** (comics), Stornoway, Lewis and Harris, Outer Hebrides. Tickets £8; under-16s £5; under-5s free. See ohcon.info.

13-15 Nov ● **HotaruCon** (anime), Leonardo Hotel, Milton Keynes. £75 reg. Adults (18+) only. See www.hotarucon.co.uk.

21 Nov ● **DarkFest 9** (cult horror films), Genesis Cinema, 93-95 Mile End Road, London. *Now £45 reg.* See infinitymagazine.co.uk/shop/.

31 Jul 2027 ● **Northern Horizon** (*Blake's 7*), Copthorne Hotel, Newcastle. £22.50; 'VIP' £75. See nufcmatters.co.uk/shop/.

27-31 July 2028 ● **Aussiecon5** (Worldcon), Brisbane, Australia. $A330 reg; First Worldcon/First Nations $A250; YA (under 25 at start of convention) $A205; under-18s $A135; under-13s free; virtual TBA. WSFS membership only: $A80. Guests and other details at aussiecon.org.

Rumblings. Eastercon 2026 and the anime-themed HaruhiCon were both very happy to share a venue. Warwick University's double-booking of Kitacon (anime, cosplay) with a touch rugby event in August was less successful. No prizes for guessing which annoyed the other's members with repeated homophobic, transphobic and generally sexist harassment.

Infinitely Improbable

As Others Shun Us. The search for newer and better ways not to say 'science fiction' continues: Emma Hine's debut novel *Flotilla*, in which 'Aboard a flotilla of city-sized spaceships, the remnants of humanity live precarious lives among the stars' is described as a "'sweeping, post-Earth" literary epic'. (*The Bookseller*, 12 August) [LT]

More Awards. *Arthur C. Clarke: When There Are Wolves Again* by E.J. Swift. ● *SF Research Association:* CLARESON AWARD Patrick Sharp. LIFETIME CONTRIBUTIONS TO SF SCHOLARSHIP Istvan Csicsery-Ronay. [F770]

The Churn Factor. 'If it turns out that people are happy to read AI-generated or AI-assisted books, especially in genres like fantasy and sci-fi where readers churn through books at a rapid clip, publishers don't want to cut off a possible revenue stream in a world where those are few and far between.' (Anna Silman, *Wall Street Journal*, 17 August) [SH]

R.I.P. *Reggie Bannister* (1945-2026), US musician and horror actor in *Phantasm* (1979 plus three sequels), *The Obsidian Curse* (2016), *Bonejangles* (2017) and others, died on 9 August aged 80. [SJ] ● *Frank Beard* (1949-2026), US composer and drummer whose many soundtrack credits include *Armageddon* (1998), *Back to the Future III* (1990), *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles III* (1993) and *Ghost Rider* (2007), died on 17 August aged 77. [LP] ● *Aleksandr Belash* (1961-2026), Russian sf author who with his wife Lyudmila Belash wrote 15 novels, died on 17 August. [AM] ● *Eddie Bell*, UK publisher and former chair/CEO of HarperCollins who commissioned Jean M. Auel's *Clan of the Cave Bear* and took a special interest in sf/fantasy/horror – in particular shaping the career of Clive Barker – died

in August aged 77. [SF²C] ● *Ulf Bennetter* (1937-2026), long-time Swedish fan with a large and notable genre book collection, died on 6 August aged 89. [J-HH] ● *Larry Brill*, US co-founder of the horror film magazine *The Monster Times* (1972-1976), died this summer aged 95. [F770] ● *Steven Brower* (1952-2026), US graphic designer and popular culture historian whose books include *Breathless Homicidal Slime Mutants: The Art of the Paperback* (2010) and *Astounding, Mysterious, Weird and True: The Pulp Art of Comic Book Artists* (2013), died on 20 July aged 74. [AIP] ● *Len Brown* (1941-2026), US creative director at Topps Chewing Gum who devised their 1960s *Mars Attacks* collectible card series, died on 11 August aged 84. [AIP] ● *Neville Buchanan*, UK animator whose credits include *Nightbreed* (1990) and who wrote, produced and directed *Forge Neutralization Squad* (2016), died on 11 August aged 66. [SJ] ● *John Crowley* (1942-2026), distinguished US author whose early novels were *The Deep* (1975), *Beasts* (1976) and *Engine Summer* (1976), his magnum opus being the unforgettable fantasy *Little, Big* (1981) – followed by the also remarkable *Ægypt* quartet (1987-2007) and others – died on 8 August aged 83. He received World Fantasy and Mythopoeic awards for *Little, Big*, another WFA for 'Great Work of Time' (1989 novella), the 2006 WFA for life achievement, and a further Mythopoeic for *Ka: Dar Oakley in the Ruin of Ymr* (2017). I admired his work enormously. ● *Peter Cullen* (1941-2026), Canadian/US voice actor best known as Optimus Prime in the *Transformers* franchise (1984-1987 plus many sequels and spinoffs), died on 26 August aged 85. His many other voice roles include *King Kong* (1976), *Gremlins* (1984), *Predator* (1987) and Eeyore in dozens of Winnie-the-Pooh animations. [SJ] ● *Tim Curry* (1946-2026), UK actor who famously starred in *The Rocky Horror Show* (stage 1973, filmed 1975 as *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*), died on 25 August aged 80. His many other genre credits include *Legend* (1985), *It* (1990), *Congo* (1995), *Muppet Treasure Island* (1996), *Addams Family Reunion* (1998) and *Spamalot* (2005). [LP] ● *Jon Cypher* (1932-2026), US actor in *The Food of the Gods* (1976), *Masters of the Universe* (1987), *Spontaneous Combustion* (1989) and genre tv series, died on 3 August aged 94. [SJ] ● *Joel Davis* (1934-2026), US publisher who with his father Bernie (the Davis of Ziff-Davis) founded Davis Publications – which launched *Isaac Asimov's SF Magazine* in 1977 – died on 11 July aged 92. [AIP] ● *Didier Decoin* (1945-2026), French author who co-scripted the Wells-based *La Merveilleuse Visite* (1974), died on 5 August aged 81. [AM] ● *Shelley Fabares* (1944-2026), US actress in genre tv series from *Captain Midnight* (1955) to DC animations (1996-2006 as Martha Kent) – also *The Canterville Ghost* (1985) – died on 22 August aged 82. [SG/LP] ● *Nick Glennie-Smith* (1951-2026), UK composer/conductor with soundtrack credits for *Highlander: Endgame* (2000), *Pirates of the Caribbean* (2003), *Ella Enchanted* (2004), *Laura's Star* (2004), *Thunderbirds* (2004), *A Sound of Thunder* (2005) and many more, died on 17 August aged 74. [SJ] ● *Cheryl Hall* (1950-2026), UK actress in genre tv series including *Doctor Who* ('Carnival of Monsters', 1973), died on 9 August aged 76. [SG] ● *Justin Hardy* (1964-2026), UK film-maker whose credits as director and/or writer include *The Last Dragon* (2004), *Children of the Wicker Man* (2024 documentary) and *Wrath of the Gods* (2026), died on 31 July aged 61. [SJ] ● *Scott Hylands* (1943-2026), Canadian actor in *Earth II* (1971), *Earthquake* (1974), *V* (2009-2011), *Beyond the Black Rainbow* (2010), *Rememory* (2017) and others, died on 29 July aged 83. [SJ] ● *John Irvin* (1940-2026), UK director of *Haunted* ('Ferryman' segment, 1974) and the Straub-based *Ghost Story* (1981), died on 11 August aged 86. [SJ] ● *Rick Katze* (1944-2026), long-time NESFA fan, a Fellow of NESFA since 1980, who worked on many Worldcons and Boskones (of which he chaired three) and edited numerous books for NESFA Press, died on 27 August aged 81. [BV] ● *R.J. Kizer* (1952-2026), US sound/film editor – for Roger Corman movies, *Arachnophobia* (1990) and many more – and director of *Godzilla 1985* (1985, US footage) and *Hell Comes to Frogtown* (1988), died in August aged 73. [SJ] ● *David Kopaska-Merkel* (1957-2026), Rhysling-winning US genre poet honoured as SF Poetry Association Grand Master in 2017, died on 26 August aged 69. [F770] ● *Phyllida Law* (1932-2026), UK actress in *The Time Machine* (2002), *Tooth* (2004), *Mee-Shee: The Water Giant* (2005), *Nanny McPhee* (2005) and genre series including *Stig of the Dump* (2002), died on 27 July aged 94. [AIP/SG] ● *Ronnie Le Drew* (1947-2026), UK puppeter who operated Zippy in *Rainbow* (495 episodes 1980-1992), with further credits for *Labyrinth* (1986), *The Muppet Christmas Carol* (1992), *Muppet Treasure Island* (1996) and *Beauty and the Beast* (2017), died on 27 July aged 78. ● *John F. Link* (1935-2026), US film editor for *Chosen Survivors* (1974), *The Bermuda Triangle* (1979), *Starflight One* (1983), *Predator* (1987), *Steel* (1997) and others, died on 9 August aged 91. [SJ] ● *Jean Lodge* (1927-2026), UK actress in *Dick Barton Strikes Back* (1949), *Curse of the Voodoo* (1965) and *Invasion* (1966), died on 5 August aged 99. [SJ] ● *Fulvio Lucisano* (1928-2026), Italian producer of *Planet of the Vampires* (1965), *Dr. Goldfoot and the Girl Bombs* (1966), *The Night Child* (1975), the *Addams Family* rip-off *Una famiglia mostruosa* (2021) and many more, died on 18 August aged 98. [SJ] ● *Roger McKenzie* (1950-2026), US comics writer who worked for Warren (*Creepy*, *Eerie*, *Vampirella*), DC (*House of Mystery*, *House of Secrets* etc.), Marvel (in particular *Daredevil* with Frank Miller) and others, died on 21 August aged 75. [SJ] ● *Silvia Monti* (1946-2026), Italian actress in *Queens of Evil* (1970), *A Lizard in a Woman's Skin* (1971) and others, died on 12 August aged 80. [SJ] ● *Will Murray* (1953-2026), US author and historian of pulp-fiction heroes who wrote many new Doc Savage novels as by Kenneth Robeson, continued the sagas of The Destroyer, The Shadow and Tarzan, published related nonfiction and co-created Squirrel Girl for comics, died on 25 August aged 73. [MM] ● *Dave Nee* (1953-2026), US fan, APA contributor and book dealer who co-founded the California bookshop The Other Change of Hobbit in 1977, died on 6 August aged 73. [GG] ● *Hayden Panettiere* (1989-2026), US singer and actress in *A Bug's Life* (1998), *Dinosaur* (2000), *Heroes* (75 episodes 2006-2010) and others, died on 16 August aged 36. [MR] ● *Dolly Parton* (1946-2026), US country music legend with many genre soundtrack credits, died on 25 August aged 80. She was an important backer of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and acted in *Unlikely Angel* (1996), *Gnomeo & Juliet* (2011), *Dollywood's A Christmas Carol* (2013) and others. [LP] ● *Vincent Pastore* (1946-2026), US *Sopranos* actor in *Shark Tale* (2004), *The Zombie Wedding* (2023) and others, died on 1 August aged 80. ● *Sara M. Paul* (1948-2026), US fan active since the 1970s, librarian, and staff volunteer at innumerable Worldcons, died on 31 July. [BH] ● *Aleksandr Preobrazhensky* (1959-2026), Russian author of the YA sf novel *Golosa trekh mirov* (*Voices of Three Worlds*, 2001), died on 17 July. [AM] ● *George Ternent*, UK fan who was a regular at Eastercons and Novacons, died on 14 August. [PV] ● *Natalia Trubnikova* (1955-2026), Russian ballerina and actress in the Priestley-based fantasy tv musical *31 iyunya* (*The Thirty-First of June*, 1978), died on 10 August aged 71. [AM] ● *Yuri Tsurilo* (1946-2026), Russian actor who starred in the Strugatsky-based *Trudno byt bogom* (*Hard to Be a God*, 2013), the Gogol-based *Viy* (2014) and others, died on 26 August aged 79. [AM] ● *Peggy Webber* (1925-2026), US actress in *The Screaming Skull* (1958), *The Space Children* (1958) and genre series including *The Smurfs* (1983-1984), died on 15 August aged 100. [LP] ● *Batya Weinbaum* (1952-2026), US feminist, academic and author, the founding editor of *Femspec* in 1999, whose books include *The Island of Floating Women* (1994), died on 8 June aged 74. [TR] ● *Michael Wright* (1956-2026), US actor in *The Moonstone Gem* (1983), *V* (1983-1985) and *D'Curse* (2013), died on 19 August aged 70. [SJ]

The Weakest Link. *Q:* 'In a fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen, a princess is unable to sleep because she feels which legume under her pile of mattresses?' *A:* 'The Blue Legume.' (BBC1**,** *The Weakest Link*) [PE]

Health News. Bruce Gillespie tripped, fell, broke his left wrist and needs to spend many weeks recovering at home. [LE] ● Gary Westfahl also had a bad fall on 17 August, leading to neck fractures; he is back home but must wear a neck brace for 6-8 weeks. All sympathy to both.

The Dead Past. *30 Years Ago:* 'Newt Gingrich's ghosted sf novel *1945* failed to become a US best-seller, with 81% returns and 97,000 copies now clogging the warehouse shelves. Mighty publisher Jim Baen swiftly turned this to good account and guaranteed himself national US coverage from Newt-haters ... by announcing that the books might well be pulped and become, ultimately, toilet paper.' (*Ansible* 110, September 1996)

Outraged Letters. *Ramsey Campbell* on the Penguinization (see *A469*) of both our names: 'I have to say worse has befallen my name before now. The chairman of a book group (I forget where) once introduced me as Ramsay MacDonald.' (Email, 1 August)

Thog's Masterclass. *Neat Tricks.* 'I'm watching through clenched teeth!' (Chris Boyde, ITV4 sports commentary) [PE] ● *Red-Eye Diagnosis.* 'The eyes were soft and receptive but for all that of the delicate strength and colour that comes from abnormal intellect. He noted the pupils, black, glowing, of great size, almost filling the iris and the whole melting into intensity that verged into red. Either the man had been long without sleep or he was one of unusual intelligence and vitality.' (Austin Hall & Homer Eon Flint, *The Blind Spot*, 1921 [magazine], 1951 [book]) ● *Logic Dept.* 'There were but two solutions; either the professor had been a victim of a clever rogue, or he had been overcome by the rashness of his own wisdom.' (*Ibid*)

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