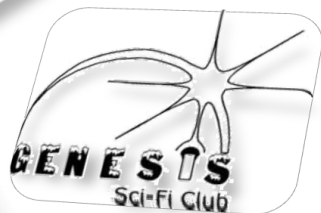


THE **GENESIS**

MATRIX

(ReBooted)

The Magazine Of
Genesis Sci-Fi
December 2013



HAPPY SMEGGING CHRISTMAS, DUDES!



**Chairman:**

Paul Russell

Vice Chairman

David Offen-James

Treasurer:

Matthew Greet

Events Secretary:

Paul Belsey

Membership Secretary:

Louise Stanley

Honorary President:

Jeremy Bulloch

Website:

www.genesis-sf.org.uk

E-Mail:

info@genesis-sf.org.uk

**December 2013****Design & Editing:**

Jeremy Ogden

Contributors:

David Offen-James

Jeremy Ogden

Andrew Read

Paul Russell

Louise Stanley

All sources acknowledged, we own nothing. No infringement intended, no money made etc etc.

—
KEEP CALM

AND

DON'T HIT BADGERS WITH
SPOONS

GOLD CHANNEL

Well, that's another year gone by, and what can I say? Well, for one this being semi-retired is a lot harder work then I had planned it to be! But then I did have the choice of working or not working and I choice unwisely these last couple of months, but as I write things are settled down and I am **RELAXED**, honest. So, now on to the club, and first off a huge thank you to the rest of the *Committed* for last months quiz and programme and congratulations to the winners of said quiz.

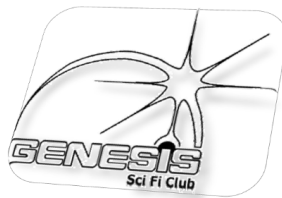
This month we have Rob choosing the programme, and setting the quiz, so expect some anime, and some weird stuff as well.

One thing that I know Jeremy is always asking for is articles for this magazine, well can I go further (unusual for me I know to push it) but Jeremy is looking to take a break for a while from editing said magazine so please send him lots of bits and pieces, or even volunteer to take over for a month, maybe when your doing the programme and quiz?? I know how much fun it can be after doing just the one (Mrs Wembley) last year, so I am looking forward to doing the same in the new year a couple of times.

Just a thought, if your themeing your programme, which helps, then try to mix it up a little. Yes, we all love the classics, and not all of us have access to huge amounts of data-sharing but throw something new into the mix if you can, Google, Tweet, Facebook, which ever floats your boat, find something new to fit the bill. Remember, the "*committed*" can normally find almost anything, (*usually by asking Paul – Ed*), so name it and we shall endeavour to get a hold of it for you if you can't.

This is me swanning off

Prus
Chairperkin



Club Events For Your Diary



Post-Christmas Meal Friday 27th December, Longbridge Mill, Sherfield On Loddon.

Our traditional post-Christmas gathering. Table will be booked for 1.00 pm, food to be ordered at 2.00.

MEETING DATES UP TO END OF 2014

	Pub Meeting	Book Club	Main meeting	Program/ Quiz
December / January	27th December (Post Christmas Meal, Longbridge Mill)	4th January	12th January	Louise Stanley
January/ February	30th January	1st February	9th February (AGM)	Paul Russell
February/ March	27th February	1st March	9th March	Robert Green
March/ April	27th March	29th March	6th April	David & Susan Offen-James
April/ May	24th April	26th April	4th May	Paul Belsey
May/ June	22nd May	24th May	1st June	Steve Brice
June	19th June	21st June	29th June	Matthew Greet
July	17th July	19th July	27th July	Paul Russell
August	14th August	16th August	24th August	Cari Thomas
September	11th September	13th September	21st September	Peter Taylor
October	9th October	11th October	19th October	Rob Green
October/ November	30th October	8th November	9th November	Antony Walls
December	4th December	6th December	14th December	The Committee

Pub meetings are at The Swan in Sherbourne St John.

The Genesis Book Club is at South Ham Library, Basingstoke, from 10.00 am to mid-day.

DOCTOR WHO: THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY THE FINAL ANALYSIS

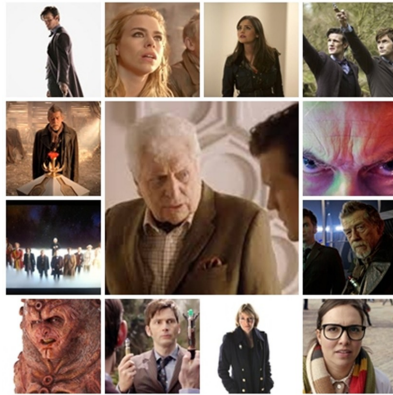
As the dust settles on the 50th Anniversary of *Doctor Who*, what impact did the celebrations have in the real world and for the Doctor's future on screen?

The anniversary episode *The Day of the Doctor* was simul-cast on TV in 3D, in 75 countries, and in over 1500 cinemas Worldwide. It earned more than £1.7 million (\$2.9 million) from its 450 locations on the day in Britain. It earned £126,133 (\$204,000) from US screenings and also performed well in Germany with £196,000 in cinema takings. The *Doctor Who* special falls under the Event Cinema category comprised of live opera, sports, concerts and other alternative broadcasts that don't play in cinemas seven days a week. Event Cinema accounts for £20 million a year in box office receipts. Box office figures show it was beaten only by *Hunger Games* sequel *Catching Fire* and space drama *Gravity*.

The original overnight figures suggested that the UK television broadcast of the episode, was seen by 10.2m, with a peak of 10.6 million, *Doctor Who*'s highest overnight ratings since 2010. New consolidated figures show 12.8m people saw *The Day of the Doctor* on BBC One, including 2.9m iPlayer requests, making it 2013's most-watched drama. It also set a new BBC iPlayer record for getting the most requests in 24 hours, 1.27m - beating the Olympic opening ceremony's

previous high.

The special was simulcast around the world, screening in cinemas across 94 countries, and breaking the record for the largest worldwide TV drama simulcast. The US broadcast of *The Day of the Doctor* was watched by an average of 2.4 million, a record for BBC America. Despite having a Saturday afternoon slot in the US, the show achieved BBC America's best ratings, with a peak time repeat upping the total to 3.6m.



The show has been airing on BBC America since 2008. According to *Variety*, it previously drew its largest audience with the seventh season premiere in September 2012, which was watched by 1.55m viewers, which rose to 2.47m later that week when on-demand viewings were included

in the figures. It also broke a record by attracting an average audience of 838,000 viewers - the best ratings for a series launch on the network.

A variety of extra programs broadcast across the BBC to celebrate the anniversary, including the fantastic docu-drama *An Adventure In Space and Time*, written by Mark Gatiss, and starring David Bradley as William Hartnell. This and the mini-episode *The Night of the Doctor*, which finally brought back Paul McGann as the Eighth Doctor were among the best received of the 'extra' anniversary programs, although

the *Doctor Who: The After-Party*, on BBC Three, scaled the depths of the embarrassed and the embarrassing, as witless Zoe Ball and tactless Nick Grimshaw blundered their way through a cringe-worthy and ill-conceived post-episode 'party' which frankly would have made Mick Fleetwood and Sam Fox, circa the Brit Awards, 1989, hold their heads in shame.

Away from the main show there was widespread acclaim for the return of the Eighth Doctor in *The Night of the Doctor*, which was released on-line slightly earlier than expected due to the fears about the episode being leaked.

And of course there was the extra half-hour *The Five(ish) Doctors Rebooted*, which featured extended roles for Peter Davison (as himself), Colin Baker (as himself) and Sylvester McCoy (as himself), the three actors who didn't get

official roles in the anniversary celebrations were not left out, and there were cameos and guest appearances aplenty to accompany them to Cardiff and beyond. Certainly it cast a new light on the Corsham event last year when Colin Baker was seen gazing wistfully at his phone and replied 'alas, no' when asked if he'd had any calls from Steven Moffat regarding the then upcoming anniversary.....

Meanwhile, the brief glimpse of Peter Capaldi and Tom Baker's cameo as 'The Curator' have set the rumour mills churning, and tongues wagging in anticipation of this year's Christmas Special, next year's series and the direction things will take from now on, not to mention the identity of Baker's mysterious character.

Jeremy Ogden

Source: *The Internet*

NEW X-MEN FILM TO BE RELEASED IN 2016

A new X-Men film has been announced for release in 2016.

X-Men: Apocalypse will be the eighth film in the superhero franchise, which includes two *Wolverine* spin-off movies.

Bryan Singer, who directed the first two films in the franchise, the first of which was released in 2000, hinted about the project on Twitter before it was confirmed by Fox that it would be released on 27 May 2016.

The new movie will focus on *Apocalypse*, an ancient Egyptian villain who first appeared in the Marvel comics in 1986. It is set to be released in the same week as *Alice in Wonderland 2* and two weeks before *The Amazing Spider-Man 3*.

The next X-Men movie, *Days of Future Past*, will be released on 23 May 2014, starring Sir Ian McKellen, Sir Patrick Stewart, Hugh Jackman and James McAvoy. Jennifer Lawrence will also appear in the movie.

The X-Men franchise has grossed more than \$2 billion (£1.2bn) worldwide, including the *Wolverine* spin-offs.

Source: *bbc.co.uk*





STAR WARS: ANGRY BIRDS

— —

ATTACK OF THE GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING



Important Announcement: This is an Official Government Health Warning.

It has been scientifically proven that minimal exposure to *Star Wars: Angry Birds* is more addictive than any known Class "A" drug, and will result in the loss of any sense of time, work, or sleep, leading to a complete lack of cognitive function (and noticeable lack of personnel hygiene). A petition has been made to have the game banned on Health and Safety grounds. Thankfully, support groups are becoming more and more available, especially for those unfortunate enough to already be afflicted. However, it has also got enough addictive power to silence war zones, and as such, does have the dubious honour to be the first computer game to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.



Ok, now that's out of the way, what about the game. Well for a start, it's a free download for pretty much any device. I'm sure that most, if not all of you have seen it by now (but I'll describe it anyway, as Jeremy really needs to fill the magazine somehow!)

You may be confused at how a confirmed technophobe like me can be drawn to write about, of all things, a computer game. Well the key is the games simplicity. It grabs you also, because of the quality and smoothness of it's graphics (remember, the last time I played computer games was about 1987)

combined with a very tongue in cheek comic style, that at times, made me laugh out loud. It also brings out a competitive streak because despite being a very simple premise, its actual play is really quite challenging. All the classic *Star Wars* characters are represented, and have unique abilities within the game. Whether it's Luke's light-sabre swing, or Chewbacca's smashing everything out of the way with brute force.

The aim is to achieve 3-star clearances on every level. If you clear a level, it unlocks the next one, but 3 starring all the levels opens bonus levels that are otherwise unavailable. You do this, by firing your characters from a catapult, and aiming them to land on the evil pig forces of the Empire. In the process, you have to dodge laser fire, hit moving targets, and sometimes try to hit special bonus items that appear on certain levels (hitting some of Bobba Fett's backpacks and some of the golden eggs is really difficult).

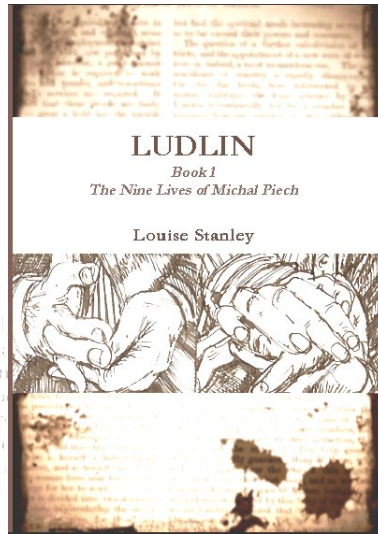
There are lots of options to buy add-ons for the game, but this really isn't necessary, and the extras that you can buy actually lessen the game's appeal, as it takes some of the challenge away.

In conclusion I really like this game, and would recommend it to anyone. It's totally absorbing, and is easily the best thing that I've ever downloaded.

Just remember that Government Health Warning.

Vice ChairGerkin

THE NINE LIVES OF MICHAL PIECH
Book 1
LUDLIN
BY LOUISE STANLEY
AVAILABLE NOW ON KINDLE AND LULU



For more information and sample chapters please see
www.louise-stanley.co.uk and www.facebook.com/ninelivesofmichalpiech

Thrust into an unfamiliar world after an unfortunate encounter with a phony philanthropist, Michal Piech must piece together a new life of blood, sweat and tears.

This is the beginning of a new steampunk fantasy saga set in the decadent Insulan Empire, teetering on the brink of a magical and industrial apocalypse. Squabbling political factions and nationalities are bringing disorder to the streets, and there can only be a handful who prosper from such confrontations.

The first trilogy is set in and around the city of Ludlin, a bustling port city full of louche aristocrats, gentleman swindlers and an impoverished lower order. Michal must choose sides in order to survive and conquer his own inner demons - and a few outer ones as well.

ARMADACON: THE CONVENTIONING

*A Review of ArmadaCon 25, By Louise Stanley,
Winner of the 'Worst Horse Jokes Ever' Award 2013*

I've always enjoyed holidays that involved a group of friends or classmates going away to a hotel, getting up to hijinks and spending lots of money.

Armadacon is held in the Future Inn, Plymouth, and apart from regular trips over the road to an assortment of greasy fast-food and sandwich shops because the hotel restaurant ran out of scampi halfway through Saturday, we didn't really need to leave it over the whole weekend.

Conventions are fab. This year's Armadacon appeared to be busy, but unfortunately there was a lack of specific panels. It was much more heavily writing-dominated than last years, with a number of authors on hand with their books and writing discussions, but a lack of interesting Powerpoint presentations on 'Diseases You Will Never Meet' and real-world implications of science fiction tropes. Frances Hardinge did the same panel twice, and while what she had to say was interesting the first time, obviously in repeats it got a little boring and I wonder who pulled out at short notice that she had to step in again to cover (*Actually it was Neill Gorton, Doctor Who prosthetics guru from*

Millennium FX, whose absence was due to having just been offered work on a film - Ed)

Mitch Benn was the highlight of the convention. After the close, he did a set of comic songs, some related to sci-fi, others involving inflatable Stone Henges, bouncy druids and the good old Beeb. His book panel was interesting, but unfortunately I found



his book veered a little too far into 'humans are bad and ugly and evil and we're all doomed!' for me. Which is a shame, because it's nicely presented and well-written.

However, despite the lacklustre content, as always, there were some madcap hijinks awaiting. One of the major advantages of a small 'family' con is that it's a chance for the same people to meet up year after year and catch up. There was a new addition to the team who was naught but a bump last year (welcome on board, Dorothy 'Ace' Nicholls!) and the usual (*male shudder*) - Ed suspects who dressed up as Bunny Girls for charity. Rumour has it that next year they may go back to being shot with nerf guns as by comparison it is a far more enjoyable experience.

The Masquerade was my personal

triumph, because I managed to get up on stage and tell three jokes without fainting. It's an all-must-have-prizes affair – with a prize of free entry to next year's convention for the best newbie – but it's a cabaret, open-mic night and chance to make an ass of oneself in public all rolled into one. (No, seriously, an ass. My costume was My Little Pony-meets-Eeyore-behind-Tesco's-deli-counter. The ass jokes were what I won my prize for).

Yours Truly volunteered for the Turkey Readings, a charity auction where people bid for people to read bad sci-fi literature and others (*although sometimes the same people* – Ed) bid for them to stop. There are a few staples of the Reading, and a number of different books in the bag. My choice was an awful She-Ra Ladybird book, the authors obviously

not really understanding which age-range it was targeted at. You'd think an evil warrior princess with a big pink pussy-cat (the interestingly-named Catra) would have better things to do than spoil someone's surprise birthday party by ...TELLING THEM ABOUT IT (MUAHAHAHAHA – evil laughs ahoy). And then she ends posed in a far more provocative manner than you'd expect for a Lady Bird book. I have a hard time believing anyone thought this picture appropriate for pre-teenage girls. I guess this is also why we have third-wave feminism). I had tech wire up

a camera to give people a glimpse of the awful thing, as well as a rather porcine looking Swiftwind – a true *pigasus*. We ended up raising £150 for Talking Books for the Blind, though I sincerely hope that picture of Catra won't end up being graphically described to someone who can be spared its awful sight. (It was so fun we got round again before the convention meal and had some more fun just reading the books aloud and then having a quick *w h i p - r o u n d .* Giant pink...errr....felines.....not included.)



A close second to the Turkey Readings as the highlight of the con was the late-night 'Video Vault', beginning with our *Doctor Who: All Stitched Up!* (now up on YouTube), continuing through Barry Quick's now obligatory 'Let's Blow Stuff Up in the Name of Spurious

Demonstrations of Non-CG SFX' video (this year featuring a *Star Trek* wrist communicator, Winnie the Pooh – and Tigger too! –several large slabs of chocolate as body armour (*as a concept it started off promisingly, butdidn't work....* – Ed), high explosives and an airgun) and the archive of previous Armadacon 'Quack' shows, plus a trailer for Plymouth Who's own Anniversary Special story. Barry bought a model donated by model maker extraordinaire Martin Bower in the Charity Auction on the promise he would not simply whack

a stick of pyro inside it and detonate it. He wonders why he has people either desperate for him to buy something to blow up, or why he might not be trusted with something like that for his own collection. You should see some of his videos, in many of which he appears to be channelling the essence of Jeremy Clarkson.

Shameless plug time: I also did a reading of my new book, *Ludlin* (available worldwide on Kindle, UK link <http://amzn.to/1hdt81Q>; there is a sample chapter, though not the one I read, at <http://bit.ly/1euK9zw>). And I'll also give a shout-out to *Winter Squad*, another self-published novel, by John Campbell Rees, a fellow convention

attendee also starting out (see <http://amzn.to/Ijkgbt> for the Kindle version). David Wake was also there promoting his new steampunk series and his standalone *I, Phone* novel (<http://amzn.to/1eDTbLI>).

In summary, I have to say that despite the focus on literature and books this year (which turned out to be a blessing in disguise) it was still a fun trip and well worth £35 of anyone's money. We've signed up for another year, and there's always a Genesis contingent going down that direction if you ever want to join us.

Louise Stanley

Pony Puns



**DOCTOR
WHOoves**

*The First Doctor
Whooves*

William Hoofnail

LOUISE 17.11.13
STANLEY

What I Want For Christmas.....



Lego X-Wing—5 million bricks, 32-person team, 4 month build time.....



Well, we've long know the truth about the TARDIS—"it's a shed...!"



Conventional Wisdom

ArmadaCon 25—
15th, 16th and 17th November 2013

*Mitch
Benn*



Two Masquerade contestant, Frodo Baggins (left) and The Doctor, who had apparently had suffered some sort of intrapersonal timeline convergence meta-crisis, and had rather distressingly become Australian as a side-effect!



The Master ("If you want someone to be evil, just find a Frenchman"), and "Silent" Benton with his accomplices Dorothy "Ace" Nicholls and Jemma.



*Bad Photography By
Jeremy Ogden*

*Good photography (The
Dalek / Scalextric picture)
Otaku Scalextric.*

*Screenshot: Copyright
Infringement Productions*



You really don't want to know what Barry had just done to Pooh Bear in the name of entertainment....



Frances Hardinge



"Accelerate! Accelerate!"



Starfleet Lieutenant Moneypenny captures the action.



The quantum physics talk wasn't the only thing liable to fry your cortex....

ARMADACON 25

A TALE OF THREE DOCTORS

MY VIEWING MARATHON—SO FAR

One VCR. One DVD Player. One CD Player. One viewer. Eleven Doctors. Several years.

My 'Watch The Whole of *Doctor Who*' Viewing Marathon began a long time ago and has, now reached the end of Jon Pertwee's penultimate season.

Fine And Dandy

I have to admit I approached the Pertwee era with a slight trepidation, because although I'd seen quite a few stories of his, I'd never really completely warmed to his Doctor. I need not have worried, because at the point I'm at now, I've grown to like his portrayal of the Doctor as a slightly straight talking, sometimes slightly pompous, but quite dynamic action orientated Doctor, who shares a close, sometimes mentoring relationship with his companions and has a worldly-wisdom and razor sharp, peace-loving intelligence behind the slightly eccentric outward appearance.

And generally, although some of his stories seem a little over-long and padded, his era contains some of the best stories I've seen on my marathon so far. *Spearhead From Space* is an incredibly daft but very entertaining debut story. *The Mind of Evil*, in which his arch nemesis The Master is introduced for the first time is also excellent. *Inferno* is a terrific story from any era of the show, *The Claws of Axos* is four episodes of trippy entertainment and the moral wrestling of *The Silurians* and *The Sea Devils* make them both very good stories. *The Three Doctors*, the tenth anniversary story from 1973, was greatly enjoyable –



The Mighty Trout in colour was great to see, and the Brigadier's reaction to all the sinister goings-on, which was basically to go into deep denial (he may as well have stuck his fingers in his ears and gone "la la la, not listening!") was very entertaining. There is some silliness as well. *The Daemons* is occasionally somewhat daft and should really have been called *Doctor Who and the Morris Dancers of Doom*, and *The Time*

Monster...I think I explained about that one a couple of issues back. Six episodes of mind-boggling silliness which left me wondering what kind of cheese the writer had eaten the evening before dreaming up most of it. And *Carnival Of Monsters*...I saw this alleged classic on VHS a number of years ago, and had been deeply impressed by the levels of stupidity a series I love as much as *Doctor Who* could actually reach. I really don't have much of a clue as to what people see in this story. It doesn't improve with age and there is only one story I'm dreading having to watch more than I dreaded *Carnival of Monsters* – the day I have to endure *Delta and the Bannermen* is going to be a long one. But despite this blip, from the Pertwee era there is much more to like than dislike.

I should mention the part played in the

Third Doctor's life by UNIT who became a major part of the show during the Pertwee era. Nicholas Courtney, John Levine and Richard Franklin, along with the Third Doctor's companions Liz Shaw, Jo Grant and later, Sarah Jane Smith (I haven't reached her episodes yet) were basically the Doctor's adopted family in the show. Seeing UNIT-based stories is always good, and the strong relationship, even if it is sometimes somewhat strained, between the Doctor and Brigadier Alistair Gordon Lethbridge-Stewart is for me, one of the highlights of any era of the show.

The relationship between the Doctor and The Master came to define the era, but as much as I loved Roger Delgado's portrayal of Moriarty to the Doctor's Holmes, I did think his appearances were a bit...frequent. But that's just a minor quibble, offset by the brilliance of the characters involved.

Now, *Planet of the Daleks*. This was probably the fourth time I have ever watched this story, and this, unlike *Carnival of monsters*, definitely does improve with age and repeat viewings. It's a six-parter, but unlike other stories of that length it doesn't really feel too long. This was written by Terry Nation, and Terry Nation writing for the Daleks always improved things somewhat – this story gave the feeling that there was somehow much more jeopardy for the Doctor, and there was much more at stake, and ranks near the top of the ones I've seen so far.

As of the time of writing, the last story I had watched was the last story in Pertwee's fourth season, *The Green Death*. Now, I had very low expectations

for this story because on my previous viewing I hadn't liked it much. I was expecting an overly padded moral-clad story with bad special effects and added "eeewww" factor courtesy of badly realised giant maggots. I'm pleased to say that my pre-conceptions were largely wrong. Another six-parter, but this again, doesn't feel like an over-long story. The giant maggots very much do add the "eeewww" factor, but actually they are not half as bad as I feared. There is a degree of moralising, but it is sufficiently woven into the story to not



make it overpowering, and there are also some great moments of humour—the Doctor disguised as a milkman, manages to get a Co-Op milk float to achieve 'ramming speed'!

And I had forgotten about the ending, perhaps the first true example of the Doctor turning his back on family ties and realising that 'everybody leaves'. The farewell engagement party for Cliff and Jo at the end of the story is beautifully written, acted and shot. Very understated, yet for Doctor Who, quite an emotionally charged scene. I think this story represented the Doctor/Jo/UNIT relationship at the height of its power, and this particular combination certainly went out on a high as the Doctor drives across the horizon in Bessie, the sun setting in the background and the scene fading away into the credits and the music. A superb ending.



But never fear – soon there will be a new series and a new companion on board. Doctor Who *will* return....

Jeremy Ogden

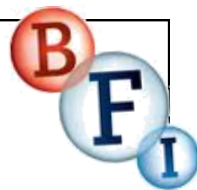


FRESH PERSPECTIVES

AN ENGLISHMEN ABROAD:

THE DOCTOR WHO TV MOVIE BFI SCREENING

As part of the 50th Anniversary celebrations, the Doctor Who TV Movie recently received a special screening at the British Film Institute...



As part of the 50th anniversary year celebrations, the British Film Institute (BFI)'s National Film Theatre (NFT) on London's South Bank has been holding a season of screenings of Doctor Who stories, one Doctor every month, followed by interview panels featuring some of the stars and production staff of that story. To say that these have been popular is an understatement. When I tried to phone up and book a ticket for the first two screenings, I discovered that they'd been sold out within 5 minutes. Thankfully, being aware of the massive demand, the BFI then introduced a ticket draw system for members, which is very fair and ensures all members have a fair crack of the whip.

Despite applying for a ticket each month after that, I thought my name was never going to get drawn, until I was lucky enough to be successful in getting a seat at the October screening of the 1996 film starring Paul McGann in his one-off TV appearance as Doctor Who. Well, possibly one-off - who knows (at the time of writing) what will happen in the 50th Anniversary Special? (Or mini-episode prequels? - Ed)

The event was held in the largest NFT auditorium, NFT1, and was pretty packed. Things kicked off with the first of two interview panels. This one covered the end of the original series in 1989, plus "the wilderness years".

Andrew Cartmel, the script editor of the Sylvester McCoy stories explained that the series was never actually formally cancelled in dramatic style, it just petered out. He also mentioned some of the plans for what would have been the 1990 series. It would have been Sylvester McCoy's swansong, and Ace would have left too in the first story, to be replaced by a posh girl who also happened to be a safe-cracker!

The rest of the guests included Nicholas Briggs, Gary Russell and Justin Richards - key players in the book and audio adventures range, plus *Doctor Who Magazine* (which I've religiously read since the very first issue - what was then *Doctor Who Weekly* - back in 1979. Doesn't half make me feel old saying that!) that helped keep the flame of



Doctor Who alive over the 16 years when the programme was off air. Their general consensus was that although *Doctor Who* had finished on the telly, somehow it didn't matter, because they'd accepted it had gone, and they were just getting on with telling new stories. They'd been concerned that the return of the TV series in 2005 would kill demand for adventures on CD and in books, but quite the contrary - they're still going strong.

After that, the film itself was shown. I hadn't seen it since the original transmission in 1996, and I have to say



that I wasn't massively impressed at the time. It was entertaining enough, and I thought Paul McGann was a good Doctor but it didn't feel quite right. Too American. I'm more impressed with it now, as there are many good elements to it other than McGann. It was nice to see Sylvester McCoy back for his brief handover. The delayed regeneration with its parallels to the Frankenstein film being viewed by the mortuary attendant is an excellent touch. Daphne Ashbrook is refreshing as Dr Grace Holloway, because it does make a nice change for the sidekick to be a bit older than the norm. Eric Roberts' performance is over the top, fun, and of course he does some very nasty things. The nastiest of all breaking the neck of the wife of the ambulanceman whose body the Master stole. Now that we've had John Simm's very different portrayal of the Master, Eric Roberts' Master doesn't seem quite so way out.

Although I've re-appraised it, I still maintain my original opinion on the whole – it's very entertaining in its own right, but it doesn't feel like *Doctor Who*. Things like car chases with screaming tyres belong in American cop shows, not in our beloved daft old show!

The second interview panel featured the Eighth Doctor himself, along with Daphne Ashbrook and the director of the film, Geoffrey Sax. Some of this is available to watch on YouTube – search for "Doctor Who: The Movie Q&A". *(The link will be posted to the forum on the club website in the next day or so – Ed)*. So I won't go into detail here – watch and enjoy for yourselves.

The event lasted for well over 3 hours, so at £9.50, it was excellent value for money. Thinking that I'd only be going to one of the screenings, I was even more fortunate to also get a ticket for the 11th Doctor event in December. Although because of the demand, it's likely that mostly only BFI members will be able to attend, stand-by tickets will be available on the day. So if you're in London on 8th December, it's well worth popping down to the NFT to see if you can get a last-minute ticket.

Andrew Read

AND NOW, WE PRESENT, BACK FOR ONE MONTH ONLY.....SEVYLON 5!



RASA



by Louise Stanley

Have a great Christmas and a happy 2014, and see you back here on 12th January.....

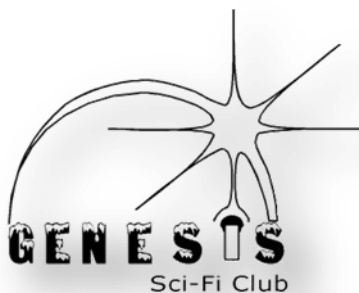


David

Paul

Louise

Paul



Matt