

**NEUTRAL ZONE  
SCI-FI NORTH EAST**

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**August 2007 - Something Else**

**11th** - Newcastle Meet at [Benwell Library](#) 11:00 until 4:30pm

**18th** - Darlington Meet - 12:00pm until 4:00pm

**September 2007 -**

**8th** - Newcastle Meet at [Benwell Library](#) 11:00 until 4:30pm

**15th** - Darlington Meet - 12:00pm until 4:00pm

**October 2007 - Halloween Party**

**13th** - Newcastle Meet at [Benwell Library](#) 11:00 until 4:30pm

**20th** - Darlington Meet - 12:00pm until 4:00pm

**November 2007— Dimensions**

**10th** - Newcastle Meet at the Dimensions Convention in Washington [www.tenthplanet.co.uk/dimensions/](http://www.tenthplanet.co.uk/dimensions/)

**17th** - Darlington Meet 12:00pm until 4:00pm

# STAR TREK

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Anyway, I won't be there at the September meeting due to my little girls 1st birthday celebration.

October sees the usual Halloween Bash so don't forget your spooky food and other stuff. Edible Spiders? Bugs? Bugs in Lollies? I did eat them last year but they weren't real.

November sees the Benwell meeting relocated to the Washington Holiday Inn for some convention frolics at Dimensions.

Finishing the year will be the usual Xmas party.

We've heard from the Benwell library that some point in the future they will be moving so we may have to look for yet another venue. Keep yours eyes open.



August 2007

# SCI-FI NORTH EAST Neutral Territory

*Latest:*

- The first pictures of Donna and the Doctor have appeared on the Who website at [www.bbc.co.uk/doctorwho](http://www.bbc.co.uk/doctorwho), check them out.
- Other stuff over there includes an amazing insight into the designs of the last series. The laser screwdriver looks like it was inspired by a spark plug.
- Hope you are all watching Heroes on BBC2.
- It's rumoured that James Nesbitt could be the next Dr. Who, with Steven Moffat taking over from Russell T. No official word as yet.
- They have revealed who will be playing Spock in the new Star Trek Movie. The guy is Zachary Quinto, who you may/may not have seen in Heroes.
- Ten New Webisodes of Farscape are to be produced. They will run between 3 and 10 minutes each.

*Site of the Month:*

[www.starshipsofa.com](http://www.starshipsofa.com)  
m—Check out their SF related podcast.

*Who said it?*

“Santa’s a Robot”

*Answer to  
splik@sfne.co.uk*

# Welcome Back!

It's been a while since we had a proper newsletter and no one has yet popped in to take over!! (Any takers?) So I'll just get on with it.

We've got a few things in the pipeline to spice the club up a bit including a podcast; more of that later, conventions, and we've had quite a few guests popping in to see us about various things such as the Sunderland Uni radio show, the Readers of the Lost Art from the Lit and Phil in Newcastle and a few people who read our article in the Newcastle Council newsletter. Word is getting around.

Hopefully we'll have more visitors when we get the podcast up and running on iTunes and anywhere else we can get it put.

The Gamma Quadrant will be out this year, I promise. We're going to have an extra section for all the Xmas articles that were missed off last time. Keep a hold of any articles for the podcast as that will replace the magazine and won't cost anything to print.

I'm interested in hearing if everyone is happy with venues, times, meetings etc. because I'm wondering whether Saturday is a good day for a meeting or would you prefer other days/nights that are more convenient at a different venue.

This meeting is the August summer party, so, lets party on.

Catchalater Keith

## From the Forum/Yahoogleroups

What have we been talking about this month? Good question?

We've been chatting about the forthcoming podcast which seems to be garnering some interest. More down below.

There have been some links to various Star Wars related junk I keep posting to celebrate the 30th Anniversary... no one

has asked me to stop. :-)

Plus a few bits and bobs.

Missing out? To subscribe to the newsletter send an email to : neutral-zone-subscribe@yahoogroups.com and join in the fun.

More fun can be had at the website forum via [www.sfne.co.uk](http://www.sfne.co.uk)

## The Podcast

What is a Podcast some of you may ask? Well, simple enough it's a chat radio show featuring news, reviews, and anything else we feel like chatting about at the time. Think of it like a magazine but without the production costs.

The plan is to record a show at one of the meetings every month. We'll then hopefully link it through iTunes under their TV & Film section and gain some listeners from a worldwide audience. I'm not thinking too big here am I?

I wanted to do something a little different and each episode will be "recorded on location" for example with a hand full of

sound effects in the background we could be recording from the bridge of the Enterprise, or Hoth, or Magraethea (Whale meat included!) It'll add a little spice to the show.

This means that we'll be looking for reviews, news, chat and anything else you'd imagine we could do with a radio show.

We're still looking for ideas for a name for the show, without tying it down to an individual show or film, but have a bit of a SF bent.

If you have ideas, let me know at the meetings or online through the various methods of communication.

## DePressed SF

### Doctor Who: Filming begins on series 4

Doctor Who series four filming is underway with **Catherine Tate** joining the BAFTA award-winning **BBC One** drama series as The Doctor's brand new companion, Donna Noble.

Award-winning actress Tate is reprising her role as Donna, the runaway bride who featured in last year's Doctor Who Christmas special.

The start of the new series will see Donna tracking down the Time Lord during an alien emergency in modern-day London.

The couple are destined to experience a series of wonderful adventures throughout the new series including meeting one of Doctor Who's most popular aliens, The Ood, in a brand new episode, Planet Of The Ood.

Donna and The Doctor – **David Tennant** – will also be travelling through time for an encounter with the legendary murder mystery novelist, Agatha Christie.

Agatha Christie will be played by Jekyll star **Fenella Woolgar** and The Good Life actress **Felicity Kendal** will star as Lady Clemency Eddison, Blackadder and Notting Hill actor **Tim McInerney** will also guest star later in the series.

Doctor Who's executive producer and head writer, **Russell T Davies** comments: "Visiting Agatha Christie has been on my wish-list for ages now and, for the Doctor, it's a real meeting of minds! Viewers can expect many more ambitious storylines and a whole host of guest stars in 2008."

**Mathew Prichard**, Agatha Christie's grandson, comments: "What a brilliant idea that Agatha Christie and Doctor Who should meet! Two characters whose contribution to British entertainment is absolutely unrivalled.

"As far as I know my grandmother, Agatha Christie, never saw Doctor Who, but I am sure she would have been intrigued, excited and above all flattered by all this attention in 2007."

Catherine Tate said: "I am delighted to be returning to Doctor Who. I had a blast last Christmas and look forward to travelling again through time and space with that nice man from Gallifrey."

**Freema Agyeman** who has played Martha Jones, The Doctor's companion throughout the critically acclaimed third series, will return to the show to join The Doctor and Donna mid-series.

The fourth series of Doctor Who will hit BBC One in Spring 2008.

The producer is **Phil Collinson**; Executive producers are Head of Drama, BBC Wales, **Julie Gardner** and Russell T Davies.

Doctor Who is filmed in Cardiff.—*TH*

### Torchwood News

**Torchwood**, the smash-hit thriller drama created by Doctor Who writer **Russell T Davies**, is currently filming for a new series which will be shown on **BBC Two** early next year.

Captain Jack Harkness (**John Barrowman**), Gwen (**Eve Myles**), Owen (**Burn Gorman**), Tosh (**Naoko Mori**) and Ianto (**Gareth David-Lloyd**) return as the close-knit team of investigators solving alien and human crimes as they delve into the underworld of modern day Cardiff.

The high-octane storylines, filmed in and around Cardiff, include Torchwood's encounter with a rogue Time Agent; a tragic time-slip from World War One; and a memory-thief who uncovers long-forgotten secrets among the entire team.

Making a special guest appearance in the first episode is **James Marsters** who starred as Spike, the punk-goth vampire, in Buffy The Vampire Slayer and Angel.

Commenting on his role in Torchwood, James says: "I am a huge fan of Doctor Who and Torchwood so it was me who knocked on their door.

"I am really excited about the character I am playing. I can't say too much about him, except he is naughty and a bit of a psychopath."

Later on in the run **Alan Dale** makes a star appearance. Alan is currently appearing in Ugly Betty as Bradford Meade and he is well known for his roles in The O.C., Lost, The West Wing and as Jim Robinson in the Australian hit soap Neighbours.

He said: "I am thrilled to be working on Torchwood and delighted to be in England again. I am a huge fan of British television drama."

Another familiar face among the surprise guest stars is Doctor Who's gorgeous companion Martha Jones (**Freema Agyeman**) who brings her time-travelling expertise and medical skills to the team halfway through the series.

She says: "I'm really looking forward to working with the Torchwood team and can't wait to start filming.

"It's a huge new challenge and a wonderful opportunity to develop and expand the character of Martha Jones."

Russell T Davies said: "Filming is well underway in Cardiff, and we're aiming to make the show bigger and bolder than ever, as we move to our new home on BBC Two.

"It's too early to start giving things away, but we've got some amazing guest stars, fearsome new aliens, and compelling new storylines that will push the Torchwood team further than ever before."

The 13-part series is written by **Chris Chibnall**, **Catherine Tregenna**, **Helen Raynor**, **James Moran**, **Joseph Lidster**, **Peter J Hammond**, **JC Wilsher** and **Matt Jones**.

Created by Davies, with Chris Chibnall as co-producer and lead writer, the first series, which aired on **BBC Three** last year, achieved the channel's highest ever ratings – with an audience of 2.5 million for the first episode.

Torchwood is executive produced by Russell T Davies and **Julie Gardner**, Head of Drama in BBC Wales. The producer is **Richard Stokes**.

*BR/LS2*

