

# Year Review

It is a bit unsatisfactory to write about this year in the Doctor Who Society when there is still a term of it to go but I feel it makes more sense if the article appears in this issue than in the Michaelmas issue.

Obviously one of the most recurring memories of the year will be the idiosyncratic behaviour of the video recorder that radio rentals so kindly replaces every two to three weeks - each time the things break down. You will be pleased to hear the committee is seriously thinking of attempting to purchase a new, working video for the society (hopefully in conjunction with the Star Trek Society). In the meantime the occasionally separate existence of the top quarter of the screen will have to be put up with, it certainly added an extra surreal element to the first episode of Sapphire and Steel shown by the Star Trek Society.

Another change this year from last is that it is becoming increasingly clear that LR2 cannot really accommodate us comfortably any more, the Sophie Aldred speaker meeting had people under the tables and what it is going to be like in there on hot, stuffy, summer evenings hardly bears thinking about. Next year will probably be even worse as the society welcomes its third intake of freshers. There are vague talks about trying to use the Maths Institute as the Invariants do but on the whole a room in a college seems preferable but the questionnaires we sent out were sadly unforthcoming as concerns alternatives.

The major event of the year was undoubtedly the Sophie Aldred Speaker meeting. Despite being veiled in secrecy to the extent that most of the committee didn't know who the speaker was going to be until she walked in (Jon Bryden apparently wanted to spare her from the lustful approaches of depraved committee members (!?!)) a large number of people turned up for what proved to be a very lively and enjoyable meeting. Several people must have been pleasantly surprised by her identity as the stakes beforehand seemed to be equally in favour of the speaker being Nicholas Parsons or Nicholas Courtney.

Over the past two terms the committee has changed fairly drastically with Adam "oh, Matron!" (James Cannon TM) Stephens, stepping down as Vice President to ordinary committee member, along with Roger Shaw who left his post as Social Secretary on principle (though he has yet to decide which principle). While James "I said 'Oh, Matron before Adam did'" Cannon, and myself left the committee completely resulting in Matthew Kilburn the infinitely knowledgeable and Alice Drewery becoming committee members. Followed this term by Jon "I hate Jon Pertwee" Bryden stepping down as president in place of Tim "I deny all responsibility for any mention of Jon Bryden in this magazine" Procter. It has been decided in future not to hold any more



elections but to throw committee meetings open to anyone who wishes to come along. If you are interested I suggest you see Tim.

The vexed question of whether we should affiliate to DWAS also raised its ugly head recently with a decision not to do so as a large proportion of our members probably don't care tuppence about the national society. It has been agreed however that we should try and contact the Southampton University Dr Who Society.

The videos have been variable in quality (both picture and story). I'm inclined to think the people who survived six episodes of THE ARMAGEDDON FACTOR, when frequently the only thing you could see of the screen was the snow, should be awarded prizes. DESTINY OF THE DALEKS also produced quite a mixed response, though not because of the picture quality and 'The Tomorrow People' A MAN FOR EMILY proved to be atrocious whatever way you looked at it. Next term promises THE CREATURE FROM THE PIT for people to hate plus THE GOODIES, both in what Paul Groves has kindly labelled HORNS OF NIMON week in 'Captain's Log', I say that it in fact should be called SPOCK'S BRAIN week in honour of the rival society's most prodigious episode to date.

One of my regrets this year has been the fact that I was unable to attend any of the Black and White meetings on account of other commitments on Sunday afternoons. From what I hear they are well worth attending.

This term the annual dinner finally came off, we had a very good meal at the Cotswold Lodge, though caused a good deal of confusion as to the number of vegetarians present. The gathering then moved to Corpus Christi to be subjected to a quiz in Roger's room (and to be penalized for whispering the answers to people which I thought was not on! luckily no one thought of penalizing me for squeaking otherwise I really would have been in trouble!). This was won by Adam in an entirely disgraceful manner (i.e. he knew all the answers).

Finally, what about The Tides of Time? Well it has chugged along quite merrily and, despite anything I may say in desperate moments, articles have appeared with surprising frequency. There are one or two I have been promised for some time now, most notably Jon Bryden's 'Biography of the Doctor according to what has been said on screen' and James Cannon's reappraisals of both the Hartnell era and the Graham Williams era, which I have yet to receive and it looks increasingly likely that I never will receive (James tells me it is actually written up, but he's been saying that for nearly a year now and I haven't seen hide nor hair of it). I am only disappointed that so few freshers have taken up the pen. Anyway, here's to next year!

LOUISE DENNIS