

SPELLCASTERS' PERIODICAL ALUMNI MAGAZINE

UNSEEN UNIVERSITY NEWS

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ACTING ARCHCHANCELLOR'S ADVISORY

Greetings my fellow Pratchett fans! We are one year to go until the amazing Irish Discworld Convention 2017, and we're very excited about all our plotting and planning behind the scenes.

We've recently had a Roundworld excursion of our own to the International Discworld Convention, and the amount of former IDWCon attendees who told us how lovely a time they had, how much they were looking forward to coming back, and how many friends they were bringing this time simply blew us away. If you're new to this whole Discworld fan event thing, never fear, no experience necessary— we're a welcoming (if occasionally odd) bunch. So what do I really want to say in my first newsletter article for IDWCon 2017?

It's going to be Hexcellent!

— *Acting-Archchancellor Shivers*

MEMBERSHIP MANIA!

Hopefully you've already signed up, booked your hotel room and thought about whether broomstick, mail coach or barge is best to get you to Cork next October.

Memberships for IDWCon have never sold out before, but it looks like we may do so for the 2017 Convention. Out of 300 planned memberships, at time of writing we have 219 already sold, so please don't delay and risk being disappointed!

We're limited by actual capacity in the hotel for all you lovely folk, and by our desire to keep our Con nice and cosy (which our members and Guests have always appreciated). Sign up now on our website:

www.idwcon.org

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(UNSEEN UNIVERSITY UPDATES)

We are delighted to announce that the High Energy Magic Department has (after careful application of dried frog pills) procured funding to carry out a series of upgrades on Hex. The GBL has been polished and given a new coat of paint, and the FTB has been re-stuffed. There is a brand new imp-powered mechanism controlling the hourglass— it now rotates! After some unusual activity in Hex's beehives, a professional apiarist has assured us the swarm is now calming and will soon be creating new honeycombs, leading to an improved storage capacity. Additionally, a male sheep's skull has been added as a RAM upgrade.

High-Energy Magic - thinking outside the Octogram!

NEW TO DISCWORLD CONVENTIONS?

So you've heard about the Irish Discworld Convention (IDWCon) and it seems like fun, a bit of craic, but— you've never been to a convention before, or at least a Discworld Convention, and you don't know what to expect. Well, relax, pull up a chair, and let me put your mind at ease.

Firstly, we try to have fun. There are quizzes, talks, games, workshops, and idle chat. We have big events with nearly 300 people and small ones that might have just 6. We try to organise a wide variety of activities so that there's a bit of something for everyone, from the Discworld aficionado to the friend who has never read a Pratchett book and got dragged along¹. We try to be funny as well— there are little skits, puns and jokes galore but, well, we're no Man in the Hat.

Discworld comprises one of the broadest ranges of fans out there. IDWCon attendees are old and young. They come from Ireland, the UK, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, and even FourEcks. They are men, women and undisclosed, and we want everyone to feel welcome. We're an event run by fans for fans, so we may not be as large or streamlined as commercial Sci-Fi conventions, but we think that adds to our charms².

If you want to learn to fight like a Feegle, craft a Watchman's helmet, accuse a Werewolf or simply reminisce about your favourite quotes over a cuppa, IDWCon has something for you. Our friendly committee are happy to answer your questions (email: info@idwcon.org) and there will be guides at the con for first timers.

¹ I know of at least three who have since converted to fans!

² These may or may not be lucky...

ENCHANTER'S ENIGMA

Rearrange the following words into a thematically-appropriate word or phrase:

UNITE NINE SURVEYS

Clue: Brings together multiple orders.

The answer will be published in next month's edition.

The Irish Discworld Convention 2017 will be held at the Cork International Hotel from the 6th to the 9th of October.

Please email info@idwcon.org if you have any general queries, or programme@idwcon.org if you have programme ideas.

Website: www.idwcon.org

Facebook: [tinyurl.com/gqpnbv](https://www.facebook.com/tinyurl.com/gqpnbv) Twitter: twitter.com/IDWCon

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