

SPELLCASTERS' PERIODICAL ALUMNI MAGAZINE

UNSEEN UNIVERSITY NEWS

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ACTING ARCHCHANCELLOR'S ADVISORY

Greetings, my fellow fans! How fast time is flying. There are only 300ish days to go until the 5th Irish Discworld Convention. Whenever Discworld fans gather, I have always found it to be an occasion of joy, so I thought I'd use my advisory to give a brief review of a recent event: The Gathering of the Loonies. Begun by Discworld fans — while Roundworld Hogswatch is taking a break — it celebrates the fact that we have more in common than just loving Terry Pratchett, and expands the event's theme to touch on all manner of geekery. We were thoroughly delighted by the wondrous activities, especially when we had some special mentions of our event during 'Just a Minute' on the Friday, 'The Pink Pussycat Club' on the Saturday, and by Dr Harkin during the Charity Auction on the Sunday. Many thanks to all involved for organising the event; it was a delight to meet old friends and to make new ones, and to raise a glass to the Man in the Hat.

— *Acting-Archchancellor Shivers*

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!

A university is more than just bricks and books. What makes it truly magical is the people involved¹. There are roles for everyone, whether it's digging with Modo in the gardens or carrying dishes for Mrs Whitlow. If you are happy to fetch, carry and go for things for a few hours over the convention, then please consider helping us by volunteering. IDWCon 2017 (the Unseen University's Open Weekend) is run entirely by volunteers and any help is greatly appreciated. If you are a qualified First Aider, or have experience running events, and are willing to help out, please let us know. All offers of help will be gratefully received — please get in touch with us by pointing your omniscopes, pigeons or portable clacks device² at info@idwcon.org.

For those of you wonderful people with less practical specific skills, or just those with a dramatic disposition, we've been told that 'All the Disc's a Stage'. If you would like to take part in a few small dramatic scenes this IDWCon, and are comfortable performing in front of a Discworld crowd³, then please have your people talk to our people at info@idwcon.org. Please note that attendance at the Gala Dinner and some practice sessions in advance (probably online) may be required in order to take part in the theatrics.

¹ And we don't just mean the faculty!

² Email also works pretty well too...

³ The University takes no responsibility for any nuts, banana peels, or miscellaneous library paraphernalia thrown by the Librarian.

GIVING THE GIFT OF DISCWORLD

*Hogswatch is coming, the pig is getting fat.
Please put a dollar in the old man's hat...*

If you have friends or family who you suspect haven't yet read any Pratchett, why not give them a Discworld book, or one of Terry's other series such as the Science of Discworld, The Long Earth, The Bromeliad, his short story or non-fiction collections, Good Omens... there's something for everyone.

If the person you're buying for is already a Discworld fan with all the books, then there's the Stuff! There are some wonderful, weird and wacky creations out there. Have a look at [The Discworld Emporium](#), [Discworld.com](#), [JoshKirbyArt.com](#), or even sign them up for [Discworld Monthly](#) and buy them a customised mug — there are lots of merchandise options out there, but please always ensure it's licensed.

Gifts don't have to be material things, so you could give on your own or another's behalf. The main charity we've supported over the years has been the Alzheimer's Society of Ireland — or you could choose one close to Terry's heart, such as The Orangutan Foundation. Oook!

And last, but certainly not least, you could treat your friend (or yourself) to a Discworld Experience! While we thoroughly recommend buying them an IDWCon 2017 membership before they run out, if they can't make it to Cork next October then why not try one of the other wonderful events around the world. Next year there are conventions in Germany, the Netherlands, Australia, and the USA, as well as many smaller local gatherings of fans.

ENCHANTER'S ENIGMA

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

CHAR LANCRE LOCH

Clue: Enjoys a bit of fishing in mountain lakes... with extreme prejudice.

The previous edition's enigma answer was of course UNSEEN UNIVERSITY. Check our next edition for the answer to this edition's enigma.

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

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