

SPELLCASTERS' PERIODICAL ALUMNI MAGAZINE

UNSEEN UNIVERSITY NEWS

ISSUE XXXMMMCLXVIII — 10TH MARCH, YEAR OF THE BACKWARDS-FACING ARTICHOKE

ACTING ARCHCHANCELLOR'S ADVISORY

Did you see it? Terry Pratchett was 'Back in Black' on the BBC. It was moving and it was memorable. Depending on your region, you may still be able to catch it on the BBC iPlayer for another 2 weeks (at time of writing). At the very least you can hopefully access [this clip](#) of Discworld fans (including yours truly) talking about Terry.

I genuinely both laughed and cried within minutes of each other, and I think it's so completely on-the-nose a mix of the sincere and the absurd that was the core of all of the Discworld novels. Translating that dichotomy into a biographical documentary, as Charlie Russell and Rob Wilkins have done, is a huge feat. It shows us Terry, his books, his world, and his fans – both the wondrous and the 'warts and all'.

But aside from the small screen, what other Discworld news have we for you? Well, the plotting and planning for IDWCon is well and truly underway, with our convention programme starting to take shape; in this issue we've got calls for papers, calls for actors, calls for auctionables; and on top of all this, our amazing art and design team are working feverishly on the various clothing and baubles that will be on sale for pre-order, and at the con itself, in now just over 200 days!

— *Acting-Archchancellor Shivers*

INVITATION FOR PAPERS

The Unseen University Open weekend, being a scholarly enterprise of great academic rigour and authenticity, is hereby putting out a call for papers. We at the UU would like to stress that this in no way indicates that our faculty is too lazy and/or full to give lectures. The University is reaching out to the broader (no pun intended) academic community for those who wish to enhance the education of all attendees¹.

If you'd like to take the opportunity to speak in front of a friendly Discworld crowd for 10-15 minutes about a topic of your choosing (for example, your other hobby, or an event / charity / cause that you want to promote, or an interesting or amusing aspect of your Roundworld job, etc., etc.), please send us an e-mail at info@idwcon.org with a brief description of what you'd like to speak about and any props/tech-related magic you require. And while it's true that "Mustrum Ridcully believed that knowledge could be acquired by shouting at people" (*Hogfather*), we would like to assure speakers that our visiting academics will promise to listen at a reasonable volume if you promise to speak at one.

¹ Actual learning not guaranteed

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

The U.U. Open Weekend is now doing a final call for actors. If you would like to play a role in any of our famous dramatics, whether as a one-off for a game, or a bigger role that would take place over the course of the whole weekend, please e-mail us at info@idwcon.org. This will be our final open call, so please do contact us by the 31st March if you want to get involved.

MERCHANDISE INCOMING

The Glorious 25th of May is of course an important day in all Discworld Calendars¹. On that date this year, those of you who have an interest in big posh dinners, wizardly vestments, and mugs of a magical nature might want to point your mobile clacks device at www.idwcon.org – we at the U.U. are pleased to give you this opportunity to be able to 'wear the T-shirt if you were there'.

¹ Except for the druids, their stone circles just aren't that accurate

"BRING OUT YER LOTS!"

As is laid down in Tradition, the Unseen University Open Weekend will be hosting a Grand Charity Auction, where all manner of marvellous and momentous merchandise will be auctioned off in order to support noble and worthy causes. While there's still plenty of time to go, we'd like to invite you to consider if there's anything you'd like to donate to the auction – especially if there's something Discworldly that you could make, craft or create (consider this an early reminder so that it's ready in time!) – then simply let us know at accounts@idwcon.org.

ENCHANTER'S ENIGMA

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

IF I FIND USED THEORETICIANS

Clue: A deep-seated uncertainty seems to be at work here. The previous edition's enigma answer was of course THE LUGGAGE. 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

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

'Discworld' and 'Unseen University' are registered trademarks.