

SPELLCASTERS' PERIODICAL ALUMNI MAGAZINE

UNSEEN UNIVERSITY NEWS

ISSUE XXXMMMCLXXI — 21ST JULY, YEAR OF THE BACKWARDS-FACING ARTICHOKE

ACTING ARCHCHANCELLOR'S ADVISORY

Greetings! In this issue, we're proud to announce our charities and a sneak peek of some of our events.

Recently, I've been going through the delightful phase of rereading — there's always something new to discover (and, of course, the puns I'd forgotten that were so awfully wonderful that I giggle or groan or shake my fist in the air saying 'damn you, Terry!'). Most enjoyable of all, I think, are the references I missed on my first read. The books, stories, folktales, plays, films, music and knowledge I've experienced or gained since the first read mean I now see the extra meanings, nods, subtle hints and blinding pastiches that Terry wove into his tales. He truly was a master craftsman, and a magpie, collecting facts and fables from everywhere. I look forward to all the things my older and more knowledgeable self will discover on future rereads, and I hope you also have the pleasure of rereading. I'm grateful we all get to share the continued joy of Discworld through the books, the fans and the events that bring the Discworld to new life.

— *Acting-Archchancellor Shivers*

CHARITABLE CHAMPIONS

On top of our Charity Auction, which last time raised a huge €4597, the Irish Discworld Convention is entirely volunteer-run as a not-for-profit organisation, so any extra profit above what is needed to organise the next con goes to charity. While we always support the Alzheimer Society of Ireland, we also choose two other Irish local or national charities for each convention to support. This year, we have selected these two charities:

Save Our Sons And Daughters (SOSAD) is a charity who are dedicated to raising awareness about suicide and providing support to suicidal people and those whose lives have been greatly affected by the suicide of a loved one. Mental health and suicide are very difficult subjects that are often stigmatised or trivialised, and we want to 'Be More Terry' by supporting a more open and caring environment for all the people whose lives have been profoundly changed by such suffering.

Bumbleance is a local charity who provide ambulances for sick children, especially those who are seriously ill or suffer from long-term illnesses. Using ambulances specially outfitted with the latest technology, the charity works to ensure that the journey is as fun, comfortable and safe as possible for the child. IDWCon has teamed up with our venue, the Cork International Hotel (a Partner of Bumbleance), to try to improve the lives of at least some of the next generation of Discworld readers.

PERPLEXING PROGRAMME PEEK

As the fifth Irish Discworld Convention draws ever closer (76 days to go!), our programme begins to assume its final form. As well as the usual events that frequent con-goers know and love (such as the Maskerade, the Charity Auction, the Gala Dinner and more), we have a whole host of other events, including guest interviews, workshops and of course games, a couple of which are revealed here to whet your appetite:

In deference to our U.U. theme, IDWCon 2017 will once again play host to a grand Unseen University Challenge tournament, where the educational establishments of the Disc (i.e. teams of attendees) will do battle on the field of Discworld trivia for a chance to earn the prestigious honour of being named UUC Champions. The number of team slots will be limited, so now's the time to start forming teams and get some all-important revision in (as if you needed an excuse to re-read Discworld books!).

Last time, we beheld the fearsome spectacle of Luggage Wars, where stylishly-decorated Luggages, constructed by attendees throughout the weekend from whatever craft materials came to hand, took part in a series of challenges and battles designed to test their style, control, damage, and aggression. We are proud to announce that this event will be returning at this year's IDWCon.

A QUICK REMINDER

At the time of writing, just 21 Gala Dinner tickets remain, so grab yours quickly to avoid disappointment! Also, don't forget to pre-order your merchandise before the pre-order deadline of the 6th of September.

ENCHANTER'S ENIGMA

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

CURRENT CENTERLINE USER

Clue: The holder of a core university position.

The previous edition's enigma answer was of course BLOODY STUPID JOHNSON. 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/gqpnnbv](https://www.facebook.com/tinyurl.com/gqpnnbv) Twitter: twitter.com/IDWCon

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