

The Ankh-Morpork Times

"The Truth Shall Make Ye Free"

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CAPTAIN'S BRIEFS

An Open Letter from the Chair of the Watch Open Weekend

You lucky ducks don't know the half of what's in store. Behind the scenes, we're adding flesh to the skeleton of the programme 'evil cackle'. Sometimes we find ourselves still swimming in a sense of loss and disbelief that the Man in the Hat has gone from our midst. But then we remember that he'll live on in our memories, in our shared friendship, our shared laughter, and shared tomfoolery when we gather together, and we're back to the cackling again.

What else have we got in store? Well, one of the main items of these established Discworld Conventions and events has often been a chance to show our generosity and gather some loot. The traditional Charity Auction

will make a re-appearance at IDWCon 2015, and we're asking you to chuck in your valuables, your invaluable, and your junk. Where does all the money generated from this go? A certain chairperson may just enlighten you forthwith.

In this volume, you'll also find out more about our wonderful new guests! Yes, those 'reserved' slots on the membership list weren't just wishful thinking! Unfortunately the esteemed Ms Isobel Pearson, International Woman of Mystery, has to stay at home and mind the cats. And while she will most definitely be missed, there's good reason behind it. Read on to find out more...

- Captain Shivers

ANNOUNCEMENT: NEW GUESTS FOR WATCH OPEN WEEKEND

A Prepared Statement From the Watch

"The Irish Discworld Convention has received word that a number of fascinating characters are attending in October - we say 'received word', possibly our grovelling and promises of being bought a drink may have had something to do with it.

We're delighted to announce that Reb Joyce and Ian Mitchell of the Discworld Emporium will attend. A partner at the Emporium, Reb Joyce performs the harrowing and possibly life-threatening task of herding Ian Mitchell and Bernard Pearson away from the pub and back into the workshop. Perhaps she regrets the life choices that have brought her to this point, but since she describes herself as "hijacked by Discworld and couldn't be happier" it seems she's doing all right.

Ian Mitchell was doomed at the age of fourteen when he started hanging around the Emporium looking for work experience. After wrangling all the free labour they could, Mitchell was made a member of the team upon completion of his degree at Falmouth College of Arts. His artwork can be seen in such items as the Discworld Stamps, and he is currently working on a Discworld Atlas, as well as the Discworld Bestiary.

That's not all! Leonard Boyd and David Brashaw of Backspindle Games are also set to attend. Winners of the 2015 UK Games Expo award for Best New Family Game, Backspindle are the creators of the boardgame 'Guards! Guards!' (which sold out worldwide in 2011) and have chosen IDWCon 2015 to hold the

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AN URGENT APPEAL FROM THE ANKH-MORPORK WATCH

Every two years, we hold an auction of all the seized items, surplus equipment, and unneeded evidence in order to raise money for charity. However, this year, our storage lockers have been found to be mysteriously empty. We have ruled out Corporal Nobbs as a suspect and the investigation is ongoing; but in the meantime, we need your donations!

Anything even vaguely related to Discworld will be ~~seized and impounded as evidence~~, sorry, gratefully accepted - be it rare books, convention swag, artwork, models, knitting and crochet, humorous vegetables*, or any of the other many and varied paraphernalia associated with Discworld fandom.

All items will be auctioned off by Pat Harkin, doyen of the Guild of Auctioneers, at a specially-organised event during the forthcoming Watch Open Weekend. All proceeds will go to our charities (read more about them overleaf).

If you have anything you'd like to donate to our Charity Auction, please email us at accounts@idwcon.org

*We'd really prefer it if you didn't donate humorous vegetables

launch of their newest Discworld boardgame, 'Clacks! Our very own Con Artist, Amber 'The Artful Nudger' Grundy, did the artwork for that.

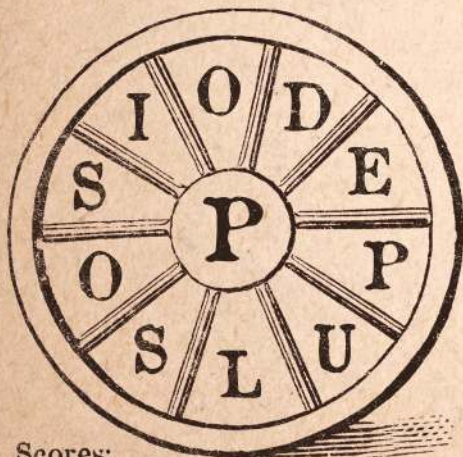
Unfortunately, we've also received word that Isobel Pearson is unable to attend, which is a shame. We'll all have a pint of stout in her honour. She has a lot of honour, so we should probably have three or four, just to be on the safe side."

OUT AND ABOUT IN ANKH - Our Weekly Society Column In The Big Wagoonie, Taking the Pith!

Excitement grows among the Cream of Ankh-Morpork Society as we near the date of the most anticipated Social Event of the year, The Charity Gala for the Sunshine Sanctuary for Sick Dragons! However, things have not been Plain Sailing for the Gala Committee. Last night, a Small Fire broke out in the Venue for the Gala, destroying the Furniture. Lady Vimes (née Ramkin), Head of the Gala Committee, has informed the *Times* that 'Small' Fire is an accurate classification for a Pixie Faced Smut, whereas the Smooth Courser and Golden Wouser dragons garner classifications of 'Middling' to 'Vexing'. Her Ladyship Held Forth on this topic for Some Time, before the *Times* pressed its Enquiry on the Fate of the Gala. Fortunately, the Lady

THE TIMES WORDWHEEL by "Puzzler"

Use the letters in the wordwheel (each one only once) to make as many words as you can in 10 minutes. Each word must include the centre letter and be at least three letters long. Plurals, proper nouns, and abbreviations or contractions are not allowed, but verb conjugations are. See if you can guess the 11 letter name too!



Scores:
1-15 words - Overheated troll
16-30 - Average Morporkian
31-50 - Experienced witch
51 or more - Patrician

Sybil Free Hospital has offered use of spare Chairs as it makes room for the Documents of the new Nobility - collected as part of Lord Vetinari's New Inheritance Laws. Lady Sybil appeared Most Relieved, especially when informed that the new Furniture is of sturdy Metal Construction.

For those Readers seeking merriment, Boffo's Joke and Novelty Shop has introduced a new Costume. Any Citizen of Ankh-Morpork can now clothe themselves as a Member of the City Watch - a Riot for All Ages! The Costume includes a Helmet, Badge and Truncheon, which a Sales Agent demonstrated eagerly for the *Times*. When the *Times* inquired as to how His Grace Commander Sir Samuel Vimes reacted when seeing the Costumes, the Sales Agent remained Silent for several Seconds before backing away muttering "He's Going to Go Spare." Later in the Day, the *Times* spotted Frenzied Activity in the store, involving Tossing Clothes into Sacks. We at the *Times* wish Boffo's all the Best in their Enterprise, and encourage our Readers who have also left their Spring Cleaning late to Take Note!

by M. Browne

WEATHER FORECAST

(Our Weather correspondent has recently taken part in a poetry-writing course. We can only apologise - Ed.)

Storms surround Fourecks,
Danger and death comes
from all
but some of the sheep.

There was a small cloud
over Klatch,
That began in a vegetable patch,
It soaked up some leeks
And travelled for weeks
And now it's coming for
your thatch.

GIVING IT AWAY A Public Bulletin

You may or may not be aware, but one of the reasons Sir Terry has kindly let us host events using the Discworld name is that they are run as not-for-profit. Every cent raised by the Convention goes back into the Con itself, or the plotting of the next one, or to charity. All of the committee are unpaid volunteers, the guests don't get any appearance fees, and the gophers and volunteers at the weekend are, well, you!

But where does all the charity dosh go, I hear you ask? Well, these are our chosen charities:

The Alzheimer's Society of Ireland: Since the first Irish Convention, this charity has always been the main recipient of our donations. It's not just due to the 'embuggerance' itself, but also because this charity helps so many Irish people in many ways, from the sufferers of dementia or Alzheimer's, to their friends and family who feel helpless.

Barnardos: This international children's charity do great work supporting one of the most vulnerable sections of society. We have to protect every possible future Discworld reader, after all. We'll be raffling off a special chocolate hamper from Cork confectioner O'Conaill's for this charity.

Cork Simon Community: This year we've also picked a local charity. The Simon Community in Cork help the homeless, and some of the committee are former Simon volunteers who've seen for themselves the challenges faced. We'll also be organising something special to raise money for this cause.

Links and more information can be found on our website if you'd like to know more about these worthy causes.

by S. Greaney