

# The Ankh-Morpork Times

*"The Truth Shall Make Ye Free"*

ISSUE NO. MMCCCCXC

APRIL 12TH, YEAR OF THE SPINNING MOUSE

FIVE PENCE PER COPY

## CAPTAIN'S BRIEFS IN BRIEF

*An Open Letter from the Chair of the Watch Open Weekend*

This issue, we talk about the sad event that has occurred, the wonderful place we'll gather together to reminisce, a few key bits of info for you to bear in mind if you're dotty, and a preview of one of our main events, as well as our usual social reports and puzzles

to bemuse and befuddle...

In other news, Discworld publishers Transworld have announced that Terry's final novel, *The Shepherd's Crown*, will be released this September. So, once more into the breach!

- Captain Shivers

## WATCH OPEN WEEKEND VENUE STAKED OUT

*BREAKING NEWS! Another Roundworld exclusive by the Times - the only reliable transdimensional reporting service*

The *Times* has discovered that the convention hotel for the forthcoming Watch Open Weekend has undergone a rebranding<sup>1</sup>. The hotel is now known as the Cork International Hotel and is not to be confused with the (also rebranded) neighbouring Cork Airport Hotel. When asked to explain the phenomenon, Ponder Stibbons (Head of Inadvisably Applied Magic at Unseen University) explained at great length, using words like quantum and phasic, but our reporter fell asleep, so the *Times* asked Watch spokesperson Captain Shivers instead, who had this to say on the subject: "Guests need not fear, as all previous bookings with the hotel are still valid. If you are waiting to hear back from the hotel, please double check the 'Venue' pages on our website to ensure that you're using the most up-to-date details. If there are any recruits who haven't yet booked their accommodation, we recommend early booking to ensure your room."

She went on to say, "The Watch Committee have recently completed a thorough inspection of the premises, and are happy to report that it is splendiferous. The function rooms are situated

close together, the lobby is full of books, and the staff are friendly and enthusiastic." Capt. Shivers was also eager to point out that the hotel has won many awards for value and hospitality from hoteliers' associations and TripAdvisor, including the hotel bar being named 'Bar of the Year' last year. The Guild of Merchants' Tourism department had no comment to make on the matter, however.

When pressed for more details of the convenience of the hotel, she said, "We walked between the furthest apart function rooms, at a slow ambling pace described as 'Gopher proceeding with tea', and it took less than 3 minutes to get from downstairs on one side of the building to upstairs on the other. We also strolled through the car park to the airport arrivals hall and it took less than 10 minutes. And of course we scouted out the most appropriate places to play Werewolf<sup>2</sup>."

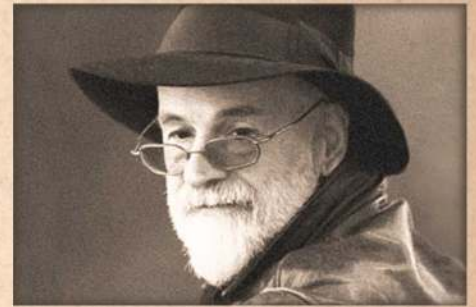
Further news of the hotel's facilities will be reported exclusively in the *Times*.

by R. Scanlon

<sup>1</sup> Though apparently no heated metal was used in the process.

<sup>2</sup> If you don't know what this is, you will by the end of the Con.

## OBITUARY: SIR TERRY PRATCHETT, O.B.E.



Discworld's Creator, Sir Terry Pratchett (66), has walked with Death into the desert on Thursday the 12th of March, in the Roundworld year 2015. He died at home with family<sup>1</sup> and with his cat asleep on the bed.

Our deepest sympathies go out to the close friends and family of our beloved Sir Terry Pratchett. He has brought so much joy to so many of us through his wit and wisdom, and his departure from this existence will sadden us all. He was an amazing author, but more than that, an amazing person, and all of his fans, whether they had a chance to meet him in life, or just through his words, will feel this loss keenly.

The world is still reeling from this news, and fans everywhere are uniting in grief. The Irish Discworld Convention was always intended as a place people would gather and share their joy in these books and this universe. We will continue to honour Terry by gathering as a 'bunch of loonies' and paying tribute to him and his creation.

As Terry himself said, no one is actually dead until the ripples they cause in the world die.

We intend to keep making ripples.

by S. Greaney

<sup>1</sup> The inestimable Rob Wilkins is counted as family, obviously.

## DOT DOT DOT

A Note on Accessibility  
from A Concerned Citizen

Although IDWCon is a relatively small Con<sup>1</sup>, we want everyone to have the best possible time that they can. For some people, this means extra assistance with accessibility, or the ability to skip long queues that they literally can't stand for. So this year, anyone who feels they may need some extra help or a little extra consideration can request a green dot. The green dots are small green stickers that you put on your membership badge. The reasons that you think you need a dot are your own, and you have no need to bring any official documentation – merely ask at registration or grab a committee member during the con. We know all our con attendees will be helpful and respectful of each other, but we ask that you be especially conscious of those with green dots and understand that they are not queue jumping just because we like them<sup>2</sup>. Full details of the dot policy will be available on the website.

If, like Mad Hamish, your years of adventuring have necessitated the use of a wheelchair, then we have a few tips to make your stay at the Cork International Hotel more comfortable and enjoyable. The hotel does have specialised rooms available, though numbers are limited, so be sure to tell the hotel your needs as soon as possible. The shuttle bus to the airport is not wheelchair accessible, but if you let the hotel know in advance of your arrival/departure, then they will organise a wheelchair accessible taxi for you at no cost. The majority of events will be held on the ground floor of the hotel, but there are also two lifts to the first floor, which green dots will have priority use of.

<sup>1</sup> Bigger than a Feegle, smaller than a Troll.

<sup>2</sup> That's just a coincidence!

OUT AND ABOUT IN ANKH - Our Weekly Society Column  
Digging Into The Big Wahooie!

It is the Season for social engagements among the Upper Echelons of Ankh-Morpork, and you can read all about it right here in your copy of *The Times*!

A wonderful ball was held on Grunesday in honour of the lovely Cecilia Wiggs, who has returned to Society after taking sick with a Mysterious Illness lasting roughly nine months. The Wiggs family is Noted for its involvement with the Guild of Assassins, and Cecilia's younger sister Jocasta Wiggs is currently a student of the Guild's College. The *Times* asked Cecilia (who wore a lovely draped gown of midnight blue) how she was feeling upon her Return to Society, to which she rolled her eyes prettily, and commented "Sore."

Later this week, Lady Brenda Rodley is holding a Tea Party to welcome her brother-in-law to our fine city. Lord Rodley Sr. assures the *Times* that he definitely has not come to our Fair City to keep an eye on his nephew, the Young Lord Rodley, or to protect the family name at All Costs.

In addition, it has been announced that The Sunshine Sanctuary for Sick Dragons will be holding a Charity Gala to coincide with the upcoming Watch Open Weekend, organised by Her Grace, The Duchess of

Ankh, Lady Sybil Vimes; it is quickly becoming the most anticipated Social Event of the year. Attendees are reminded that the Gala will be taking place indoors, and though it will be ensured that all Reflective Surfaces are covered, the organisers are wary of what was described to the *Times* as "Catalytic Stupidity". It is each person's own Responsibility that their beloved pet does not cause major Structural Damage. Let's keep the party fun for Everyone!

Without a doubt, Ankh-Morpork is a city of a thousand social events, each one more Exciting and Fantastic than the last!

by M. Browne

## WEATHER FORECAST

A cold front has settled in across the Ramtops, chiefly due to the migration of ice giants. Witches are warned that flying in these conditions carries an amber weather warning, as broomstick bristles will be prone to freezing. Around Unseen University, the Wizards have been testing what would happen if all the rain drops were lemon drops and gumdrops. Early results suggest stickiness, cavities and mild injury. Ephebianians are warned of an expected heatwave this week as the sun will be coming closer to the Disc than usual in order to dodge one of the elephants.

## THE TIMES DJELIBEYBIAN PYRAMID by "Puzzler"

This quiz, much like Ankh-Morpork, is built on itself. The next layer down adds one letter to the (rearranged) previous answer.

Clues:

1. Twelfth letter in the Ephebian Alphabet is feline, we hear
2. It all adds up, doesn't it?
3. The Shades would be described as this in Roundworld.
4. A pair of backless shoes bear the load.
5. It sounds fishy, but shows strength.
6. Nanny Ogg's homemade brew.

