

NEWS OF THE DISC



Welcome to the First 2012 News of the Disc

Chairman's New Year Message

2012, there's something about that date, something shiny and exciting and important. I'm sure it'll come to me in a moment... In the meantime I'd like to wish you all a very happy New Year and hope that this year is full of joy and goodness for you all!

After a quiet Hogswatch the committee are once again working away to make sure that our (now sold out!) Convention is packed with things to see and do for all of our attendees. The preparation for the Gala Dinner is coming along and any rumours that the committee members who attended the food tasting

had to be wheeled away by the porters afterwards are clearly completely untrue. But it's not just about the good food! The other areas of the programme are being developed; our Zazzle store is open for business; the Hotel Team are personally inspecting every bedroom; Comms are handwriting each individual newsletter and while Ops won't tell me what they're up to, I'm assured that it's probably legal in some countries.

So, we can no longer talk about "next year", because it's "this year" now, and, if nothing else, we hope that you're all as excited as we are.

This is going to be a *great* New Year!

Brian

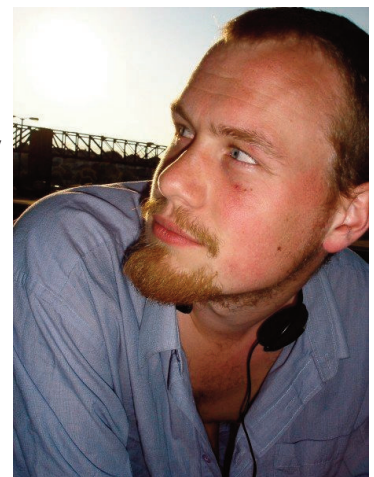
Breaking News - New Guest Announced!

Because we didn't have quite enough going on at the Convention we have decided to squeeze just one more fabulous guest in and so, without further ado, the Discworld Convention 2012 would like to proudly introduce Ian Mitchell.

Ian officially fell in with a bad crowd at the tender age of 14, when he first met Bernard and Isobel Pearson of the Discworld Emporium. Work experience really meaning something in those days, mostly 'white, no sugar'. After completing an art degree at Falmouth College of Arts he joined the Emporium team full time, spending his days creating sculpture, imagery and quite a lot of mess, all in the name of Discworld.

Last year, having found it cheaper than actually paying them, Ian and his lovely lady Reb were made partners at the Discworld Emporium. The strange yet mostly harmless shop in deepest darkest Somerset, responsible for such silliness as officially twinning the town of Wincanton with Ankh-Morpork, and adding a real life Treacle Mine Road, Moon Pond Lane and Hen and Chicken fields to the Ordnance Survey map of the British Isles.

Ian's work can be seen adorning the now infamous Discworld Stamps and the Treefrog games production, 'Ankh-Morpork, A Discworld Board Game'. He is currently co-producing the new city guide 'The Compleat Ankh-Morpork', and the Discworld Atlas, as well as a project very close to his heart, the Discworld Bestiary.



Ian looks on unaware of the fate about to befall him

Ian still can't make a decent cup of tea.

Maskerade at the DWCon 2012

Welcome to the Maskerade for 2012 and welcome back for those experienced folk who are back for another bite at the pineapple...

The Maskerade is one of the highlights of the weekend, traditionally taking place on the Saturday evening in the DYSK, a parade of Discworld characters to delight, astound, amaze and often scare the bloomers off you.

For those who don't know what the Maskerade is, it is the chance for individuals / groups to either recreate favourite characters / events or pay homage to 'Discworld'. At the very least it involves costuming and from there on entries include singing, dancing, acting or all three (and sometimes none...).

There are categories for entrants, including Master (previous show winner) down to Rookie (a first time entrant anywhere, ah bless) and there are prizes in each category. If you are under 14 years and want to take part, you are welcome to do so and will be judged alongside the adult entries. Should you not want to do this, this year there is a separate Children's Fancy Dress Competition later on in the weekend, where children under 14 compete against each other for the prizes (no grown ups allowed!)

Application forms and the accompanying notes will be available shortly: so get those tape measures unpacked, sewing machines fired up and needles poised for action...

There is **NO** online registration, it needs to be done by post (instructions will be on the forms) or on the Friday evening at registration. Forms available from <http://www.dwcon.org/pages/38099/maskerade>

For those of you just watching, applaud *all* entrants, laugh, cry and enjoy the show!



Food, Glorious Food!

With all the exciting programme items and late nights in the bar, you'll need to keep your strength up. So it's always important to make sure that we've arranged tasty meals.

Keen eyed members with access to Twitter may have noticed that the Hotel Team have been having not-so-clandestine meetings with the Hilton to discuss how we're keeping you fed during the four days of the Convention. The Gala Dinner banquet menu (of which we posted photos from the tasting session) will be announced around Easter, but we can now give you some information on what food will be available during the rest of the Convention.

On each of the four days of the Convention (Friday to Monday), we'll be offering lunch deals in our specially designated Convention dining area, The Broken Drum, which will take cash, credit/debit cards or be chargeable to your hotel room if you are staying in the Hilton. For £6 you will be able to purchase either: a jacket potato and soft drink/tea/coffee, a baguette, piece of fruit or packet of crisps and soft drink/tea/coffee, or a pizza and soft drink/tea/coffee. Various fillings and toppings will be available to suit all tastes and dietary needs*.

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday night, we will also be offering an evening meal in The Broken Drum. Each night there will be a soup option (£5), a selection of main courses with sides (£11 each), a salad bar (£5 to fill a plate or bowl) and a choice of desserts (£5 each). We'll be releasing the full details

of the menus nearer to the Convention itself, but the type of dishes they might be serving include cottage pie, ricotta tortellini or pesto crusted salmon.

The Lounge Bar at the Hilton will also be doing a special deal on pizzas for Convention members. If you show them your membership badge, you will be able to order a margherita pizza for £6.95 plus £1 for each additional topping**. You can order these pizzas 24 hours a day, to satisfy those late night hunger pangs!

So, we hear you ask, what with all this food, what are we going to be able to wash it down with?

As at previous Conventions, all members will receive a 20% discount on drinks at the Lounge Bar throughout the convention***. The bar has a wide selection of alcohol and soft drinks available, which will be discounted on production of your membership badge. They will also have on hand a good supply of bottled real ale and ciders at a cost of £3.50 per bottle.

*Within reason. If you say you only eat caviar and crocodile toes, we probably won't be able to help you. If you haven't already told us your dietary requirements when signing up for membership, please log in to the website at www.dwcon.org and update us with your details.

** We're negotiating for Quattro Rodentia at the moment but for some reason they don't seem keen.

***Please note this does not apply to hot drinks or drinks from the Costa Coffee stand.