



“HITH MATHTER’TH VOITHE,”

Discworld Convention Newsletter II
December 2015

Happy Hogswatch!

May you be blessed over the coming days with meat and meat-substitute products.

Hello there!

Welcome to the second edition of Hith Mathter’th Voithe! The best place for all things festival related. Four months have passed since the last edition of HMV, so it is time to unveil some new information.

You want to know about merchandise? We can get you merchandise. Want to get a sneak peek at the gala dinner? Some information might just have wriggled itself into this very publication. And, for all of you fan boys and girls out there, we have all the latest on your favourite bands and artists.

Let’s start with the merchandise: no festival worth its salt can do without it. Go have a look, and be seduced to part with your money in exchange for some really nice items. This includes the limited edition, pre-Convention, T-shirt. Don’t miss out!

On to the sneak peek at the gala dinner. What will be happening? That’s still a secret. But we’ve got some hints to whet your appetites, and let you imagine yourself enjoying the food of a Music with Rocks In star. Tickets are NOT yet for sale, don’t worry, we will inform you weeks in advance before sales open.

Speaking of Music with Rocks In stars. Like a city needs guilds¹, an exposition needs societies, so do bands need fans. Not just the cheering fans, but the fans that follow the band around. The fans that go that extra mile to promote their band. The fans that want their band to prevail over all others. Can you be such a fan? Find out in this issue.

What else can I say? Only eight months left to the Convention. I wish you all a happy Hogswatch and hope to see you all next year.

Eelco Giele
Chairman

¹ Or sects, but only at the end of times.



CAMPING SPOTS
Still available!

Maskerade entries

If you haven't already thought about a Maskerade act, then now is the time! Taking place on the Saturday of the Convention, your act will need to be no longer than 90 seconds and you will be able to rehearse it during the day on Saturday. There are different categories to compete in so don't worry if you've never done anything like this before - everyone is welcome!

Conditions of entry and forms to fill in are available on the FAQ section of the website now - please print one off to bring to registration with you, it will save you time when you arrive!

If you want to show off your costuming skills but aren't keen on getting up on stage, don't forget you can wear your costume during any part of the Convention and compete for the Hall Costume prize. Or if you fancy the idea of joining in and performing but don't look forward to the competitive aspect of the Maskerade, then why not think about taking part in the interval entertainment, which takes place whilst the judges deliberate? Email productions@dwcon.org to find out more.

The Battle of the Bands

The Discworld Convention is a large event, bringing together hundreds of people, many of whom have known each other for years. On top of that, everybody is running around and busy attending all the programme items that we organise. It might look like it would be difficult to get to know people, but don't worry! We have the perfect solution: Guilds. I mean, Bands. We used to call them Guilds².

The Bands are a great way to meet people and unite with them to battle in a (friendly, we're sure) competition full of shenanigans, mayhem and maybe even some music³. Whether you're new to Discworld Conventions or have been coming since the beginning, the Bands will welcome you with open arms and let you join in on the fun.

The Bands are a purely optional part of the programme, but If you want to join in (and we highly recommend you try it at least once!), do get involved from the beginning. Even if you decide not to join in, the Battle of the Bands may prove to be a source of entertainment, as we encourage them create things that are fun for everyone at the Convention.

Before the Convention gets going you will be allocated to one of the the five Bands to participate as fans, road crew, groupies or general hangers on. Don't worry, you can switch if you decide you really want to! But we hope you'll use the Bands as an excuse to make some new friends.

And the first way in which to participate, of the first items in the Convention schedule, will be the Opening Game, introducing the Battle of the Bands...

² And Societies. And Sects. People still haven't stopped making puns.

³ You don't have to be musical. Just a little bit crazy.

⁴ Rats are bigger and more of a nuisance than mice; and a trap designed for mice might not stop a rat - and rodents bigger than a rat would be worse still. BSJ took this to its logical conclusion, decided that the greatest rodent threat to Ankh-Morpork was rodents fifty foot long and designed accordingly

The battle begins...

It wasn't exactly a summoning ritual involving eldritch words, strange smoke, unDiscly screams and peril to mortal souls.

(Well, not immediately, at any rate.)

Yet it had something; it reached into your hindbrain, grabbed you by the voolnerables... and the rest of the evening was a sweaty blur.

The morning after The Free Festival... everything was different.

The sun rose and The Beat was with you.

You stepped through the streets humming The Tune.

You risked your life with one of Dibbler's sossage-inna-buns and didn't even care about the side effects, because you were too busy kissing the sky.

All of a sudden, you'd like to teach the Dysk to sing with something approaching reasonable harmony.

There's only one way to do it; and only one band that have the necessary Mojo - and your new purpose in life is to make sure that they make it bigger than BSJ's portable mousetrap⁴.

Unfortunately, there are some sour squares around who just don't get the groove. As well as deluded fools who think that their musicians can hold a candle to the stars.

They are wrong, wrong, wrong - and *you're* going to make sure that - by hook or by crook, your band gets to headline the Battle of the Bands.

So hit the road, feel the noise, make that scene and get the funk out!

The Music Demands It.

Sincerely,

Gideon Hallett
The Abbott of Cool

Craft corner

Fabric food: no longer needed!



In the last HMV we asked everyone to help out making fluffy food stuffs (like fleecy fruits or velvety vegetables) for a programme item needing loads of them.

However, for several practical reasons, we decide to scale back the programme item.

This means that at the moment we have all the fleecy food-stuff we need, and do not require anything new.

If you already started on something or even already created a cornucopia of yarny abundance, do not worry! We can (and will) still use it.

Please contact Cat if you plan on bringing something to the Con, or if you want to send it over beforehand.

This is also the place for any other yarn related questions.

Quilt of knowledge: still on...

We are still planning on making a quilt to show our love of the Discworld and fan Conventions. And the quilt will be finished and displayed in the hotel during the Convention.

Of course, everyone can take part.

Do you still have the first costume you ever made in Chaos? Or that Convention-shirt that you bought waaay too big, and therefore never wear?

If it reminds you of Discworld, you can donate it into this collective quilt.

Requirements:

- 10in (25.5cm) blocks (please make sure that it is pre-shrunk fabric)
- Please leave at least 1/2in (1.25cm) around your design that can be used as seam allowance.
- Cotton quilting fabric is for preference, but not essential.

Obviously we can't return anything to you once it is in the quilt, so please only send things that you're happy to be parted with.

For theme inspiration Cat has curated a Pinterest board: uk.pinterest.com/mrscatryan/dweon-2016-quilt/

**Deadline for finished blocks:
1st April 2016**

Please post your completed quilt tops to: Cat Ryan
Orange Tentacle, All Souls Bolton,
Astley Street, Bolton, Greater Manchester, BL1 8EY

OFFICIAL PRE-CONVENTION T-SHIRT



ORDER NOW!

The Gala Dinner

Every Discworld Convention, we organise a Gala Dinner for a select and exclusive few⁵, traditionally on the Sunday evening. It's an evening of entertainment, dressing up (either in costume or your best ballgowns and tuxes) and, of course, great food and drink. To make sure everybody who decides to attend the Gala Dinner has the best time possible, we put a lot of effort into organising it. Below is a piece by our Hotel team's Kian, reporting on one of the more crucial aspects of preparation: the food tasting at the hotel.

The Gala Dinner is run as a separate, ticketed event, with a limited number of tickets available. Tickets will be going on sale around Easter time, with further details and the menu coming before the ticket sales.

Food, glorious, food!

*"If music were the food of love...
...she was game for a sonata and
chips at any time."*

Food, food, glorious food. Dinner without food is, well, about as pointless as a school assembly. And a gala dinner without dinner, is just a ... gala?.

And at that point there's a possibility of confusion, and a worrying risk of Sport, and someone shouting "**Henley!**", and we can't have that.

So, your hotel and programme team have been busy organising for your gastronomical pleasure a range of culinary delights to tantalise your taste buds, garnish your gullet, and pleasure your palate.

We started with high expectations on both sides. The Chesford asked us what our expectations were for the dinner. Hotel wanted a cow, wrapped in a pig, wrapped in a chicken, wrapped in a quail served on top of a bed of sautéed mongoose. Finance was not impressed, vice-chair gave a Look, and The Chesford had a heart-attack.

So we then reset the expectations and filtered through a number of menu options. Since there are people who "don't eat meat"⁶, we spent quite a

while working through menu options that would work for a range of dietary requirements.

They say the proof of the pudding is in the eating. Taking that philosophy and extending it to the full dining experience, a tasting was booked at Chesford Grange.

It's amazing that when you're hunting for volunteers to map out the geography of 100 camping plots⁷, there's not a soul to be found, but when you're offering free dinner, suddenly *everyone* is willing to sacrifice themselves for the common good. After several rounds of gladiatorial combat, four winners emerged, and donning elasticated trousers, we made our way to the hotel.

At the hotel, we had an opportunity to meet the head chef and cellar manager, and we worked through a few of the details of the general food and drink programme. We've planned lots of options for you to eat, which we'll detail in further updates. We have also warned the cellar manager about the Convention's bacchanalian reputation, and he assures us, I repeat, **assures us**, that we will not run out of beer, nor gin⁸.

And then we started on the food. We tasted a full range of starters, main courses and desserts, for a range of palates, and were not disappointed

with the offerings. Some pleasant surprises were had, twists on options that had looked pleasant on paper, but turned out to be honestly superb in the eating.

Membership willingly ate salad. Membership took the recipe home and is *still* eating salad. There is a real risk of Membership turning into salad.

The hotel didn't expect us to finish off all the plates, but bar one we did.

Between each round of food, we deliberated, cogitated and digested, and scored each dish as we went along. Some proved more suitable than others, some we were on the fence about. Some we were so not-on-the-fence about that pre-orders have already been taken. But after a little bit more discussion with the chef and a few tweaks here and there, we've put together a menu we're proud of and we believe you'll enjoy.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I have around ... 276.3 kilometers to run to burn this meal off. I may be some time.

Fully yours,

Kian Ryan
Hotel

⁵ Those who decide to shell out for tickets

⁶ Apparently that still includes chicken.

⁷ Still space available on the camping field, book now to avoid disappointment!

⁸ Don't let me down folks.