

CTS Termcard Michaelmas 2023

Pubmoot

Week 0

4 October, 19.30, The Castle Inn (Castle Street)

It's a pubmoot. What more is there to say? Food, drink and convivial company as we brace ourselves for the start of term.

Freshers' Squash

Week 1

11 October, 19.30, St John's College (Castlereagh Room)

No, we're not playing the sport 'squash'. No, there will not be the drink 'squash' (unless I manage to get hold of some). No, I have no idea why it's called a Squash either. What it is, is a meeting where anyone is welcome to come and see what Cambridge Tolkien Society is all about. There will be fellow fans of Tolkien's work. There will be merriment. There will be biscuits. All in all, it's a fun way to spend a Wednesday evening. So, whether you recently watched the films and loved them, or have read the entire *History of Middle-earth* cover-to-cover, why not come along?

Families in Middle-earth

Week 2

18 October, 19.30, online

Whether royal dynasties, well-known siblings, or Samwise Gamgee's *thirteen children*, there are plenty of families worthy of discussion in Tolkien's world. This is your chance to berate Denethor for his bad parenting, attempt to work out what percent Elf Elrond really is (I've tried and it made my brain hurt), or bring up that sister of Pippin's who may have murdered her great aunt.

Showbiz in Middle-earth

Week 3

25 October, 19.30, St John's College (Castlereagh Room)

Inspired by the *Lord of the Rings* musical (which was/is showing in the UK this summer), we're wondering: what was the performing arts scene like in Middle-Earth? Did Hobbits write plays about Merry and Pippin's adventures? Did bards sing the story of Helm Hammerhand in Edoras? If you're lucky, we might even find some textual evidence!

Architecture of Middle-earth

Week 4

1 November, 19.30, online

Break out the hypotenuse and sharpen your tangents! It's time to get geometric with this ground-breaking discussion on the architecture of Middle-Earth. Expect discussion of different building styles in the Third Age, Númenorean inspiration in Gondorian architecture and a variety of other esoteric speculations.

Games Night

Week 5

8 November, 19.30, St John's College (Castlereagh Room)

As Week 5 comes to an end, we all need a bit of a break. So come and join your favourite Tolkien nerds for an evening of consequences, trivia and Contact (a word-guessing game).

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We tend to spend a significant portion of the time in fits of laughter.

The Tolkien Expanded Universe According to CTS

Week 6

15 November, 19.30, online

Tolkien wrote 706,574 words of Middle-earth content in *The Hobbit*, *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Silmarillion*, and probably more again in published and unpublished notes. But there's also a lot he *didn't* say, and that's the topic of this meeting. What types of cheese were produced in Gondor? What were the Hobbit traditions for celebrating a wedding? Who knows where this discussion will go, but I can guarantee one thing: very little of it will be canon.

Eagle Debate: Best Unused Protagonist

Week 7

22 November, 19.30, St John's College (Castlereagh Room)

How do I describe an Eagle Debate? It's like a balloon debate (in that one contestant gets voted out each round) but the figurative flying vessel is an eagle instead, because Tolkien. This time, we're taking inspiration from the previous week (or our own crazed imaginations) to think of which Tolkien characters deserve their own spin-off.

Storytelling and Poetry

Week 8

29 November, 19.30, online

An end-of-term favourite, Storytelling and Poetry week invites you to share some of your favourite Tolkien-related content, whether you want to read a passage or one of his many poems. No limit to Middle-earth either – if you want to read (or sing) about the Man in the Moon or the North Polar Bear, go ahead!

Other dates for your diary:

Foreyule Feast

Week 9

Saturday 2 December, St Luke's Chesterton

Food! Fun! Festivity! Sign up for a feast worthy of any Hobbit kitchen and merrymaking worthy of any Rivendell party.

CTS Read-along

Weekly

Fridays, 19.30, Discord

The CTS Discord read-along continues! Join us as we plunge ever deeper into the world of *The Silmarillion* (and into increasingly chaotic Google docs).