

CTS Termcard: Easter 2014

For the Enemy is upon us...

I've already said thanks to various people, but I'll say them here again: last term was an excellent success, with a well-attended AGM (and a contested election!), a well-organised annual dinner, and Minas Tirith's third Varsity Quiz win on the trot. Jamie, Mark, and my fellow quiz team members deserve particular thanks, so here they are! It is, alas, now exam term once more, and the dread hand of the Proctors reaches out to us all... yet, people of the City, hope is not lost. For, standing alone in the mist, the White Tower will keep having meetings as a bastion of safety in an ever-fearsome world. I've taken care to write this very much as an exam term timetable; you'll note that more or less from week 5 through to 8 we're pretty much just going for solid frivolities to keep the terror of exams away, whereas the discussions have coalesced earlier in the term.

April 23: Of Ships and Seafarers

The seas of Middle-Earth are a vital theme running through Tolkien's legendarium; the Elves are drawn to them, the Orcs repulsed from them, the humans fascinated by them. In this meeting expect discussion of Earendil's voyage, Fastitocalon, the Numenorean, Gondorian, and Elven navies, and of course Umbar and its dreaded corsairs! ("You are without a doubt the worst Dark Lord I've ever heard of." "Ah. But you have heard of me...")

Time: 19:15

Place: N1A, Pembroke College

April 30: Discovery and Destruction

In this discussion we'll look at Tolkien the environmentalist; what does science mean in Tolkien's world, and should we be as quick as Tolkien himself is to reject the mechanisation that Saruman and Sauron are associated with? Is there significance in the fact that the two most relevant of the Valar are literally an old married couple? Expect all this, plus trees. Lots of trees. And then maybe some more trees...

Time: 19:15

Place: N1A, Pembroke College

May 7: Gondor

Minas Tirith finds its roots this week with a discussion of the southern kingdom of Middle-Earth, its history, geography, and culture. What was the relationship between the lords of Gondor and the Stewards or Kings? How well equipped was Gondor at the time of the War of the Ring? What was really up with Castamir the Usurper? To find out, come along!

Time: 19:15

Place: N1A, Pembroke College

May 14: Magic in Middle-Earth

Magic is at the heart of how fantasy works, and indeed at the heart of Middle-Earth. That said, Middle-Earth has an interesting absence of the fireball-armed conjurors that squat under every bush in the average modern “High Fantasy” novel. How subtle magic is in Middle-earth, the roots and origins of Tolkien’s portrayal of it, and many more related topics may be covered in this exciting discussion evening.

Time: Approx. 19:15 but to be confirmed

Place: N1A, Pembroke College

May 21: Games Night

Games nights are one of our most regular traditions with the CTS, and this term will be no exception. Word games tend to be the main focus, though computers and tabletops may well sneak in round the edges as well! A fun break to cheer you up as we teeter on the brink of great and grave terror.

Time: 19:15

Place: N1A, Pembroke College

May 28: Riddle-Contest

A riddle game, friends! A riddle game! Anyone may enter this battle of wits, and anyone not wishing to enter may spectate. The rules are that a match is played with two people; each gives the other a riddle. If one gets the answer correct and the other does not, that player wins. If they both solve or both fail each other’s riddles they move to a second round, and so on. There will be a judge for each match to adjudicate on the fairness of questions (NB Gollum’s challenge *would* have been upheld, no asking what’s in your pockets!). There will be some sort of on-the-fly tournament structure designed on the night. Riddlers are encouraged to research and write the best riddles possible for the occasion!

Time: 19:15

Place: N1A, Pembroke College

June 4: Mathom Party

An old CTS tradition, the Mathom Party is simple: bring the most useless stuff you can think of, try to get rid of it, and end up going away with someone else’s useless stuff! Various discussion of who should be given what will dominate the evening. Do come along for a pleasant and thoroughly silly break from exam horrors!

Time: 19:15

Place: N1A, Pembroke College

June 11: Eagle Debate –Most Innovative Character

We look for the brightest and best in Middle-Earth. Who came up with the most unexpected responses to their situations? Who came up with the most brilliant ideas when all seemed lost? Who was the da Vinci of Dale, the Einstein of Eriador, Aman's Archimedes? We find out, arguing and voting characters off until one winner remains!

Time: 19:15

Place: N1A, Pembroke College

Date TBA: Puntmoot

The puntmoot is the main social event of this term, to be held in May Week, wherein we punt toward Grantchester and have fun, food, etc etc! More details to be announced nearer the time.

Time: To Be Confirmed

Place: To Be Confirmed

Directions

To N1A, Pembroke:

Go to the main gate, head straight on, going through the building in front of you and passing the hall doors on your right. Go straight across the courtyard on the other side, through the arch, and keep going until you come to a doorway on your left marked "N." Go through this door, straight ahead and through the set of doors immediately in front of you, and turn right through some more doors. You should then get to a wide staircase: from there, head up through the building and follow signs to N1A.

