

# CTS Termcard Michaelmas 2019

## ***Pub!***

*Week 0*

**19:00, 9 October, The Castle Inn**

Welcome back! We'll open the year with pub at The Castle. Catch up and talk all things Tolkien in a relaxing setting with fellow CTS members, or drop in and get a taste of what CTS is like.

## ***Tolkien and Magic (+ Freshers' Squash!)***

*Week 1*

**19:15, Weds 16 Oct, Clough JCR, Newnham**

Get to know CTS by coming to our first meeting of the year! The topic is magic: How does magic work in Middle Earth? Why doesn't Gandalf usually use verbal spells? What power allows Lúthien to work her enchantments? Is magic rooted in the natural world or divine aid (or is there even a difference)? Does Tolkien's presentation and use of magic have clear analogues in later fantasy, or do subsequent authors (Le Guin, Sanderson, etc.) codify their magical systems differently? Whether you have an encyclopaedic knowledge of Middle Earth, or simply have watched LotR and enjoyed it, welcome!

## ***Tolkien and Music***

*Week 2*

**19:15, Weds 23 Oct, Clough JCR, Newnham**

Tolkien's world is, in a very real sense, built on music. From the Music of the Ainur to Lúthien's enchantment of Melkor to Bilbo's love of songs, music shapes Tolkien's legendarium. This is a chance to discuss not only the role of melody within Tolkien's work, but also musical responses to Tolkien, from Howard Shore's epic film soundtrack to Donald Swann's settings in 'The Road Goes Ever On' to other fanworks.

## ***Tolkien's Writing Systems***

*Week 3*

**19:15, Weds 30 Oct, Clough JCR, Newnham**

We did languages last term, so now let's look at writing systems! Who wants to learn to write their names in Cirth? Why are most of Tolkien's Tengwar inscriptions transliterations of modern English rather than translations into Elvish? Which real world writing systems contributed to Tolkien's?

## ***Tolkien's Inspiration***

*Week 4*

**19:15, Weds 6 November, Clough JCR, Newnham**

Yes, this is partially an opportunity for the ASNaCs in the room to revel in obscurity. But inspiration beyond medieval literature is also worth considering. How did elements in Tolkien's own life influence his work? What Classical or Biblical motifs are reflected in Middle Earth?

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### ***Games Night***

*Week 5*

**19:15, Weds 13 Nov, Clough JCR, Newnham**

To combat the first Week 5 Blues of the new academic year, Games Night returns! Consequences, (pictorial or otherwise), Werewolf and Contact make a return, with plenty of hilarity in tow. Also we need to start practicing for the Quiz so we can beat The Other Place.

### ***Storytelling and Poetry***

*Week 6*

**19:15, Weds 20 Nov, Clough JCR, Newnham**

The traditional evening dedicated to reading and singing bits of Tolkien's work. This is a chance for us all to relive some of our favourite parts of the Tolkien canon, and the surrounding fandom. Come to participate, or just to listen.

### ***Eagle Debate – Best Nefarious Plan***

*Week 7*

**19:15, Weds 27 Nov, Clough JCR,  
Newnham**

What was the best (nefarious) plan in Middle Earth? Morgoth's theft of the Silmarils? Sauron's clever plot to bring down Númenor, or to forge the One Ring, tricking the other people of Middle Earth? Saruman's defection? The hobbit drug lords' scheme to achieve total monopoly on the pipe-weed trade? Canonicity not required; creativity encouraged.

### ***Group Reading***

*Week 8*

**19:15, Weds 4 December, Clough JCR,  
Newnham**

On a different topic to storytelling and poetry, this is a time for CTS members who may not have an all-encompassing knowledge of the Tolkien corpus to experience one of the shorter stories, probably Leaf by Niggle or The Father Christmas Letters.