

Welcome



Jean Lo

Editor

HELLO there. Thank you for picking up this issue of *Wyrmtongue*, the newsletter brought to you by ICSF, the Imperial College Science Fiction and Fantasy Society. May this be a fine addition to the avalanche of small stacks of paper and other miscellaneous Freshers' Fair handouts. This issue of *Wyrmtongue* contains society news, as well as information about the many exciting things happening this term and throughout the rest of the year.

In addition to this newsletter, the aspiring artists and writers among you might also like to know about our (usually) annual fanzine: a society publication with over 40 years of mythical history, containing anything from short stories, artwork, and poetry, to reviews and essays on topics related to speculative fiction. Contributions to the fanzine are always welcome; send a message to icsfwyrmtongue@gmail.com, or subscribe to our mailing lists to receive updates about an artwork contest later in the year — or do both of those things! Both is good.

Turn the page and read on to find out more about our lovely subterranean lair in Beit's west basement, about Book Crawls and cinema outings, about a radio show, and about a convention happening this February right here at Imperial College.

Here's to a(nother) splendid year at Imperial. See you in the library! $\Psi\Phi$

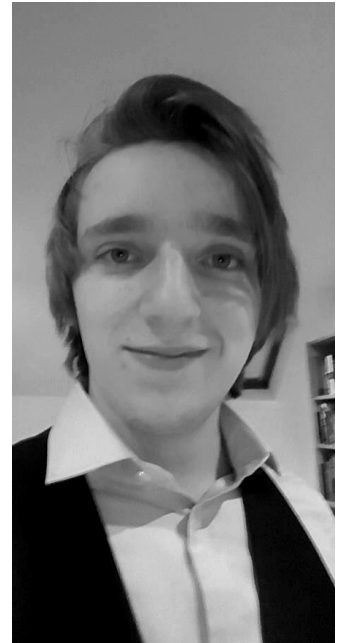
Captain's Log

To the Freshers: Welcome to Imperial and to Imperial College Science Fiction Society! To everyone else: Welcome back! Now that your peaceful/busy/exciting (choose all that apply) summer has ended, and the inevitable tide of lectures and labs is beginning, we're happy to be able to throw open our doors and provide you with a respite from all that stress. We'll be open every single week day lunchtime and often for longer, watching something good (probably set in space or containing elves, sometimes both), socialising, reading, and just generally relaxing until we have to face the real world again. Everyone's very friendly, newcomers are always welcome, and no-one bites.

What kind of Chair Entity would I be if I didn't take this opportunity to mention our lending library of now over 10,000 books (I know, that number scares even me sometimes), and 2000 DVDs and comics? All of which, and I do mean all, are available to our members. And if somehow we don't have a given book, just let us know and we'll try and get it for you as soon as possible, too! In addition to your ability to access more media than you could physically get through in your time at Imperial — trust me, I've tried — we also run various events throughout the entire year. These include subsidised cinema trips to the latest sci-fi/fantasy blockbusters, bar nights for both drinkers and non-drinkers, and Themed Friday nights where we celebrate the weekend by watching the best films/tv of a given theme our Chair of Vice has come up with, while likely eating way too much.

We also run seasonal events, such as our Halloween party, which involves such complete and utter nonsense as the best sing-along horror films we can find, and an optional costume contest (usually of bizarre not-at-all-scary sci-fi/fantasy characters), plus pizza. We also run a Christmas event full of traditional holiday films, mince pies, and carols to the Old Gods slumbering beneath the oceans; the usual holiday things.

Last, but certainly not least: we run our own yearly convention, Picocon. Yes, this is a real, actual convention held at Imperial, with guests and panels and everything, but I'll let our Picocon Sofa[†] talk to you about that event. I hope this 'zine of ours gives you all an idea about our society, and if I can end this with a few words to the Freshers among you: nit-wit, blubber, oddment, tweak — and Don't Panic. You'll do fantastically. $\Psi\Phi$



Henry Wild

Chair Entity

[†]It's like a chair, but comfier™

Welcome to the Library!



Matthew Last

Head Librarian

HELLO, welcome and/or welcome back! My name is Matthew and I am the Head Librarian for the Science Fiction and Fantasy Society this year. If you are reading this you are more than likely interested in our little corner of Beit basement and the kinds of treasures it holds, so let me elaborate.

Firstly, Books! Over 10,000 of them! All available to be checked out of our database the moment you join our society. Likewise, we have over 2000 DVDs of all kinds of sci-fi TV and films, and over 600 graphic novels, all available to borrow. Can't find what you are looking for? Then simply write it on our request list or talk to a member of our committee and we will see what we can do about adding it to our collection.

Our library is also a lovely social space, where you can come and enjoy some television, meet friendly faces, hold lively and nerdy discussions or simply relax away from university life for a bit. The library will be open every weekday during term time from at least 12pm - 2pm (though it often stays open much longer), so feel free to pop around during a lunchtime and enjoy an episode or 2. On Fridays, we celebrate the end of the week by watching movies from some of our favourite genres and series. Keep up to date with these and many other fun events by connecting to our Facebook group.

If, after all that, you are bewildered by our collection and have no idea where to start, simply look overleaf and read some recommendations by members of our committee. I hope to see you among the shelves soon. $\Psi\Phi$

Book Recommendations

To give you some ideas about what to take out of the library, here are some recommendations from the committee members of books to borrow:

Henry Wild

— **Kings of the Wyld** by Nicholas Eames
Fantasy mercenary bands treated like musical bands.

Connor Winzar

— **Injustice: Gods Among Us**[†] by Tom Taylor and Brian Buccellato
A story of the corruption of Superman's morals and his descent into tyranny.

Michael Figini

— **The Simpsons and their Mathematical Secrets**[‡] by Simon Singh
Makes you want to re-watch the show just to find the mathematical secrets.

Matthew Legg

— **The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy** by Douglas Adams
Earth has been demolished. Don't Panic, and please don't forget to bring your towel.

Matthew Last

— **Mort** by Terry Pratchett
Death gets an apprentice. A strong introduction to the Discworld series.

Edward Pickup

— **The Red Knight** by Miles Cameron
Fantasy Britain, but the Scottish are demons.

Harry Black

— **Speaker for the Dead** by Orson Scott Card
Aliens, philosophy, and psychology?

Jean Lo

— **Schild's Ladder** by Greg Egan
Differential geometry as a metaphor for character development.

Sequoia Trevorrow

— **The Songs of Distant Earth**[§] by Arthur C. Clarke
Earth is gone. God is dead. Life is still an emotion-filled rollercoaster.

Timothy Davison

— **Foundation** by Isaac Asimov
The Empire is crumbling. Fight the chaos.

[†] This is a comic. We have those.

[‡] This is a non-fiction book. We have those too.

[§] Sequoia also recommends the album of the same name, by Mike Oldfield.

Events Timetable



Connor Winzar

Chair of Vice

THE riveting events from ICSF this upcoming year range from movie marathons of cheesy classics, to singing till you drop at *Frozen* karaoke. Expect a torrent of events for the first few weeks of this term, with plenty of opportunities to meet fellow fans of sci-fi, fantasy, Monty Python, and who knows what else.

Here are some of the regular events you can be expecting from ICSF:

Lunchtime Showings — From noon to 2pm nearly every weekday, the library can be found filled with people watching, various TV shows and movies that ICSF has to offer. For the first couple of weeks of term, we'll be showing some of our favourite picks to give you an idea of what our collection has to offer, but after that, the selection is open to all.

Literary Lucky Dip — Fancy a mysterious free book? Well, join us for this new take on a lucky dip, with books being wrapped up in packaging with subtle hints to the contents within.

Bar Nights — Our monthly bar nights are a great opportunity to meet and catch up over a few drinks (alcoholic or otherwise) and discuss science fiction, fantasy, or whatever else catches your interest!

Book Crawl — Where some societies have pub crawls, ICSF has book crawls! We'll be travelling around the best book and comic stores in London to find out what they have to offer.

Halloween — On Friday 27th October we will be having an all-singing all-dancing party with showings of Horror and singalong classics like *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* and *Dr Horrible's Sing-Along Blog*. Come prepared for plenty of snacks, pizza, and even a fancy dress competition!

Cinema Trips — Whether it may be discounted or not, come along as we go out in groups to see the latest fantasy and sci-fi hits in cinema. This term, be excited for: *Venom*, *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald*, and *Aquaman*.

For more information about upcoming events, see the calendar on the following page. ΨΦ

OCTOBER

THU 04 Meet and Greet
FRI 05 **Themed Friday**
Blockbuster Night
WED 10 **Cinema Trip**
Venom
WED 10 Literary Lucky Dip
FRI 12 **Themed Friday**
Indiana Jones
THU 18 Bar Night + Quiz
FRI 19 **Themed Friday**
Monty Python
SAT 20 Book Crawl
THU 25 Escape Room
FRI 26 Halloween Party
SAT 27 Modern Horror
All-Nighter

NOVEMBER

FRI 02 **Themed Friday**
Revenge of Blockbuster Night
SAT 03 Danger After 5
THU 08 Bar Night
FRI 09 **Themed Friday**
Steampunk
SAT 10 Boardgame Night
FRI 16 **Themed Friday**
Disney + Karaoke
SAT 17 **Cinema Trip**
Fantastic Beasts
THU 22 Journal 3
FRI 23 **Themed Friday**
Mad Max
SAT 24 John Carpenter Marathon
FRI 30 **Themed Friday**
Bad Films

DECEMBER

FRI 07 Christmas Party
FRI 14 **Cinema Trip**
Aquaman

Initial Lunchtime Showings

Join us in the next few weeks for:

- *Batman: The Animated Series*
- *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*
- *Doctor Who*
- *Futurama*
- *Red Dwarf*
- *Star Trek: The Original Series*
- *Star Wars*

... and others.

Regular lunchtime showings (every weekday!) continue throughout term time. Unofficial events not shown.

Be sure to subscribe to our mailing lists to keep yourself up to date.

Picocon



Edward Pickup

Picocon Sofa

GREETINGS! I am this year's Picocon Sofa — a more comfortable chair, you see. For those of you not acquainted with the oddities of our society, Picocon is our annual convention raising money for charity, and also for the society. I am in charge of running this fantabulous show, which hopefully will not crash and burn like a fresher's attempt at sobriety.

The history of Picocon stretches back across many years, and the 36th annual Picocon will be held on 16th February 2019. At Picocon, there will be many, many things to be enjoyed, including the exciting sight of objects such as a delightfully cute Porg plushie being submerged into a vat of liquid nitrogen and then destroyed with a giant hammer, in a truly *smashing* event known as the Destruction of Dodgy Merchandise. Another infamous event will be the Turkey Readings, in which the committee shall read to you modern “literature” until you pay us to stop — for charity, of course. We will have a number of Guests of Honour giving speeches and presentations: in previous years, we've hosted names such as Terry Pratchett, Charles Stross, and Peter F. Halmilton. Two guests are confirmed for this coming year, and with more in the pipeline, this year is sure not to disappoint!

I am not alone in organising this event. I am aided by the committee as a greater hive-like entity, most notably this year's Beanbag, Harry Black. The theme for this year is not yet finalised at the time of writing, but will be announced shortly along with the artwork contest and a full list of guests and speakers. For announcements for useful things like our theme, our guests, and our art competition's deadline, you can follow Picocon on Twitter at @Picocon.

Merry Universitying! ΨΦ

Whispers from the Basement

Imperial College Science Fiction and Fantasy Society brings their weird and wonderful conversations directly to your ears! Tune in for an hour of terrible banter, mysterious music, and possibly traumatising dialogue.

Whispers from the Basement airs every Wednesday afternoon 14:00 - 15:00 on IC Radio. Find updates about the show and listen to previous broadcasts on the IC Radio website at icradio.com/shows/1016/.

Getting Involved

Mailing Lists

ICSF maintains two mailing lists, to which all members are welcome to subscribe:

- `icsf-list` is the society's core mailing list, which communicates announcements of ICSF events and important news about the society. This list does not generate an overwhelming amount of traffic, and *is a must if you would like to hear about film trips and other activities*.
- `icsf-committee` is our 'management' list — but it gets used a lot more widely than that. Here you'll be able to contribute your opinion to the running of the society.

You can manage your subscriptions at mailman.imperial.ac.uk/mailman.

Social Media

For those who welcome our social network overlords, behold continuations of the library into the realms of cyberspace:



facebook.com/groups/ICSF.Imperial
Sci-fi talk, news and events, entertaining links.



@Picocon
Announcements and hype for our annual convention.

New channels this year:

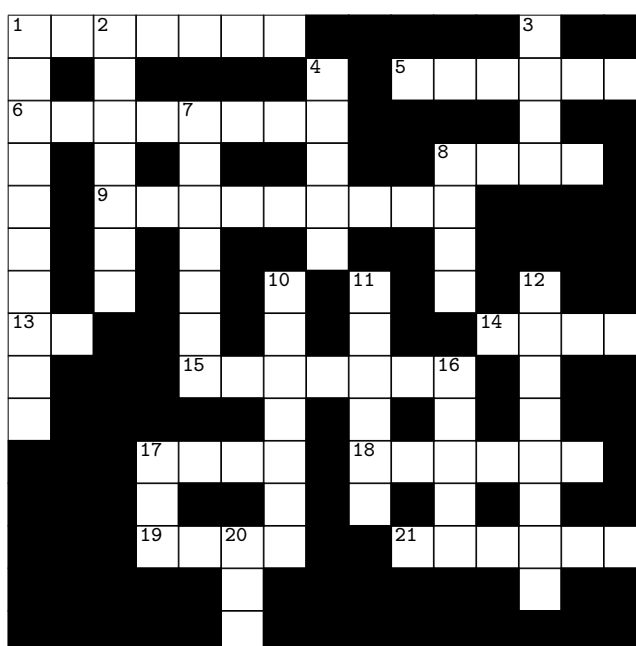


@Imperial_SciFi
Rejoice; we now have an official twitter.



@Imperial_SciFi
Visions from the library.

Crossword



Down

- 1 It's over, Anakin! I have the _____. *Star Wars: Episode III — Revenge of the Sith* (4, 6)
- 2 What is the air-speed velocity of an unladen ____? *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* (7)
- 3 I'm sorry, _____. I'm afraid I can't do that. *2001: A Space Odyssey* (4)
- 4 The past was erased, the erasure was forgotten, the lie became _____. *1984* (5)
- 7 _____, apprehension, and dissension have begun. *The Demolished Man* (7)
- 8 _____ is the mind-killer. *Dune* (4)
- 10 Life before death. Strength before weakness. _____ before destination. *The Way of Kings* (7)
- 11 You will ride eternal, shiny and _____! *Mad Max: Fury Road* (6)
- 12 Never go against a _____ when death is on the line. *The Princess Bride* (8)
- 16 Bear Island knows no king but the king in the _____. *Game of Thrones* (5)
- 17 You've got _____ on you. *Shaun of the Dead* (3)
- 20 Do ... or do not. There is no _____. *The Empire Strikes Back* (3)

Across

- 1 _____. Read it and weep! *Cat's Cradle* (7)
- 5 _____ barada nikto. *The Day the Earth Stood Still* (6)
- 6 By _____'s hammer, by the suns of Worvan, you shall be avenged. *Galaxy Quest* (8)
- 8 Dobby is a _____ elf! *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* (4)
- 9 Time is an illusion. _____ doubly so. *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* (9)
- 13 Life, _____, finds a way. *Jurassic Park* (2)
- 14 One Ring to rule them all, One Ring to find them; One Ring to bring them all and in the darkness _____ them. *The Lord of the Rings* (4)
- 15 Reverse the polarity of the _____ flow! *Doctor Who* (7)
- 17 All those moments will be lost in time, like tears in _____. *Blade Runner* (4)
- 18 Never let your sense of _____ prevent you from doing what is right. *Foundation* (6)
- 19 Death is lighter than a feather. _____, heavier than a mountain. *The Wheel of Time* (4)
- 21 Ph'nglui mglw'nafh Cthulhu R'lyeh wgah'nagl _____. *The Call of Cthulhu* (6)

Thanks to the library for suggesting these quotations.

