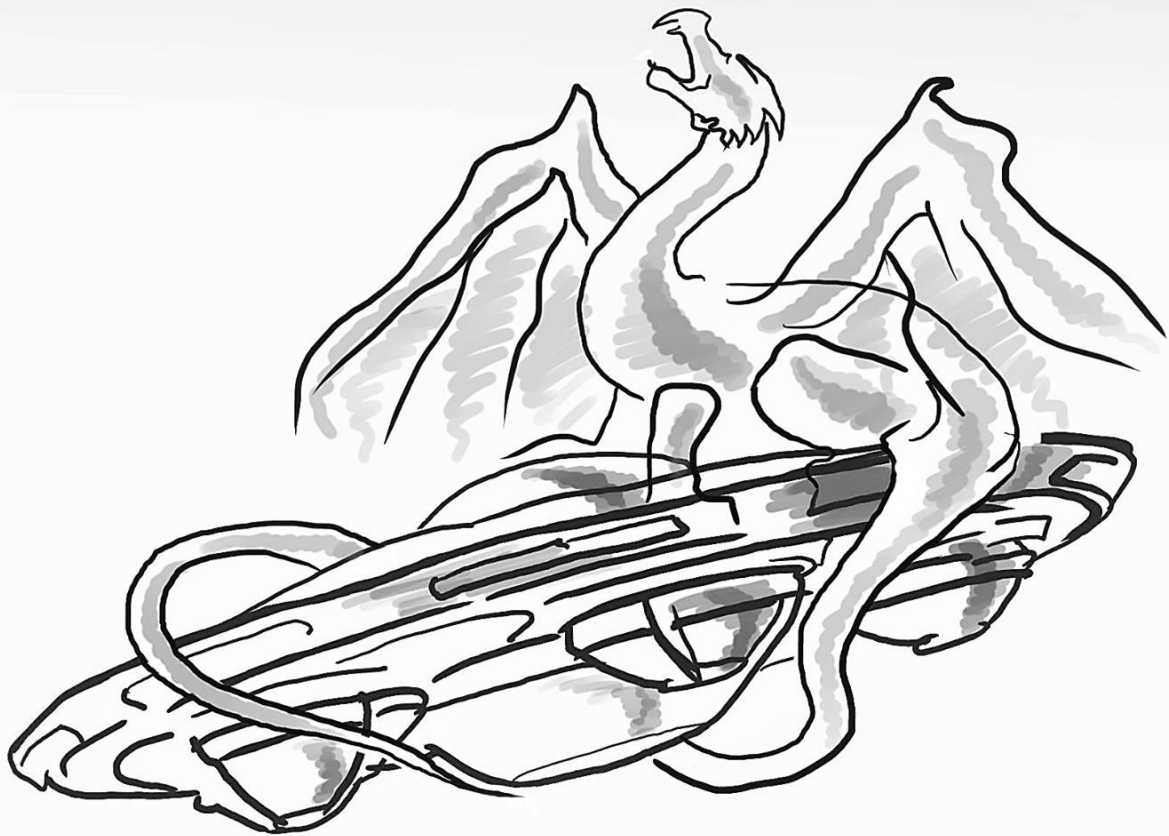


# WYRMTONGUE







## Welcome

Hi everybody! Thanks for picking up this issue of Wyrmtongue, the newsletter for the Imperial College Science Fiction and Fantasy society (ICSF). Here you can find out about the society, and what will be going on this term and throughout the year. As ICSF editor, I'll also be putting together fanzines featuring the creative writing of the society's budding authors — so please get in touch if you'd like to be one of them!

Looking forward to seeing you around the library soon!

– Katherine Read, Editor



## Captain's Log

Hello everyone,

To all the freshers, congratulations on making it to Imperial and welcome to ICSF. To everyone else, congratulations on making it back!

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are feeling refreshed and ready for an action-packed year of lectures, labs and other things you may wish to hide from occasionally. The good news is, the library exists, with a bunch of fun (at least, we think so) people there watching something, having daft discussions and generally whiling away time until we have to face the real world again. Newcomers are always welcome!

Obviously, a library wouldn't be a library without also having some books. In fact, we have over 9000 of them (!), along with about 2000 DVDs and a fair few comics, graphic novels and audio books. All these are available for our members to take out, and if an item you want is somehow not already included in our ridiculously large collection, you can always request it. Good luck trying to consume it all in your time here.

We're also an active social society with a whole variety of events over the course of the year. These include regular cinema trips and bar nights (popular with both drinkers and those less alcoholically inclined). Highlights of the year include a Halloween night with singing, costumes and pizza, a Christmas event with Christmassy singing, Christmassy costumes and Christmassy pizza, and a residential trip to Hay-on-Wye, the town with the highest ratio of bookshops to people. To top it all off, we also hold our very own convention, Picocon (yes you read that right, an actual real convention, with actual real guests whose names you will probably know).

So read on, learn more about the society and come and meet us all in person in the library... Live long and prosper!

– Amelia Owens, Chair Entity



# Welcome to the Library!

Hi there! I'm Henry, the Head Librarian here, and as such I'd like to warmly welcome you to ICSF's science fiction and fantasy library!

You can find us open from 12 to 2 every weekday down in the West Basement of Beit Quad, however if you need more detailed instructions you can find them on the map in this Wyrmtongue. The library currently contains over 10,000 books, 2000 DVDs, and 600 graphic novels, with more being added to our collection every day; and you can borrow anything from our collection as soon as you buy membership with us! If, by some miracle, we don't have what you're looking for, you can simply write it down on the request list in the library or post your request on the library Facebook page, and we'll get it for you as soon as possible.

However, the library itself is not just a place to borrow and read/watch books and DVDs, it's also a unique social space on campus. It's almost always full of people relaxing while watching genre TV and having nerdy discussions about life, the universe, and everything. So should you fancy pretending your course and all your other responsibilities don't exist, you can count on the library being there for an episode or two (or three...) of your favourite show over lunch. It also often stays open late into the evening as well, so you can stay and unwind past 2pm or even try to 'work' in it too. To see if the library's open and see what's on, check the webcam on the front page of our website.

Lastly, should you want recommendations on where to start, check out some of the committee's favourite books on the next page.

I hope to see you all around the library this coming year!

– Henry Wild, Librarian

# 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.

Amelia Owens

**A Natural History of Dragons** by Marie Brennan

*Pseudo-Victorian lady's memoir of dragon study.*

Matthew Legg

**The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy** by Douglas Adams

*Don't panic, and remember your towel.*

Eliza Karlowska

**Mistborn** by Brandon Sanderson

*Thieves topple God-Emperor via metal magic.*

Henry Wild

**Lies of Locke Lamora** by Scott Lynch

*Con-artist crew working in fantasy Venice.*

Edward Da Fonseca

**The Star Fraction** by Ken MacLeod

*Sci-fi revolution, political humour, privatised nukes.*

Kai Lawrence

**Prince of Thorns** by Mark Lawrence

*Brutal fantasy, definition of an antihero.*

Connor Winzar

**Bioshock: Rapture** by John Shirley

*The Ozymandias of the Ocean Floor.*

Tim Davison

**Tales of Known Space** by Larry Niven

*Humanity's future: a short story collection.*

Katherine Read

**Ready Player One** by Ernest Cline

*Virtual 80s themed Easter egg hunt.*

– The Committee



# Events Timetable

As you may have gathered by now, the sci-fi society runs loads of fun events over the year, involving everything from movie marathons to Cthulhu carols. We already have lots of exciting events planned for the first few weeks, which you can find out more about on the timetable on the next page. The fun continues over the year, so be sure to subscribe to the mailing list to stay updated.

## Lunchtime Showings

From 12 to 2pm nearly every weekday, you will find the library full of people watching the 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 the genre, but after that the selection is open to all.

## Literary Lucky Dip

Did someone say free books? Yes, we did! But there's a catch - the books will be wrapped up with only a few words on the front to describe what's inside.

## Bar Nights

Bar nights are a great opportunity to meet 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 classics like *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* and *Dr Horrible's Sing-Along Blog*. Also to look forward to are plenty of snacks, pizza, and a fancy dress competition!

## Cinema Trips

Outings to see genre films are arranged throughout the year. This term we hope to go and see **Lego Ninjago**, **Bladerunner** and **Thor Ragnarok**.

Arrangements for events will be circulated using the `icsf-list` mailing list.

Kai Lawrence, Acting Chair of Vice

## ICSF Autumn Term Events

Week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat*
Week 1 2nd October		Freshers Fair! <b>Viewing: Futurama</b> <sup>†</sup>	<b>Viewing: Star Trek: Original Series</b> <sup>†</sup>	<b>Viewing: Black Mirror</b> <sup>†</sup> <b>6pm: Meet and Greet</b> <sup>‡</sup>	<b>Viewing: Firefly</b> <sup>†</sup> <b>Themed Friday:</b> Cornetto Trilogy	
Week 2 9th October	<b>Viewing: X Files</b> <sup>†</sup>	<b>12pm:</b> Mental Health Day	<b>Viewing: Red Dwarf</b> <sup>†</sup> <b>12pm and 6pm:</b> Literary Lucky Dip	<b>Viewing: Doctor Who</b> <sup>†</sup>	<b>Viewing: Buffy</b> <sup>†</sup> <b>Themed Friday:</b> Lego <b>Cinema Trip:</b> Lego Ninjago	<b>11am:</b> Book Crawl
Week 3 16th October				<b>6pm:</b> EGM and Bar Night	<b>Themed Friday:</b> Rubbish Film Night	
Week 4 23rd October					<b>6pm:</b> Halloween Night <sup>‡</sup>	<b>Cinema Trip:</b> Thor Ragnarok <sup>§</sup>

~ To make sure you hear about events later in the year, subscribe to our mailing list.

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\* There are currently no events planned on Sundays, but members are always welcome to get the key out and enjoy the library.

† These are our usual lunchtime viewings, taking place in the library. They are 12-2pm (the whole of lunchtime) unless otherwise stated.

‡ Warning: this event may contain traces of pizza.

§ Precise date to be confirmed.



# Picocon

Hi all! For those of you who're not yet familiar with our subterranean lair, or even some of our more occasional visitors, the eccentricities of our society may not be entirely apparent: please allow my introduction as Picocon Sofa to be the first taste of our particular brand of nonsense. We're an old society, so we get silly names. Yes, I know, it's great.

On 17th February 2018, we're extending our tendrils into other parts of Imperial College to host invited guests with enlightening talks and panels, as well as an assortment of more esoteric activities. Since the early 1980s, we and our predecessors have run 34 of these literary conventions, making this the 35th annual Picocon. In previous years, we've hosted Terry Pratchett (GNU Pterry), Charles Stross, and Frances Hardinge, and with three guests already confirmed for this year, we hope to ensure this tradition continues into the far future by running a memorable event. Every year we raise large sums for the Raising and Giving scheme (RAG) by holding turkey readings (you pay us to stop torturing you with the worst modern literature we can dredge from the depths) and smashing tragic bootleg merchandise with liquid nitrogen and the hammer from a friendly fire engine.

Picocon 35 is broadly focussed around the theme of harmony: the unification of different elements to form a pleasing whole. The theme has coloured the choice of guests, which include a well-known collaborative duo, as well as an author who skilfully blends aspects of different genres into their works. Hopefully these hints have tantalised enough that you'll keep up to date with the latest on the convention on our social media presence: search for #Picocon on facebook or twitter for more information. As with any harmonious undertaking, it couldn't be done without my trusty deputy, Kai Lawrence, who serves as Picocon Beanbag, as well as the support of the rest of the ICSF committee.

We're also running an art competition — design a logo for Picocon 35, and we'll put it on all of this year's promotional material. You'll also get a shirt with your design on. Previous examples are available on our website, or on archived shirts and promotional material in the library, so drop by and ask a committee member! Please send entries or questions to [icsf.picoconsofa@gmail.com](mailto:icsf.picoconsofa@gmail.com).

– Edward Da Fonseca, Picocon Sofa \*

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\* More comfortable than a chair



# Getting Involved

## Mailing Lists

ICSF maintains two mailing lists, which all members are welcome to subscribe to. Like all official Imperial mailing lists, they use mailman. **icsf-list** is the society's core mailing list, which contains announcements of ICSF events and important news about the society. This list gets quite a low volume of traffic, and *is a must if you want to hear about film trips and other events*. **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](mailto:mailman.imperial.ac.uk/mailman).

## Social Networks

For those who welcome our social network overlords, we also have a Facebook group, which is pretty much a continuation of the library into the realms of cyber space — [facebook.com/groups/ICSF.Imperial](https://facebook.com/groups/ICSF.Imperial) (or search for 'Imperial College Science Fiction').

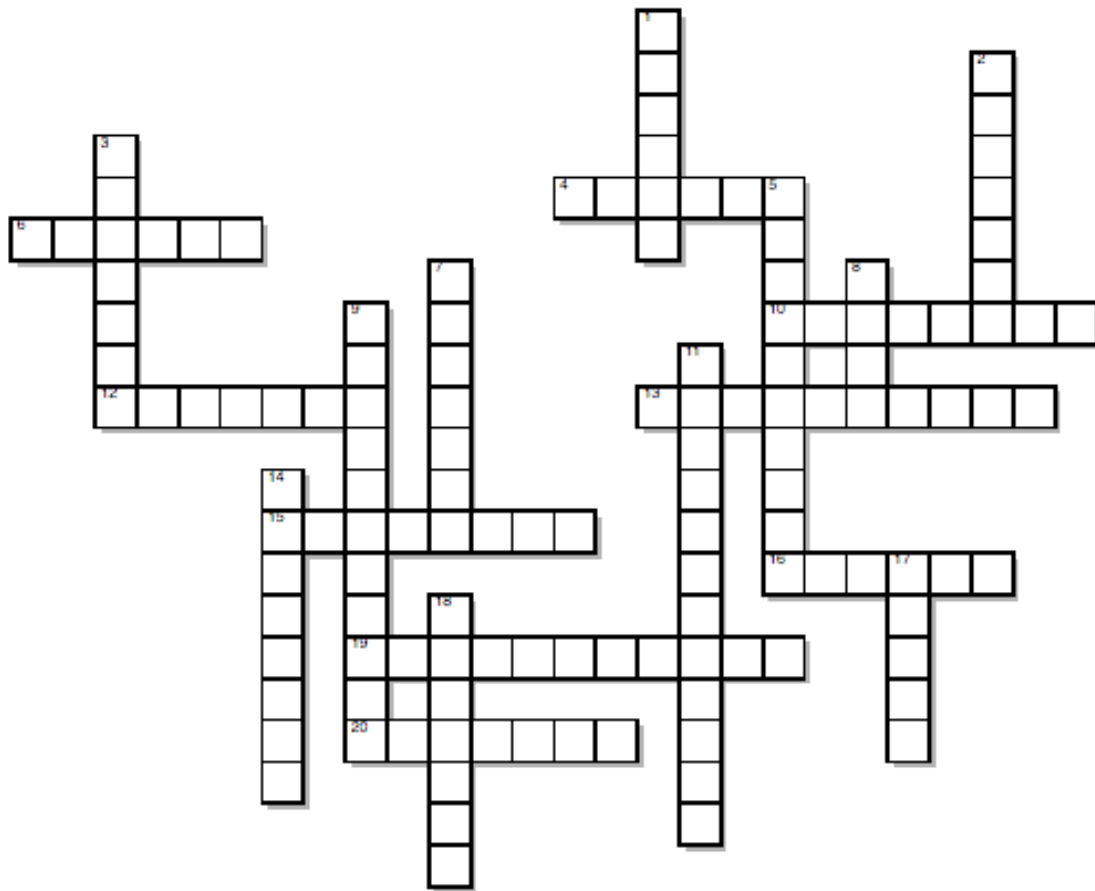
Our library Facebook page, 'ICSF Library', has all the latest updates on new additions and recommendations, as well as book reviews by our resident librarian. It can be found at [facebook.com/icsflibrary](https://facebook.com/icsflibrary).

Finally, we have a Twitter account dedicated to our very own convention, Picocon. Check out and follow @Picocon for all the latest news and information about this year's event.

## EGM

This year, we will be holding an EGM on Thursday 19th October to elect a Chair of Vice. The Chair of Vice is the brains and organisation behind all of ICSF's events, so the role is a big responsibility! If you'd like to run, vote or just hang out and meet the committee, then come along to the library at 6pm.

# Sci-Fi Crossword



## ACROSS

- 4 The agency to which the Avengers belong (6)
- 6 The last horcrux to be destroyed (6)
- 10 One of the stars of Monty Python (4,4)
- 12 Creature corrupted by the One Ring (7)
- 13 Creator of 'Buffy the Vampire Slayer' (4,6)
- 15 Town with the highest density of bookshops (3,2,3)
- 16 "Beam me up, \_\_\_\_\_" (6)
- 19 Our Dalek mascot's motto (11)
- 20 \_\_\_\_\_ IV, the first ship to appear in 'Star Wars' (7)

## DOWN

- 1 The first name of Futurama's protagonist (6)
- 2 "\_\_\_\_\_ will win but Krum will catch the Snitch" (7)
- 3 The son of Thranduil (7)
- 5 Time and Relative \_\_\_\_\_ In Space (10)
- 7 ICSF's one day convention (7)
- 8 "So long and thanks for all the \_\_\_\_\_" (4)
- 9 Film that parodies Star Trek and its fandom (6,5)
- 11 A test used to identify androids (6,6)
- 14 Batman's nemesis (3,5)
- 17 Brienne of \_\_\_\_\_ (5)
- 18 Master of marvel-lous cameos (4,3)



