

# THE Canterbury Tales

An Unofficial Harry Potter Conference

Canterbury, UK • July 21<sup>ST</sup> – 24<sup>TH</sup> 2011

DiaCon Alley

The DiaCon Alley newsletter

Nº 3 — June 2011

## The beginning of the end



It's time  
to say goodbye

So this is it, folks—the beginning of the end. At least for a certain part of the fandom anyway. It will be sad, there will be tears and non-waterproof mascara, but, at the very same time, it will also be one of the best, most memorable moments of our fannish lives. In years to come people will say “Do you remember where you were when the last Harry Potter film came out?” To which you can proudly nod and reply “Yes. I was at DiaCon Alley.”

This final instalment marks ten years since the release of *Philosopher's Stone* and looking back on those years will con-

jure up fond memories for a lifetime to come. Of course, we're all ten years older and it's probably become slightly less socially acceptable to be wandering the streets dressed as witches and wizards, but that's the beauty of fandom; nobody cares. And that's what we're aiming for at DiaCon—to create a space where fans can celebrate the magic of Harry Potter in any way they chose. Well ... within the realms of moral decency, of course. No celebratory Unforgivables, please.

And with less than a month to go before the event, we here at DiaCon HQ would

"Of sundry folk, by  
aventure\* y-fall  
In fellowship, and  
pilgrims were they all,  
into company.  
That toward Canterbury  
woulde ride."

The Canterbury Tales,  
14th century

\*aventure = chance

like to take a minute to thank all our members who have submitted papers, offered to volunteer, or simply just decided to attend. There would be no con with you, and it's you who will make DiaCon Alley the magical, spectacular, phantasmagorical event that we know it's going to be.

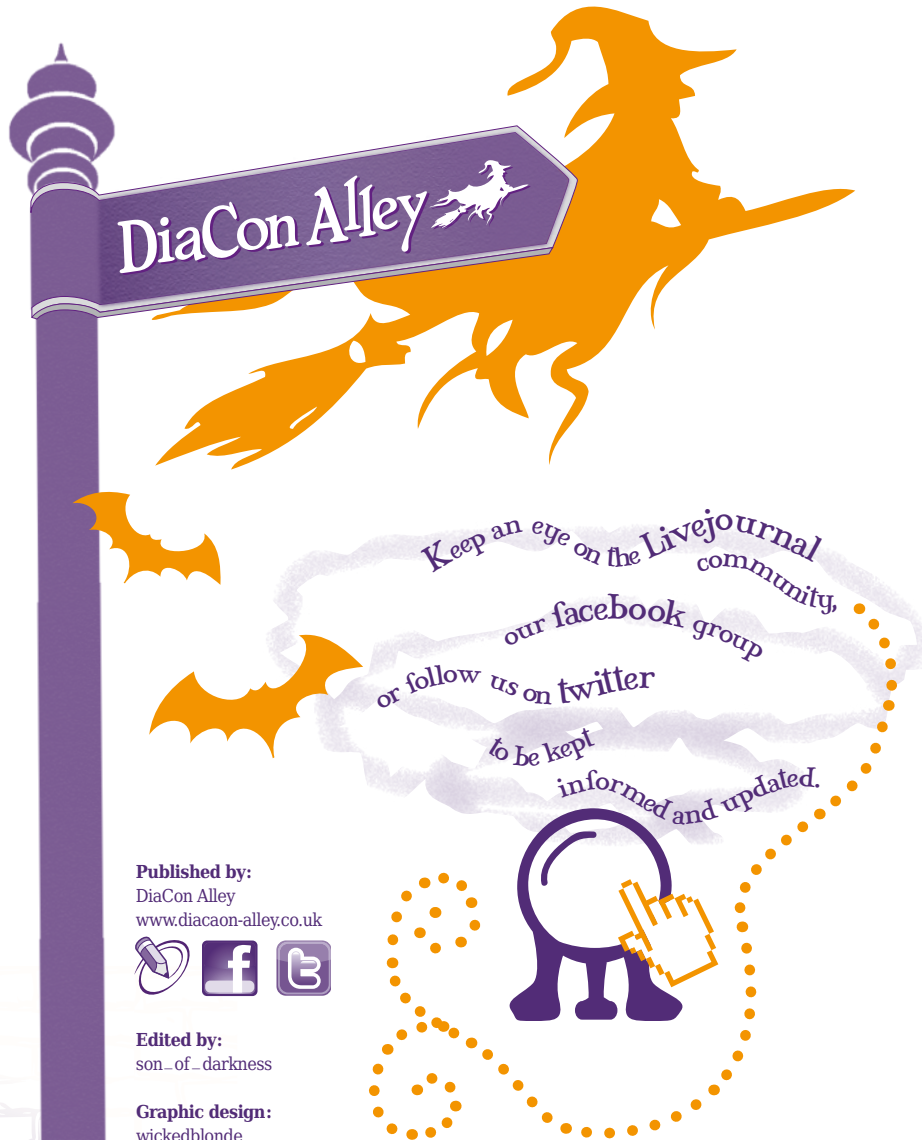
So, thank you and see you all very soon. :)

Best wishes.

The DiaCon Alley Team

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**Disclaimer:**

This conference is not endorsed, sanctioned or in any way supported, directly or indirectly, by Warner Bros. Entertainment, the Harry Potter book publishers, or J.K. Rowling and her representatives. Registrations is open to over-16s only, under 18s must be accompanied by an adult, and we reserve the right to request ID before granting admission.




## CANTERBURY FACT

Canterbury is  
twinned with  
Reims in France  
and  
Bloomington, Illinois  
in the USA.



## Registration Info

We have recently dispatched owls emailed all members to remind them of their membership details. This email will have included your membership number, your room type and what extras you have ordered.

If you didn't receive an email then it may mean your membership request didn't go through. If that happens, contact [chair@diacon-alley.co.uk](mailto:chair@diacon-alley.co.uk) as soon as possible so we can find out what went wrong and correct it for you. Hopefully it will just mean it got sent to the wrong email address or something equally as pesky. Not to worry. :) 

til DiaCon Alley! We're all really  
you are too.  
your membership details in  
ers.  
d the name on your



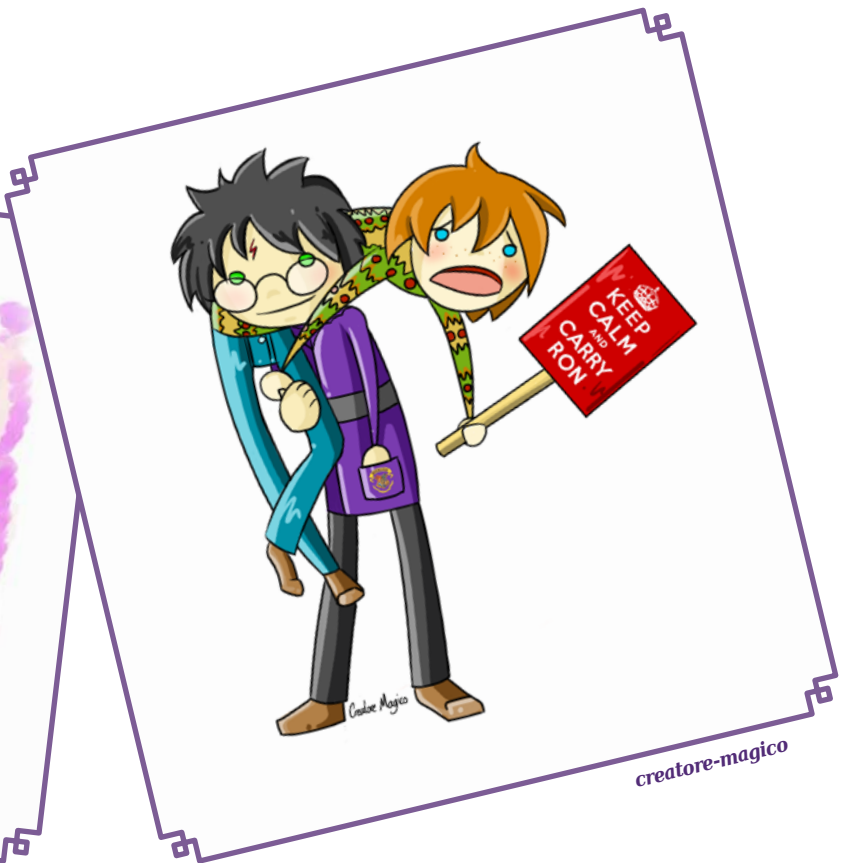


## Art Show

Sadly, for various reasons, we will no longer be having a traditional art show. On the plus side, we'll be displaying the items people have brought along for the auction instead. So that's nifty. :)

# Charity Auction

at DiaCon Alley



We will be holding an auction on the Sunday, after programming, and our hope is to raise lots and lots of money for Amnesty International, but, wonderful congoers, we need your help ...

Are you an artist, a knitter or maybe a collector? If so, you could be exactly what we're looking for. If you have anything you think a Potter fan might go crazy for, bring it along for the auction. A handmade

wand, some Dobby earrings, or a story written specially for the bidder—all of these would make brilliant contributions.

You do not need to have already made your item—it could be a commission (although an example of your work wouldn't hurt). It needn't be big, but every little will help further Amnesty's worthy cause.



# No HP Con Without Meetups

We all know that it's not just the programme that makes a con worthwhile, it's the people you meet there. We want to make sure that every single one of you meets someone who shares your interests—not just a love of Harry Potter—but more specific favourites such as 'ships' or fanfiction genres. That's why we welcome you to organise meet-ups at DiaCon Alley for your own little corner of fandom.

We're happy to help you with the planning of course. If you need help with organising your event we'll do whatever we can. We will be setting aside time slots and rooms for meet-ups to take place

Let us know about your group and we'll be sure to mention you on the LJ, website and Facebook.

You can contact us regarding meetups at [info@diacon-alley.co.uk](mailto:info@diacon-alley.co.uk) for more details or to let us know about your event.



## Organized Meet-ups at DiaCon Alley

**Snupin**

[diacon-snupin.livejournal.com](http://diacon-snupin.livejournal.com)

**Snack**

[diacon-snack.livejournal.com](http://diacon-snack.livejournal.com)

**Alex Rider**

[www.diacon-alley.co.uk/forum/viewtopic.php?f=7&t=1516&sid=b39b65652eb63c2df6ce1f5e20705c6e](http://www.diacon-alley.co.uk/forum/viewtopic.php?f=7&t=1516&sid=b39b65652eb63c2df6ce1f5e20705c6e)



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# Important Information

## Dates and Times

DiaCon Alley starts on Thursday 21 July and ends on Sunday 24 July.

Check in for accommodation opens at 14:00 (2pm) on Thursday.

Registration desk opens at 16.00 (4pm).

Opening Ceremony will be starting at 19.30 (7:30pm).

Closing Ceremony will be on Sunday and end by 16.00 (4pm).

## Membership, Accommodation and Extras

We can still take memberships until 16 July, **however** the last date we will be accepting bookings for accommodation is 1 July. You must have a membership number to book your accommodation.


The last date to book your Ball ticket will also be 1 July.

Please be aware we cannot sell ball tickets at DiaCon, they must be pre-bought!

## Payment and Refunds

The date for sending international cheques has passed. We can no longer accept international cheques.

You can still pay via Google Checkout, with a debit or credit card, or by international bank transfer. Please note that international bank transfers may include a fee that you will need to absorb.

Please also be aware that we can **no longer offer refunds** of any kind. We are sorry if this is an inconvenience. 

# How to Apparate to Canterbury

## ... the Muggle Way

### Air

London is served by five international airports:

- London City
- Heathrow
- Gatwick
- Stansted
- Luton

### Rail

The best train station for the University is Canterbury West but you can also get trains to Canterbury East.

- From London: High speed trains run regularly from London St Pancras to Canterbury West. You can also travel from London Charing Cross, London Waterloo East or London Bridge to Canterbury West (about 90 mins). Or London Victoria to Canterbury East.
- From Dover: Direct trains from Dover Priory to Canterbury East every half hour on weekdays (times vary during weekends). Journey time approx. 30 minutes.
- From Ramsgate: Frequent direct trains from Ramsgate to Canterbury West. Journey time approx. 20 minutes.

Taxis are available at both Canterbury West and Canterbury East Stations. Fares should cost about £6. You can also get to the campus by foot or by bus.

### Driving

- **London:**  
M2, A2 (56 miles; 89km)
- **Chatham:**  
M2, A2 (31miles; 50km)


- **Dover:**  
A2 (16 miles; 26km)
- **Folkestone** (Tunnel Terminal):  
M20/A20, A260, A2 (23 miles; 36km)
- **Ramsgate:**  
A253, A28 (18 miles; 29km)
- **Ashford:**  
A28 (14 miles; 22km)
- **Maidstone:**  
(26 miles; 42km) and
- **Tonbridge** (40 miles; 64km):  
M20, M2, A2
- **From the North or West:**  
M25, M20, M2, A2
- **Canterbury to the University:**  
Canterbury central ring road, A290 Whitstable Road, St Thomas Hill, approx. 1 mile (1.6km) along the A290, University entrance on right (signposted) near top of hill.

### Bus

There is a regular bus service to the University from both the rail and central bus stations. Return tickets cost £2.50, which can be used all day. These can be bought on board the bus. The Unibus and some Triangle buses, to Whitstable, stop at the University.

### By foot

You can walk from Canterbury West train station (about 25 – 30 minutes).

Turn left out of the station and walk to the end of the road. Just after the 'Goods Shed' market on your left, take the footpath on the left and take the subway under the railway line. The University is signposted on blue signs from here. 





## CANTERBURY FACT

The city is on the River Stour or "Great Stour". Punts and rowed river boats are available for hire in Canterbury.



## Meet the Committee

**What's your name?**

Lokifan - Becky :D

**What's your position on the committee?**

Secretary.

**How did DiaCon Alley first take shape for you?**

I was at Eastercon, when some of us first started talking about how there should be a proper send-off for Harry after the last film came out. I'd say it took shape for me when I left the very intense conversation for a panel on writing London in fantasy. I came back after an hour to find we'd decided on a name.

**How did you first get into Harry Potter fandom?**

I was sixteen, and dossing around on the internet when I was meant to be revising

for my GCSEs. I found a link to a James/Sirius all-dialogue smutfic, and the rest is history.

**What is your favourite Harry Potter book and why?**

*Prisoner of Azkaban*. It's so tight and nicely plotted, the usual twists are piled on each other, you've got this long climax that keeps its tension, fantastic time-travel plot ... Also one of my favourite HP moments is Draco telling Pansy how incredibly STOIC and MANLY he is then winking at Crabbe and Goyle. And when Hermione walks out on Divination!!

**What is your favourite scene from the books?**

The moment where Draco shows up with the Potter Stinks badges. It's so incredibly juvenile and yet he's obviously put loads of time into making cool magical badges.

I just love that Harry gets so enraged that his nemesis fights him with arts and crafts.

**What is your favourite piece of fanfiction/fanart?**

SUCH A HARD QUESTION, DEAR GOD. Right now I'm nominating One Step by l3petitemort—it's a bit of really excellent Ron/Draco fic, funny and intense, set while Ron was away during Deathly Hallows. Having seen the seventh film again I was left with the massive urge to reread!

**What are you most looking forward to about DiaCon Alley?**

The programming looks fantastic, but on balance I think it's the meet-ups and sitting about in the bar. The size of it—big enough to meet lots of people, small enough to get to know them—is perfect for that sort of thing :D