

Decadence

The Tenth British Filk Convention



Albany Trust Hotel, Eastbourne, February 6th - 8th 1998

Progress Report 3

Welcome to the Tenth British Filk Convention!

Having completely embarrassed myself in the previous PR, I shall start off by saying that the con is in Eastbourne, lest I forget to include it anywhere else! My recent move has left everything completely disorganised here - or let's be honest, it's given me a new *excuse* for why they're disorganised - but preparations are still going apace. Hopefully, everyone who ordered a t-shirt has now had it delivered, or at least a note saying that it's on the way, and by now you will all have booked hotel rooms if you want them, I'm sure (rooms are filling up, so if you do want one and haven't booked, now would be a very good time). A quick flick through this progress report will reveal that we are going to be giving out some awards this year; you have just over two months to get your thinking-caps on for nominations (or to write something new!).

Membership is now just over one hundred, and still going strong, with plenty of ideas for programme items coming in (leaving Paul the unenviable job of fitting them in - thirty hours of programme items so far, and twenty four to fit them into).

Those of you who have already booked rooms will find a letter "S", "D" or "T" after your membership number on the address label (on the envelope you just dumped in the bin). If there isn't a letter after your membership number, then **we have not received a room booking for you.**

Speaking of the programme, voting is tight as to which workshops will survive. Your vote could make the difference, so if you want a particular workshop and haven't told any of us, then do so! We can't provide the items you want to see, if you don't tell us what they are...

Dealers' Room

Roger Robinson has very kindly offered to sell items for other people from his table in the dealers' room; however, he has asked that anyone wishing to take advantage of this offer should be prepared to give him the items at the start of *Decadence*, and should contact him **now** (see the WIGGLE list for his address or ring (01708) 342304).

Tech Requirements

The long-suffering Tech crew have asked that anyone with any special tech requirements, for example a Dat player, should get in touch (via Paul Bristow) as soon as possible.

Hotel Booking Form (Reprise)

This is the hotel booking form. If you have not sent one, and want a room, then please contact Miki as soon as possible at:

Miki Dennis, 15 St Catherines Cross, Bletchingley, Surrey RH1 4PX, England
Phone 01883 742143 or email mikidennis@aol.co.uk if you need help.

Cost: £35 per person per night (twin or double) or £42 per person per night (single)

Name and Address (please print)

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|----------|-----------|
| I wish to book a room: | Single | Twin | Double |
| For the following nights: | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
| If you want a twin room do you | Have | Require | a sharer. |

If you have a partner or sharer for a twin or double please give their name:

If you need us to find you a sharer please tell us the following about yourself.
(Sorry, same-sex sharers only) Are you:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Male | Female |
| Smoker | A really late night filker (this is not a challenge) |
| In need of a particularly large room | |

If there's anything else we need to know, please write it on the back of this form.

This is the bad news.

The hotel needs a £20 deposit for each person. No bookings will be made without this deposit. Please make your cheque payable to **The Albany Trust Hotel**. Your room will be booked in the name on your cheque in order not to confuse the hotel with pseudonyms.

You are responsible for your own hotel bill.

Other Requirements at the hotel:

Awards

A long time ago, at a convention far, far away (Con2bile, in fact), some awards were given out. Four years later, at Vlbraphone, this was repeated; thereby setting a precedent... So, four years on (and Eastbourne only rates as 'far away'), Decadence is going to give out its own set of awards. There will be awards for five categories:

- *Best serious song since Vlbraphone*
- *Best humerous song since Vlbraphone*
- *Best rip-off since Vlbraphone*
- *Best new song first performed at Decadence*
- *Best dressed filk at Decadence*

Nominations for the first three categories are open now, and will close on the Saturday evening at the convention. Voting for all five categories will close on the Sunday lunchtime, with the presentation being made at the closing ceremony. If you want to get nominations in before the con starts, send your choices to the con address (either snailmail or email).

Dressing for the Occasion by Miki Dennis

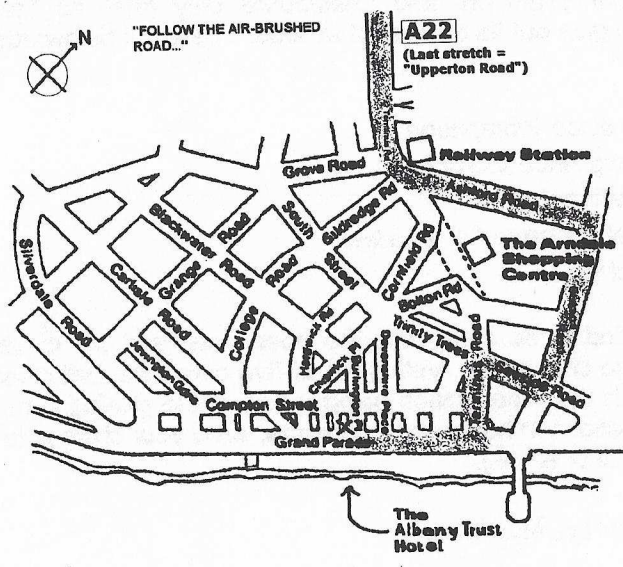
As you know if you've read the previous PRs (some of you must have got past the first page!), we are awarding the Best Dressed Filk award this year. Not only that, but we would like to encourage the costume to spread a bit outward from the stage! When I first joined this committee, it was mostly as something rather nebulous to do with the fact that I was a costumer (*of some note -ed*) but since then I seem to have acquired a few other things to do. However, costume is my first love and so I would like to try and infect the rest of you with the 'bug'.

- Firstly: **you don't have to do it!**
But it would be really nice if you did. Pretty please?
- Secondly: **it doesn't have to be over the top.**
The theme is "*Decadence*", so evening dress would count!
- Thirdly: **help is available.**
I have plenty of ideas, advice - and costumes!

So, why not go for it? If you want to wear hall costume remember to be sure it is comfortable and you can wear it for a long time. If you plan to wear it in late night circles make sure it is up to it! Stage costume is completely up to you but remember there are many costumers who will help if asked. If you need something (other than tech) organised at the con, eg some kind of staging or screening, etc, especially to do with costume, changes, etc, let me know:

email: mikidennis@aol.com; phone 01883 742143

Eastbourne: The hotel and surrounding areas



Decadence will be at the "Albany Trust Hotel" marked at the bottom of the map, with overflow rooms (if necessary) at the Cavendish next door. The entrance to the hotel car park is on Compton Street, behind the hotel; anyone following the A22 into Eastbourne will come down Upperton Road, past the railway station, and down to the Grand Parade. Check-in is officially 2pm, but we're welcome to turn up earlier.

For virtually any kind of shopping you could ask for - and every bank - go to the Arndale Shopping Centre (follow Devonshire Place to the big statue at the junction with South Street). This includes a chemist and shops selling such basic necessities as fast food, blank audio and video cassettes, batteries, and cheap books. Eating houses to suit virtually any taste are dotted around. The hotel will have maps and tourist information available.

Train services from London and Reading are reasonably frequent; there are a very few coaches from London. National Express coaches leave Victoria at 15:00 and 18:30 (taking about 2hr - 2hr30 for the journey); the return coaches depart Eastbourne at 08:31 and 11:15. The local bus company can be contacted on (01323) 416416

Directions

I'm reliably informed (by a local) that the only directions needed are "Get on the A22 and keep going, you can't miss it." However, having personal experience of what happens when you follow instructions which *don't say which way to follow the road*, I felt that a slightly more comprehensive set might be in order.

By Road

The A22 (heading south!) leads directly into the heart of Eastbourne. Once there, follow the signs marked "To the seafront" along "Ashford Road", right on "Susans Road", right on "Seaside Road" and left down "Terminus Road" - there's a map on the other page - all the way to the front. Then turn right along the sea front ("Grand Parade") until just past the bandstand on your left. The Albany Hotel is on your right. Turn right immediately before the Albany, on "Burlington Place", and turn right on "Compton Street". The hotel car-parking is on your right, inside the building of the "Cavendish House Hotel" (it's the same company). There is plenty of unrestricted street parking in the area too. Note that if you are unloading instruments, there is a side entrance near the main hall, off Burlington Place. This will be open except while Tech are doing their set-up.

By Rail

From north or west of London, aim for Reading, and either change at Clapham Junction (about every hour) or at Gatwick Airport (every hour at half-past).

From London, go to Victoria station and take a through train to Eastbourne. These run approximately every 30 minutes, but you are advised to check the exact times closer to the con. From the station at Eastbourne turn left and then right into Cornfield Road. At the roundabout go to the seafront down Devonshire Place (a wide road with cars parked in the middle). Turn right on the Grand Parade, the Albany is on the right.

Von London; gehen Sie nach Victoria Station und von dort fahren Sie mit den Zug nach Eastbourne. Es fährt ein Zug jede dreisig minuten. Von Bahnhof drehen Sie links und bald rechts in Cornfield Road. Zu den nachsten Roundabout gehen Sie zum Stand in Devonshire Place (eine breite Strasse mit geparkten Autos in der mitte) Drehen Sie rechts an Grand Parade, und den Albany ist rechts.

From the Airports

From Heathrow Airport, the easiest route is to take a coach to Gatwick Airport from outside the terminal.

From Gatwick Airport, catch a through train straight to Eastbourne. These run every 30 minutes throughout the day.

Von Gatwick, fahren Sie mit dem Zug nach Eastbourne (jede dreisig minuten).

Members as of November 26th, 1997

| | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|-----|------------------------|-----|----------------------|
| 52 | Alan | 28 | Gwen Funnell | 56 | Rika |
| 34 | Lissa Allcock | 67 | GK | 32 | Roger Robinson |
| 35 | Phil Allcock | 30 | Heike | 49 | Tony Rogers |
| 68 | Andy | 85 | Hitch | 43 | Rufus |
| 54 | Annie | 2 | Valerie Housden | 97 | Fiona Ryland |
| 37 | Auntie Sue | 24 | Rhodri James | 96 | John Ryland |
| 26 | Andrew Barton | 91 | Jan | 38 | Smitty |
| 62 | DJ Bass | 55 | Jared | 8 | Spencer |
| 82 | Chris Bell | 25 | Kate | 22 | Barbara Stewart |
| 60 | Dan Bennett | 29 | Kathy | 21 | John Stewart |
| 79 | Sara Bennett | 46 | Keris | 47 | Marcus Streets |
| 14 | Michael Bernadi | 45 | Talis Kimberley | 48 | Rae Streets |
| 75 | Susan Booth | 64 | Tim Kirk | 19 | Teddy |
| 95 | Simon Bradshaw | 20 | Kirstin | 31 | Thomas |
| 4 | Paul Bristow | 44 | Maeve | 53 | Tim |
| 94 | Bugshaw | 16 | The Magician | 99 | Time-Travelling Tyke |
| 1 | Mitchell Burnside-Clapp | 58 | Mum Malme | 3 | Colin Tuckley |
| 23 | Roger Burton-West | 77 | Kathy Mar | 83 | Vaurien (Chiefy) |
| 100 | Janet Cash | 12 | Marion | 69 | Vera Emlyn |
| 89 | Catherine | 65 | MartiAn | 101 | Volker |
| 104 | Giulia De Cesare | 102 | Linda Melnick | 98 | Ian Walden |
| 17 | Cevin | 36 | Melusine | 27 | Peter Wareham |
| 66 | Neil Chambers | 5 | Miki | 10 | Wee Talis |
| 81 | Countess Axylides | 59 | Minstrel | 74 | Wendy |
| 11 | Rafe Culpin | 6 | Erica Neely | 42 | Karen Westhead |
| 103 | Steve Davies | 71 | Nicky | 40 | Kathy Westhead |
| 72 | Caitlin Dean | 63 | Omega | 39 | Mike Westhead |
| 70 | Lawrence Dean | 76 | Oriole | 41 | Peter Westhead |
| 33 | Kerstin Dröge | 78 | Nigel Parsons | 51 | Anne Whitaker |
| 87 | Sue Edwards | 57 | David Peek | 50 | Mike Whitaker |
| 90 | Dawn Everett-Biddle | 9 | Persis | 86 | Juliette White |
| 18 | FanTom | 84 | Pilgrim | 13 | YooH |
| 61 | Colin Fine | 92 | Princess Laughing Eyes | 93 | Zack |
| 15 | Brian Flatt | 7 | Mike Richards | 80 | Zander NyronD |
| 88 | Freddy Filk Frog | 73 | Rick | | |

Joining the Convention

Attending membership costs: £28 (adults), £15 (15 and under) or £1 (under 5); supporting memberships are £15. Cheques should be made payable to *Decadence*, and sent to:

Decadence, 43 Millbrook Gardens, Cheltenham GL50 3RQ, England

along with a postal name/address that will reach you, the type of membership(s) you want, and your badge name (if different). We can also be reached by email at decadence@z9m9z.demon.co.uk or on the web at <http://www.z9m9z.demon.co.uk/>

T-shirts with the con logo are available from this address in black, white or blue for £6 + £1 p&p.

Members will be listed by badge name in publications. Membership information will be kept on a computer and used only for purposes of UK Filk Conventions. Artwork by Miki Dennis. Translations thanks to Miki's Mum. Gratuitous mention that the con is in Eastbourne for people who read the small print.