

Duple Time ²/₄

The 24th Annual UK Filk Music Convention

PROGRESS REPORT 3

DECEMBER 2011

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Current Membership

Membership Rates

Adult (Waged)

£40

Adult (Unwaged)

£30

Child (6-17 years)

£1 per year of age
(e.g. 8 years old = £8)

Infant (Up to 5)

£1

Toys

£1

Full details of how to
join on page 3.

CONVENTION NOTICES

LESS THAN TWO MONTHS TO GO!

HOTEL BOOKINGS CLOSE ON **DECEMBER 31ST!**

STILL NEED TO BOOK A ROOM? DETAILS ON PAGE 2!

MEMBERSHIP RATES HAVE NOW INCREASED

UPDATED RATES AND JOINING INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE 3!

PROGRAMME SLOT REQUESTS ARE NOW **CLOSED**

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO RESPONDED - WE'LL BE IN TOUCH SOON!

FANCY BECOMING A ~~VICTIM~~ **VOLUNTEER?**

MANY POSITIONS AVAILABLE! EARN YOUR WEIGHT IN GRATITUDE! SEE PAGE 3!

Dear Duple Timers,

Right now, most of you are probably busy conducting urgent missions into the crowded battlefield of your local shopping centre, or decorating an unsuspecting pine tree in a mixture of coloured lights and shiny things. But here's the good news: When the maelstrom of wrapping paper is tidied away and the near endless flow of turkey sandwiches has come to an end, you still have a filk music convention to look forward to!

So, if you have room for a bit more excitement in the run up to the impending festive season, this progress report includes all the latest information on what awaits at the Grantham Ramada Hotel on February 3rd, 4th, and 5th next year.

We're looking forward to seeing you all there!

Love,

The ConCom

Ramada Grantham Hotel, Lincolnshire

3rd - 5th February 2012

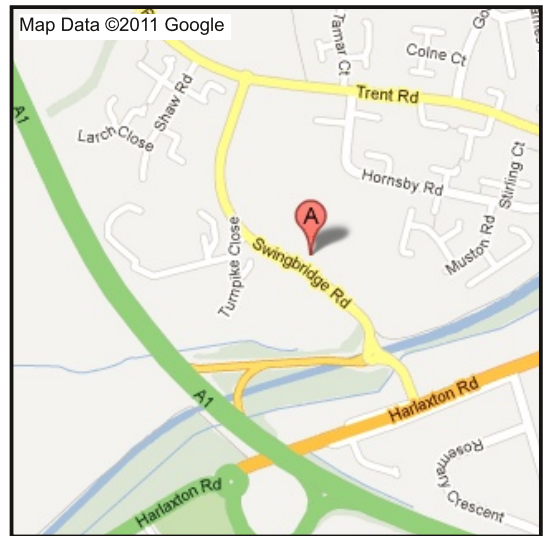
Visit us online: <http://www.contabile.org.uk>

Got Questions? E-mail the ConCom! - c24@contabile.org.uk

The Duple Time Hotel

The Ramada Grantham Hotel Swingbridge Road Grantham NG31 7XT

We will be back at the Ramada Grantham Hotel in Lincolnshire, where we have been for several years now. The hotel is located near the A1 main road from London to the north, just by junction A607. Directions are below.



From the A1 Southbound

Take the A607 Grantham, Melton Mowbray turn off. At the end of the slip road is a small roundabout, take the first exit on the left and then turn right into the Hotel.

Arriving By Train

Grantham is a mainline station. Trains are available direct from London Kings Cross with a journey time of about 80 minutes, as well as from other major stations.

From the station it is a 1.5 mile walk to the hotel, so we recommend arranging a taxi or a lift from a friendly filker. Taxis are usually available from a taxi rank immediately outside the station. In the event of none being available, National Rail advise that the taxi service from there is operated by Grantham Taxis on 01476 594594.

Room Bookings Close on December 31st!!

How to Book

You can use the online form on our website to register your room booking, or you can print off the pdf form there, fill it in by hand, and send it to the address on the form. If you choose the latter option, please bear in mind the usual postal delays around the Christmas period. Due to the need to inform the hotel of required bookings, **we can only accept forms that arrive by December 31st.**

From the A1 Northbound

Take the A607 Grantham, Melton Mowbray turn off. At the bottom of the slip road you will come to a T junction, turn right towards Grantham. Travel under the A1 flyover and take the first turn on the left, signposted the A1 South. You will come to a small roundabout, take the second turn off and the Hotel entrance is on the right.

Arriving By Air

The nearest airport is East Midlands Airport, about 40 miles away from the hotel. London Heathrow and Gatwick will entail a 2-3 hour transfer via trains to reach Grantham.

Those wishing to arrive by helicopter or parachute drop please be sure to obtain all relevant permissions and air traffic control clearances before arriving.

Hotel Room Rates

Hotel room rates are available on the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights of the convention. All are on a per room basis and include a full breakfast.

Single Occupancy: £55 per night

Double Occupancy: £70 per night

Up to two children (under 14) may stay with two adults in a double room at the double occupancy rate and will receive breakfast at half the adult rate.

Memberships & Registration

What Does Membership Get Me?

Membership entitles you to attend the finest filk music convention to be held in the town of Grantham in 2012! You'll receive an official conbadge, programme, and have the chance to be witness to some of the greatest filk musicians in this spiral arm of the galaxy.

Accommodation within the convention hotel costs extra, but isn't mandatory if you have other arrangements. See page 2 for accommodation and booking details.

My Money Doesn't Speak English! (Or, Paying in Foreign Currencies)

We hear that some territories have decided to eschew the Great British Pound in favour of their own denominations. That's fine, we'd still love to ~~take your money~~ see you in February 2012!

Due to the fluctuating nature of exchange rates at the moment, please contact the concom for the latest information on our membership rates in other currencies and how to transfer payment.

Current Membership Rates

Rates are now valid until the convention.

Adult (Waged): £40

Adult (Unwaged): £30

Child (6 to 17): £1 per year of age

Infant (Under 6): £1

Toys & Plushies: £1

Note that infants and toys will not receive progress reports or other materials; the charge is to cover administration and badge printing.

Am I Waged or Unwaged?

The best advice we can offer on this is, if in doubt - ask! Here's some simple guidelines to help you out first, however.

'Unwaged' refers to someone 18 or over who is not in regular employment. Full-time students are unwaged, as are those who are retired and not working, or those performing only voluntary unpaid work. As a rough guide, if you're eligible for state support, we will probably consider you unwaged, but do feel free to ask if you are in any doubt.

How To Sign Up

There is an online form on our website that you can use to register for the convention. If you prefer to use more traditional methods, we also have a printable pdf form on the website that you can fill out by hand and send to the address on the right. Whichever form you choose to use, payment will need to be sent to us either as a cheque in pounds sterling made out to 'UK Filk Con', or as a direct bank transfer (please contact us for the account details). If you are outside of the UK, or if neither of these methods is suitable for you, please contact us to discuss alternative payment methods.

Address for membership forms and cheques:

**Flat 1
61 St. Mark's Road
Salisbury
SP1 3AY**

Volunteering

Every convention needs some helping hands and Duple Time is no exception. If you'd like to help to ensure the convention runs smoothly, please get in touch with us! We have a variety of different roles available, from manning the convention registration desk to helping with tech or, if you're not sure what you'd like to do, let us know and we'll find something for you to help out with. Payment will be made in units of gratitude, lots and lots of gratitude.

UK Guest of Honour: Lissa Allcock, as written by Teddy

Those of you who don't already know Lissa probably know of her. Just in case there are people in UK Filkdom who haven't encountered Lissa, however, here's a bit about her.

In addition to being fun, friendly, and helpful, she's very organized.

I've referred to her as Organized Bunny To Filk Fandom for years, and have heard others doing likewise. She's been administering the Filk Fund (you know - that thing that helps conventions afford to bring all those neat overseas Filk Guests over to the UK for the FilkCon each year) for quite some time. She's a victim of her own efficiency there, I'm afraid, as she's likely stuck with the job until she actually resigns the post (triggering a mad scramble to find someone else willing to take it on).

She's been a driving force behind committees running Filk Cons, and is an absolute demon when it comes to selling memberships. Believe me, I've seen people going for their wallets just at her approach with a cash box in hand and a big smile on her face. They know that resistance is futile.

She's the drummer in Phoenix (that's the loud rock-band that made a comeback at this year's FilkCon in February....hmmm... do I need to use "loud" to describe a rock-band, especially Phoenix, or is it a bit redundant?...) and also provides backing vocals and - on sadly rare occasions, so far - lead vocals. I remember one time when the tech-crew were taken completely by surprise by the volume and power of Lissa's voice when she stepped up to take lead on a song.

Fortunately for us all, her confidence in her own voice has taken a justified upswing of late - anyone present for her duet of "Persuasion" with Tom Nanson at this year's FilkCon can bear witness to that - so we'll hopefully be hearing more from her in the future.

Starting with her Guest set at Duple Time.

Footloose Filker: Sebastian Kinder

The UK Filk Fund (FF) committee have again decided that it would be a good idea if some of the upcoming talented European Filkers were able to come to the British Filk Convention so that they could benefit from exposure to the wider circle of filkers present at the UK con and also for UK filk fandom to get to meet some of the newer talent coming out of Europe.

To make this possible The FF committee identifies and offers a grant/bursary to "Footloose Filkers" to cover the cost of travel to the convention and the majority of the accommodation costs. The convention committee also offer a free membership and a short performance spot. Footloose Filkers are not guests of the convention, rather they will be there to learn more about filking and to gain experience in a different convention environment.

We are pleased to announce that Sebastian Kinder has been invited to be our "Footloose Filker" this year. Sebastian says about himself:

"I am a 17 year old guy, a filker and roleplayer, from Bielefeld in Germany. I am a little crazy, music is an important part of my life and that's all 'cause of my parents (thank you!). Ah! and I like cookies and cakes!!!"

We hope you will enjoy meeting and listening to him and we look forward to seeing Sebastian at Duple Time.

International Guest of Honour: Mary Crowell as written by Brenda Sutton

Most of us filkers struggle along with our instruments, hacking and faking our way through three-chord songs. Not so Mary Crowell. She's actually Dr. Mary Crowell, a former college professor of music and adept piano teacher. Mary knows music the way a sommelier knows wine, and she uses her knowledge to the benefit of the rest of us, underpinning our three-chord songs with arpeggios full of sevenths flatted, diminished, and mobiused - and she makes us all sound so much better.

I first met Mary in 2001 when some good gaming buddies of hers dragged her off to GAFilk. She'd been making up a few songs about their D&D characters' antics, and they knew that the folks at GAFilk we're going to love Mary's music. We watched this beautiful young woman lug her keyboard (not the most portable of filk instruments, mind you) into the filk room with a slight amount of dread and a large measure of anticipation. And then she played her opening measures -- all Gershwin, bluesy, and fine -- we all relaxed. This was going to be an expertly arranged piece of music. And then she sang. Oh my stars and little purple comets, she sang! -- with a sultry, southern voice that made most of the men in the room melt into puddles on the ballroom floor. And what she sang -- challenging lyrics with internal structure, plot, and daring wit. Mary's first foray into filk was an unmitigated success. We fell in love with her and her charming Dungeon Master/pediatrician/masterchef husband, Dr. Wesley Crowell. (We met their precocious, creative son, Simon, later in the year, and fell in love with him, too. Simon has been the inspiration for many of Mary's songs, and shares a co-writing credit for Get Down Mama.)

The next year, we asked Mary to entertain at GAFilk's banquet. The setting was just too perfect to waste -- grand piano, lovely lady in a slinky dress, brandy snifter tip jar. Everyone loved it, so we hammed it up even bigger the next year with a lounge-act-glitter-and-feather-boa glossy poster. Each following year something new was added to the act -- a bass player, a drummer, a guitarist or two, a sax or three, a trumpet, more singers -- and voila! GAFilk soon had one of the most amazing house bands ever, Play it with Moxie.

A few years later, when Gwen Knighton married a crazy Irishman and moved to England, Three Weird Sisters found ourselves one Sister short. Teresa Powell and I loved the TWS music and didn't want it to end, so I suggested that Mary might fill our gaping hole in the band. I mean, come on -- pretty, talented, charming, fun-loving, keyboard singer/songwriter living not too far away in Alabamaland -- Mary was the perfect choice. "Would you like to be our sister?" we asked. She squeed a little, accepted, and we were oh so grateful to have her.

Becoming a Sister wasn't easy, and Mary worried that she wouldn't be able to match Gwen's sound. At that first rehearsal, T and I were amazed at Mary's ability to not only nearly recreate the harp on her keyboard, but the exact vocal harmonies as well. Eventually we all relaxed into the music and the arrangements moved into new and different and Mary-influenced sounds. We found that we enjoyed this new sound just as much as the old sound. Alabamaland turned out to be farther away than any of us thought, so we rotated practices and shared the driving. Music weekends at Mary's house are always made even better by the magnificent cooking of Wesley Crowell, who delights in filling our tummies with delicious food. Then we really lucked out when Mary's songwriting kicked into overdrive. Other than the handful of D&D-inspired songs, she'd never let herself explore the wide possibilities filk offers. Music with crows and goddesses, myths and heroes, sex and puzzles started pouring out of Mary's mind and hands. Her music students were treated to very unusual songs, by collegiate music class standards, and we even played a concert at the college where many of them sang along.

Mary has this magical power, you see, but she only uses it for good. Don't let that pretty, flirty exterior fool you. Mary is a very strong, complex, passionate, and compassionate person who owns a creative mind and an overwhelming ability to improve everything she touches. Before you know it, you'll find yourself on the floor in Downward Facing Dog position. I consider myself fortunate in the extreme that Mary touched my life. Now she gets to touch yours. *Mwaaahahahahahahaheehheehheeee. Squeeee.*

Meet the ConCom

Chris "Keris" Croughton

Chairbeing, Hotel Liaison, Guest Liaison, Membership, Publications, Programming (both con and website), and Chief Cook and Bottleswasher

Keris (or Kit to his friends and members of the Galactic Patrol) is a renowned figure (55) on the British Filk scene. Less well known is that he is in fact 6'5" in height, but wears special shoes to make him seem shorter. Even less well known is that Keris was cursed as a baby by an evil fairy, and as a result no matter what clothing he puts on it turns into black jeans and t-shirt. He is a firm follower of the maxim that any technical problem can be fixed by using a bigger hammer; he has yet to discover the screwdriver.

You may remember him from such conventions as the Quinze Filk Festival and Van der Filk (appearing as a committee member), Dixseption, Cre2c3ndo, and FilkCONTinental (as tech head), and many as a member of the nMC and general tech bod.

As by now hopefully anyone reading this will be aware, Keris was taken from us very suddenly in November. However, he remains the Chairbeing of DupleTime, and we the committee will do our very best to carry out his wishes and ensure the success of the con he created and planned.

Hilary Ann Croughton

Nagger to ConCom

"The one who v....." - Hilary Croughton, who prefers to be called Hilary Ann, grew up with music all around her and developed early a talent for organisation. As a teenager she learnt piano and flute, increased her collection of recorders and spent much of her free time organising fictional school cruises, clubs and other information intensive projects. It was no surprise when she became a Librarian.

Tales of filk conventions as told by Keris, Vera Emlyn and Teddy enticed her to attend Decadence. She enjoys the fellowship of others, meeting new instruments, and playing with babies. She has now fulfilled her ambition of becoming a techie.

Matt "Soir" Beswick

Treasurer & Acting Membership

Matt (or Soir, or "Hey you") is not a good writer of bios. But he is a fuzzy ball of feathers and fur, and since his first con appearance was 2t0nic he's still quite new to this here filk thing. He's Duple Time's treasurer, with the advantage of a few years of concom treasury experience outside filk. So all will be fine, right...?

When not running around being convention-y, he plays piano and guitar, and sings, and writes music. Also, he's a night owl, and you can find him in circles until the right wee hours of the morning.

Franklin Gunkelmann

Master of Ceremonies

We haven't had one of these before! But other cons have similar things. US ones have a 'toastmaster' (and they don't even serve toast!), and FilkCONTinental has – Franklin! So when we decided that we didn't want to do all the introducing and being amusing, we asked Franklin to do it. Many of you know him already, those who don't have a treat in store, he's a great bloke and lots of fun.

Oh, and please don't tease him about his English. Even though he speaks it better than most of us...

Assisting ConCom

Paul Bristow - As written by someone who knows him all too well...

Acting Convention Programming

Paul Bristow arrived in the world in 1965... late, flustered and complaining loudly. Thus was the pattern of his life laid down.

Paul's introduction to filk came after he had dragged a reluctant Miki Dennis to what proved to be a spectacularly badly run Doctor Who convention. Miki retaliated by dragging him to VIbraphone, which they both enjoyed a lot more, and at which Paul wrote his third/fourth/ninety-seventh ever filksong (depending how you count them), "Right Said Ace". Since then he's averaged about 2.178 songs a year, a few of which have even been finished, while analysis of his actual contributions to recent filkcons suggests that he may be the bastard offspring of Humphrey Littleton and Steven Fry, or at least thinks he is.

A man with absolutely no innate organisational ability, he nonetheless persists in trying to run the programme at filkcons (see Decadence, Quinze) and even had the temerity to chair one (Van der Filk). So far, he hasn't quite cocked anything up badly enough for us to impose a permanent ban. [HEAVY SIGH]

Oh, and he wrote that blasted "Bogton Boys" thing. (Don't ask. It's nine minutes long, and trust me, you don't have them to spare...)

Mike Whitaker - As written by someone with not very good eyesight...

Acting Hotel & Guest Liaison

Mike is tall, dark and devilishly handsome, with a knack for wringing screeching solos out of electric guitars [note to self: tune up!], volunteers out of the filk community and better deals out of hotels. This year, all three are proving particularly useful to the con and at least one of its guests. He discovered filk before half the con was born [note to self: must check facts] at a Unicon, followed it up by having the '87 Worldcon as his second convention, and then got mugged on stage by a ghostly figure [note to self: run faster next time] to chair the first FilkCon. Since then, he's missed only two (and wishes he hadn't), and been on the committee for [note to self: get more fingers to count on, would be good for guitar playing too] seven of them, often as Guest Liaison, since he has an extensive addressbook and lots of air miles from US cons. He's married to Anne, with a drummer [slightly smug note to self: if you can't find one, breed one] and three and a half cats, and next year he's going back to playing music and not helping run the con. Honest.

Rika Körte - As written by someone who feels underqualified to write this...

Acting Convention Programming

Throughout her years since her first filk con (HarmonIX), Rika has undergone intensive training in spontaneous, unrehearsed, last-minute helping out with things, whether self-inflicted or externally-induced, and become an expert at doing a reasonable job of doing things she's underrehearsed in without letting it show too badly. (Note to self: rehearsals are good for reducing stress levels & raising confidence levels.) She is thus these days much better skilled at improvisational winging it than organised advance planning. (Note to self: improve on the planning, structure is helpful.) Stepping into shoes of all sorts of sizes, she has managed never quite to lose the way-too-big-ones entirely, with steadfast help from friends. (Note to self: stock up on extra shoelaces, insoles & padding.)

Not content at the time with having to travel internationally to go to filkcons, she was a founder member of the FilkContinental Concom in Germany for the first two years, and published a filkcon live tape before moving to the UK, where she kept her concom participation mostly to programming. As opposed to Mike, she's still able to count her concom stints on one hand, just. (Note to self: do not try for a hat trick, you'll run out of fingers!) She hopes to go back to more music and less orga-ing next year. :)

Even More Assisting ConCom

Chris "Azakir" Smith - As written by someone far too close to him...

Acting Publications & Website

Azakir has spent the last few years quietly avoiding convention committee duties while professing his desire to be involved in con running. Little did he know that his cunning bluff would eventually be called and he would be invited to join the committee of Duple Time. Once ~~blackmailed~~ willingly recruited, he set about using his powers of flight, laser vision, and super awesomeness to fulfil his concom duties with style and grace.

Of course, given that he's the one writing his own bio, anything you read here should be taken with a pinch of salt. Preferably three of four, even.

Originally arriving in filk music through being taken to a sWiGGLe meeting by the illustrious Mich Sampson - "Trust me, you're going to love these people" - Azakir's first convention was 16 Tones, at which he performed the 'sequel to the Hamster Song' with sister Stacy. That debut would lead to a team up with Keris to form Dragster, with the trio performing sets at Dixseption, 1812Tone, and AXXidental. His first solo set was at Van Der Filk, at which he sang about burning toast. No, we don't know where he gets it from any more than he does.

Current Membership List

1 C Keris	40 A Nat	82 K Pippa Fairbourn
2 C Soir	41 A Melusine	83 A Simon Fairbourn
3 C Hilary Ann	42 A Colin	84 A Katy
4 G Dr, Mary Crowell	43 A Peter Tyers	85 A Steve
5 G Lissa Allcock	44 A Zander Nyronde	86 A Hitch
6 A Mad Logician	45 A Countess Axyllides	87 A Rhodri James
7 A Kate	46 A Peter Wareham	88 A Vorlina
8 A Diana Joan Bass	47 A Gwen Funnell	89 A Simon Crowell
9 A Aunty Marion	51 A Kathy Westhead	90 A Wesley Crowell
10 A Michael Bernardi	52 A Mike Westhead	91 A Janet Maughan
11 A Liz	53 A Peter Westhead	92 A Robert Maughan
12 A Deborah	54 A Karen Westhead	93 A Donnacat
13 K Alistair	55 A Katie Draisbach	94 A Fhtagn
14 K Abi	56 A Dale Williamson	95 A John G
15 K Rachel	57 A tigggy	96 A Chavalai
16 A Rafe Culpin	58 X +1	97 A New Beastie
17 A Miki	59 A Silke	98 A Mich Sampson
18 A Sue Edwards	60 A Phil Allcock	99 A Steve Melnikoff
19 A Andy GK	61 K Alex Allcock	100 A Gwen Knighton Raftery
20 A Martin GK	62 I Amy Allcock	101 A Joe Raftery
21 A Franklin	63 A Jenny Blackburn	102 A Mike Whitaker
22 A Rick	64 A Smurf	103 A Anne Whitaker
23 A Ju	65 A Bine	104 K James Whitaker
24 A Valerie	66 A Anna	105 A Le-matya
25 A Rika	67 A Jessica	106 A Chantelle
26 A Jackie	68 A Dave S	107 A Clare
27 A Minnow	69 A KT	108 A Christo
28 A Tom	70 A Neil Dobson	109 A Jack
29 A Teddy	71 A Martin Easterbrook	110 S Rachel Sommer
30 A Omega	72 A Debbie L	111 A Paul B. =:o}
31 A Emily Raftery	73 A Steffi	112 A Leadie Jo
32 A Andrew January	74 A Gerd	113 A The Great and Powerful Stacy
33 A Alison Richards	75 A Master of Disaster	
34 A Mike Richards	76 A Jela	
35 A Roger Robinson	77 A Kamen	A = Adult K = Child
36 A Tony Rogers	78 A Peredar	I = Infant C = ConCom
37 A Songbird	79 A Thesilée	G = Guest S = Supporting
38 A Brenda	80 F Semiki	F = Footloose Filker
39 A Bill	81 A Talis Kimberley	X = Misc