

♪ Quarter Tone PR2 ♪



1st – 3rd February, 2013
The 25th Annual UK Filk Convention
Ramada Grantham Hotel, Grantham

The one who got away

The legend of the Smilks, and how a group of unsuspecting filkers wound up running a convention as penance for That Song, dates back to Follycon, the 1988 Eastercon. The con had a sympathetic committee, and the program boasted both a concert and a room for late-night circles. To properly honour such unheard-of luxuries, a group known as Filker Abraham and the Smilks prepared a brand-new song. This led to the now-traditional rallying cry "We're gonna get lynched!" The song was performed at the concert, not all the performers ran away quickly enough, and the rest is history.

However, there was one other who might have joined that august band, but for the vagaries of convention scheduling...

25 years ago I was sitting in a bar at an Eastercon when the people around me started writing a song... luckily for me I had to go do some costuming, and am therefore not listed amongst the ranks of filk smurfdom.

However, those fabled filkers were cursed and condemned to perpetuate the filking at a dedicated convention once a year, forever after. Thus it was that for quarter of a century the enthusiastic, the gifted, and the occasional not so gifted have haunted various hotels late into the night. From small cons in little family run hotels - one memorably with an electrical cut out when we got too loud - to huge corporate ones where we battled with mundane sports award ceremonies. (Phoenix proving more popular with the attendees of said ceremony than their own disco)

Over the years the spirit of the 'smilkers' has not waned and has brought us to the wilds of Grantham (well, perhaps not that wild), and I am still sitting on the sidelines listening to fabulous people sing. Long may it continue... Here's to the 50th celebration!

Miki Dennis

A more complete version of the early history of British Filk, including an essay by Rhodri, can be found at <http://filk.co.uk/generalhistory.html>

The Programme

We're figuring out how the programme fits together now. We hope there will be something for everybody. We'll have sets from some familiar faces, and others less familiar; some we've heard regularly, some we've not heard on a UK Filk Con stage for years, and some performing a set here for the first time.

There will, of course, be the usual One Shots concert, the Filk Fund Auction, and the SAM Awards, but there will also be a Themed One Shots concert. The theme is **Silver**, and entertaining short explanations of how your song fits the theme may be demanded.

Deborah will be in charge of the Tech Desk, with Simon and small a band of willing hands helping to keep the tech running smoothly.

If you have asked for a set you should have been contacted directly by the committee (and hopefully have already replied); if not, please contact us.

The Songbook

The Quarter Tone songbook is now well under construction. Many thanks to everyone who has supplied us with material; we are now working on typesetting, sorting out the layout, and contacting our talented artists. We've got a nice mix of new and classic songs appropriate for our 25th anniversary collection.

It's not *quite* too late to send us material if you've been meaning to get round to it... Songs can be sent to the convention address or directly to the editor: Alison Richards, *c/o mike.and.alison@blueyonder.co.uk*

The Hotel

With this PR you'll find a hotel booking form. Please complete and return it to the convention address (or email the details) before the end of the year. The hotel is not asking for a deposit, but do need to know numbers. Note that the hotel prices are per *room*, not per person. This is also the time to let us know of any special requirements, such as ground floor access.

Membership as of November 19, 2012:

Cat Faber	Hilary Ann	Tony Rogers
FanTom	Hitch	Silke
Aileen	Ju Honisch	Smitty
Alex Allcock	Katie Howe	Songbard
Amy Allcock	Jackie	Barbara Stewart
Lissa Allcock	John G.	John Stewart
Phillip Allcock	Kate	Bill Sutton
Diana Joan (DJ) Bass	Debbie L	Brenda Sutton
Michael Bernardi	Liz	Steffi
Chavalai	Mad Logician	Steve
Christo	The Magician	Sven
Ewan Clark	Aunty Marion	Talis
Colin	Janet Maughan	Teddy
Countess Axylides	Robert Maughan	Thesilée
Abi Crook	Melusine	Thomas
Alistair Crook	Mich	tiggy
Rachel Crook	Miki	Peter Tyers
Rafe Culpin	Minnow	Valerie
Deborah	Nall	Peter Wareham
Donnacat	Zander Nyron	Karen Westhead
Katie Draisbach	Peredar	Kathy Westhead
Sue Edwards	Pippa	Mike Westhead
Eva	Rhodri	Peter Westhead
Simon Fairbourn	Alison Richards	Anne Whitaker
Ferret	Mike Richards	James Whitaker
Gwen Funnell	Rick	Mike Whitaker
Gavran	Rika	Dale Williamson
Heike	Roger Robinson	Omega

Membership costs £35 for waged and £22 for unwaged before December 1st 2012, then £40 for waged and £27 for unwaged. Children under 5 are free. Discounts for under 18s.

Quarter Tone, 15 St Catherine's Cross, Bletchingley, Surrey RH1 4PX
♪ quartertone@hewett.org ♪ <http://www.contabile.org.uk> ♪

Quarter Tone Hotel Booking Form

Grantham Ramada Hotel, Grantham; 1st – 3rd February 2013

My name is: _____

I would like to book the following room(s) at Quarter Tone:

_____ SINGLE _____ TWIN _____ DOUBLE

for the following nights (please mark as appropriate):

THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

I would like the con to find me a sharer / I will be sharing with

I understand it is my responsibility to settle my hotel bill.

Please let us know of any special requirements, such as needing a ground floor room or disabled room.

*Single rooms are £55 per night; Double and Twin rooms are £70 per room per night.
Please return this form **before 1st January 2013** to:*

Quarter Tone, 15 St Catherine's Cross, Bletchingley, Surrey RH1 4PX