



transept

The 7th UK Filk Convention
The Royal Cambridge Hotel
3rd-5th February 1995

PR2

Chapter II

Prior Rhodri's look was frankly sceptical, but then Michael had expected no better. "The sherrif's men seem convinced that this ruffian was responsible. What reasons do you have for believing that he did not take Lady Anne's jewellery?"

"Oh, little reason, Brother Prior... save perhaps that the jewellery box has not yet been found. The lad's pursuers hardly gave him time to hide it with care, and yet the searchers have seen no trace of it. I find this most curious, I must confess."

"Curious perhaps," granted the Prior, "but not without explanation. Regardless, the matter now rests with the secular authorities, and it is not fitting that the sanctity of these cloisters should be further disturbed on this matter. In the absense of the abbot, I must order-

He was interrupted by a knocking on the door, and Michael offered up a silent prayer of thanksgiving at the entrance of Mistress Susan. "I apologise for my intrusion, sir," she said, "but my lady requires the services of Brother Michael. She has taken this theft very hard, and I thought that perhaps..."

"A soothing draught to aid sleep and comfort the spirit?" suggested Michael. "An excellent thought. I shall attend to it at once, if I may?" he asked the Prior.

"Certainly," said Rhodri. "The physical and spiritual health of our guests is a most grave responsibility."

Why I Wanted Joey Shoji As Guest Of Honour by Rhodri James

Many of the people who are even remotely associated with running filk conventions will know that I have been agitating for some time to get Joey Shoji to a UK filk con. Indeed, I suspect that some of them deliberately introduced me to the idea that if I chaired a filkcon I could invite him myself. Guilty parties

beware -- you are in for a treat!

My main problem with filksinging is that most filks are written for sopranos or tenor/baritones, and I'm an alto or bass. This is a touch embarrassing for someone who is a better singer than guitarist or writer, since I can end up making a pretty horrible noise on the high notes. Imagine my jealousy, then, on playing a copy of the tape "Finity's End" and hearing this perfect tenor voice searing through "Merchanter's Luck". "Who is this Joey Shoji guy?" I thought to myself, "and can I borrow his vocal chords?" As I listened to more and more tapes, I grew to recognise his voice as lead or backing vocals on song after song. Worse was to follow for my poor battered ego; "Lute Lessons", "Mommy Can I Have A Spaceship?", "Bloodchild",... damn, the man writes good stuff as well!

At Magicon, Joey shared a concert slot with Larry Warner, and as I'm sure you can imagine I lapped it up. Joey turned out to be a lively performer, an excellent guitarist, and an extremely likeable presence on stage as well as a beautiful voice. I was fighting the green-eyed monster down even as I cursed myself for not bringing any copies of the half-million or so tapes that he's been on for signing. (OK, so I exaggerate. It just *seems* like he's been on half a million tapes, and mighty glad of it I am too!) I did get to meet him afterwards, and discovered that he's as good-humoured and likeable off-stage as on. We didn't talk for all that long (there's a lot to see and do at a worldcon), but I came away with the definite opinion that I wanted to meet this man again.

So there you have it. I believe that Joey Shoji has all the right qualities to be an excellent Guest of Honour; he's good, he's likeable and he's fun to be with. I want you to meet him and come away with the same opinions. Maybe this time I'll get to say how much I appreciate his singing. Assuming I can ever get over my jealousy....

101 uses for a dead Philip Allcock by Mike Whitaker

I'll admit it. There *are* days I'm tempted to kill him. And the title did get your attention. Times when I find myself sitting at that dramatic pause in the third verse of "Grey Rider", after the line 'nothing is forgotten', *forcing* myself *not* to sing 'except sometimes the words' and cursing Philip with every spare brain cell for being so damn *funny*.

There's an art to parody. It's a tribute to Phil's skill with the art that he is (in)famous for subtly revising other people's words in a manner that makes the original source clearly recognisable but twisted beyond belief. When Talis came up with the original "Captain Sidney's Malady" title, I believe her comment was 'this needs a mind more deeply warped than mine'. Cue Philip. As one of his more common victims (these days in the flattering company of Chris de Burgh and ABBA) I can testify that he is indeed warped, sick, twisted and one hell of a funny guy.

He's also one heck of a songwriter. Serious stuff, too. Get your hands on his tape, and listen to it, especially the ones which aren't parodies, and you'll hear some beautiful melodies, and an ear for chording that has a tendency for subtle twists away from straight three chord tricks (that's C, F and G for most folk, Am, FMaj7 and G for Minstrel, and Dm (add9), BbMaj7(b5)/D and Am7sus4 for yours truly) that occasionally sends shivers down your spine. On top of that, he has a gift for marrying words and melody, and the voice to deliver them. And it's a pleasure to work with him - sometimes things just spark, like the tag to the tune of "Bye-Bye Love" that found its way on to the end of Zander's "Mutant Heaven..." at Sou'Wester, completely off-the-cuff as we rehearsed, or "Ring..." ["Phil, we're sick..."], or other things yet to be aired in public.

Folks, I give you Philip Allcock. All things considered, I think I prefer him alive. Just... there are *times*...

The Programme

by Sue Edwards

As we've said before, we're aiming for a fairly relaxed programme so it's basically just the one stream. The plan is to start on the Friday with the Opening Ceremony at 7pm, and run until 6pm or so on the Sunday, with the usual late night circles going on for as long as people want. The main programme room is in the basement (from the front) or ground (from the back) level of the hotel, and we will also have a small room on the floor above for circles etc.

Both of our Guests of Honour will be doing items (even if they or we don't know quite what yet), and there will be plenty of opportunities for anyone else who wants to perform as we are trying a different approach to the concert - we're going to have more than one. The main concert will be on Saturday, and so that it can happen in finite time we decided that everyone should be limited to one or two songs there. For those of you who have lots more than that, we are intending to run several "Themed concerts" for songs related to a specific theme, for which we need your help...

We thought of a number of possible themes, there are doubtless others, and we don't know how popular each one might be. We have pencilled in a "religions" theme for Sunday morning, and have programme slots for about three other themes in the main room. Some themes might work better as circles which could be held in the small room. Please would you think about which ones you would be interested in, and let us know on the enclosed form (which contains a by-no-means exhaustive list of the ideas we tossed around)? If you would be prepared to coordinate a theme, we'd love to hear from you.

Apart from all this, we hope to have discussions/panels, Filk Fund items, requests, a game, bids for next year, and a gripe session, plus of course lots of people having fun sitting around talking in a bar.

How to get to Transept

You are [should be?] looking for a large grey building marked Royal Cambridge Hotel, on Trumpington Street. It's actually on the corner where said street turns into Trumpington Road and there is a double mini roundabout affair outside to allow Fen Causeway and Lensfield Road to go off in opposite directions a few metres apart [Why are we going metric, Sue? (Ed.)].

Let's start with the more ecologically sound methods ...

on foot: go to Fitzbillies, buy some of their wonderfully sticky Chelsea buns, [note to editor: you're not allowed to censor this just because you're on a diet!] [UNFAIR! (Ed.)] and walk south past the FitzWilliam Museum and the engineering labs, then you will see the hotel in front of you on your right (and wish you had crossed the road earlier).

on bicycle: get up, feed the cats, get the bike out [oops, a bit too specific there]. There are several cycle paths in Cambridge, the most useful one is the one that goes on the blue and red bridge over the railway line and station car park (look right as you come out of the station), which you can then follow towards the city centre, cross Hills Road and wander along some more back streets until you come out on Trumpington Road just below the mini roundabout outside the hotel.

by train: there are frequent trains to/from London (Kings Cross or Liverpool Street) until (very) late, and somewhat less frequent trains to/from Ely (hence Peterborough, North/Midlands, East Anglia etc), which run until about 10-11pm. The fastest London trains are Kings Cross non-stop in about 50 minutes (although as you might expect it would be too useful to run these on Sundays), stopping trains vary from an hour to an hour and a half or so. There are usually 2 trains per hour on each London route (only 1/hour to Liverpool St on Sundays), and more at peak times. A fairly reliable London timetable enquiry service will be available from Sue (sue@sdl.ug.eds.com) from January. It takes about 20-30 minutes to walk from the station to the hotel (up Station Rd, right onto Hills Rd, left at the Catholic Church and along Lensfield Road), alternatively you could get a taxi, or catch the Rail Link bus (number 1, last one on Friday 1815) to the aforesaid church, and walk along Lensfield Road (5-10 minutes). There don't appear to be any more direct buses.

by bus: Drummer Street bus station is close to the centre of the city. There are numerous possibilities for getting to the hotel, again it would be about a 20-30 minute walk, or taxi, or one of several not-very-frequent buses - try numbers X3/X4 (more frequent), 31/32, 118/119/120, 112/X12, and ask for the stop by the Leys school, which should get you just across the road from the hotel. Or you could get any bus going down Regent Street (eg 1/4/5, from the stops round the corner along Emmanuel Street) and get off at Lensfield Road/Catholic Church for a 5-10 minute walk. Note that bus services tend to dry up after about 6pm, and there are very few on Sundays, but we will have more detailed information at the con.

by car: Taking a car into the centre of Cambridge is, on the whole, not recommended unless you happen to like sitting in traffic jams. The good news here is that the hotel is on the west side of Cambridge, and the major roads run to the west (M11) and north (A14) of the city. There are two relatively simple ways to come in:

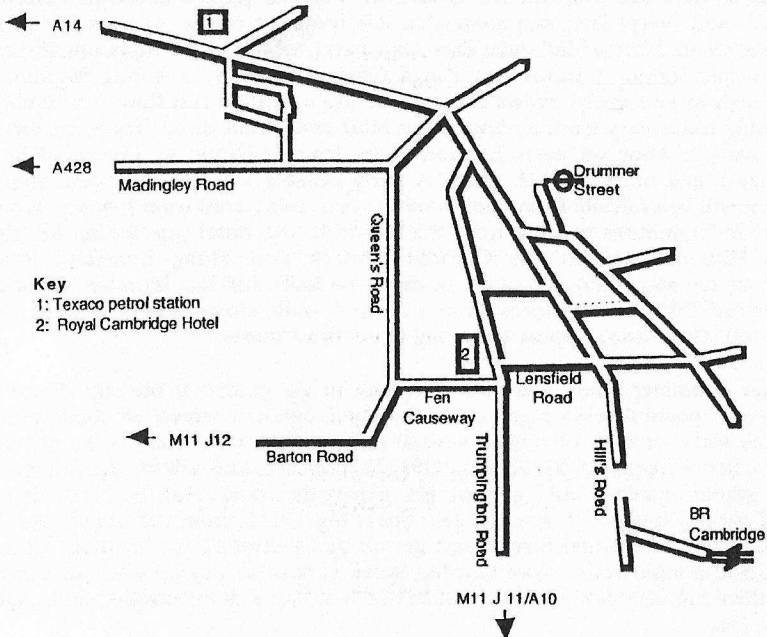
(a) follow the M11 (joining it from the A10, A14, A428 (A45 if you have an old map)) to junction 12 (Cambridge, Sandy A603), head into Cambridge along Barton Road, round a 90 degree left bend, turn right at the next roundabout and you are now on Fen Causeway. The hotel car park is on the left just before the double mini roundabout mentioned above.

(b) starting from the A10 from Royston and M11 junction 11 roundabout, come through Trumpington village, straight up Trumpington Road, turn left at the first roundabout (of the double) and then almost immediately right into the hotel car park.

If you want to avoid motorways and are coming from the north or west, then you could try:

(c) starting from the A14 North come down Huntingdon Road, follow the Ring Road signs right at the first major lights, left at the bottom of the hill, right at the roundabout, go down Queens Road (the Backs), until you meet a roundabout, turn left onto Fen Causeway and see the end of route (a)

(c1) starts from the A428 (Bedford) and you should turn off at the first sign to Cambridge and follow the road in until you get to the Ring Road roundabout and turn right onto Queens Road to join route (c).



†ransept

Hotel Booking Form V 1.1

Name Membership No.

Address

.....

E-Mail Phone

I/We want to book a single
 double
Friday family room, adults, children
Saturday twin, sharing with

Sunday twin, please find me a sharer
 single in an overflow hotel

If you want us to find you a sharer, please fill in the following:

I am male smoker
 female non-smoker

I/We have the following allergy or medical problems of which the hotel and booking procedures should be aware (e.g. no feather pillows, unable to manage long walks or stairs)

I enclose a deposit of £10 per person, total £.....

I recognise that I am responsible for paying my hotel bill.

I would be interested in participating in the following themed concerts, if they were to be arranged:

Computers Cats Comics Religion
 Magic Dorsai Space Fandom

I have this really neat idea for a concert theme/programme item which I'll tell you-all about on the back of the form!

Signed Date

Hotel

Yes. Ok. I admit it. The hotel booking form was indeed missing the all important boxes to tick to say which night you wanted to stay. Apologies to those of you who didn't figure it out - by way of amendmemt, hotel form 1.1 is hereby included. With the boxes to tick. And a little space to remind you to write in the amount of deposit you're sending.

Addresses etc.

Mike is moving jobs at the start of the new year. His old email address should still work (that's mikew@sdl.uq.eds.com). If for some reason things start bouncing off into the wide blue electronic yonder (like, he forgets to bribe the sysadmin enough before he goes), try his new one, which is active **now**:
Mike.Whitaker@elmail.co.uk.

Lissa Allcock	40A	Annette Kirk	36A
Philip Allcock	2G	Tim Kirk	35A
Andy	55A	The Magician	48A
Mary Baird	31A	Keith Martin	63A
Andrew Barton	8A	Sue Mason	37A
Marion Beet	24A	Robert Maughan	11A
child of Chris Bell	26C	Melusine	23A
Chris Bell	27A	Tom Nanson	41A
Michael Bernardi	14A	Gytha North	42A
Jenny Blackburn	57A	Nigel Parsons	13A
Susan Booth	28A	David Peek	44A
Roger Burton-West	39A	Richard Rampant	43A
Rafe Culpin	3A	Nicky Retallick	21A
John Daliman	47A	Roger Robinson	10A
Robert Day	58A	Tony Rogers	18A
Lawrence Dean	20A	Jean Sheward	29A
Miki Dennis	50A	Joey Shoji	1G
Kerstin Droge	64A	Smitty	38A
Sue Edwards	32A	Kate Soley	60A
John English	9A	Kathy Sterry	17A
Colin Fine	25S	Marcus Streets	33A
Brian Flatt	12A	Rae Streets	34A
Gwen Funnell	16A	Teddy	45A
Martin G-K	54A	Colin Tuckley	59A
Clare Goodall	46A	Peter Tyers	62A
Linda Hansford	61A	Peter Wareham	15A
Hitch	51A	Karen Westhead	7C
Juliane Honisch	49A	Kathy Westhead	5A
Valerie Housden	19A	Mike Westhead	4A
Susan Humphries	22A	Peter Westhead	6C
Tracey Jackman	30A	Anne Whitaker	53A
Keris	56A	Mike Whitaker	52A

Our address:

2, Westbrook Park Road,
Woodston,
PETERBOROUGH,
PE2 9JG

(01733) 894928

Rates:

Attending: 22 pounds
17 (unwaged)
US: \$40

Supporting: 10 pounds
US: \$18