

DIDGERI- DOUZE

The 12th British Filkcon



BROOCILLA - COW OF THE DESERT!

Of Progress Reports and Sealing Wax, Cabbages and Hotel Representatives...

Yes, we know, this PR is more that a little bit on the late side. Certainly far later than we would have wished, too. We apologise wholly and unreservedly for this, but would point the finger of blame at our contact at the hotel, Sarah, a woman who obviously would rather be doing any job but producing a contract for us to sign. We did not want to be sending out this PR and attendant Hotel Booking Form (gee, I hope it's attendant anyway, or I'll have to do another mailing - ick!) until we had said signed contract in our hot little hands. However, we've been chasing this for *months* and just before our committee meeting at the beginning of November she'd promised us that the contract *would* be in the post on Wednesday of that week AT THE LATEST. A week later we phoned to chase this and she wasn't available...

All those who have read the story in PRI can see where this is going, I'm sure. She continued to be out, in a meeting, off sick and on courses for the rest of the month. Many many times her minions took messages and promised that she would call us back as soon as she returned. Just as many times, this conspicuously failed to happen. Eventually we got unsubtle and turned Annie loose on them. She called up and discovered Sarah was on a course. Annie refused to accept this answer and demanded a progress report from the underling. Said underling said that she had not ever been asked to type up a contract... Aaaargh!!!

After a few well chosen words from Annie (the phrase "frank, bordering on direct" springs to mind), a contract was typed up based on the notes in Sarah's files and dispatched to us. Great, we thought! Progress! Then we noticed several glaring inaccuracies in the contract (Sarah obviously doesn't take very good notes, either) so we had to shuffle it back and have it out with them several more times. Sigh! We knew we had the hotel and that all would work out; it's just taken longer to work out than was hoped or could reasonably have been expected.

However, we now, finally, have our contract! And so you may now have a PR and a hotel booking form! Yay! Or phew! Or both! Details are as follows

The hotel booking form should be on a separate piece of paper that came with this PR, or at the end of this e-mail message for those who opted for digital PRs. It is also available on our website (<http://www.weyrdemon.co.uk/didgeridouze/didgeridouze.html>) and will be posted to Filk UK. We will be accepting your form in electronic format to compensate for the fact that it is being sent out so late. We will make sure that this does not disadvantage those who do not send them in electronically.

Prices are £35 per person, per night in a double/twin room and £45 for single occupancy. Any special requirements, please contact the committee. As some people found last time, there are rooms adjoining the late night filk rooms. We are assuming that you will NOT want to sleep in these unless you specify it on the form in the "special requirements" section. If you would be happy to have one of these rooms (eg to save yourself from having to lug all your equipment down long corridors and back) then please let us know.

In line with previous years, there will be a discount on the Sunday night if you stay all three nights - you will get five pounds off on Sunday night if you book all three nights in advance.

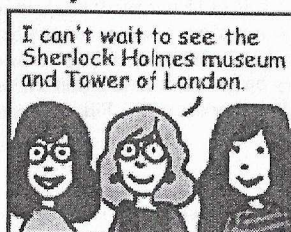
tracks... Well... Let's just say those weren't the words they're looking for. [Altogether now - "those weren't the words they're looking for." Excellent!]

So there he was; abandoned in the desert; with nothing to eat or drink - fortunately not a major problem for a concrete cow - and nothing to wear or even to shield his head from the harsh rays of the sun, except for the remnants of the guitars they'd broken over it. And even they made him look like a mushroom.

When, over the horizon loomed a bus. Approaching fast in a cloud of dust. It was... green. No - it was purple. No... definitely green. Purple. Green. Purple...

Well whatever colour it was, it was certainly bright! Perhaps they'd let him ride. Maybe they'd accept him. And maybe they'd even lend him something to wear...

Urban Tapestry: The Comic Strip



Getting there

I am now going to shamelessly plagiarise the Obliter-8 PR2 (and who better to do so than Phil's wife?) and give you some brief instructions on how to get there. More detailed information will be in PR3 but Just In Case, I want to include it here... I know the instructions work because nobody got lost last time (or if they did then they didn't mention it to me, so there!)

By Train

Take the train (probably from Euston) to Milton Keynes (Central). Remember to get off the train there. From the Station walk past the bus station and straight up Midsummer Boulevard towards the 'city centre'. The hotel is on the right with a building site across the road (they're getting very busy building things in Milton Keynes right now - sadly the indoor ski centre doesn't open until next summer). The walk is about 3/4 of a mile, slightly uphill but nothing serious).

By Car

Exit the M1 at Junction 14 towards Milton Keynes. At the roundabout go straight on (Childes Way - H6) and follow this road across 6 roundabouts. The last roundabout is called *South Saxon* and here you turn right into *Saxon Gate* (V7). Go through one set of traffic lights and the hotel is on your left between

Avebury Boulevard and Midsummer Boulevard (the building site is on your right). There's lots of parking.

From Australia

Take aeroplane to Heathrow. Be careful of your excuse for having overweight luggage (concrete cow smuggling carries heavy penalties...). Take an underground train to Euston, follow instructions for Train. Alternatively mug someone to pick you up at Heathrow, then follow instructions for Car.

The Filk Fund - by Lissa the Fund Administrator

The Fund is feeling pretty healthy these days. This is wonderful. However, it could be even healthier and I'm depending on *you* to make it so. Please remember to bring lots of fun things to put into the Filk Fund Auction.

Membership Rates

Attending membership is £25 from 1.1.00 (£15 unwaged) Supporting membership is half that, conversion being half of full rate at time of conversion. Cheques should be made payable to "Didgeri-12" and supplied along with your postal name and address, membership type wanted and desired badge name (if different). Members will be listed by badge name in con publications and Membership information will be kept on computer and used only for purposes of UK Filk Conventions.

Credits

This PR has been brought to you by a harassed person who has given up attempting to deny that she is the con chairbanana, and who is assuming extra hats at an alarming rate (*another baseball cap, Lissa? We don't have the room...*) and who was rescued from having to draw a stick figure PR cover at the last moment by Fantom. What a star! Other bits were written by Annie and Phil and may have been (heavily) edited to bring them in line with the Continuing Hotel Experience.

This space intentionally left blank.
There might have been a picture of Australia here
if my company hadn't decided to block any
e-mail attachments that weren't Word or Excel files.
But they did.
So there isn't.
I'm sure you'll all cope heroically.

Besides, you all have fertile imaginations, so perhaps
you can imagine it's there.
Or something more silly and entertaining.

Please indicate each night that you will be staying. If you are unsure about the Sunday night then leave that box blank - a booking can always be extended once you get to the convention.

You may only share with another member of the convention. If you specify a sharer who has not joined, your application will not be processed until they do do join (but we will let you know they haven't joined!). If you want us to find a sharer for you and wish to exclude certain people from consideration please write their names on a separate piece of paper headed with your name and titled "Exclusion List". This information will only be seen by Lissa as Hotel Room Wrangler.

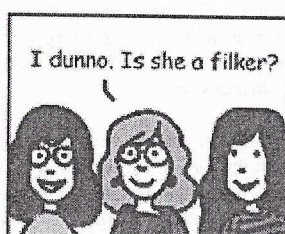
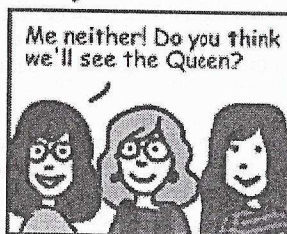
The space on the form for Special Requirements is for you to indicate the need for such things as non-feather pillows etc. Requests for a ton of chocolate each day will be ignored in the usual fashion, even if you are a confirmed chocoholic. Feeding your vices is your own responsibility.

The hotel does not require deposits, but neither will it be sending out confirmations of bookings. We will be scrabbling around to send out a 3rd PR in January, and the mailing label for same will have arcane annotations showing whether we have received hotel booking information from you and what we have recorded it as. That will be explained at the time, but please do not discard your envelope until you have worked out whether we got it right or not.

If any of this is confusing, please contact us at the con address. Please send all con-related e-mail to the proper address - life gets confusing if con mail vanishes into our personal inboxes. The con address is didgeri-12@oreos.demon.co.uk.

On a more generic hotel note, there will be TWO late night filk rooms - at Obliter-8 the circle got very large and slow, and some people found this difficult. We have attempted to rectify the matter this year. Please feel free to use both rooms. However, please note that no-one should feel pressurised into leaving a circle if they are having fun. We might designate the rooms Bardic and Chaos. Or not. Or Green and Purple. Or not. Who knows?

Urban Tapestry: The Comic Strip



Programming Update

Several people have contacted us about possible sets during Didgeri-12 and there is a list of them below. If your name does not appear on this list, and you want a set, then please contact us NOW. That's right. Put down the PR, and go pick up the phone, and tell one of us, or leave an answerphone message. Alternatively, if you have told us, and your names do not appear below, then please tell us again. We

probably forgot. It happens when we read too much smut and eat too little chocolate...

N'Early Music Consort

Phoenix

Chris Conway

Talis Kimberley

"Telyn Tales" (You know who you are!)

"Just Pla(y)in' Folk" (Sorry if I spelt it wrong - you know who you are, too!)

B & B (We all know who you are!)

Don't worry - there are lots of other things lined up as well - we haven't forgotten that the Guests of Honour will all need some time programmed...

We have also had the excellent suggestion from one member of the committee (and seconded by all the rest of us) that a "pick only" circle on the Friday night would be a great idea. This does NOT mean that there will not be normal late-night circles, as the pick circle may be programmed (we haven't decided yet!). The advantage of a "pick only" circle is the same as a "request concert", in that you can hear what you want to hear, but is more spontaneous and less subject to the "oh, they've just popped out of the room" syndrome. A cry of "anything from Mildred" will be perfectly acceptable (*or will be if anyone called Mildred actually joins the con - ed*). The committee and other discerning listeners reserve the right to point at quiet members and demand them to sing. However, the nominee also has the right to hit us over the head with a large plastic lightsabre... I'll try and remember to bring one!

You will notice that we haven't mentioned workshops. That's because no-one has volunteered yet. Any volunteers? Likewise for a silly programme item/game/whatever. Contact us as soon as possible, please!

Brooce - the Saga Continues...

Something odd had arrived in Australia. Yes, odd even by their standards, though understandably it took them a while to notice. Early hints of broken surfboards embedded in the sea floor and a simultaneous outbreak of swimmers being gummy by oddly irritated toothless sharks went largely if surprisingly unnoticed. Well, unnoticed except by the sharks, one presumes, but they weren't talking - or at least only to other lawyers.

Yes, Brooce had arrived. And in a land where men are men and sheep are nervous, a concrete cow can make the wrong impression if he's not very careful. But Brooce sadly fell in with the wrong sort. He knew they were the wrong sort because they refused to pull him out again after he fell in. But he persevered and managed to get a job as a roadie with a rock band. Actually this was a slight misunderstanding as the placement officer had actually said he'd make a good road - but he was happy there nonetheless. And for the first time since home the people around him were more stoned than he was. Which in his case was saying something.

Yet things still just didn't go right for him. Somehow after the music he'd heard that fateful weekend in Milton Keynes, he seemed to have trouble taking certain songs ... seriously. And when they had a karaoke night and made the mistake of asking him to do a few ABBA

Membership list as at 19/12/1999

Alasdair	59	A	Fox	15	S	Rick	48	A
Alison	64	A	Franklin	109	A	Rika the Bardling	38	A
Lissa Allcock	5	C	Freddy Filk Frog	113	A	Roger Robinson	16	A
Philip Allcock	6	C	Ben Fromago	52	A	Tony Rogers	19	A
Andy	78	A	Alan Frost	94	A	Rowan	96	A
Anke	25	A	Gwen Funnell	30	A	Rufus	73	A
Auntie Sue	67	A	Martin GK	79	A	Ruth	114	A
Andrew Barton	68	A	Heike	40	A	Annabelle Sampson	118	A
Bear	61	A	Hilary Ann	91	A	Sara	81	A
Chris Bell	27	A	Hitch	116	A	Kirstin	17	A
Dan Bennett	80	A	Rhodri James	43	A	Smitty	9	C
Michael Bernardi	51	A	Janet	76	A	Kate Soley-Barton	69	A
Brian Biddle	1	G	Jenny	37	A	Kathy Sterry	41	A
Catherine Biddle	11	A	Godfrey Joseph	92	A	Barbara Stewart	49	A
Susan	22	A	Joy	45	A	John Stewart	50	A
Roger Burton West	87	S	Katy	29	A	Marcus Streets	102	A
Alan Cash	85	A	Keris	34	A	Rae	101	A
Janet Cash	86	A	Corwin Kimberley	14	A	~	103	A
Cevin	26	A	Clueless	82	A	Tajo	112	A
Neil Chambers	66	A	Jodi Krangle	4	G	Talis	12	A
Chris	117	A	David Laight	105	A	Teddy	21	A
Christine	111	A	Laura	115	A	Thomas	39	A
Colin	28	A	Maeve	74	A	Peter Tyers	77	A
Carol Cooper	93	A	The Magician	23	A	Uncle Chris	107	A
Countess Axyldes	72	A	Marion	84	A	Valerie	46	A
Rafe Culpin	65	A	Robert Maughan	75	A	Vera Emlyn	108	A
Steve Davies	33	A	Melusine	89	A	Volker	18	A
Giulia de Cesare	32	A	Miki	47	A	Anne Walker	7	C
Caitlin Dean	58	A	Minstrel	44	A	Tim Walker	8	C
Lawrence Dean	56	A	Molly	110	A	Peter Wareham	31	A
DJ	53	A	Nicky	57	A	Karen Westhead	97	A
Donna	90	A	Nigel	54	A	Kathy Westhead	98	A
Allison Durno	3	G	Debbie Ohi	2	G	Mike Westhead	99	A
Sue Edwards	42	A	Omega	95	A	Peter Westhead	100	A
Dawn Everett Biddle	10	A	Oriole	24	A	Anne Whitaker	35	A
	13	A	Claire Parsons	55	A	Mike Whitaker	36	A
FanTom	20	A	Paul B =:o}	70	A	Thomas Womack	88	A
The Fiddler	106	A	Hugh Peerey	83	A	Yooh	60	A
Colin Fine	104	A	Mike Richards	63	A	Zander Nyron	71	A
Brian Flatt	62	A						

act Information

, 119 Whitehill Lane, Gravesend

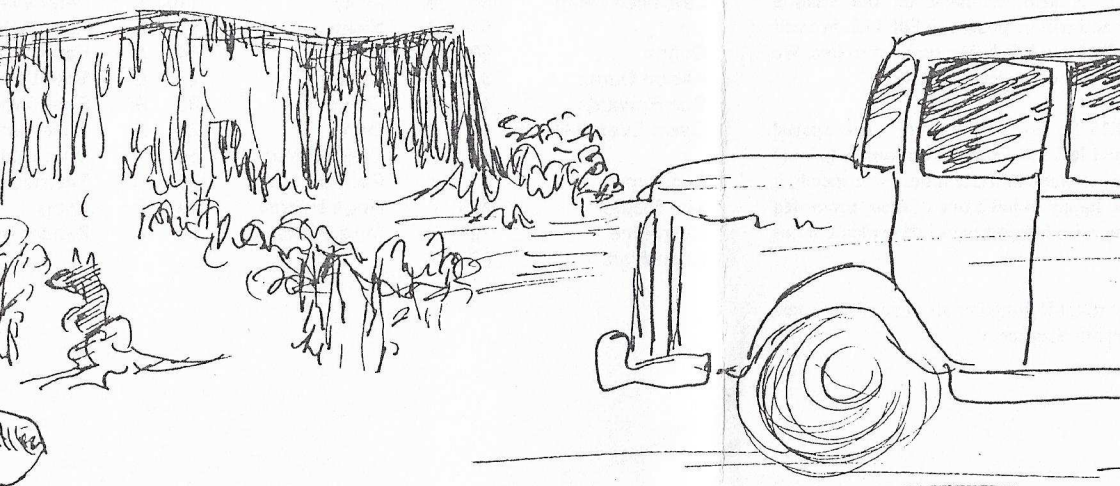
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