

# READ ME!



# fourplay

Welcome to Fourplay—the climax of a year of incredibly hard work (honest!) This little booklet should contain everything to make your Fourplay experience as pleasant and trouble-free as possible. Please read it. Before the convention, if possible. Our guests are Cynthia McQuillin, Dr Jane Robinson and Colin Fine. All profess an interest in meeting people so do take the opportunity to chat to them. The committee are Alison and Mike Scott, Sue Mason, Steve Davies and Giulia De Cesare. We are here to solve your problems, answer your questions and generally run ourselves ragged. We can be identified by coloured badges. The guests also have coloured badges, but are not to be run ragged. If you have any problems of any kind, please find a committee member—one of us will be on duty at all times—and we will do our very best to help. If the problem is with the hotel, please talk to us first. Above all, we hope you enjoy Fourplay as much as we've enjoyed organising it.

## wolverhampton

Since none of the committee actually live in or near Wolverhampton, we asked the Wolverhampton Tourist Authority to send us any information they had on interesting sights and good places to eat around the city centre. Unfortunately, this had still not arrived by the time we went to press. Assuming that the information exists, we will try and have it available on the Registration Desk for people to look at during the convention. We can, however, recommend *Piggies*, a hot-pork sandwich shop just around the corner from the hotel.

## taping policy

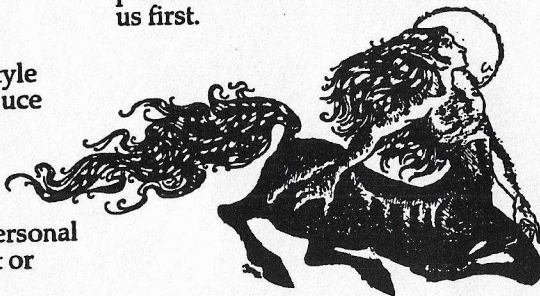
A lot of people bring walkman-style tape-recorders to filkings to produce their own recordings. This is perfectly welcome as long as the following points are observed.

- 1) Such tapes should be for personal use only, not for giving out or selling multiple copies.

- 2) Please respect the performer's wishes if they ask for a song not to be taped, for whatever reason.
- 3) Please remember that the performance is for the enjoyment of those present, not for your tape, and keep your taping as unobtrusive as possible.

## weapons

Don't. Just don't, right? If you're planning on wearing a weapon as part of a costume then check with us first.



# cynthia mcquillin

By "Dr Jane" Robinson

Cynthia McQuillin's involvement with fandom reaches far beyond her achievements as filk performer and prolific songwriter, though she undoubtedly likes the music best. She first succumbed to the lure of fandom in 1979, and became an active member of the Friends of Darkover. In return, Cynthia introduced the Darkovans to filk, contributing several songs to the Star Stone 'zines, and publishing both songs and artwork in the Darkover Filk Book. She was a founding member of the L.A.-based science fiction club ASTRA, and the original Witch World Fan Club. At that time, she served as contributing editor to the Norton Newsletter and publisher of the witch-world calendar.

Over the years, Cynthia has attended every convention her time, energy and funds would allow. At first, she supported her convention habit by selling curious fantasy sculptures and jewellery in the dealer's room, one of the first artists to do so. These days, her dealer's table is piled with tapes and song-books, side by side with lovely, hand-knotted beads and anything else she thinks might turn a buyer's head.

What she is best known for, however, is her music and her lovely, contralto voice. More than 300 of her songs have appears in over 60 tapes and at least 17 songbooks and 'zines. She has six solo tapes to her credit and has worked with almost every west-coast filk recording com-

pany as a singer/producer/mix-engineer/vocal coach/arranger/morale officer. Current projects include "Uncharted Stars", a solo tape for Wail Songs, and a new Star Trek tape with DAG (co-produced with Tera Mitchel). Her own company, Unlikely Publications, recently released her folk tape, "Dreams of Fortune", and a parody book, "Melody Pirates".

Cynthia's first love is folk music, but she is equally at home with rock, Latin and pop rhythms. She can bring a tear to your eye with "I Would Walk With You", then double you over with laughter with "Gilda and the Dragon" or the deliciously risque "Chocolate Song". She can fascinate you with dozens of songs about the children of the night (try "Moon Shadows" for a good sampling of vampire/werewolf/succubus material), then chill you with an insider's look at insanity ("Horses of Air"). Her sheer versatility is astounding, and her ability as a storyteller is, and deserves to be, legendary.

What else? Well, she's 38, loves/hates/has cats, routinely dreams entire movie screenplays and plots for novels, and bends spoons by stroking them. She derives cosmic significance from sitcoms, can write a song in about 20 minutes on any subject, and can tell you, in detail, the plot of every movie, TV show, novel or story she's ever seen or read. She drives better, sings louder and uses less cayenne than I do. She



loves adulation, adores an appreciative audience, and feels most fulfilled when other people perform her material; lately she has been very happy indeed. And, unlike many filk performers, she has an insatiable appetite for new

## "DR JANE" ROBINSON

by Cynthia McQuillin

Well, to start with, Jane really does have a Phd in biology, with specialities in vertebrate paleontology and functional morphology... (She knows, she knows, she kno-o-o-o-ows how the thing had to move!) She studied at the University of New Hampshire, and did graduate work at U.C. Berkeley and U.C.L.A. During a year's pre-doctoral fellowship at Tübingen, Germany, she worked on her thesis (swimming motions of plesiosaurs), fought the German bureaucracy ("Please sit down, we have some forms to which you must attend...") and made forays to ancient and venerable European museums, including the British Museum of Natural History. She is the author of an introductory lab manual in general paleontology, and co-author, (with E.C. Olson) of a textbook on evolution ("Thank God we're not God's fault!"). Most of the songs on *Wackademia* and *Fossil Fever* are based on her eclectic and exuberant academic career, which included everything from teaching geology ("Doo-da-rock, rock, baby!") to pre-med anatomy ("Today in lab you're gonna learn the muscles of the kittycat...") to museum science ("Movin' the bones again...")

Jane began writing songs when she was quite young, and has been writing and performing off and on ever since. She remembers her

material. She is as prolific a listener as she is a writer/performer.

So seek her out, sing a song for her, or ask her to sing one for you... "I will remember, I will remember. Tell me a story; sing me tomorrow!"

parents and their friends singing her to sleep with barbershop harmonies, and there are still some songs for which she knows several harmonies but not the melody. Thus, she brings an incredible ear for arrangements and harmonies to filk music. But her own, original melodies are just as clever and well-crafted as her lyrics, for which she's justly infamous. On top of all this, she plays rhythm guitar, bass, keyboard, flute, and various percussion instruments... not, however, at the same time.

I met Jane in 1987, when she was working on her first tape project with Off Centaur Publications. We became fast friends, and began to work together musically the following spring. We've done several tape projects together now, and I always look forward to the next one; Jane loves recording and is at her best in the studio, whether she's singing the lead on her own tapes or doing backup on mine or other people's.

Jane still marvels at how the filking community has taken her to its heart, since she doesn't read much science fiction or fantasy and lacks the usual fannish background. (To her, Spock is a pediatrician.) But she loves conventions in general, and filking in particular, even if she does have to get me to explain a lot of the songs.

# programme notes

## friday

### 1830 Karaoke Filk

Fancy yourself as a megastar? Your chance to sing a famous filksong with the original backing. Of course, you don't need to use the original words...

### 1900 Opening Ceremony

Where we introduce the committee and guests, and "thrill you with a stunning holographic laser light show the like of which has never been seen before" (A.Scott).

### 2000 Film

The Wizard of Speed and Time (Full-length version)

### 2000 Harmony Workshop (Park Room)

A beginners' course in producing beautiful vocal harmonies from the assembled masses. This workshop is being run by Chris Croughton, aided by Colin Fine.

### 2130 Music Hall

Come along, bring your drinking songs. Your Master of Ceremonies for this strictly request-only knees-up is Steve Davies. (Please bring your instruments.)

## saturday

### 1000 Microphone Workshop

The tech crew will help you with your technique, so the only hissing will be from the audience.

### 1100 Song Spot

Featuring Zander Nyron and Razing Arizona (performing songs from their new album "Chancing Blame")

### 1200 Alchemy

The lovely chemistry of Pat Silver, Dave Holliday and Talis Kimberley.

### **1300 Desert Island Filks**

Gytha North's tunes to eat fish 'n' coconuts by. She will be interviewed by Scintillating Sue Mason.

### **1400 Alternative Instruments**

Bring along your filking instruments (other than guitars). Colin Fine presides.

### **1400 Voice Workshop (Park Room)**

Pat Silver shows you how to have a perfectly clear and charming singing voice. (Chickens for sacrifice optional).

### **1500 Before the Dawn After Lunch**

This is the chance to spotlight all those *Before the Dawn* songs you've been keeping under wraps.

### **1600 Guest of Honour Spot**

Cynthia McQuillin and Jane Robinson, our US Guests of Honour. There will be an interval during the concert, in which Gytha North will preside over an auction of fine and valuable things for the Flying Filk Fund. Bring loadsamoney. Committee members will be happy to accompany you to your rooms to retrieve forgotten wallets and to ensure you don't get lost coming back.

### **1900 Where Did You Get That Game?**

Brilliant battles of wit from top teams of fabulous filkers in a gory game to the death. (Or at least, until dinner).

### **2030 Concert**

Gytha North is your host for the high point of the convention, our annual concert. Please let her know if you wish to take part.

## **sunday**

### **1030 Community Hymn Singing**

Father Zander Nyron of the New Revived Pan-Cosmic Church of Yurinn of The Latter-Day Slaintes leads an extensive female choir (there's only three of them but they're certainly extensive) and all the rest of you are expected to join in the singing of Sunday Morning Hymns. Please bring your hymnals and prayerbook.

### **1200 Producing a Tape**

How to turn 200 yards of magnetic tape into a professionally published product. Roger Robinson immoderates this panel.

Fourplay	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
10:00	Microphone Workshop		Community hymn singing
11:00			
12:00	Alchemy	Alchemy	Producing a tape (panel)
13:00			Desert Island Filks
14:00	Alternative instruments	Alternative instruments	Phoenix (and guests)
15:00		Voice Workshop	
16:00	Before the Dawn		Guest of Honour spot (Colin Fine)
17:00			Guest of Honour spot (Cynthia McQuillin)
18:00	Karaoke Filk	Guest of Honour (Jane Robinson)	Closing ceremony
19:00	Opening Ceremony	Where Did You Get That Game?	Film (Wizard of Speed and Time)
20:00	Film (The Wizard of Speed and Time)	Concert setup	
21:00		Harmony Workshop	
22:00	Music Hall		

**1300 Lyric Writers' Workshop (Park Room)**

A workshop on lyric-polishing. Wielding the Duraglit are Minstrel and Martin Gordon-Kerr.

**1400 Phoenix (and guests)**

Risen from the ashes of Mabinogicon, Phoenix are in the business of making you rock till you drop. Blue suede feet optional.

**1530 Guest of Honour Spot**

Our UK Guest of Honour, Colin Fine, in concert.

**1700 Song Spot**

tba

**1800 Closing Ceremony**

The official end of the convention. You can all go home now.

**1830 Film**

The Wizard of Speed and Time. Again. Told you you should have all gone home. There is no truth to the rumour that we will be showing it backwards.





# colin fine - the untold story

by Alison Scott

Most British filkers are aware that Colin Fine has been filking for longer than most of the rest of us. He first became aware of the filking scene at Seacon '79, but it actually took him several more years to take the plunge himself. He says that after years of looking at filk and feeling that it wasn't quite what he wanted to do, he actually got involved at the Worldcon in Baltimore in 1983. Returning to Britain, he brought with him an enthusiasm for the medium that helped nurture a whole host of embryonic filkers.

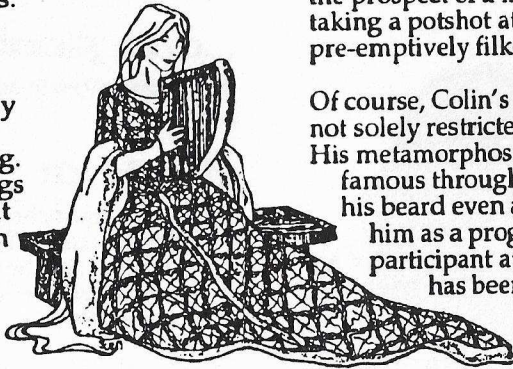
To me, Colin represents exactly the strengths of British filksinging. He's written songs of many different types, and he can also be found singing fine songs by other people that are often unfamiliar to filkers. His early songs were set to well-known tunes, and several of these are now perennial favourites. Notable amongst these is *Feed Me*, one of those songs that people revert to as comfort filk at five o'clock in the morning when they realise they're very tired, the booze has run out, and breakfast doesn't start till seven.

As well as writing and singing songs, Colin also plays a considerable number of musical instruments, ranging from the English Romanesque harp to the piano accordion. He would be the first to admit that he isn't a virtuoso on many of these, but as we all

know, enthusiasm cures all wounds in filk. He is also a keen Morris dancer, and all his previous visits to Wolverhampton have been for Morris events; so don't be surprised if he turns up with bells on his shoes. After several years of writing funny filks to other people's tunes, Colin was eventually spurred to try writing tunes of his own and songs with serious themes. He always seemed to be rather surprised that these were actually quite good. He was quite protective of these first forays into serious filk; worried at the prospect of a marauding filker taking a potshot at *Three Stars*, he pre-emptively filked it himself.

Of course, Colin's fannish activity is not solely restricted to filksinging. His metamorphosing facial hair is famous throughout fandom, and his beard even appeared without him as a programme participant at *Contrivance*. He

has been involved in running conventions of all sizes, and had the misfortune to be secretary of *Conspiracy*, the 1987 Worldcon; a job which proved to be an enormous amount of work for very little reward. Immediately after this he acted as *Eminence Grise* of the 1988 Eastercon, *Follycon*. He was a member of the legendary *Surrey Limpwrist*s, and quondam futuris administrator of *SLAPA*. For many years he was a leading light of *CUSFS*, and was very nearly a founding member of *Jomsborg*; he missed the first meeting but turned up to the second. He also produced several issues of a fanzine, but says that they weren't very good. Not known principally as a furry animal, he has been known



number of Bacchanalian Saturnalia, the details of which had better be lost in the mists of time (but we have the photographs).

In recent years, both Colin's life and his music have changed dramatically. As a result of Life Training, he took a long look at himself and decided that he would like to change many aspects of his life. He has relinquished his position in the managerial ratrace, has left the safe haven of Cambridge, and is now studying Peace Studies at Bradford

University. He is still writing songs, and his recent output, some of which we will hear at Fourplay, includes serious and satirical songs.

Colin has not yet produced a tape of his filksongs, but there is a tape of songs that came out of his experiences with Life Training. It is called Life Songs, and on it he collaborates with Zoe Grace Meadenday. For Fourplay he is going to give us an overview of his musical development, which is bound to be one of the highlights of the weekend.

### ...and finally

A few last-minute additions and notices.

### checkout time

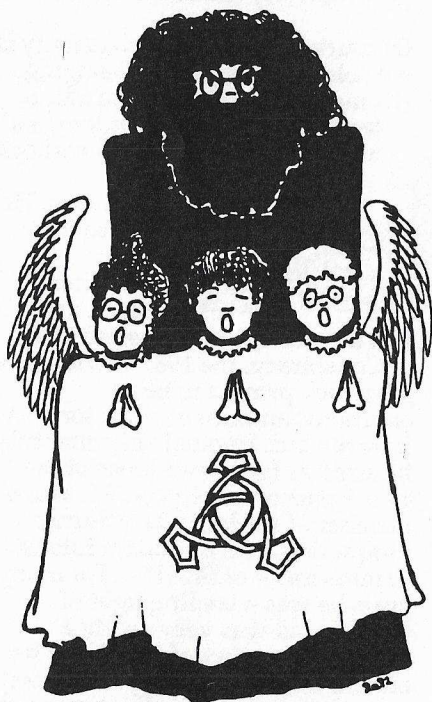
Please note that checkout time on Monday is 10 a.m. This is because the hotel has another group coming in and they will be full up on Monday night.

### thanks

The committee would like to thank innumerable people for their help, but especially: Roger Robinson, Richard and Marion van der Voort, Gytha and Richard the Rampant, Tim and Kati, Andy Morris (though not appearing in this convention), Pat Silver, Tim Illingworth, Mike and Kathy Westhead, Carl Smethurst (Banqueting Manager) and everyone we've forgotten.

### congratulations

...to Phil Allcock and Lissa Blackburn on their engagement.



The FIRST NEW REVIVED PANCOSMIC  
CHURCH OF YURINN - HT 3000 -  
INSPIRATIONAL CHOIR.

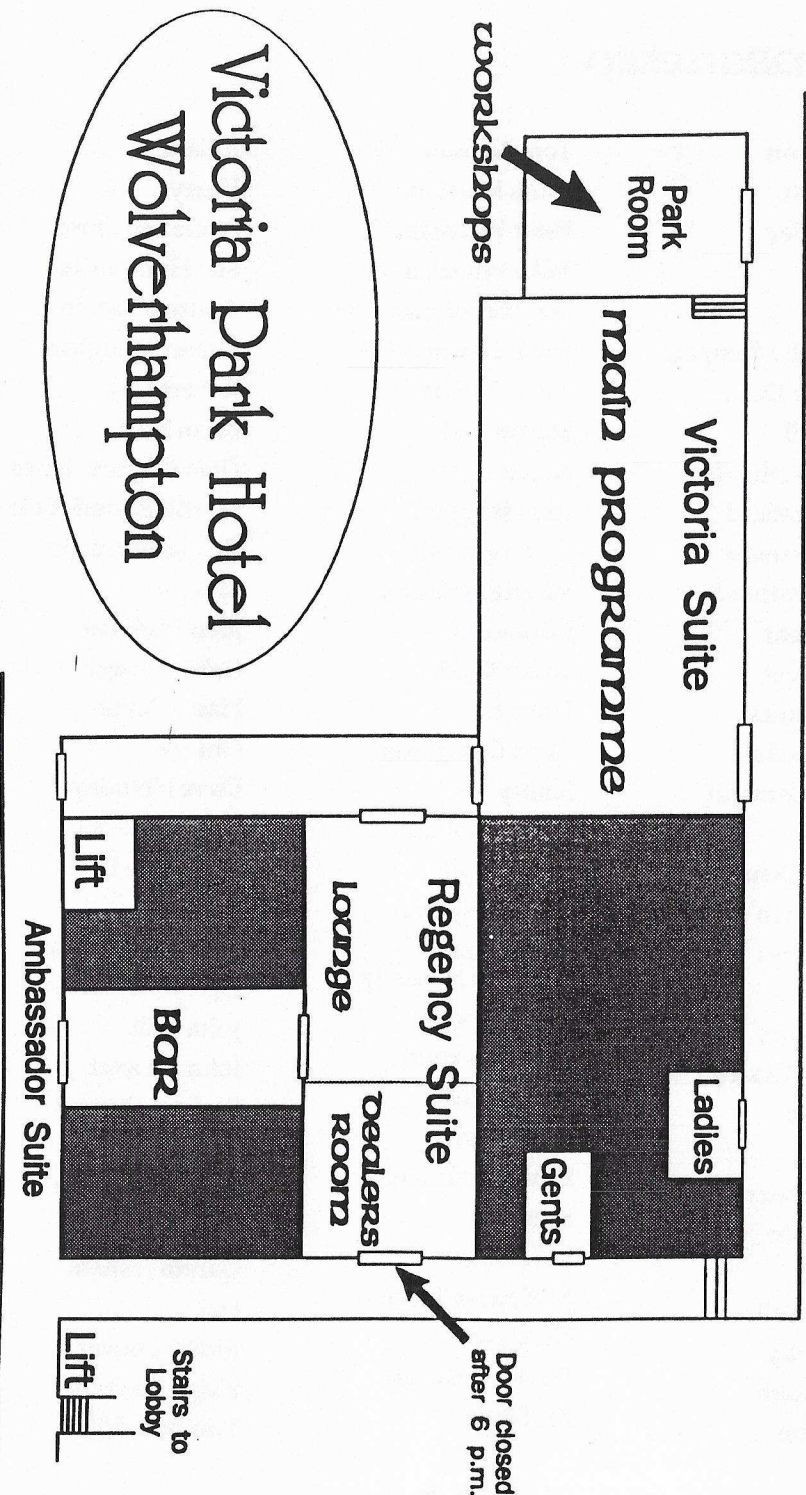
# membership

Alison Scott  
Mike Scott  
Bill Longley  
Hitch  
Tim Kirk  
Richard the Rampant  
Lawrence Dean  
David Bell  
Kathy Westhead  
Mike Westhead  
Peter Westhead  
Karen Westhead  
Bruce Grant  
Marion Beet  
Rhodri James  
Claire Goodall  
Michael Bernardi  
Melusine  
Michelle Dennis  
Gytha North  
Steve Davies  
Minstrel  
Tony Rogers  
Giulia de Cesare  
Pete Tyers  
Colin Fine  
Jane Robinson  
Cynthia McQuillin  
Chris Bell  
Kenneth Bell  
Peter Darby  
Amrik Singh  
Sue Mason

Tom Nanson  
Chris Marriott  
Peter Wareham  
Mike Whitaker  
Mr. Theophilus  
Sue Edwards  
Anne Rundle  
Martin G-K  
Nojay  
Alan Braggins  
Gwen Funnell  
Valerie Housden  
J. Sheward  
Susan Booth  
Jerome  
Chris Croughton  
Smitty  
Roger Robinson  
Rafe Culpin  
Zander Nyronid  
Not Countess  
Axyldes Honestly  
Phil Allcock  
Lissa Blackburn  
John English  
Ben Brown  
Dave Parkinson  
Kati  
Kate Soley  
Madeleine Tyrell  
Nick Tyrell  
David V. Barrett  
Pat Silver

Juliane  
Harry  
Linda Hansford  
Sue Humphries  
Andrew Barton  
Robert Maughan  
Robert Day  
Brian Flatt  
Diana Wynne Jones  
Martin Easterbrook  
Margaret Austin  
Tibs  
Joan Paterson  
Robert Vogel  
Harry Payne  
Omega  
Dave Holliday  
Tim Broadribb  
Kulux the Drow  
Streetzy  
Rae Ramsbottom  
DJ  
Julia Daly  
John Stewart  
Barbara Stewart  
Kerstin Droge  
Gary Stratmann  
Talis Kimberley  
Gareth Josham  
Fox  
Judith Looker  
Hugh Mascetti  
Tim Broadribb

# fourplay



Victoria Park Hotel  
Wolverhampton