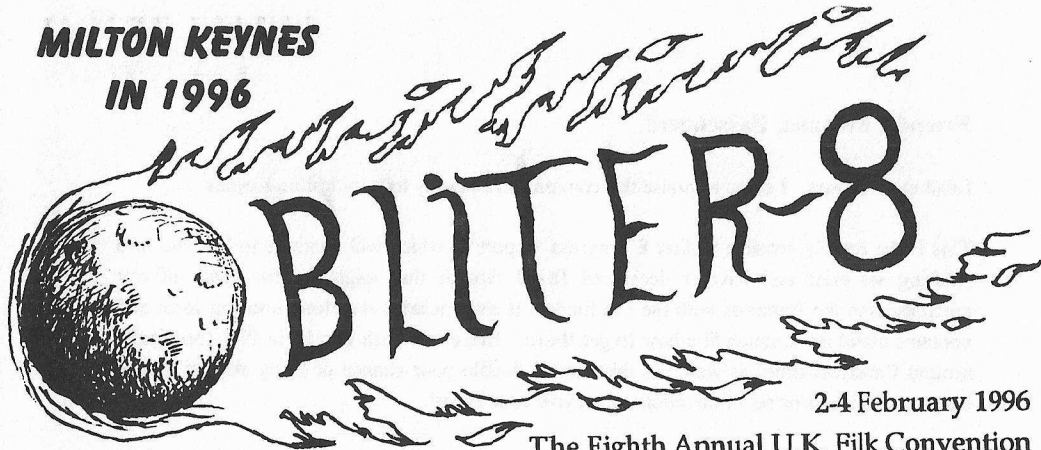


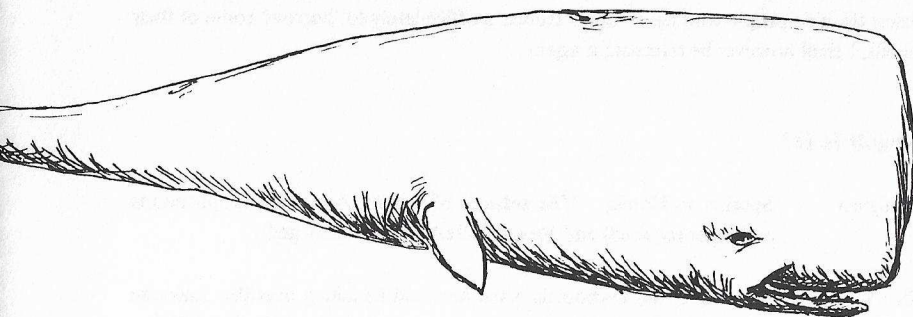
**MILTON KEYNES
IN 1996**



2-4 February 1996

The Eighth Annual U.K. Filk Convention

THE WHALE HUNG THERE MOTIONLESS,
IN PRECISELY THE WAY THE ASTEROID HADN'T...



Progress Report 2

Friends, Romans, Passengers

Lend me your ears. I come to praise this convention and only to bury Milton Keynes...

This is the entirely sensible Obliter-8 Progress Report 2, which will continue to lull you into thinking we exist and haven't decamped (hard though that might be for some of our committee) to the Bahamas with the con funds. It also includes the Hotel booking form and contains useful information like how to get there. These will both also be in PR3 (nominally around Christmas time) as well, but this should double your chance of being able to find at least one form and/or set of directions when you need them!

While possibly not the only reason, I feel it is not unreasonable to claim that this PR would have been sent out slightly earlier if the monitor to the computer on which the PR is prepared hadn't gone fizzle fizzle smoke smoke beeeeeeeeeeeeeep... - which it did the day after I finished the first draft of the PR. A friend of a friend has since seen and resurrected it, but it has yet to be returned to me so I've 'borrowed' one from the office tonight to do the final edits. Unlike the nice people who have visited Robert's office lately to 'borrow' some of their computer bits, I shall however be returning it again...

Whose Fault Is It?

Robert Maughan	Speaker to Hotels, Vile seducer of visiting Americans (applications no longer required) and ResponsibleAdultMan. Allegedly.
Philip Allcock	Slaver over hot keyboards when he could be taking over the universe (what do you mean 'Quit that game now and start writing that PR'?). <i>(Of course this was written <u>before</u> my monitor blew up!)</i>
Lissa Allcock	Spreadsheet ace and mastermind of large scale transatlantic chocolate biscuit smuggling ring.
Teddy	Financial wizard, convention address, and taste and interior decor consultant. Not that we necessarily do what he advises of course.
FanTom	Programme hacker and exterior decorator. (He did the cover.)

The Programme

Usual sort of thing, pretty much. Any ideas, requests for group or solo spots, please let us know.

As noted in PR1, Valerie Housden is working on putting together a harmony session, so ideas, requests, arrangements or offers there would no doubt be appreciated.

One thing we do want to do for the first time at a filk con, having done at Eastercon and Worldcon, is a "Filk and Fiction" item. The idea of this is that a filk is preceded by a short reading from the relevant part of the book that inspired it (or comics can actually work quite well too sometimes). Not a long passage - a couple of minutes at most (a little creative editing of redundant (for the song) lines or paragraphs is a good idea if overlong) - just enough to set the scene, or show the events that occur or precede the song or whatever. The result can be quite effective.

What we discovered before is that some advance warning is essential, to let you think about which songs of yours you can tie to particular passages, hunt them up ("I'm sure it was somewhere in *Chronicles of Morgaine*"), and maybe copy/edit them into your filk file next to the song so you don't have to (remember and) lug the book along come February, or any time this is done again.

(As I write this, the idea occurs that short video clips could also work rather well for songs inspired by film or TV. However, for our size of audience this would require some form of projection video which is probably beyond our capabilities. Unless anyone out there is sufficiently keen on the idea to sort something out?)

Ah. There was one other thing. Julia Ecklar e-mailed and asked us if we thought anyone would be interested in attending a group basic voice class taught by her at the con... We - er - think there might be just a few people out there who could be persuaded to take part in something like this. Please don't immediately inundate us with requests - it won't be on a 'first come' basis - we'll have sign up sheets at the con, and if demand sufficiently exceeds supply then we may even raffle places to raise money for the Filk Fund.

Art Show

by Lissa

Okay, so we don't usually have an Art Show at the Filk Con, but on the other hand, why not? After dragooning (or more accurately, stewing) artwork out of so many for my Worldcon songbook, I really noticed how many artists we have in filk fandom - people who do really good art but many of whom never put it in the art shows at Eastercons. So I thought we might have an Art Show at Obliter-8 a) to encourage them and give more people an opportunity to say "What do you mean you can't draw? I wish I couldn't draw that well!", and b) because we've got the space to use in the Hotel.

The idea goes like this - anyone can bring art to put in the show, but it must be theirs or by someone who would normally be there but for circumstances beyond their control. We will not have an art auction per se, but we will have a paper bidding system whereby each piece has a paper bidding sheet by it, and the highest bid by midday Sunday gets it. We could probably auction a few items if particularly hotly contested. Of course you could also exhibit not-for-sale items too, if you wish.

What do we need from you? Well, an idea of the level of interest would help, so if you think you would want to bring some stuff, please tick the relevant box on the hotel booking form. This will then let us plan in advance how much display gear we need to arm-twist out of the owners of same. Note: THIS IS NOT A COMMITMENT EITHER WAY. If you decide later you don't/do want to when you indicated otherwise, don't worry. We can cope, honest.

We will report progress on this idea in PR3 according to the level of interest, so grit your teeth and return them forms.

Hotel Booking Form Instructions by Robert

The Hotel Booking Form itself should be on a separate A5 sheet that came with this PR. If it didn't, either ask us for a new one or wait until PR3 when you should get another one included.

Fill it in. Soon please if you can. It makes our life easier and the hotel happier.

The form helpfully has the address suitably emblazoned on the back, so you can just fold and secure, add a stamp and post it.

1. A double or twin room is £30 per person per night.
2. A single room will be £40 per night.
3. Anyone staying three nights will get a £5 discount off the total bill.
4. The hotel do not require a deposit on booking.
5. Please complete all of the form.
6. Remember to delete any nights you do not require a room.
7. 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 unless/until they join.
8. 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 list will only be seen by Teddy as our post master and myself as Hotel liaison.
9. Special requirements for the room is for such things as non feather pillows for people with allergies. Please do not ask for a bath tub of lime gello - I know it is an old joke but remember the form does go to the hotel. Nor should you ask for hot water bottles, extra towels, talcum powder and an exploding bathroom. That's a newer joke but remember the form does go to the hotel.
10. Unsigned forms will NOT be processed.

11. The hotel will not be sending out confirmations of bookings. The mailing label for PR3 will carry some weird notations showing whether we have received a booking from you and what we have recorded it as. But that will be explained then so watch that space.
12. If confused please write to (or e-mail) us at the con address.

Julia Ecklar **by herself**

I was born in Greenville, OH in 1964, a small, Mennonite farming community on the border between Indiana and Ohio. Lots of corn, lots of hogs, lots and lots and lots of flat. I grew up catching crawdads and toads, playing with neighbours' goats, rabbits, and chickens, learning to ride and train horses, and collecting abandoned cats and dogs. Believe it or not, I was still living in Greenville when I started studying classical guitar at age 10 (I had announced at age 4 that I'd one day learn to play).

From there, I won a scholarship to an all-girl's boarding school in southern Ohio, and skipped a grade in school to go there the next year. (I loved it and will always consider it among the happiest four years of my life.) It was there that I picked up piano, classical bass, trombone and classical voice. Despite all this training in music, it never once crossed my mind that I'd grow up to be a professional musician. I'd known I was going to be a writer for as long as I could remember. And while I was at the boarding school (The School of the Brown County Ursulines), I did lots and lots of writing, too. Got lots and lots of rejections. But developed my first mini-fan following among the other girls at school, who were the first people to express interest in my writing and encourage me to produce more. I also attended my first convention while I was in highschool, and kind of accidentally stumbled into filking.

I played around with college for a few years, majoring in everything from physics to herpetology. (Although if I'd discovered anthropology early enough, I might still be in school.) Then, in 1989, I made my first novel and my first two short story sales within a few months of each other. Being the eternally cocky sort, I decided there was no point trying to get an "in case I need it" college degree when I apparently had some hope of a writing career. So I quit school, kept my part-time job, and launched into writing for real.

A writing career makes you poor, and overworked, and not entirely sure about your future. But it also makes me incredibly happy. Six years later, I'm pretty much full-time (or at least, my own boss in almost all my money-making endeavours), I've got more work than I know what to do with, and I've just bought my first house. Which means, all over again, I have no money, and no time, but I'm fairly confident I'll eventually be happy again.

(Have I mentioned I hate doing bio stuff?)

How to Get There

Slightly more detailed instructions will be in PR3, but in case of emergency or poor filing I'll include the basics here as well.

The Forte Crest Hotel, Milton Keynes is on V7, between H5 and H6.

What do you mean "That's a little too basic"? I'm assured by those who know these things that in a town as well planned and laid out as Milton Keynes that this forms perfectly adequate instructions...

You're not convinced? Oh all right then.

By Train Take the train to Milton Keynes (Central). Get off. From the station walk past the bus station and straight up Midsummer Boulevard towards the 'city centre' (the mall!). The hotel is on the right, with the cinema across the road (Saxon Gate West) and the shopping centre diagonally across the junction. The hotel brochure claims it's a half mile walk, though the map suggests slightly more - it's also slightly uphill but nothing serious.

By Car Exit the M1 at junction 14 towards Milton Keynes. At the roundabout go straight on (*Childs Way* - H6) and follow this across let-me-check-the-map one-two-three-four-five-six roundabouts. (I think - the hotel directions say seven but that may include the one by the M1). Anyway, when you reach one called *South Saxon* turn right into *Saxon Gate* (V7). Go through one set of traffic lights (preferably while green) and the hotel is on your left between *Avebury Boulevard* and *Midsummer Boulevard*. There's plenty of parking.

By Asteroid Straight on at Mars and take the Earth exit. There's plenty of parking orbit. Then just drop in.

And Remember...

"If you wanna be where it's happenin', where the hipsters, flipsters and finger-poppin' daddies are goin' to be - it's Milton Keynes?"

Craig Charles - Channel 4

Members (as of 1/10/95) and Membership

Lissa Allcock	4 C	Brian Flatt	64 A	Rick Retallick	107 A
Philip Allcock	5 C	Freddy Filk Frog	108 A	Wendy Retallick	106 A
Andy	17 A	Mary Frost	105 A	Mike Richards	86 A
Auntie Sue	53 A	Gwen Funnell	65 A	Roger Robinson	36 A
Andrew Barton	12 A	Clare Goodall	75 A	Tony Rogers	50 A
Diana Joan (DJ) Bass	68 A	Martin Gordon-Kerr	16 A	Heike Schmidt	99 A
Britta Becker	90 A	Jürgen Hahn	92 A	Kirstin Scholz	94 A
Chris Bell	27 A	Linda Hansford	61 A	Jean Sheward	43 A
Dave Bell	76 A	John Harold	102 A	Joey Shoji	23 A
Kenneth Bell	28 Ac	Andrew Hayton	103 A	Pat Silver	77 A
Rachel Bell	29 Ac	Hitch	66 A	Smitty	47 A
Dan Bennett	88 A	Dave Holladay	78 A	SMUG	71 A
Michael Bernardi	49 A	Valerie Housden	22 A	Kate Soley	13 A
Brian Biddle	100 A	Julian Humphries	60 Ac	Spencer	98 A
Jenny Blackburn	37 A	Susan Humphries	59 A	Square Bear	72 A
Kai Bober	93 A	Rhodri James	18 A	Kathy Sterry	44 A
Susan Booth	42 A	Keris	20 A	Barbara Stewart	63 A
Alan Braggins	74 A	Annette Kirk	85 A	John Stewart	62 A
Paul Bristow	25 A	Tim Kirk	84 A	Marcus Streets	41 A
Roger Burton-West	14 A	Sybille Maaß	91 A	Rae Streets	40 A
Countess Axyldes	58 A	The Magician	67 A	Teddy	6 C
Rafe Culpin	15 A	Minstrel	2 G	Colin Tuckley	83 A
Steve Davies	52 A	Marion	51 A	Peter Tyers	104 A
Robert Day	21 A	Keith Martin	46 A	Chris Ueberall	89 A
Guilia de Cesare	19 A	Jean Maughan	8 A	Vaurien (Chiefy)	80 A
Lawrence Dean	10 A	Robert Maughan	3 C	Anne Walker	69 A
Kerstin Droge	24 A	Melusine	54 A	Tim Walker	70 A
Diane Duane	95 A	Miki	11 A	Peter Wareham	45 A
Julia Ecklar	1 G	Peter Morwood	96 A	Karen Westhead	34 Ac
Sue Edwards	9 A	Erica Neely	87 A	Kathy Westhead	31 A
John English	48 A	Nick G	73 A	Mike Westhead	32 A
Dawn Everett	101 A	Nicky	35 A	Peter Westhead	33 Ac
FanTom	7 C	Nigel	39 A	Anne Whitaker	56 A
Janet Figg	81 A	Nojay	26 A	Mike Whitaker	55 A
Mike Figg	82 A	David Peek	30 A	YooH	38 A
Colin Fine	79 A	Persis	97 A	Zander Nyrond	57 A

Attending membership is now £25, £12.50 for children (pre-GCSE), and free for under fives (optimists out there should note this is physical age!). No unaccompanied asteroids under 18 million tons will be admitted. Supporting memberships are £12.50, conversion being half of the full rate at the time of conversion.

Cheques should be payable to "Obliter-8" and supplied along with your postal name (one that will find you) and address, membership type wanted, and desired badge name (if different).

Members will be listed by badge name in convention publications. Membership information will be kept on a computer, and used only for purposes of UK Filk Conventions.

Convention Address

Postal

Obliter-8

212 Albert Road

Leyton

London E10 6PD

E-Mail

obliter8@oreos.demon.co.uk

(Phil/Lissa)

