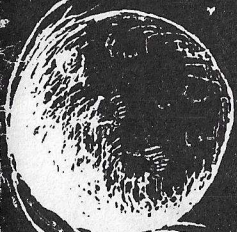


MILTON KEYNES

IN 1996



BLITER-8

2-4 February 1996

The Eighth Annual U.K. Filk Convention

WRONG STAR
BOZOS



Progress Report 3

BILL
STICKE

Introitorial

Well, here as promised is Obliter-8 Progress Report 3 somewhere around Christmas time, though I suppose these days that covers any time from about mid-September onwards (and if you define it as ending when the Christmas tree is disposed off, continues about until July in our house but that's another story...). Hence the seasonal cover for which many thanks to Smitty. Yes it is really a woolly mammoth - with bottle opener. Ask Teddy...

In this fine document we have notes on hotel bookings for those who have returned their forms, or repeated instructions for those who haven't. Also, as promised, a slightly more detailed set of 'how to get there' instructions, including map (thanks to David Peek - that's why the cover says City of David...). We have more notes on the Art Show, and a book and tape list for Julia Ecklar.

Droppers of the Rock

Robert Maughan	Hotels and Guest Liaison
Lissa Allcock	Memberships, Art Show, More Guest Liaison
Teddy	Treasurer
FanTom	Programming
Philip Allcock	Me. Publications. Sulk sulk, want go shoot something.

Hotel Booking - if you have...

If you've been good and retuned your hotel booking forms [yes, I know that should have read 'returned' but having mistyped it like that, it seemed a shame to spoil the concept...] then you have our thanks, and may feel smug and ignore the repeated booking form instructions below. If you instead examine your envelope label (after fishing it back out of the bin if necessary) you will find a cryptic code with the letter 'S', 'T' or 'D' followed by some combination of the numbers 1, 2 and 3. The letters correspond to Single/Twin/Double and the numbers to Fri/Sat/Sun nights respectively. Thus T23 is a twin room for Saturday and Sunday nights. If what you have on your label doesn't match what you think you asked for, please let us know.

Hotel Booking - if you haven't...

If we haven't received a booking form from you, there should be another one on a separate A5 sheet that came with this PR. If it didn't, either try and find the one from PR2, or just ask us for a new one

Fill it in. As soon as you can please. The main batch of details will go to the hotel on 6th January 1996, so Robert would really appreciate your getting them to us by this date. He will still pass individual bookings on to the hotel until the end of January (after that you're on your own!) but obviously it's a lot easier as a bulk operation, so do please attempt to meet this deadline.

As before (unsurprisingly, as it's the same form) the form helpfully has the address suitably emblazoned on the back, so you can just fold and secure, add a stamp and post it.

The Instructions

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 Robert as Hotel liaison.
9. Special requirements for the room is for such things as non feather pillows for people with allergies.
10. Unsigned forms will NOT be processed.
11. The hotel will not be sending out confirmations of bookings
12. If confused please write to (or e-mail) us at the con address.

Programme

Nothing terribly new here since PR2. The programme looks like it's going to be pretty full, one way and another, so we don't need any more items. Thanks to those who have volunteered. We will, planning and organisation permitting, give people involved in the programme at least some advance warning prior to the convention.

Unless we want it to come as a surprise of course...

Oh and a reminder to hunt up the passages for the 'Filk and Fiction', as discussed in PR2, and make sure you bring them with you.

Art Show

by Lissa

Well, I've had 12 positive responses to my request for interest in the concept of an art show so far, so I guess we're committed now (or at least we ought to be, as I'm sure a few of you thought...). It's nice to see so much positive response. What this means is that we will definitely have an art show, and there should be plenty of space for all the artwork people want to put up, so even if you didn't say yes on your hotel form you can still bring some art and put it in the show - come on, be brave. You can do it. It's time all you closet arty people came out into the light of day. I won't go into the gory details of how we intend to run it here, but I'll just mention that there will be a 5% commission charged on any item sold for £10 or over, with that commission going to the filk fund. Otherwise, the money is all yours :-)

See you at the con!

Julia Ecklar - Books and Tapes

Julia's earlier recordings are alas out of production, but are well worth listening to if you can find someone with either:

Horse-Tamer's Daughter (Off Centaur 1983)

Genesis (Off-Centaur 1984)

More recently, and still available:

Walkabout (from Dodeka Records)

Divine Intervention (currently available from Wail Songs)

The former is a live tape, collected from concerts at Bayfilk in 1988 and Conclave in 1990. The latter is a full studio tape, with orchestral accompaniment and all the trimmings, and very different in sound to the majority of filk tapes as a result. I know some people who don't care for it as a result, but it's definitely one of my personal favourite filk tapes.

As for books, Julia has provided us with a list, and some illuminating commentary on who writes what within the L.A. Graf partnership.

<i>The Kobayashi Maru</i>	Julia Ecklar	(Pocket Books-Star Trek, 1989)
<i>Ice Trap</i>	L.A. Graf	(Pocket Books-Star Trek, 1992)
<i>Death Count</i>	L.A. Graf	(Pocket Books-Star Trek, 1992)
<i>Firestorm</i>	L.A. Graf	(Pocket Books-Star Trek, 1993)
<i>Traitor Winds</i>	L.A. Graf	(Pocket Books-Star Trek, 1994)
<i>Extreme Prejudice</i>	L.A. Graf	(Pocket Books-Alien Nation, 1995)
<i>Star Trek: Voyager -- Caretaker</i>	L.A. Graf	(Pocket Books-ST, 1995)
<i>ReGenesis</i>	Julia Ecklar	(Ace SF, 1995)

There are also some audiotapes:

<i>The Kobayashi Maru</i>	Julia Ecklar	(Simon & Schuster Audio, 1990)
<i>Star Trek: Voyager</i>	L.A. Graf	(Simon & Schuster Audio, 1995)
<i>Captain Sulu: Envoy</i>	L.A. Graf	(Simon & Schuster Audio, 1995)

Julia writes:

It's easy to specify who wrote what for the L.A. Graf books. Everything from either Kirk or Chekov's point of view, I wrote; everything from Uhura or Sulu's point of view, my co-author Karen Rose Cercone wrote. We make up the stories 100% together, then meticulously divide up the scenes as we plot out the actual story. In the Alien Nation book, I wrote Sikes, Karen Rose wrote George. And even though both of us got credit for Voyager (for convenience sake), I wrote everything in Voyager (Karen Rose has another career, and was thoroughly uninterested in novelising a screenplay, so said to me, "You're the one who writes for a living-you can do this alone." She's sweet that way.). I did all the adaptation for the audiotapes for much the same reasons, and even though L.A. Graf's name is on Envoy, it ended up being so rewritten by staff writers that what finally showed up in bookstores doesn't even have the same alien names.

How to Get There

As noted in PR2, the Forte Crest hotel, Milton Keynes is on V7, between H5 and H6.

Got that? V7 - H5 - H6 [faint cry of "You sank my battleship!].

By Train Take the train to Milton Keynes Central Station. 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 as does my memory - it's also slightly uphill - nothing serious, but if you've heavy luggage you may want to consider bus or taxi.

By Car Exit the M1 at junction 14 towards Milton Keynes. At the roundabout go straight on (*Childs Way* - H6) and follow this across six roundabouts - I think - the hotel directions say seven, but I believe that includes 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.

Alternatively, from the A5 come off at the Central Milton Keynes turning and follow the signs at the roundabout for (unsurprisingly) Central Milton Keynes (*Portway* H5). At the third (subsequent) roundabout, turn right into *Saxon Gate* (V7) and through two sets of traffic lights. The hotel is then on your right. There's still plenty of parking.

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

Membership

We now have 119 members, or 118 excluding Anne's 'bump'. I have warned people making enquiries about walk-ins that we might have to close memberships if they reached around the 150 mark (function room limits). It's now only a month and a half to go, so it doesn't look like this will be a problem, but if you know someone who's 'been meaning to join', do let them know this possibility does exist.

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.

Members (as of 14/12/95)

Lissa Allcock	4	C	Brian Flatt	64	A	Mike Richards	86	A
Philip Allcock	5	C	Freddy Filk Frog	108	A	Roger Robinson	36	A
Andy	17	A	Mary Frost	105	A	Tony Rogers	50	A
Annabelle	119	A	Gwen Funnell	65	A	Roxanne	115	A
Auntie Sue	53	A	Clare Goodall	75	A	Heike Schmidt	99	A
Andrew Barton	12	A	Martin Gordon-Kerr	16	A	Kirstin Scholz	94	A
Diana Joan (DJ) Bass	68	A	Jürgen Hahn	92	A	Jean Sheward	43	A
Britta Becker	90	A	Linda Hansford	61	A	Joey Shoji	23	A
Chris Bell	27	A	John Harold	102	A	Pat Silver	77	A
Dave Bell	76	A	Andrew Hayton	103	A	Smitty	47	SCM
Kenneth Bell	28	Ac	Hitch	66	A	SMUG	71	A
Rachel Bell	29	Ac	Dave Holladay	78	A	Kate Soley	13	A
Dan Bennett	88	A	Tom Holt	116	A	Spencer	98	A
Michael Bernardi	49	A	Valerie Housden	22	A	Square Bear	72	A
Brian Biddle	100	A	Julian Humphries	60	Ac	Kathy Slerry	44	A
Jenny Blackburn	37	AM	Susan Humphries	59	A	Barbara Stewart	63	A
Kai Bober	93	A	Rhodri James	18	A	John Stewart	62	A
Susan Booth	42	A	Keris	20	A	Marcus Streets	41	A
Alan Braggins	74	A	Annette Kirk	85	A	Rae Streets	40	A
Paul Bristow	25	A	Tim Kirk	84	A	Talis	118	A
Bump	109	F	Sybillie Maaß	91	A	Teddy	6	C
Kate Burton-West	117	AM	The Magician	67	A	Colin Tuckley	83	A
Roger Burton-West	14	A	Minstrel	2	G	Peter Tyers	104	A
The Captain	111	A	Margaret	112	AM	Chris Ueberall	89	A
Countess Axyllides	58	A	Marion	51	A	Vaurien (Chiefy)	80	A
Rafe Culpin	15	A	Keith Martin	46	A	Vera Emlyn	110	AM
Steve Davies	52	A	Jean Maughan	8	AM	Anne Walker	69	A
Robert Day	21	A	Robert Maughan	3	C	Tim Walker	70	A
Guilia de Cesare	19	A	Melusine	54	A	Peter Wareham	45	A
Lawrence Dean	10	A	Miki	11	A	Karen Westhead	34	Ac
Kerstin Droge	24	A	Peter Morwood	96	A	Kathy Westhead	31	A
Diane Duane	95	A	Erica Neely	87	A	Mike Westhead	32	A
Julia Ecklar	1	G	Nick G	73	A	Peter Westhead	33	Ac
Sue Edwards	9	A	Nicky	35	A	Anne Whitaker	56	A
John English	48	A	Nigel	39	A	Mike Whitaker	55	A
Dawn Everett	101	A	Nojay	26	A	Yooh	38	A
FanTom	7	C	David Peek	30	A	Zander Nyronnd	57	A
Janet Figg	81	A	Persis	97	A	Zander's Dad	113	A
Mike Figg	82	A	Rick Retallick	107	A	Zander's Mum	114	AM
Colin Fine	79	A	Wendy Retallick	106	AM			

Membership type notations: Yeah, so we've got some weird membership notations. So? You mean you want to know what they stand for? Well, if you insist. I guess it's only fair.

G = Guest, C = Committee, A = Attending, Ac = Attending child, AM = Attending Mother (we have a lot of people who have persuaded their mothers to join the con, so we thought we'd give them their own notation. Mumcon Lives!), F = Foetus and SCM = Stunt Committee Member. We've had fun with this convention.

Convention Address

Postal

Obliter-8
212 Albert Road
Leyton
London E10 6PD

E-Mail

obliter8@oreos.demon.co.uk
(Phil/Lissa)

AND LO, THE THREE
WISE FEN DID
JOURNEY UNTO THE
CITY OF DAVID ONLY
TO DISCOVER THAT LO,
THEY SHOULD HAVE
TAKEN A RIGHT AT
WATFORD SERVICES...

