

CONTROABILE



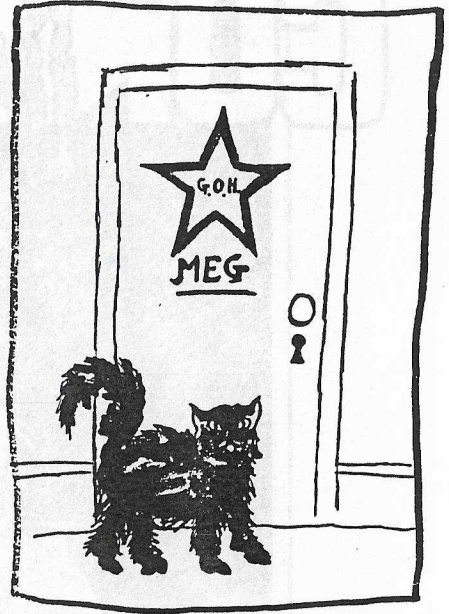
Meg Davis

What can I say about Meg Davis...what indeed! As far as I know I have never met her but everything that I have heard about her makes it more and more certain that she will be an excellent guest at Con2bile.

For example, in the songbook "Captain Jack and the Mermaid" published by Firebird, there is an introduction that starts thus:

"Mermaids, handsome sailors, a winged boy, an elfen maiden luring young men into her lair...these are all brought to life in Meg Davis's "Captain Jack and the Mermaid". This production is a rare combination of fine musicianship, originality, and amazing vocal talent. Meg is an Ohio-based folk singer with a voice that can almost shatter glass and definitely causes listeners' knees to quiver at forty paces. She writes and often arranges most of her music, which encompasses folk, fantasy, and more...Her arrangements range from the merely incredible to the truly brilliant...But Meg's music isn't something that one can only sit and listen to. Her music reaches out, pulling you into her world of myths and magic, where heroes battle dragons and the deely Nightmare walks in your dreams...This music can open doorways for you into Meg's world of folk songs and fantasy, walk through the doorway and I'll see you there!" [Ellen Guon]

Meg Davis is a professional folk singer who discovered folk while in California. She now lives in Glasgow.



Mike Whitaker

This is the third piece of text that has been type 1 into this computer about Mike Whitaker. If I was superstitious I would think that there was something mysterious about this. However since the machine has eaten Phil's description of Mike (you can see Phil in the accompanying illo, stealing ideas!), I will just have to copy out what it says in the Intergalactic Who's Who.

Mike Whitaker was born at a very early age, but already he was getting ready to folk. He was born with his left hand in his classic B minor diminished 5th shape, unfortunately that is the shape he uses when he wants to play D major!

Who is Mike Whitaker? Is he that strangely unbearded talented young filker with the remarkable tunes, haunting refrains, demon guitar style and undeniable flair? No, that is Phil Allcock, though the tunes, the refrains, the guitar work were all Mike's originally, and the flairs Phil has worn since the late 60's.

Mike's music has become known to us all through his excellent tape (available at a good dealer's room near you!) called something like the Oaf, the Robot and the Weird Ruse. Highly recommended if you, like me, like to hear Phil Allcock playing guitar, doing background vocals and being generally amazing (oh, and there's some guy named Mike on it somewhere as well!).

THE COMMITTEE - the truth (if not necessarily the whole truth)

PHILIPALLCOCK - Committee Chairman

The most-filked British filker (excluding his own that is), lover of cats (during waking hours only, naturally) and innocent victim of a reputation he doesn't deserve (or at least deserves no more than a certain other member of the committee he could name). But since he gets lynched anyway he gets to be Chairman and take all the flak while everyone else does all the work except writing the committee biographies...

ANNE RUNDLE - Membership Secretary, Hotel Liaison, FoN GoH Liaison, part-time Treasurer and committee workaholic.

As you can see, not satisfied with having done most of the gophering at Contabile, she decided to get in early this time. A thoroughly dangerous character not above persuading Guests of Honour to do computer services, and getting visiting houseguests into bovine obstetrics and sundry other arcane veterinary practices (and lol she did examine the entrails of the beast and foresaw that Sunday Lunch would be somewhat delayed this day...). Has one senile kitten.

BILL LONGLEY - Part-time Treasurer and Understudy to the Invisible Man

Bill is, of course, the undisputed All-England unfinished songs champion and also last year's winner (but only just) of the Sing-a-song about Gytha and live contest. This year, having been entrusted with the money, he disappeared to far-off parts, not to be heard of again for several months! But no one who has seen Return to the Forbidden Planet 12 times can be all bad.....

VALERIE HOUSDEN - Programming

A thoroughly evil person given to stealing other people's tunes to write insulting songs about them. Also has not one but two cats. A clear sign of depravity in my book. Having failed to make a disaster of the programme at Contabile, Valerie felt she ought to give it another try...

CHRIS O'SHEA II - Publications

Doesn't steal my songs, allergic to cats and will volunteer for anything to get on a Con committee. Would be an all-round nice guy if it wasn't for the puns, so has to settle for being all round. Only other problem is that we have to time-share him with about 5 other conventions.

BEN BROWN - Ops and anything else that needed doing

Doesn't steal my songs, doesn't own a cat (though does have to share a house with one) and does all the jobs no one else wants. What more can one say? Only problems are a mild version of O'Shea disease that gets him involved with several cons at once, and a tendency to win heavily at Mah-Jong.



Now we know that none of you who have been to a convention before will need reminding of the following pieces of convention etiquette. But for those of you who have never been to a convention before (and we do realise that you would never in a million years do any of the nasty, horrible, dispicable things mentioned below, but...late at night, when the moon is full, and the wind can be ehard whistling through the bar, a strange and mysterious apparition can be seen wandering the halls of the convention, a neo-filker who was put off filking for life by being asked if his/her song was worth taping, before he/she had sung it for the first time in public. Help this poor neo find a place of rest in the heavenly bardic circle by always being aware that filking is there to be enjoyed, not to be pushed, filed, indexed, stamped, briefed, debriefed or numbered!

Convention Policies

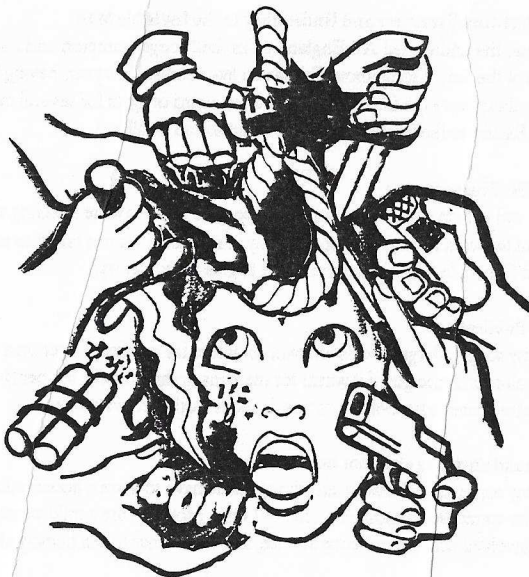
Please note...

There will be, we are sorry to say, no creche available at the convention.

The hotel however does allow pets, provided they are well-behaved, tidy, etc.

Yes, even cats.

Provided they don't wake the Chairman up in the middle of the night.



Weapons Policy

There will be no hard-and-fast weapons policy at ConZbile. If you wish to wear a costume including items which could be considered offensive weapons under British law, or could be mistaken for such, you must possess approval in writing from Gytha. You may argue with her if you wish - without weapons (that is, you will be without weapons).



Taping Policy

If you were at Contable and behaved yourself, you may skip this section as we've simply reproduced Rafe's words of wisdom on the subject.

A lot of people bring Walkman-type tapers to filkings to produce their own recordings. This is perfectly welcome at Con2bile 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 taper, and keep your taping as unobtrusive as possible. In particular:-

Don't push microphones into people's faces or at their instruments.

Don't keep leaning forward to adjust the taper. If you put it in front near the singer, it should be left there until the end of the song.

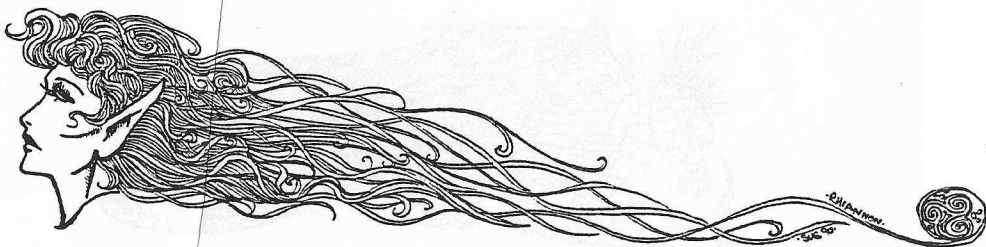
Don't jump in and demand details of the song immediately before or after every song.

Don't form a barrier of tapers around a shy or inexperienced singer.

Please remember that this is a filk convention, for people who want to perform and listen to music; as such, the committee would appreciate it if people refrained from behaviour likely to spoil other people's enjoyment, particularly talking during performances. Don't make us ask you to shut up or move elsewhere; you won't like it, and neither will we. Equally, just because the words to someone's song are in a Filk Book, that doesn't imply a licence to "assist" a solo performance.

Those things on metal poles are microphones. If you are sitting or standing near one be very careful not to upset, knock, vibrate or induce spurious noise into it, or the wrath of the Tech Crew will descend upon your head.

As usual we would remind anyone arriving at the hotel as a break from their camping holiday, to keep sleeping bags, tents and and other equipment of that type, out of the way during their stay, to avoid giving the hotel staff any false impressions.



If I Could Tech to the Animals

Or, those unsung (unsound) heroes of desk and stand, the Tech Crew.

Convention books normally give biographies of guests and committee members, but the tech crew is usually anonymous. You only notice them when things go wrong or blow up. At a filk Con however the tech crew is rather more noticeable, so here is a brief introduction to the chief protagonists for those few who do not know them yet. For a suitable bribe they may be persuaded to clean and demagnetise your Walkman, lend tools and/or expertise, make you sound good on the recordings and wipe the tape they made of your conversation using a gun-mic from the other end of the hall. To assist you in making the appropriate bribe, their favourite alcoholic refreshments have been noted.

Going under the collective name of Rampant Engineering they are:-

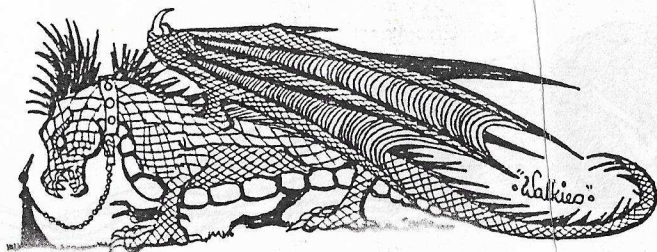
Richard the Rampant. Real name Richard the Rampant. The tall two-dimensional one with the beard and very short hair that stands on end. (He swears that this is not the result of sticking his fingers into a live mains socket). Richard is the leader of the team, chief sound engineer, wizard of speed, time and electrons. He is highly skilled in the art of cable knitting and mating connectors. By profession he is a truss designer and his other interests include Aikido, combat driving, model rocketry, kitten wrestling and Gytha, not necessarily in that order. Age - well Gytha says he is old enough! Favourite bribe - Coin-treau and ice.

Andy Morris. The not-quite-as-tall-as-Richard one without a beard and with spectacles, age 36 (but don't remind him of this as he is rather sensitive on the subject of his age.) Andy is resident electronics expert, assistant sound engineer and is the expert tape slicer whose work you should never hear! He makes his living installing and mending telex/telephone exchanges. Other interests include watching films, making films, editing films, reading about films, showing films and talking about films. You may therefore be surprised to hear that he is frequently to be found at conventions running the film projectors. He also has an active involvement with his local hospital radio station and has recently discovered the joys of cycling. Favourite bribe - malt whisky.

Pat Brown. The short, fat, grumpy female one with the long hair, age 35. Pat is an assistant sound engineer, apprentice cable knitter, critical listener and roadie. She can occasionally be seen on the live side of a microphone and is reputed to be able to sing. She is also an apprentice film projectionist. Her other interests include model rocketry, historical recreation, growing herbs, cycling and eating. She can easily be identified by the expression of panic on her face and the mumbled cries of "Oh hell which switch do I push NOW?!?". This panic can be alleviated by her favourite bribe, malt whisky, for which she acquired a taste whilst working as a charter yacht skipper on the west coast of Scotland.

Also part of the team but rarely seen at Cons is "Flash" Gordon. (Ask him about how to handle a "dead" pyrotechnic device some time). Flash is another electronics expert who delights in building strange and interesting pieces of equipment for the studio.

Occasional advisor and critic is Tim Broadribb who works in the music industry and is often to be found at Cons operating the film projectors along with Andy Morris. The team know they have got it wrong when Tim grins broadly and says nothing. Favouring bribe - yet another malt whisky drinker.



Some of this may be reprinted in the Read Me, but here it is in a convenient place of r you to ignore it.

Restaurant Guide - Eating Out

Fast Food

- 1) Wimpy - Westgate
- 2) MacDonalds - Cathedral Square
- 3) PizzaLand - Long Causeway
- 4) Kentucky Fried Chicken - London Road
- 5) Tom Lock - 77 Lincoln Road - Harvester restaurant - like a Berni
- 6) Paul Pry - 1023 Lincoln Road - Berni Restaurant
- 7) The Gordon Arms - 537 Oundle Road - Barnaby's Carvery
- 8) The Granary - Ham Lane - Beefeater Restaurant **
- 9) The Session House - Thorpe Road - Toby's Carvery



Pub Grub

- 10) The Norfolk - Lincoln Road/Burghley Road - Pub meals
- 11) The Lion - Cowgate - Pub meals
- 12) The Bull - Westgate - Good Hotel Restaurant - a little expensive
- 13) The Royal - Westgate - Pub meals

The ones marked with stars are especially recommended.
Don't Forget the hotel restaurant itself or the Bar food!

Chinese

- 14) The Grain Barge - on river between Key Theatre and Town Bridge
Very Good Chinese restaurant - Expensive, but worth it. **
- 15) Denny's - Broadway - Hong-Kong cuisine - owned by above, expensive and not worth it.
- 16) Canton City - Chinese restaurant - 302 Lincoln Road - worth a visit. **
- 17) Mai Hong - Chinese Take-away - 47 Lincoln Road - evenings only

Indian

- 18) India Gate - 9 Fitzwilliam street - Tandoori
- 19) Inter Tandoori - 204 Lincoln Road - Indian
- 20) Bombay Brasserie - Broadway - Indian restaurant

Better Quality (or at least higher prices!)

- 21) Bogart's Wine Bar and Grill - 17 North Street
- 22) Topo Gigio - Cumbergate (off Cathedral Square) - Italian restaurant
Good food worth a visit **
- 23) La Dolce Vita - Cowgate - Italian restaurant - rather stingy with starters but main courses very good
- 24) The Bistro - 29 Bridge street - French restaurant - 12-1.45, 7-10.45.

Delivered food (help! my food has no liver. How does it smell? Terrible!)

- 25) Papa Luigi Pizza Despatch - 64433 Will deliver **
- 26) Dominos Pizza - 311111 - 35 Broadway Will Deliver
- 27) The Golden Cod - 42840 - 2a Crawthorne Road Will Deliver
- 28) Ring-a-rib - 310619 - King street Will deliver

And don't forget that if you enjoyed your weekend filking, then the next major convention with a major filk element planned is the National Convention at Easter in Liverpool. If you would like to come along and join in then more information is available from:

Eastcon 90, 15 Maldon Close, Camberwell, London, SE5 8DD.

If you would like to join then the membership rate is £25 until March 31st and £30 on the door for the entire weekend of 13th-16th April 1990 at the Adelphi. Film programme, dealers' room, science and space programmes, Japanese animation programme, masquerade, workshops and a filk concert organised by Gytha, plus lots more!

ConZbile Members as at 8/1/90

4A Phil Allcock
65A D J Bass
34A Marion Beet
27A Chris Bell
28C Kenneth Bell
40A David Bell
12A Brian Biddle
66S Erwin Blouk
59A Susan Booth
33A Alan Braggins
51A Jon Brewis
9A Ben Brown
21A Pat Brown
22A Dave Brown
48A Neil Chambers
56A Vanessa Chan
15A Chasa
62S Mike Cheater
77A Fiona Clark
35A Barbara Cooper
41A Cardinal Cox
19A Rafe Culpin
66A Beren a Dale
73S John Dallman
16A Steve Davies
1G Meg Davis
13A Lawrence Dean
57A Michele Dennis
72A Kulux the Drow
53A Martin Easterbrook
17A Swirling Eddy
104A Margaret Edgar
47A John English
95A Dawn Everett
43A Colin Fine
55A Gwen Funnell
2G Carmen Miranda's Ghost
74A Steve Glover
103A Jette Goldie
37A Flash Gordon
49A Bruce Grant
42A Young Auntly Gytha
6A Valerie Housden
87A Susan Humphries
18A Rhodri James
32A Richard James
88A Diana Wynne Jones
80A Kevin Joyce
98A Adrian Last
91S Bob Laurent
90A Murphy's Lawyer
23A Steve Linton
7A Bill Longley

70A Jan Lord
46S Bruce Macdonald
8A The Magician
39A Chris Malme
24A Chris Marriott
97A Hugh Mascetti
50A Sue Mason
36A Melusine
69A Andy Morris
76A Simon Morris
96A Shaun Murrant
44A Zander Nyrond
11A mega
68A Robin Page
85A Jerome A Perkins
10S Elinor Predota
25A Richard the Rampant
67A Jill Roberts
20A Roger Robinson
75A Tony Rogers
31A David Row
5A Anne Rundle
58A Jean Sherwood
92A Alison Sinclair
71S Ray Smith
93A Mark Smith
26A Kate Soley
63A Michael Stein
38A Gordon Stevenson
39A Janet Stevenson
94A John Stewart
14A Marcus Streets
83A Alyson Taylor
29A Nick Tyrrell
30A Madeleine Tyrrell
81A Marion van der Voort
82A Richard van der Voort
45A Janet Waite
54A Peter Wareham
84A Denise Watkins
99A Nina Watson
64A Kathy Westhead
100A Mike Westhead
101C Karen Westhead
102C Peter Westhead
52A Richard Wheatley
3G Mike Whitaker
60A Mike Wigley
61A Mary Wigley
78A Anne Woodford
79A Alan Woodford

G = Guest [or Ghost!] of Honour
A = Attending
S = Supporting
C = Child

The Thank You Slot. Thanks to Fox, for doing a cover for this programme book (after the entire committee suffered a mass hallucination and thought that he had already done one for us. Thanks also to Sue Mason for illos for all the publications and to D.J.Bass for illustrations in this book. Special thanks to Harry Payne who produced the 2nd PR. Thanks to all the tech crew, gophers, D.J (again) for the Gitts You Take Home Afterwards (prizes), and to all those hard working people who have made Brit-ish Filking live. Extra special thanks to a certain person without whom this Programme book would not have been possible.