

Duple Time $\frac{2}{4}$

(a Well-Tempered Convention)

UK Filk Convention #24

Progress Report 2

3rd to 5th February 2012

at the

Grantham Ramada Hotel

with guests

Mary Crowell (US)

and Lissa Allcock (UK)

Introduction

The main point of this PR is to announce that we have the hotel booking forms. If you are receiving this by snail mail, one should be included, if by email, one should be attached, otherwise it's on the website.

Where we're going to be, or, The Hotel

The Grantham Ramada Hotel (formerly the Grantham Marriott Hotel) is situated just off the A1, near Grantham in Lincolnshire. It has good access by road, rail and air.

Many of you will have been there before, this will be our sixth filkcon at this hotel, if I haven't forgotten some. It has a good selection of function space and enough bedrooms, a bar, a restaurant, and a large area for socialising. I am promised that the bar will have both Real Ale and Real Cider this year.

Room rates are staying the same from last year:

£55 per room per night for single occupancy

£70 per room per night for double/family occupancy

'Family' in this case means either a standard room (king size bed) with an additional Z-bed for a child up to 14 years old, or a limited number of rooms with two double (not king size) beds. At least one adult must be present. Children in a family room will be charged for breakfast.

Payment for the hotel is as standard with British hotels, you pay for the hotel at checkout (by 12 midday on the day you leave). When you check in you will need to give a credit card as deposit, the money won't be taken at that time but a 'lien' will be put against the card (this says that the money is locked for that purpose) and cancelled when the actual money is taken. This also allows you to charge subsequent purchases like drinks and food "to the room". Repeat: **no money is payable to the hotel before you arrive.**

If you don't have a credit card, in the past the hotel have been willing to take cash, but that is in advance (when you arrive and collect your

room key) and you won't then be able to charge "against the room". Note that after 'normal' bar hours the only way to buy drinks is by charging them to the room (because the bar is then closed to non-residents and this is the only proof of residency -- of course nothing stops someone else buying you a drink and charging it to their room!).

For people who will be leaving on the Sunday but wish to stay for afternoon programming there will be some facility to store the luggage after they have checked out.

Footloose Filker: Sebastian Kinder

The UK Filk Fund (FF) committee have again decided that it would be a good idea if some of the upcoming talented European Filkers were able to come to the British Filk Convention so that they could benefit from exposure to the wider circle of filkers present at the UK con and also for UK filk fandom to get to meet some of the newer talent coming out of mainland Europe.

To make this possible the FF offers a grant/bursary to one or two such "Footloose Filkers", as such are identified, and decided upon by the FF committee. The grant is intended to cover part of the cost of travel to the convention and the majority of the accommodation costs. As is customary, Duple Time have allocated a free membership and a short performance spot as part of the award.

Footloose Filkers are not guests of the convention, rather they are there to learn more about filking and to gain experience in a convention environment that is different from their home convention.

We are pleased to announce that Sebastian Kinder has been invited to be our "Footloose Filker". Sebastian says about himself:

"I am a 17 year old guy, a filker and roleplayer, from Bielefeld in Germany. I am a little crazy, music is an important part of my life and that's all 'cause of my parents (thank you!). Ah! and I like cookies and cakes!!!"

We hope you will enjoy meeting and listening to him and we look forward to seeing Sebastian at Duple Time.

Master of Ceremonies: Franklin Gunkelmann

We haven't had one of these before! But other cons have similar things. US ones have a 'toastmaster' (and they don't even serve toast!), and FilkCONTinental has – Franklin! So when we decided that we didn't want to do all the introducing and being amusing, we asked Franklin to do it. Many of you know him already, those who don't have a treat in store, he's a great bloke and lots of fun.

Oh, and please don't tease him about his English. Even though he speaks it better than most of us...

Convention Programme

We have a number of things on the programme already, but still have some space for more. So please feel free to sign up. Note that sign up for sets ends on **November 31st**, after that you'll need to persuade us why you should be an exception (and we'll probably have to take time away from someone else). Sign up forms are included with this PR and on the website.

Although we haven't programme times yet, things currently planned include:

Guest of Honour sets and workshops

Each of the Guests of Honour gets two one-hour performance slots. These are normally in afternoon and evening, usually one each on Saturday and the other on Sunday. The workshops will be held early Saturday and Sunday morning, after breakfast and before the rest of the programme items.

Concert sets

These can be requested (the form is included and on the website). Apart from a few special items these will be either short (20 minutes) or long (40 minutes). Note that the times include setup and teardown, so a short slot will typically be 3-4 songs and a long one 6-7 songs (depending on song length, of course).

Main Concert / 2x10 / OneShots

This has had several names over the years, and in different places. Regardless, it's the place where people can sign up, not for a complete set, but for one or two songs or ten minutes whichever comes first. You don't have to do the whole ten minutes, if you have a song which only lasts 30 seconds that's fine too.

Auction

This is where the Filk Fund gets the money to pay for the guests and bringing some over the next year. People (possibly you!) bring things to be auctioned for the fund. These can range from chocolates, to rare filk cassettes and songbooks, to handmade items, to promises to write songs or knit socks, you don't know what's on offer until you're there.

Awards

Starting at the second UK filkcon in 1990, and every year since 1998, the UK filkcon has had awards for the **Sams**. These are our answer to the Oscars. They are awarded in several categories, including (but not limited to): best serious, best silly, best “at con”, and “filk gold”. The nominations and voting are done at the convention, and announced on the Sunday afternoon. There is usually a short performance of each of the award winners.

Business meeting and bid session

The former is where the administrators of the Filk Fund announce the state of the fund, and occasionally where changes in administration are proposed and votes taken. The latter is where the bid for the following UK filkcon is made, and one day we'll actually have more than one group of people actually bidding and we can vote!

Volunteering!

You want to volunteer, right? Your Con Needs You!

Areas for volunteering include things like generic tech crew, (coiling cables, shifting stuff, putting up mic stands, etc., no specific tech knowledge needed), arranging chairs and other furniture, helping at the registration desk. If you have specific skills (like knowing how to run a tech desk) then please feel free to add to the list, the form has fields for 'other' activities.

Recording Policy

This applies to both audio and video recordings, regardless of media (and so includes mobile phones).

The convention's tech team may be recording all or part of the sets at convention. If there are certain things which performers would like recorded, speak to us in advance. In general, and with permission of tech team and concom, those recordings may be made available to the performers for any legal use (for instance further distribution may be limited by copyright owners).

Personal recording of concerts may only be done under the following conditions:

- 1.The recording must not interfere with the experience of anyone else, performers or audience. The purpose of the performance is for those who are there at the time, so asking for delay to change media, putting up microphones so that they obscure the view of others, etc., are not acceptable.
- 2.Recordings are to be made ONLY for private use. Yes, this would include (for instance) playing them at home or in a car when other people are present, but any duplication or copying, in whole or in part, is forbidden without the explicit permission of all of the performers involved. (The exception to this, of course, is if you make a recording for the performers and give it to them). As above, the performers may give permission for any legal use (with appropriate copyright permissions, for instance).
- 3.If a performer requests that recordings are not made this is binding. Anyone found to be making a recording, on any medium, in that circumstance will be requested to delete it immediately and show evidence that it has been permanently deleted (i.e. not trivially recoverable from a "recycle bin" or the like).

Note that this applies to circles as well. In particular, unattended recording is not permitted, and any recording device left unattended may be turned off, unplugged, or removed, and the convention are not responsible for anything which happens to it.

A word about photography: it is the responsibility of the photographer to get permission from people in the picture BEFORE publishing it.

Contact details

Please use the UK address below for general contacts with the committee, or you can email the committee (a lot faster) at

c24@contabile.org.uk

Our website is at:

<http://www.contabile.org.uk>

Snail mail address for the treasurer:

Flat 1
61 St Marks Road
Salisbury
SP1 3AY

Snail mail address for the con chair:

155 Long Meadow
Aylesbury
HP21 7EB

NOTE: in the interest of speed and reliability, please use electronic communications – forms on the website or email – to reach us. Snail mail, as we have seen, is unreliable and slow at best (I can only collect it at weekends, and not all of those), email (and hence online form submissions, since they result in email) are generally checked every weekday and often more frequently and at weekends.

Membership List

Just for a change, this is in membership number order (names are as they would appear on a badge). Hopefully you will be able to find your name somewhere, if you have joined. Type of membership is C for committee, G for guest, and A for adult, K for 6-17, I for under 6, and F for the Footloose Filker. (And yes, there are gaps where some people have had to pull out, unfortunately.)

C 1 Keris	A 32 Andrew January	A 67 Jessica
C 2 Soir	A 33 Alison Richards	A 68 Dave S
C 3 Hilary Ann	A 34 Mike Richards	A 69 KT
G 4 Mary Crowell	A 35 Roger Robinson	A 70 Neil Dobson
G 5 Lissa Allcock	A 36 Tony Rogers	A 71 Martin Easterbrook
A 6 Mad Logician	A 37 Songbird	A 72 Debbie L
A 7 Kate	A 38 Brenda	A 73 Steffi
A 8 Diana Joan Bass	A 39 Bill	A 74 Gerd
A 9 Auntie Marion	A 40 Nat	A 75 Master of Disaster
A 10 Michael Bernardi	A 41 Melusine	A 76 Jela
A 11 Liz	A 42 Colin	A 77 Kamen
A 12 Deborah	A 43 Peter Tyers	A 78 Peredar
K 13 Alistair	A 44 Zander Nyron	A 79 Thesilée
K 14 Abi	A 45 Countess Axylides	F 80 Semiki
K 15 Rachel	A 46 Peter Wareham	A 81 Talis Kimberley
A 16 Rafe Culpin	A 47 Gwen Funnell	K 82 Pippa Fairbourn
A 17 Miki	A 51 Kathy Westhead	A 83 Simon Fairbourn
A 18 Sue Edwards	A 52 Mike Westhead	A 84 Katy
A 19 Andy GK	A 53 Peter Westhead	A 85 Steve
A 20 Martin GK	A 54 Karen Westhead	A 86 Hitch
A 21 Franklin	A 55 Katie Draisbach	A 87 Rhodri James
A 22 Rick	A 56 Dale Williamson	A 88 Vorlina
A 23 Ju	A 57 tiggy	K 89 Simon Crowell
A 24 Valerie	A 59 Silke	A 90 Wesley Crowell
A 25 Rika	A 60 Phil Allcock	A 91 Janet Maughan
A 26 Jackie	K 61 Alex Allcock	A 92 Robert Maughan
A 27 Minnow	I 62 Amy Allcock	A 93 Donnacat
A 28 Tom	A 63 Jenny Blackburn	A 94 Fhtagn
A 29 Teddy	A 64 Smurf	A 95 John G
A 30 Omega	A 65 Bine	A 96 Chavalai
A 31 Emily Raftery	A 66 Anna	