

# ♪ *Quarter Tone PR2* ♪



*1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2013*  
*The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual UK Filk Convention*  
*Ramada Grantham Hotel, Grantham*

# ***The one who got away***

*The legend of the Smilks, and how a group of unsuspecting filkers wound up running a convention as penance for That Song, dates back to Follycon, the 1988 Eastercon. The con had a sympathetic committee, and the program boasted both a concert and a room for late-night circles. To properly honour such unheard-of luxuries, a group known as Filker Abraham and the Smilks prepared a brand-new song. This lead to the now-traditional rallying cry "We're gonna get lynched!" The song was performed at the concert, not all the performers ran away quickly enough, and the rest is history.*

*However, there was one other who might have joined that august band, but for the vagaries of convention scheduling...*

25 years ago I was sitting in a bar at an Eastercon when the people around me started writing a song... luckily for me I had to go do some costuming, and am therefore not listed amongst the ranks of filk smurfdom.

However, those fabled filkers were cursed and condemned to perpetuate the filking at a dedicated convention once a year, forever after. Thus it was that for quarter of a century the enthusiastic, the gifted, and the occasional not so gifted have haunted various hotels late into the night. From small cons in little family run hotels - one memorably with an electrical cut out when we got too loud - to huge corporate ones where we battled with mundane sports award ceremonies. (Phoenix proving more popular with the attendees of said ceremony than their own disco)

Over the years the spirit of the 'smilkers' has not waned and has brought us to the wilds of Grantham (well, perhaps not that wild), and I am still sitting on the sidelines listening to fabulous people sing. Long may it continue... Here's to the 50th celebration!

*Miki Dennis*

*A more complete version of the early history of British Filk, including an essay by Rhodri, can be found at <http://filk.co.uk/generalhistory.html>*

# ***The Programme***

We're figuring out how the programme fits together now. We hope there will be something for everybody. We'll have sets from some familiar faces, and others less familiar; some we've heard regularly, some we've not heard on a UK Filk Con stage for years, and some performing a set here for the first time.

There will, of course, be the usual One Shots concert, the Filk Fund Auction, and the SAM Awards, but there will also be a Themed One Shots concert. The theme is **Silver**, and entertaining short explanations of how your song fits the theme may be demanded.

Deborah will be in charge of the Tech Desk, with Simon and small a band of willing hands helping to keep the tech running smoothly.

If you have asked for a set you should have been contacted directly by the committee (and hopefully have already replied); if not, please contact us.

# ***The Songbook***

The Quarter Tone songbook is now well under construction. Many thanks to everyone who has supplied us with material; we are now working on typesetting, sorting out the layout, and contacting our talented artists. We've got a nice mix of new and classic songs appropriate for our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary collection.

It's not *quite* too late to send us material if you've been meaning to get round to it... Songs can be sent to the convention address or directly to the editor: Alison Richards, *c/o mike.and.alison@blueyonder.co.uk*

# ***The Hotel***

With this PR you'll find a hotel booking form. Please complete and return it to the convention address (or email the details) before the end of the year. The hotel is not asking for a deposit, but do need to know numbers. Note that the hotel prices are per *room*, not per person. This is also the time to let us know of any special requirements, such as ground floor access.

# ***Membership as of November 19, 2012:***

|                      |                 |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Cat Faber            | Hilary Ann      | Tony Rogers     |
| FanTom               | Hitch           | Silke           |
| Aileen               | Ju Honisch      | Smitty          |
| Alex Allcock         | Katie Howe      | Songbard        |
| Amy Allcock          | Jackie          | Barbara Stewart |
| Lissa Allcock        | John G.         | John Stewart    |
| Phillip Allcock      | Kate            | Bill Sutton     |
| Diana Joan (DJ) Bass | Debbie L        | Brenda Sutton   |
| Michael Bernardi     | Liz             | Steffi          |
| Chavalai             | Mad Logician    | Steve           |
| Christo              | The Magician    | Sven            |
| Ewan Clark           | Aunty Marion    | Talis           |
| Colin                | Janet Maughan   | Teddy           |
| Countess Axylides    | Robert Maughan  | Thesilée        |
| Abi Crook            | Melusine        | Thomas          |
| Alistair Crook       | Mich            | tiggy           |
| Rachel Crook         | Miki            | Peter Tyers     |
| Rafe Culpin          | Minnow          | Valerie         |
| Deborah              | Nall            | Peter Wareham   |
| Donnacat             | Zander Nyron    | Karen Westhead  |
| Katie Draisbach      | Peredar         | Kathy Westhead  |
| Sue Edwards          | Pippa           | Mike Westhead   |
| Eva                  | Rhodri          | Peter Westhead  |
| Simon Fairbourn      | Alison Richards | Anne Whitaker   |
| Ferret               | Mike Richards   | James Whitaker  |
| Gwen Funnell         | Rick            | Mike Whitaker   |
| Gavran               | Rika            | Dale Williamson |
| Heike                | Roger Robinson  | Ωmega           |

Membership costs £35 for waged and £22 for unwaged before December 1<sup>st</sup> 2012, then £40 for waged and £27 for unwaged. Children under 5 are free. Discounts for under 18s.

*Quarter Tone, 15 St Catherine's Cross, Bletchingley, Surrey RH1 4PX*  
♪ [quartertone@hewett.org](mailto:quartertone@hewett.org) ♪ <http://www.contabile.org.uk> ♪

# ***Quarter Tone Hotel Booking Form***

*Grantham Ramada Hotel, Grantham; 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2013*

My name is: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to book the following room(s) at Quarter Tone:

\_\_\_\_\_ SINGLE \_\_\_\_\_ TWIN \_\_\_\_\_ DOUBLE

for the following nights (please mark as appropriate):

THURSDAY      FRIDAY      SATURDAY      SUNDAY

I would like the con to find me a sharer / I will be sharing with

\_\_\_\_\_

I understand it is my responsibility to settle my hotel bill.

Please let us know of any special requirements, such as needing a ground floor room or disabled room.

*Single rooms are £55 per night; Double and Twin rooms are £70 per room per night.  
Please return this form **before 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013** to:*

***Quarter Tone, 15 St Catherine's Cross, Bletchingley, Surrey RH1 4PX***