

QUOI DE NEUF

The 29th Annual British Filk Convention



3rd – 5th February, 2017
The Best Western Hotel, Marks Tey, Colchester

Welcome to PR2 for Quoi de Neuf!

Quoi de Neuf will be the 29th annual U.K. Filk Convention.

Cold winds howl down from the north, leaching the last warmth bequeathed by the summer sun. Snow is forecast for the hills, and frost glitters upon the pavements. The winter constellations in all their glory dominate the night skies.

The turning of the year – whether the solstice, or a nearby date – has always been the time to gather with family and friends from near and far.

Now is the time to put the old year to rest, and look forward to the new one. To plan new beginnings, and coax new growth from barren soil. To trade songs and stories. To look forward.

Outside the nights slowly, slowly grow shorter and winter's fingers are pried from the earth. This can only mean that the 2017 U.K. Filkcon will soon be upon us (and that we're probably going to get snow again).

Come along to Mark's Tey in February to answer the question...

... what's new?

— *Mike, Rick and Miki*

The Quoi De Neuf committee

Miki Dennis: hotel liaison and artwork

Rick Hewett: tech liaison, programme, website

Mike Richards: treasurer and membership



Getting to the hotel

The hotel address is:

London Road, Marks Tey, Colchester, Essex, CO6 1DU, UK.

and their web-page is: <http://www.marksteyhotel.co.uk/>

The Google Maps link for this area is:
<https://www.google.co.uk/maps/@51.8804449,0.7864871,17z>

From London: From the M25 exit at Junction 28 (A12), signposted Chelmsford. You are now on the A12; continue for approx 34 miles and take the exit for the A120, signposted Bishops Stortford. At the roundabout take the 3rd turning signposted to Stanway follow the road over the A12, at the next roundabout take the 2nd turning, the entrance to the hotel is 200 yards on your left.

From Ipswich: From the A14 and A12 interchange follow the A12 towards Colchester for about 19 miles, take the A120 junction signposted Marks Tey & Bishops Stortford, exit on to the slip road and take the 1st turning left at the roundabout, the entrance to the hotel is 200 yards on your left.

From Harwich: Follow the signs for the (A12) A120, continue on the A120 until the Junction with A12, signposted Chelmsford/London and join the A12. Continue until you reach the A120 signposted Marks Tey & Bishops Stortford, exit on to the slip road and take the 1st turning left at the roundabout, the entrance to the hotel is 200 yards on your left.

From Stansted: At the junction A120/M11, Birchanger Green Service Area, take the 1st turning signposted Colchester off of the roundabout. Continue on the A120 following all the signposts for Colchester. After about 22 miles you will enter Marks Tey, go over a railway bridge and approach a roundabout, take the 2nd turning and follow the road over the A12, at the next roundabout take the 2nd turning, the entrance to the hotel is 200 yards on your left.

From the Marks Tey train station: Turn left out of the station, proceed along the road, keeping on the left hand side for approx. 75ft, cross the road before the slip road on the right. Follow the small path with the bollard at the end and cross the slip road by the bollard. Follow the path over the A12. Cross the slip road by the no entry sign. Follow brown signs for the hotel which is approximately 200 yards on your left. Trains to Marks Tey go from London Liverpool Street station.

(Directions taken from Con2bil8 – thanks!)

Programme

We are now in the process of putting the programme together. There will, of course, be entertaining sets and interesting workshops from our Guests of Honour Cecilia Eng and Jackie Mitchell, and we have a number of other items lined up. If you have asked for a slot, you should have already heard from us; if not, please get in touch as soon as possible.

The Tech equipment is there to help you sound as good as possible. The techies can use it to best effect if they know what you want, and it will help them a lot if they know this **well in advance** so they can bring the right equipment. If you will be moving around (or changing instruments) during your item then a set-list is greatly appreciated.

There will, of course, be the usual Main Concert at which anybody is welcome to sign up for one or two songs, as well as open circles through the evenings and into the night.

Themed concert

In addition to the main concert, we will have a Themed Concert. This time, we are looking for songs on the theme of “What’s new?” Of course, this theme could be interpreted in many ways... and there may even be a small prize for the most “creative” interpretation.

In a break with tradition, this will be a very lightly (if at all) teched “sign up on the night” event, leading in to the Friday evening open filk circle.

Hotel booking

If you are getting this PR by email, it should also say if we have received a hotel booking for you and, if so, for what. (If you are getting this by post, it will be on the envelope).

If you *haven’t* made a hotel booking through the convention *and want to do so* then please contact Miki as soon as possible.

Cream teas on Friday

The hotel offers afternoon teas between noon and 4pm, though they must be pre-ordered. At the time of writing these are £11.50 per person (but prices may change before the convention). If you would like to order afternoon tea for the Friday afternoon, please contact the hotel directly; details are at:

<http://www.marksteyhotel.co.uk/eat-drink/afternoon-tea>

Volunteering

Any filk con relies on the good offices of volunteers to keep everything running... if not smoothly, then at least in the same direction. This includes holding down Registration, helping set up the room, and running Tech. If you are willing and able to help, please let us know.

The Filk Fund

The cost of the flights for our overseas guest is once again being paid for by the Filk Fund. We will be having an auction at the convention to raise funds so that this can continue into the future.

Contacting the committee

Quoi de Neuf can be contacted via email at:

QuoiDeNeuf@hewett.org

or by snail-mail at:

Quoi de Neuf, 20 Glynbridge Gardens, Cheltenham

Our web-site is <http://www.contabile.org.uk/quoideneuf/>

Membership as of 9th January 2017:

Cecilia Eng	Hitch	Rachel
Jackie Mitchell	Valerie Housden	Anna Raftery
Abi	Inamac	Alison Richards
Alex	James	Mike Richards
Alistair	Rhodri James	Rick
Alex Allcock	Andrew January	Rika
Amy Allcock	Emily January	Roger Robinson
Lissa Allcock	Jela	Shadow
Philip Allcock	John	Silke
Amusing Badge Name	Ju	Simon
Aunty Marion	Karl-Johan	Socrates
Countess Axylides	Katy	Songbird
Kate Barton	Michael Kinder	Steffi
DJ Bass	Kirstin	Steve
Ben	KT	Steve
Michael Bernardi	Les	Dave Stevenson
Billy	Lisa	Jessica Stevenson
Bine	Liz	Lydia Stevenson
Kent Bloom	Raynar Lucas	Naomi Stevenson
Bob	Mad Logician	Barbara Stewart
Susan Booth	Marilisa	John Stewart
Chavalai	Matt	Talis
Christo	Janet Maughan	Teddy
Colin	Robert Maughan	The Magician
Debbie Crook	Penny Melnikoff	tiggy
Rafe Culpin	Melusine	Peter Tyers
David	Mich	Volker
Lawrence Dean	Michelle	Peter Wareham
Debbie L	Miki	Karen Westhead
Sue Edwards	Minnow	Kathy Westhead
Fantom	Mary Morman	Mike Westhead
Fhtagn	Nat	Peter Westhead
Colin Fine	Andrew Nisbet	Steven Willett
Gwen Funnell	Zander Nyronnd	Dale Williamson
Ginny Ickle	Paul B. =:o}	Ωmega
Ashley James Hayhurst	Pippa	♪

Attending adult memberships: **£38** (waged) or **£27** (unwaged). Children aged 5 to 17 years: **£1 per year of age** at time of joining; under 5: **£0** (free, but please register them!). Euro rates are also available.

All artwork by Miki Dennis.