

Vibraphone

THE 1994 BRITISH FILK CONVENTION



OAK HOTEL, BRIGHTON
4TH-6TH FEBRUARY 1994

Vibraphone

A WORD FROM THE CHAIRBEING

Vibraphone is the sixth British Filk Convention, to be held at the Oak Hotel in Brighton over the weekend of the 4th, 5th and 6th of February 1994.

Yes, that's right - Brighton! Great place to hold a Con, can't think why nobody thought of it before. Actually, as was mentioned in our bid presentation, the Oak Hotel is indeed only a stone's throw from the infamous Metropole and stones are freely available on the beach...

The **Vibraphone** committee consists of -

Smitty : Chairbeing

Valerie Housden : Membership

Minstrel : Hotel Liaison and Publications

John English : Treasurer

Martin G-K : Things Technical

While Valerie is the only one of us with previous committee experience, the rest of us have all been to enough conventions to know what is expected of us and think that we can provide it.

Our Guests of Honour this year are Talis Kimberley and Tom Smith and, as an extra, we are pleased to announce Fox as our Artist Guest of Honour. While no previous Filk Con has had an artist guest before, there are a large number of artists active in British Filk fandom and we felt that this should be recognised.

As our programme is still in its infancy we would welcome any ideas that you may have for items. We hope to make this an active, fun convention with workshops that people might actually want to go to, so any suggestions are welcome. We are also inviting submissions for the convention hymnal; as this has a final deadline of the end of October we suggest that you submit early and often to keep poor Minstrel happy....

Smitty

CONVENTION RATES

	Waged	Unwaged
Membership until 30 November 1993	£22.00	£18.00
Membership after 1 December 1993	£27.00	£23.00
Supporting membership	£8.00	
Children, 8 to 14 years at time of convention	£8.00	
Children under 8, infants and babies	£1.00	
Toys and pets (if badge required)	£1.00	

THE OAK HOTEL

You see, I had this hotel, and so I had to find a convention to run in it...

Sounds a bit strange, but it's perfectly true. I first saw the Oak Hotel while it was being built, in 1991. It seemed that there had been a vacant site next to the Kingswest Centre and Odeon cinema for as long I could remember, so the sight of activity there aroused my curiosity. As the hotel took shape I got even more excited - this was not another "tower block" type hotel of the kind we are all too familiar with, but something quite different. This hotel looked interesting, it looked attractive, it looked.... designed!

The hotel opened in September 1991, and I soon called in to take a look, and pick up a convention pack. Not for myself, I hasten to add, but for a friend. I knew several people who were either running or planning to run conventions, and I knew they would be interested in a good hotel in Brighton. I mentioned it to Gytha North and a few others, and then I mentioned it to Tim Illingworth. He simply smiled. Of course, he knew then what I took another four months to admit to myself - I wasn't going to give the Oak Hotel to anyone; it was my baby - "No, no, no, you can't have her, she's mine, do you hear?"

And so I became a fanatic, a hotel junkie. I'd rave about my find to anyone willing to listen, I'd pop in there for lunch when shopping on Saturdays, I'd drag friends, kicking and screaming, to see the amazing stainless steel spiral staircase linking the hotel foyer and bar to the main function rooms. Once there, however, they soon calmed down. An hour in the bar with a pint and a Soupwich, and they'd be smiling. A tour of the hotel, and they were hooked too.

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

To:- Vlbaphone, "Minas Istarion", 2 Duncan Gate, London Road, Bromley London BR1 3SG

Please register the following for supporting/attending membership.

Name	Badge Name, if required	Membership Type (see opposite)	£
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

I enclose cheque/postal order made payable to Vlbaphone for £ _____

Address _____

When the **VIbraphone** committee inevitably formed, we felt we had to be fair, and consider other hotels in Brighton. We looked at several, all very nice, all with points in their favour. But when the vote came, it was for the Oak. Unanimously.

The hotel is centrally located in Brighton, 600 yards from Brighton Station(BR), 100 yards from the seafront and close to the Palace Pier. The Lanes, the heart of Brighton's main area for shopping and eating out, is just a minutes walk away, and the Odeon Cinema is next door.

The hotel lobby is overlooked by the lounge area and the Corner Bar, which serves hot and cold bar food. Spinnakers Restaurant offers a good medium priced menu, but for fans on a budget there is a wealth of cheap places to eat, ranging from burger and pizza bars to the Mongolian Barbecue opposite the hotel. The function rooms are at the top of the spiral staircase from the lobby (lifts are also conveniently positioned), making program items extremely easy to find.

The accommodation rate is £25.00 per person per night for Twin/Double rooms, with a single occupancy supplement of £10.00 per night. Anyone wishing to stay for the additional Sunday night will receive a £5.00 discount. All bedrooms have private bath and/or shower, with the usual tea making facilities and satellite TV. There are special facilities for disabled guests, and the hotel has indicated that manageable pets can be provided for.

We know that the Oak Hotel is going to be an excellent venue for **VIbraphone**, and hope that it will herald a new era of science fiction conventions in Brighton.

Minstrel



SUGGESTIONS/HELP FORM

- ☐ I would to suggest the following idea for a program item

- ☐ I would like to run the following program item

- ☐ I would like to help with registration/gophering/tech/other

- ☐ I would like a dealers table

Name _____

Membership No _____
(if known)

GUESTS OF HONOUR

TALIS KIMBERLEY

Try remembering British filk before Talis. For those of you who got involved after 1990 this is impossible. But for those whose memories extend back that far, how many of you have to make an effort to remember that **Follycon**, **Contrivance** and **Contabile** were all pre-Talis.

Yet many of us can remember **Con2bile**, when late in the concert a shy, young neo at her first con timidly asked Gytha if she could please sing, and who then proceeded to wow us all with her beautiful voice and songs. She has continued to wow us ever since.

Talis' songs would not be out of place sung in a folk club, being folky in style with haunting melodies, (idiosyncratic rhythms and chording!) and often on subjects from myth and legend, as in for example *Still Catch the Tide*. Yet she can also write exceedingly funny songs, *X-Cats* being a good example.

Although predominantly a performer who uses acoustic instruments, she has allowed herself to become corrupted by rock influences and has been observed on occasion playing an electric guitar. Whatever she chooses to sing and play at **VIbraphone** will be good and we look forward to being wowed all over again.

TOM SMITH

Dodeka Records Ltd, who were responsible for Tom's first tape, *Who Let Him in Here?*, recorded live at various conventions, have said:

"Tom has the strangest sense of humor that we've encountered in a long time."

After encountering Tom at **Magicon**, the 1992 worldcon, Rhodri James was moved to observe:

"He's even more warped than Phil (Allcock)!"

And having had a long and hugely enjoyable telephone conversation with Tom, I can confirm that he is absolutely barmy!

Apart from that Tom has a fine singing voice, plays the guitar fantastically well and writes songs that can be wonderfully funny or tear-jerkingly sad, as his first tape proves. He tells us that his second should be out Real Soon Now.

In his report of the **1990 Ohio Valley Filk Fest**, Colin Fine described the reaction to Tom's performance of *A Boy and his Frog* as "not a dry eye in the house", and he demanded to know why he had not heard Tom's songs before. We will be hearing a lot more of the singer and the songs at **VIbraphone** and we're looking forward to it.

FOX

Better known as a comics artist than a filker, Fox was responsible with Chris Bell for **REDFOX**, which at its peak was the leading independent British comic and, incidentally, the inspiration for a lot of filksongs including *Requiem*.

Fox also contributed the artwork for the filk tapes *The Oak, the Rowan and the Wild Rose* and *Dancing Flames*, as well as illustrations for various filk publications including the covers of the **Contabile** and the **Cont2bile** programme books. He and Talis Kimberley are currently collaborating on the story *Zen Zebras* for **FILKLORE**. There will be a selection of his work on display at **Vibraphone**.

Yet Fox is also a wicked filker. His parodies of Phil Allcock's *Child of Light* and of Mike Whitaker's *Bright Lady* are absolutely evil. We are hoping to persuade him to reveal a few more such gems in time for **Vibraphone**.

Valerie Housden

VIBRAPHONE LIVE!

For those of you who haven't already heard, last year's convention, **Pentatonic**, made a profit of £300. They have passed this onto the **Vibraphone** committee to use as we see fit for the good of filk. The committee discussed this at length in the Minstrel Bar at the Hotel de France (Minstrel's theory that drinking there got him free drinks was unfortunately exploded), and eventually came up with a proposal.

We feel that the size of the filk convention now means that leaving the business of recording, producing and marketing the tape of the convention to one or two people to both organise and fund is unfair. We are therefore going to use the money to hire recording equipment and studio time to produce the convention tape, with a firm commitment to produce the tape by the time of the Eastercon. At that point, it will become the task of the following year's committee to market it at that and other conventions they attend, on the same desk as they will be marketing the filk convention. This should not only act as advertising for that event, but the proceeds of that tape will go into an account, with the hope of raising the same sum so that the following year's committee can repeat the procedure. The ultimate aim is to make the convention tape self-sustaining.

The committee feels that this is the best use of this money, and is very grateful to **Pentatonic** for the chance to put this plan into action. We would be interested in hearing any comments on this plan, and also in hearing from anyone who would like to assist in any way

Martin G-K

Vlbraphone Membership

as at 25th May 1993

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 G Talis Kimberley | 41 A Richard the Rampant |
| 2 G Tom Smith | 42 A Gytha North |
| 3 G FOX | 43 A Brian Flatt |
| 4 A Martin G-K | 44 A Alan Braggins |
| 5 A John English | 45 A Kathy Sterry |
| 6 A Valerie Housden | 46 A Keris |
| 7 A Minstrel | 47 A David Bell |
| 8 A Smitty | 48 A Nick Tyrrell |
| 9 C Cub | 49 A Madeleine Tyrrell |
| 10 A Tom | 50 A Miki Dennis |
| 11 A Lawrence Dean | 51 A Tim Kirk |
| 12 A Nicky Retallick | 52 A Rafe Culpin |
| 14 A Kathy Westhead | 53 A Sue Mason |
| 15 A Mike Westhead | 54 A Tony Rogers |
| 16 J Peter Westhead | 55 A Nigel Parsons |
| 17 C Karen Westhead | 56 A Melusine |
| 18 A Ninja Bear | 57 A Peter Tyers |
| 19 A Roger Robinson | 58 A Andrew Barton |
| 20 A Rhodri James | 59 A Lissa Blackburn |
| 21 A Peter Wareham | 60 A Phil Allcock |
| 22 A Gwen Funnell | 61 A Sue Humphries |
| 23 A Jerome Perkins | 62 A Linda Hansford |
| 24 A Bruce Grant | 63 A Juliane Honisch |
| 25 A D.J. Bass | 64 A Kerstin Drôge |
| 26 A Marion Beet | 65 A Adam Heath |
| 27 A Chris Bell | 66 A Judith Jackson |
| 28 A Alison Scott | 67 A Helen Nemeth |
| 29 A Mike Scott | 68 A Hitch |
| 30 A Steve Davies | 69 A Robert Day |
| 31 A Susan Booth | 70 A Colin Fine |
| 32 A Jean Sheward | 71 A Pompino the Kregoyne |
| 33 A Michael Bernardi | 72 A Alice Dodd |
| 34 A Kate Soley | 73 A The Magician |
| 35 A John Stewart | 74 S Richard Winslade |
| 36 A Barbara Stewart | 75 A Teresa Sanders |
| 37 A FanTom | 76 A Kluggers the Barred |
| 38 A Countess Axlides | |
| 39 A Zander Nyron | |
| 40 A Mary Beard | |

This PR is going out to members of **Pentatonic** and **Vlbraphone**, **Filklore** subscribers, fanzine editors, and people we found in someone's filkofax.
PR2 will be distributed to members of **Vlbraphone**, so join now!

From:- **Vibraphone**

"Minas Istarion"
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Bromley
London BR1 3SG



To:-

30A
Steve Davies
18 Pell Street,
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RG1 2NZ

Return To The
Forbidden City!