



DemiSemiQuaver



The 32nd Annual UK Filk Convention

February 7th-9th 2020

Marks Tey



**Programme
Book**

Hello and welcome to DemiSemiQuaver!

Welcome to DemiSemiQuaver, the 32nd UK Filk convention! This is our weekend to hear and make music - acquaint ourselves with songs that are old friends, and hear the results of the creative spark that has inspired new music. It's also the chance to catch up with friends, some of whom you may not have met yet.

Thirty-two years is a long time. The first convention, Contabile, took place in 1989. Curious as to what else happened that year, I did some checking - it turns out that the first commercially available internet connections arrived only that year. How on earth do you put together a filkcon. without an internet connection? The mind boggles.

This year's DemiSemiQuaver will last approximately 48 hours (officially). Some number crunching suggests that if a demisemiquaver is 2 days in duration, a quaver would be 16 days - how do you even mark the tempo for that? (Why do I have the feeling that someone here will be able to tell me?)

If this is your first filk convention, welcome! Newcomer or regular, we hope you enjoy the weekend. Please note that we have a code of conduct (*see later in this booklet*); if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to approach a member of the convention committee. We will try to have one of us on hand to deal with any situations that arise.

Pronoun stickers are available at the registration desk. Please feel free to add your preferred pronouns to your badge, and we do encourage you to check other people's pronouns to help make this a comfortable space for all.

Did we mention the beer and cider? The previous years' consumption factors in to ordering decisions for future conventions, so please help drink it up!

Enjoy the music, and have fun!



This booklet includes:

- Introductions to our wonderful guests and to the committee;
- Set and Workshop descriptions;
- The programme for the weekend; and
- A map showing programme rooms and facilities.



Our Guests

UK Guest of Honour: Annie Griffith

By Lissa Allcock and Chris Jolliffe

Let us tell you about this woman. This Annie Griffith. Your Guest of Honour.

She is (unsurprisingly for this fandom), a reader of fantasy and science fiction and found her doorway to this fandom through the sagas of Pern, a forgetful author, and the insidious nature of filk fandom, that reaches out and grabs you and pulls you in to its clutches and does not let you go.

She is a choir mistress who has created choirs whole cloth and taken another from a slough of despond caused by an indifferent choir leader to dizzy heights in the space of a few weeks through her enthusiasm and joy in music, and the level of care that she brings to her job. She can conduct in a church or in front of a castle, in a purple pith helmet (because clearly purple is the superior colour) or using a ukulele to lead her choir rather than a conductor's baton. She's a strong believer in the mantra that everyone can sing, and uses her talents and skills to help other people come to believe it too.

She is a child of Wales for all that she was born in England, not far from this very filkcon. She learned her Welshness from her family and it flowers when they travel past the Marches, changing her accent, making her enjoy rugby and cry at the Welsh National anthem.

She has dived giddily into the Steampunk community in Lincoln, mountaineering up Steep Hill, making costumes and making friends, being absorbed into their madness and bringing her own madness to them (and to us).

She has weathered years of being told that her musical talents were insufficient and unimportant because they were used for fun or for quiet things and for helping other people grow and blossom rather than only to make herself shine, and then fought through the dregs of that to come out the other side glorious and bright and fierce, and ready to share her frankly amazing musical skills with us.

She has long pondered the possibilities of gaining fairy wings and hooves, and has recently acquired horns to adorn her head. Her dining room is decorated with trees and her bedroom has goblins dancing in the grass and fairies watching from more trees and the living room is watched over by Brian Froud's fairy queen.

She brings laughter into her music making, starting her choir rehearsals by getting everyone to pretend to alternate sucking lemons and roaring like lions. She is fun, and funny and self deprecating and prone to inserting both her feet in her mouth at

the same time and saying things that she doesn't realise how suggestive they are until her friends are all smirking at her, because we're mean. She can sing soft and quiet or can belt out the loudest of rock songs. She can make you laugh or make your heart ache, she'll definitely make you sing along.

She is an amazing guest and we're all very lucky.

International Guest of Honour: Sunnie Larsen

By Shawna Jacques et al.

COMING (very) SOON TO A UK FILK CON (very) NEAR YOU!

From the farthest reaches of space (the final frontier)...

from the deepest fathoms of the oceans of Earth...

from Themyscira's sandy shores...

You won't want to miss the interstellar marvelous mermaid Amazon champion that is...

SUNNIE LARSEN!

Sunnie and music have walked together for almost her entire life, and their friendship has touched the ears and hearts of many people across this lovely blue and green planet. Violin, viola, vocals...filk, folk, improv...Sunnie does all of this and more, solo and collaboratively. Her wit, her grace, and her passion are truly amazing to behold.

This filker is rated A for Awesome and Amazing for All Filk Audiences.


She performs with groups, and supports other performers, such as *Vixy and Tony*, who create original and cover filk music (and were the UK filk con. GoH in 2010 – Van der Filk); *Bone Poets Orchestra*, a psychedelic rock band; *Ronnda Cadle*, a fingerstyle guitarist she accompanies on her violin; and she's a member of improvisational string group *Ménage à Trio* with Betsy Tinney (UK filk con. GoH in 2018 - Enharmonicon) and Alexander James Adams. The proto-DemiSemiQuaver committee first got to know her when she travelled to the UK for Enharmonicon in 2018, and she captured our hearts when we first heard her sing. Organising the convention is clearly a small price to pay for being able to choose who to ~~kidnap~~ invite back to the UK, so we can hear more of her!

We were so glad to hear that she is building up her own solo career as well as continuing her excellent work in collaborative musical projects. With her first solo album, released in 2019, covering themes ranging from Shakespeare's Ophelia, to

the Mars observer space program, and Downton Abbey, there really is something for everyone.

Her warm smile and enthusiasm can light up any room, and we are delighted to be able to share her music and talents with you all this weekend.

You can find more of her music, including information about her album, "*The Space Between Notes*", at sunnie.org!

"So, why the dragon?", I hear you ask, "...and why are all the convention artwork critters nibbling on or  clawing at notes?". Firstly, why not? Secondly, a demisemiquaver, or thirty-second note (hence the name of the 32nd Filk convention), is a note played for 1/32 of the duration of a whole note (or semibreve).... It is such an itsy-bitsy bit of a note that we're fairly sure it was pre-chewed by *something*.



The Committee

Janet Maughan

Janet married into UK filk fandom when she got together with Robert Maughan, and was at least partially responsible for the 14th, 18th, and 20th UK filk conventions. She then took over a decade off. During that time she's also been an intermittent member of the NMC. Now she's back in con. committee mode, and currently in the role of Speaker-to-Hotels.

Katie Howe

KT did not run away fast enough. Having been caught in the con. committee net, her goal is now to try not to let Janet do All Of The Things. KT stumbled into filk in a side room at a roleplaying convention eleven years ago and has never quite left. She can generally be identified by her *"everyone should have a pet ferret"* sales pitch and abundance of ferret photos (you can take the girl out of Yorkshire...). Sadly* the hotel is not pet-friendly, or a warning to check your trouser legs might be in order.

*Opinions may vary

Phil Allcock

Many people say Phil needs not so much a bio as a "Thieves Operate In This Area" warning notice. So as not to disappoint such people, he has therefore stolen from KT's bio to say that he too didn't run fast enough, and stolen and reworked Janet's to say he was at least partially irresponsible for the 1st, 2nd, 8th, 12th, 16th, 28th and 29th UK filk conventions. It is also widely said that crime doesn't pay, which may be why he agreed to be Treasurer.



A member of the committee will be on duty at all time (wearing or otherwise having about his or her person the Scary Lidl Monster Hat) – please approach them if you have any questions or issues. If you can't spot the on-duty person, feel free to ask any of us!

You can contact the committee at demisemiquavercon@gmail.com if you are struggling to find us in person, but this is likely to be slower!



The Programme

Unless otherwise stated, programme items will be in the main room.

FRIDAY

Opening Ceremony (Friday at 19:45 for 15 minutes)

Welcome to DemiSemiQuaver

Blind Lemming Chiffon (Friday at 20:00 for 60 minutes)

BLC, a blues comedian and singer/song rewriter from Denver, Colorado, has been decomposing songs (i.e. writing parodies) since 1970, and an active filker since 1974. In spite of this, he manages to enjoy retirement in Denver, host house filks, and occasionally play concerts at filk cons, like FilkOntario where he was Interfilk guest in 2004.

BLC has been playing over 50 years, filking over 40 years, and thinks he may be making some progress. He is planning release of many CDs in mid-2020.

Remembering Zanda - Cosmic Trifle (Friday at 21:00 for 60 minutes)

Cosmic Trifle remember band member Zanda Myrande with a set of her songs from their repertoire.

Remembrance Filk, introduced by Paul Bristow (Friday from 22:00)

As many of you know, we lost a very active member of our UK filk family quite suddenly in 2019 - Zander Nyron / Zanda Myrande. As Zander he gave many magical contributions and moments to our community – more recently, some of us came to know her as Zanda, especially in her online collaborative musical projects. This circle is a space for all of our memories, an opportunity to hold Zan in your hearts as a whole person, so if you would like to sing, play, or read something relevant, here is a chance. Although this circle may be sombre in parts, the many wonderfully funny pieces written or performed by, or otherwise associated with, Zan form a huge part of our collective memories, and sharing them here is strongly encouraged!

Please do not feel that you have to have known Zander/Zanda to join this circle. Introducing new people to their music is an added bonus!

Open Filk (Friday from 22:00) - ALTERNATIVE ROOM

The alternative room is available for a separate circle – general, open filk.

SATURDAY

Workshop: Instrumental Improvisation Workshop – Sunnie (Saturday at 10:00 for 60 minutes) - ALTERNATIVE ROOM

From guitar jamming to drum circles to freeform improv and beyond, there's something special about bringing people together to just make music. We'll explore ideas and techniques for making unplanned music together, look for unique ways to enhance the jam even without instruments and talk about when to use them, discuss how to move together as a group, and more. Whether you're just starting out or a long-time improv

fan, there should be something here for you! Bring your favorite instrument, even if it's just your body, and be ready to have fun making music together.

Chantelle's Cabinet of Curiosities (Saturday at 10:30 for 45 minutes)

The Victorians used to collect knick-knacks, archaeological artifacts, curiosities from the natural world and other random objects, and store them all in what were termed 'Cabinets of Curiosities'. In much the same way, Chantelle gathers songs (be they traditional folk songs, songs by other songwriters or songs of her own devising - often containing stories) and stores them in a sort of Cabinet of Curiosities in her head.

You'll hear some old songs, some really old songs and some new songs in this small segment of time on Saturday morning, so sit back, relax and enjoy the stories in the songs she brings with her.

Voyages and Missed Opportunities - Mike Richards (Saturday at 11:15 for 45 minutes)

Myths. Legends. Stories. Dreams. Whatever we call them, they have drawn people together for uncounted millennia.

Gather round the firelight for songs of things found... and things lost.

Bed 'N' Breakfast (Saturday at 12:00 for 30 minutes)

Bill & Brenda Sutton perform something old, something REALLY old, and something new.

Informal One Shots Concert – ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMME ROOM (Saturday at 13:00 for 45 minutes)

An informal, and zero-tech., sign-up concert: the sign-up sheet will be on the desk until it's full!

Filk Fund Business meeting (Saturday at 14:00 for 15 minutes)

A short meeting about the Filk Fund

Bid Session (Saturday at 14:15 for 15 minutes)

Is there anybody out there...? (To run next year's convention, that is)

Of Myths and Mermaids - The n'Early Music Consort (Saturday at 14:30 for 60 minutes)

The UK's premier filk choir introduce you to some (allegedly) mythical beings, bringing you a set of songs based on myths, fantasy and other figments of /d/e/r/a/n/g/e/d/ imaginations.

Main Concert & Filk Fund Auction I (Saturday at 15:30 for 2.5hrs)

Open to everyone (solo or group) to perform one song. Please sign up in advance at the con. registration desk. If the sheet is full, there are no slots left!

There will be two Filk Fund Auction slots around the concert, so please have a look at the dealer's table in advance, and bring your money with you! Bid early, bid often...

The Space Between Notes - Overseas Guest of Honour: Sunnie Larsen (Saturday at 20:00 for 60 minutes)

The first concert from our overseas Guest of Honour, Sunnie Larsen, with songs (mostly) about space.

UK Guest of Honour: Annie Griffith (Saturday at 21:00 for 60 minutes)

The first concert from our UK Guest of Honour, Annie Griffith.

Open filking (Saturday from 22:00)

Both the main and alternative rooms will be available from 22:00 for open circles; the alternative room will be available earlier.

SUNDAY

Aquapella (Saturday at 10:00 for 60 minutes) - POOL

Singing in the rain... or maybe in the pool. Probably in the pool; it's warmer.

Workshop: "Uke Can't Be Serious!" with Annie Griffith - (Sunday at 11:00 for 60 minutes) – ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMME ROOM

Beg, borrow or buy a ukulele and come along to a teaching/strumalong/singalong session! Annie will get you strumming along on the world's least serious stringed instrument.

Mixed Feelings - Jela Schmidt (Sunday at 11:00 for 30 minutes)

I bring a mixed bag of songs. Old ones, new ones, sad ones, even more sad ones, fun ones. I think. I usually do not plan this far ahead. And I will probably talk a lot. So come see me, it'll be fun.

Quarries and Corridors (Sunday at 11:30 for 60 minutes)

*The filk duo - Nat, and filk convention newbie Jenny H - will be performing a selection of live arrangements of songs from their debut album *Going through Changes*; an eclectic mix of folk and synthpop, inspired by life's struggles and the fantasy fiction that gets us through them. Featuring guest cello from Jane.*

UK Guest of Honour: Annie Griffith (Sunday at 14:00 for 60 minutes)

A second concert from UK Guest of Honour, Annie Griffith

Sams Award Ceremony (Sunday at 15:00 for 30 minutes)

The presentation of this year's Sam Awards

Filk Fund Auction II (Sunday at 15:30 for 30 minutes)

The second of two Auction slots.

Songs With Heart - International Guest of Honour: Sunnie Larsen (Sunday at 16:00 for 60 minutes)

A second concert from the international Guest of Honour, Sunnie Larsen.

Sams Award Concert & Closing (Sunday at 17:00 for 60 minutes)

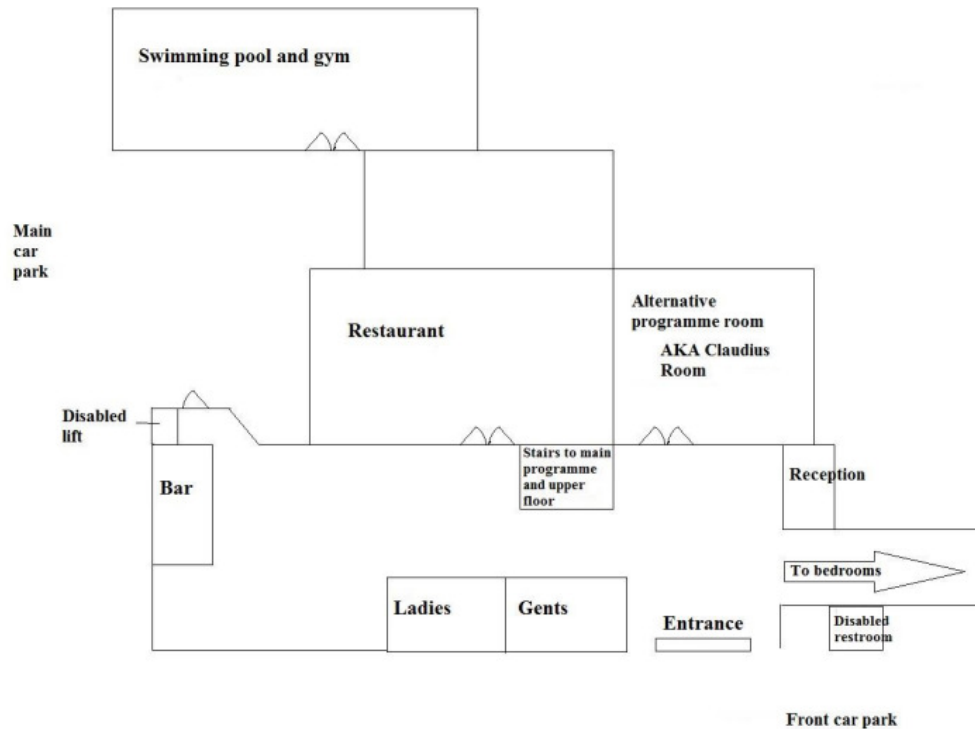
A chance to hear this year's Sams Awards winners.

Dead Dog Filking (Sunday from 21:00) – ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMME ROOM

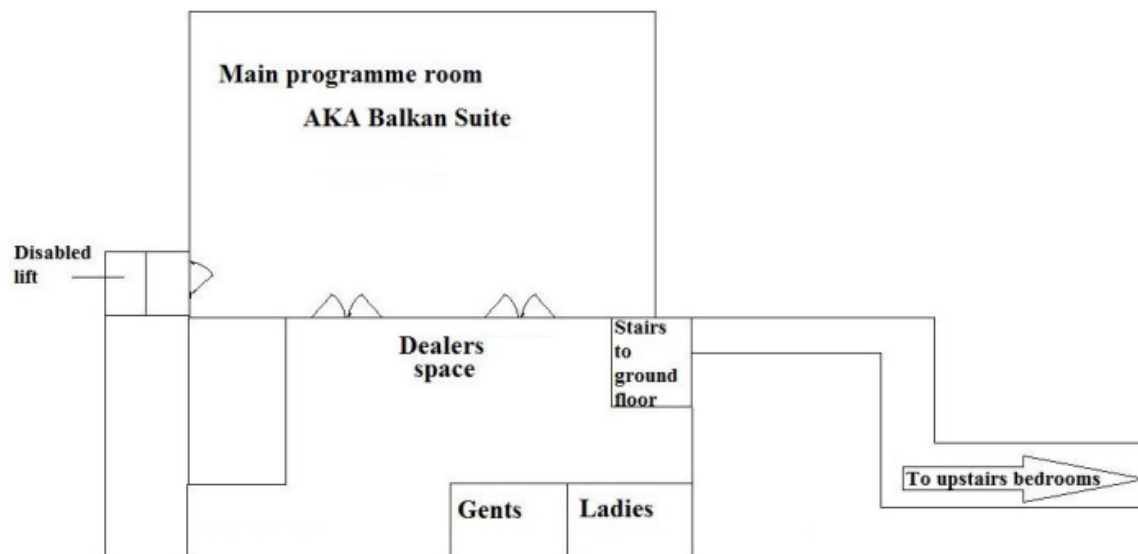
The closing circle of the con., for those of us still present.

The Hotel (not to scale)

Ground floor:



First floor:



We do not have a specific children's room at DemiSemiQuaver, but the Alternative function space is available for most of the time.

Essential Hotel Information

Programme rooms

The main programme room is the Balkan Suite on the upper floor. There is a disabled lift to access this which can be found down the corridor past the ground floor bar. Please do not put any items down in the Balkan Suite where they will block or interfere with access to the lift! It will be in use this weekend regularly.

Other programming will be in the Claudius room off the reception area/lobby. The Dealer's room will be the lobby outside the Balkan Suite, which also houses the upper bar. As this is only separated from the main programme area by simple doors, please keep the volume down when in this area during performances.

Checkout

Checkout is at 11:00 AM. If you require a later checkout please enquire at the desk; special requirements can be catered for.

Luggage Store

If you are checking out on Sunday, secure storage is available on the ground floor. Please ask at the hotel reception for assistance.

Wi-Fi

There is complimentary Wi-Fi access at the hotel that you can register for online. The terms of service indicate no streaming.

Food and Drink

- **Bar**

There are two bars, one on the ground floor and a similar bar just outside the main function room. These bars will be open as late as they can manage. We have also ordered a small number of selected real ales and ciders, which will be available in the upper bar only.

- Ales - Colchester No. 1 - 4.1%, and Jack Spitty - 4%
- Ciders - Weston's Rosie's Pig - 4.8%, and Seacider Medium - 4.6%

- **Breakfast** is 7:30-10:00 AM in the restaurant.

- **Lunch**

The bar menu will be available for food orders throughout the day. The food options on the menu can be prepared in 15 minutes, except for the burger, which has a longer cooking time. We have allowed fairly long meal breaks, so hopefully orders can be staggered a bit rather than hoping the kitchens can cope with 100+ orders at

the same time, and make sure you are available to hear the bar staff when they come out with your food, to save return trips.

- **Dinner**

The bar menu will remain available for food orders throughout the evening, and on Sunday evening, attendees will be able to order from the standard hotel restaurant menu. As we've had before, we are hoping to ease wait times with a buffet on Friday and Saturday evenings, with a selection of starters, main courses, and desserts on each evening. A main-only meal will be £10.95, two courses for £14.95, and all three course for £19.95 - the same prices as last year but with the addition of the main course only for those with smaller appetites. Buffet Menus will be available for these options.

If you have any special dietary requirements and are concerned about whether these will work for you, please speak with the hotel staff at first instance, or one of the concom to liaise for you.



Nearby Restaurants

(Details below checked briefly online, but we make no guarantee of these being correct for the dates of the convention!)

If you leave the hotel and turn right, the following are within a five minute gentle walk:

Bungalow Diner – American diner food, doing breakfasts as well as lunch and dinner. Open 7am-10pm Fri-Sat and 8am-10pm Sun.

Jane's Pantry – Sandwiches to take away. Open 5am-1pm Sat, closed Sun.

Premier Supermarket – Has a cashpoint, but it might charge! Open 5am-9pm.

Chinese takeaway – Open 5pm-12pm Fri-Sat, 5pm-11pm Sun.

Chip shop – Open 5pm-midnight Fri-Sat, 5pm-11pm Sun.

Jhaal Indian restaurant – Sit down or take away. Open 5pm-11pm Fri-Sat, midday-10.30pm Sun.

If you come out of the hotel and turn left, there are a range of chain restaurants and the like, and a large Sainsbury's with a free cashpoint, around two miles down the road. Buses are available but car is likely to be easiest.

- Around 1 mile away: The Swan Inn (Hungry Horse)
- A bit further: The White Hart (Toby Carvery), Miller & Carter steakhouse
- Around 2 miles away: Frankie & Benny's, Chiquito, McDonalds, Harvester, Kentucky Fried Chicken and Starbucks.

A Note on the Sams Awards

The categories for Sams nominations are:

- **Best Serious Song** (written in the last 4 years)
- **Best Silly Song** (written in the last 4 years)
- **Filk Gold** (for any song outside the 4 year window *without* a previous UK award)
- **At-Con Award** (for the most memorable song/performance at the convention itself – N.B. this award is for the performer, not the song-writer, and so is open to songs which have won awards before)

There will be a board for nominations – nominations will close at 12.30pm on Sunday. A list of previous winning songs and performances should be available for you to check eligibility.

If you are not sure if your selection meets the criteria, by all means nominate it anyway – the Sams Elves will check and remove any nominations which do not meet the rules.



A word from the tech. crew

The equipment is expensive – please do not sit on it, spill drinks on it, or nuke it from orbit!

Helpers are always very much appreciated – whatever your level of experience, please do pop along and speak to us if you would be happy to help out.

If you have a set, please talk to us to sort out your requirements and have a sound-check beforehand.

Any and all help packing away the kit on Sunday evening would be very much appreciated!



The Filk Fund Auction

Money raised in the auction goes into the Filk Fund, which pays for travel for our overseas guests of honour. This allows us to import wonderful musicians*, introducing us to new music and lovely new people in the process.

The auction will be run by the inimitable Roger Robinson in three sessions this year – two on the Saturday around the Main Concert and one on the Sunday. Please bring

your wallet and make the most of what the auction has to offer. Have a look at the auction items in advance on the Dealer's Table.

*Sadly only temporarily. Apparently we have to give them back.



The Dealer's Table

Once initial registration is complete on Friday, most of the convention registration desk space will magically transform into an Aladdin's Cave of Filk treasures. As well as the auction, Roger will be running the dealer's table outside of the Balkan Suite. A selection of CDs, songbooks and other items will be available for sale.

In the same area, there will also be a freecycle space for items free to a good home.

If you bring any items to contribute to the auction or freecycle table, please do take anything that does not find a new home before the end of the convention back with you.



Recording Policy

Members of the convention who wish to make **recordings for their own personal use only** may do so, provided that the performer(s) **consent** to the recording. This applies to circles as well as scheduled programme items.

Please keep recording equipment out of the way of other attendees, and avoid disturbing performances and/or other audience members with loud clicks, or requests to pause whilst recording equipment is sorted, or the likes. **No unattended recording will be permitted,**

Broadcasting, copying for another person, or other distribution of recordings is likely to be copyright infringement **unless** you have the consent of **everyone** involved, including the song writer(s) – both music and lyrics – and performer(s). Please do not do it unless you have all relevant permissions.



Flash Photography

Some of our members are sensitive to flash photography. Please keep it to a minimum, and respect any requests to stop. If in doubt, please speak to a committee member.

Code of Conduct

We want DemiSemiQuaver to be a happy and safe environment for all our members.

We know that the Filk community is generally an inclusive and welcoming one, but understand that problems can arise and have procedures in place to deal with them. Please take the time to read the Code of Conduct, and help us to make DemiSemiQuaver a fun and trouble-free event.

We will not tolerate discrimination or harassment on the grounds of gender, race, sexual orientation, age, ethnicity, or disability – nor indeed pretty much anything else! We expect all the convention members to treat each other with respect.

If you feel that you are being harassed, or if someone is making you feel uncomfortable, please speak to them about the behavior you are finding inappropriate if you feel comfortable to do so, or come and speak to the Duty Committee Member (or any other committee member). If you notice someone else behaving in a manner that makes you uncomfortable, again, please come and discuss it with us.

We will take any comments or complaints very seriously, and will do our best to hear all sides of the situation in order to make sure we are reacting appropriately and fairly. We will treat all matters with discretion. If we are unable to mediate a solution between the parties involved, we may take further steps – including but not limited to issuing a warning, revoking membership without a refund, and requesting that the person leave the convention. In serious cases, we may involve hotel staff and/or the police.

We reserve the right to pass on details of any serious breaches of the code of conduct to future committees of the UK filk convention.



Thanks!

Thank you to everyone who has helped us / is helping us to make DemiSemiQuaver happen. With a special mention to: Andrew January for all his technical wizardry, Miki and FanTom for their artwork, Omega for making the Sams awards, all of the tech. crew, and everyone who will help with set-up, take-down, chair-moving, and/or plying committee members with chocolate when they are frazzled!

Membership as of January 31st 2020

Janet Maughan (C)	Declan Meenagh	Marilisa	Silke
KT (C)	Diana Joan (D.J.)	Naomi Stevenson	Simon
Phil (C)	Bass	Nat (@quarridors)	Socrates
Annie (G)	Diane Wood	Odile	Songbird
Sunnie (G)	Donnacat	Omega	Soren Nyronnd
Alan Thiesen	Ellie Walker	Oriole	Steffi
Alex	Emily Eastwood	Paul	Steve
Alex	Emily January	Matt	Steve
Alice	FanTom	Melusine	Sue Edwards
Alison Richards	Fhtagn	Mich	Susan Booth
Amy	Gill Cawley	Michael	Talis Kimberley
Andrew January	Gwen Funnell	Michael Bernardi	Teddy
Anna Raftery	Gwenzilla	Mike Richards	The Countess
Anne Maria	Hilary Ann	Mike Westhead	The Magician
Anne Whitaker	Hitch	Mike Whitaker	Valerie
Aron	James Whitaker	Miki	Wolfgang
Aunty Marion	Jane	Minnow	Yehuda Porath
Barbara Stewart	Janet	Paul B. =:o}	
Bill	Jela Schmidt	Peter Tyers	
Billy	Jenny	Peter Wareham	
Bine	Jenny H	Peter Westhead	
Blind Lemming	Jenny S-T	Piers Cawley	
Chiffon	Jessica Stevenson	Pippa	
Brenda	John Stewart	Rafe Culpin	
Chantelle	Ju	Rayner	
Chris	Karen Westhead	Rhodri	
Chris Jolliffe	Kate	Rick	
Christo	Kathy Westhead	Robert	
Clare	Katy	Robert Maughan	
Colin Fine	Kev	Roger Robinson	
dakkar	Lawrence Dean	Senji	
Dale Williamson	Lissa	Shadow	
Dave Stevenson	Liz	Shawna	
David	Lydia Stevenson	Sibylle	
Debbie L.	Mad Logician		
Deborah	Marcos Duran		

(G) - Guest

(C) - Committee

