

Van der Filk UK Filk Convention

Progress Report Three

5th to 7th February 2010

at the

Grantham Ramada Hotel

Featuring

Gwen Knighton Raftery

Vixy and Tony

and "Footloose Filker"

Lastalda

and a cast of thousands (well, a hundred or so anyway)

Introduction

Welcome to the last Progress Report of the Van der Filk convention. This one again contains important information, so please read it!

Registration Rate Rise

If you have received this PR either by email or in the post then you have already registered. But you might know someone who is intending coming but hasn't registered yet, so please pass the message on.

The registration rates for Full and Unwaged people over 16 will be going up on the 13th December, from GBP 32/16 to GBP 35/20. Note that the rates for people under 16 stay the same, at GBP 16 for 6-15 and GBP 1 for an infant 5 or younger (or for a toy).

The Hotel

NOTE: The deadline for hotel booking is December 31st.

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 fourth filkcon at this hotel. It has a good selection of function space (a 150 person room and two 50 person rooms) and enough bedrooms, a restaurant, and an open bar with a large area for socialising. All of the public areas and function space are now completely non-smoking, there are some smoking bedrooms available.

The hotel room booking form is included with this PR (or if you are reading it online you can get it from the same page). The room rates (per room) are:

Double/twin	GBP 85 per night
Single	GBP 55 per night

A child in the same room with their parents (using a Z-bed) only pays for breakfast, under 4 is free.

As is standard with British hotels, all of these include a buffet-style breakfast (this includes cereal, fruit, toast, up to Full English). Note that these rates are **per room**, so for per-person costs divide the double or twin price by two. For those who may not know UK terminology, a double room has one large bed to sleep two people together, a twin room has two separate beds (one person in each).

And for those who drink alcohol, we are informed that the hotel will be sourcing Real Ale and Cider for us (as well as the usual range of other drinks).

As some people who haven't stayed in a UK hotel before have asked, this is the procedure for paying:

- When you arrive, you check in with the hotel desk.
- They will ask for your name (names for a shared room) and ask you to fill in a form (probably this will already be mostly filled in, they basically need you to check it and sign it, possibly add things like car registration number).
- They will ask for a credit card as the deposit for the room. **THE CARD WILL NOT BE CHARGED AT THAT TIME.** However, they will put a 'reserve' against it for the cost of the room for the weekend plus a bit for possible extras. This 'reserve' will be cleared when you check out and pay.
- They will give you a key to your room.
- Now go and register with the convention, unpack, have a shower, or whatever.

- On the day you are leaving, you need to check out by midday. This doesn't mean you have to leave the hotel, but you do have to vacate your room (so they can clean it for someone else).
- You take your room key to the hotel desk, where they will make up the final bill.
- You then pay the bill. You needn't use the same credit card as you used for the deposit, although you can, you can even pay in cash. Cheques, however, are normally not accepted (they take a long time to clear and there is danger of them bouncing).
- If you have luggage but are staying later, it may be possible to leave it somewhere.

How to Get There

The address (in case you get lost):

Ramada Grantham (formerly Marriott Grantham)

Swingbridge Road

Grantham

NG31 7XT

Phone: 44 147 6593 000

Fax: 44 1476 592 592

GPS coordinates: N52 53.989 W0 39.718 (WGS 84)

Directions:

- By road: You want to get to the junction of the A1 and A607. From the south (London or the M25), go north on the A1. From the north, go south on the A1. From the west A52 until you get to the A1, then turn south on the A1 one junction. Turn off onto the A607 towards Grantham (east), then first left. From the east A52, go west towards Grantham. When you get to the B1174 cross over it onto Springfield Road. At the first major junction (a bit over half a mile) bear left onto Harlaxton Road, after just under half a mile turn right. Having done those, you'll come to a small roundabout, take the second exit (right) onto Swingbridge Road, the hotel is on the right.
- By train: Grantham station is on the London Kings Cross to Edinburgh line. The station is one mile from the hotel.
- By air: East Midlands (EMA), Leeds/Bradford (LBA), and Stanstead (STN) are the closest, although the first two need a bus or taxi to the nearest station. Or via London Heathrow (LHR) or Gatwick (LGW) and get the train from Kings Cross.

Footloose Filker

As you may have noticed from the front page, as well as our previously announced guests we also have a Footloose Filker. This year this is Lastalda from Germany.

Lastalda is from Dresden in Germany (yet another one!). She is twenty three, has a one-year-old daughter and is currently studying molecular biology. For fun she enjoys music, books (especially but not limited to fantasy), roleplaying, and talking with people.

Programme

The programme is now closed! If you haven't sent us your slot requests, your options are the One-Shots (or 2x10s, or Main Concert) or of course the late night circles.

If you do have a programme slot, thank you to those who have already sent in their tech requirements. For the rest of you, please send them to us. If you are not sure of your exact tech requirements yet, please list everything you think you might need, and say what's definite and what's not. Remember to include the things that are "always there anyway." (They might not be, if nobody asks for them!) That particularly includes things like a 'backing' CD or if you want your set to be recorded by the tech crew. And the latter brings us on to:

Recording Policy

(Never say I can't do a lead-in!)

Those of you who have come to UK filkcons in the past will probably know this, but it's worth reading anyway.

- Any recordings made are for personal use only. That means you can play them, put them on your MP3 player, and even play them for friends and family, but **NO DISTRIBUTION** without express permission of everyone involved (this includes the performers and the writers and copyright holders).
- Programme items are primarily for those present. This means that you must not hold up the performance to "change a tape", or stick a microphone in a performer's face.
- Recording someone is not permitted if they don't want it. This applies to concerts and to circles, if they say "don't record this" then don't record it.
- Connected to that, unattended recording is at your own risk. If you leave the equipment unattended, someone else may switch it off (for instance if a "no recording" song comes up) – and if they can't find the switch then may just pull the plug or battery. Or of course they may trip over it, or a child may eat it.

Call for Stewards

We would really like some help “on the day”. We are therefore asking for volunteers to be stewards – not committee members, but the “first line” for things like time keeping, organising drinks for performers, announcing programme items, and general gofering. If you are capable and willing to do any of those (not necessarily all of them, and we're not expecting anyone to work the whole weekend!) please get in touch with us. Preferably before the con, but at the con is good as well.

Tech crew

Similarly, if you want to help with tech, in setup, teardown, “front of house” microphone wrangling, mixing, or whatever, please contact us. Or contact the tech desk at the con (there may be a sign-up sheet for some of those).

Contact details

Please use the UK postal address below for general contacts with the committee, or (especially for speed) you can email the committee at

vanderfilk@contabile.org.uk

Our website is at:

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

Postal address:

Van der Filk
c/o The Mill House
1379 Lincoln Road
Werrington
Peterborough
PE4 6LT

Note the cut-off date for hotel booking 31st December!

Membership List

Committee and guests are first, everyone else is sorted by badge name if any, otherwise surname and forename. Type of membership is C for committee, G for guest, and M for everyone else.

C Paul Bristow	M Gwen Funnell	M Vera Emlyn
C Colin	M Hilary Ann	M Vera's Zimmerframe
C Keris	M Rhodri James	M Peter Wareham
C Mike Whitaker	M Jessica	M Karen Westhead
G Gwen Knighton Raftery	M John	M Kathy Westhead
G Tony	M Ju	M Mike Westhead
G Vixy	M Kate	M Peter Westhead
M Lissa Allcock	M Janet Maughan	M Tricia Williams
M Philip Allcock	M Robert Maughan	M Zander Nyronnd
M Aunty Marion	M Melusine	M Zelandeth
M Azakir Devaris	M Mich Sampson	M Omega
M Barbara	M Miki	M Silke
M Andrew Barton	M Minnow	M Steffi
M Michael Bernardi	M Tom Nanson	M Debbie
M Bill	M Nat	M Hitch
M Brenda	M Alison Richards	M Martin Easterbrook
M Christo	M Mike Richards	M David Peek
M Corwin•K	M Rick H	M Marilisa
M Countess Axylides	M Rika	M Anne W
M Abigail Crook	M Roger Robinson	M James W
M Alistair Crook	M Tony Rogers	M Dorian
M Deborah Crook	M Snowdrop	M Heather Borean
M Liz Crook	Explodes	M Carsten
M Rachel Crook	M Soir	M Smac
M Rafe Culpin	M Songbird	M Katy
M Dave S	M Talis Kimberley	M Joe Raftery
M Lawrence Dean	M Tarkara Kamaris	M Anna Raftery
M DJ Bass	M Teddy	M Emily Raftery
M Donnacat	M The Magician	M Andrew
M Sue Edwards	M Peter Tyers	M Gavin
M Pippa Fairbourn	M Valerie	
M Footloose Filker	M Vaurien	