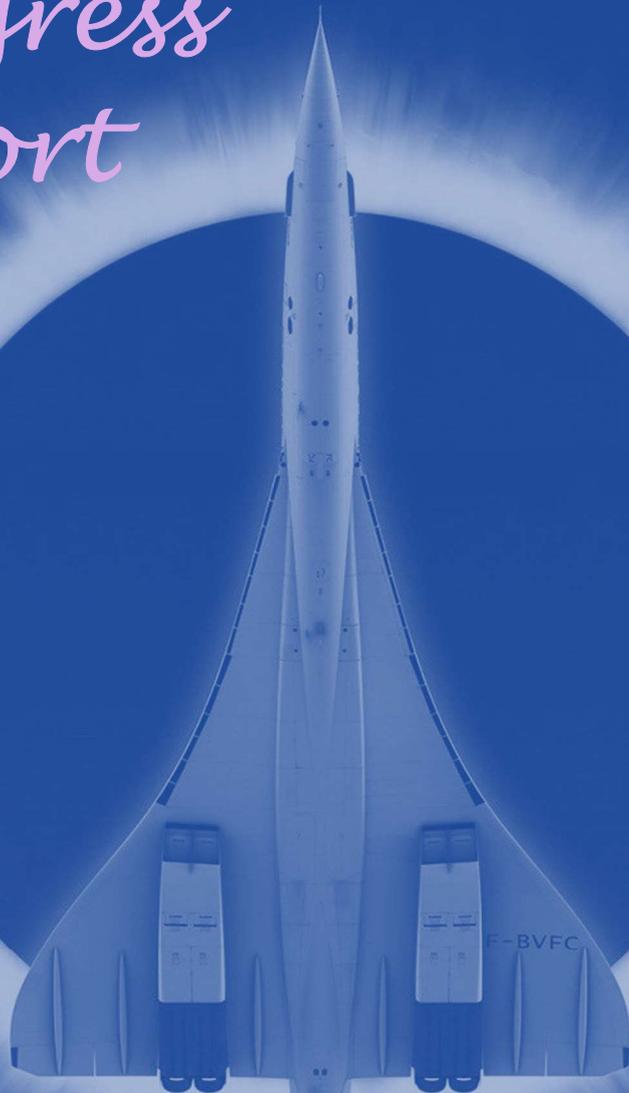


*Fourth  
Progress  
Report*



*Conflu*  
**CONCORDE**

**Corflu Concorde (Corflu 38),  
The Mercure Holland House Hotel,  
Redcliffe Hill, Bristol BS1 6SQ  
5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> November 2021**



**ORGANISING TEAM  
(aka the CONCORDE CREW)**

*The list is now complete. Jerry Kaufman is no longer listed, as his task is done.  
In alphabetical order:*

- Sandra Bond: Auction & Special Publications**
- Bill Burns: Webmaster**
- Nic Farey: FAAn Award Administrator**
- Tommy Ferguson: Programme**
- Keith Freeman: Memberships and Treasurer**
- Rob Jackson: Chair, Hotel Liaison & Publications**
- Ian Millsted: Local Agent**
- Peter Sullivan: Virtual Corflu**
- Pat Virzi: US Agent**

## CONVENTION NEWS

- **Attending rates rise end Sept: join soon!**
- **A hybrid con, with Zoom**
- **Virtual memberships: free**
- **Open Mike Night Friday evening**
- **Auction: material wanted, as ever!**
- **Travel: developments and discounts**
- **Fanthology: Daangerous Visions**
- **Programme Book: local fan history**
- **T-shirt**
- **Corflu Fifty: next year**

## WELCOME!

It has been a few months since Progress Report 3 which launched the FAAn Awards Ceremony back in March. We have deliberately held off sending out another Progress Report while there was so much uncertainty during the summer about the likelihood of travel from overseas to the UK – indeed initially, there was uncertainty about travel within the UK. We aren't yet quite sure how easy Transatlantic travel will be, but the more flexible travellers are in response to the ever-changing COVID safety rules set by various Governments, the more likely it is that we will make the best of things, get together and have fun.

But even if we can't meet in person, we are developing the Virtual Corflu concept so the con will be a hybrid event, and those members who can't make it to the convention in person can get as much involvement and enjoyment of the con – the programme in particular – as we can manage.

And our plans are so much clearer, with plenty of definite developments, that we do need to tell you what is going on.

A big welcome to Tommy Ferguson who will be hosting the Programme on the day, and to Peter Sullivan who will be managing the Virtual Corflu, which will make full use of Zoom to make the con much more interactive this year. And a big thank you to Sandra Bond for three major roles, detailed elsewhere.

## MEMBERSHIP RATES

As COVID left uncertainties about travel, we kept the rates the same for longer than we initially attended, recognising that people needed time to be sure of their plans. However,

as the con approaches, we want to encourage people not to delay any longer. **So from 1 October attending membership will be £60 or US\$75** (previously £50 or \$60). Supporting membership is unchanged. Please encourage anyone you know who has not yet joined but is thinking of doing so, to join soon!

## PROGRAMME

We have all been apart for so long that this will be one of the first conventions for twenty months. Indeed, for many of us, lockdown will be sandwiched between two successive Corflus – Heatwave in March 2020 in Texas, and Concorde in November 2021 in Bristol. So allowing plenty of time for us simply to socialise with each other once again is plenty of reason for the programme not to be too packed, with long gaps for meals and chat.

### Friday 5 November:

Afternoon: Guided walk round Bristol waterfront and city centre, weather permitting. Having come to a lively and historic city, we can't just ignore it!

Early evening: Opening Ceremony, followed by one panel, and a 2.5-hour break for traditional fannish outings for dinner to one of Bristol's many restaurants. The GoH Draw will be held, as ever, during the Opening Ceremony. Details will be confirmed in PR5 a couple of weeks before the con, but we do not expect to demand money from anyone who prefers not to risk coming out of the hat!

Late evening: **Open Mike Night.** As much of the planning for this Corflu has been last minute and short notice, we have not planned a reading or dramatic production. Instead, this is up to you. **Songs, sketches, skits or stories** – whatever you like. **Bring your guitar, your bongos, your didgeridoo, or your ghostly white sheets – anything for a laugh!**

### Saturday 6 November:

Morning: Two panels, finishing well before 1 pm. Exact timing to be confirmed. 90-minute lunch break. Possible topics include: How First Contact has changed; Fandom and the pandemic; Bristol and South-West fandom; print-on-demand or online only? Further suggestions are still welcome.

Afternoon: Either one or two panels, then the Auction. Sandra Bond will reprise her expertise at running Corflu auctions, with a team of helpers (runners, cashiers and so on) who will be gathered nearer the time. (You probably know who you are!) Timing and length will depend on the volume of auction material on offer. **Auction material is very welcome!** 2.5-hour break for dinner again.

Evening: Back by almost universal popular demand, Sandra Bond's Just a Minac panel game will test how many brain cells are still left inside the heads of her victims – er, panellists – after a couple of evenings' socialising.

## **Sunday 7 November:**

*Morning and lunchtime:* As there won't be a full FAAn Awards Ceremony, the traditional Banquet and Awards Ceremony will be shortened this year, so we can start it later and hold it as a buffet lunch rather than a brunch. (So breakfast first is allowed!) The traditional GoH Speech and Past Presidency of FWA will feature as always, and there will be a brief presentation of their FAAn Award trophies to any winners present. (Of course, we don't yet know which US winners will make it across the Atlantic!)

There will also be presentations about future Corflus. Planning for the 2022 Corflu, Corflu Pangloss in Vancouver, BC is already well under way, but we hope to hear what Ulrika O'Brien and her team are getting ready for us. Though a decision about the 2023 Corflu won't be ratified till next spring in Vancouver, there is already a plan for the 2023 con to be in Belfast, and Tommy Ferguson will tell us about this.

## **VIRTUAL CORFLU**

Corflu already has a tradition of making the programme available online, most recently via YouTube. Sometimes, if the connection has been quick enough, we have been able to accept remote bids for material during the Auction. However, most of the time it didn't work, as delay in the upload and download connections made it impossible for remote bidders to respond to being outbid by those in the hall.

The pandemic and lockdown have changed all that. One of the very few benefits of the pandemic has been the burgeoning of remote conferencing to keep us all in touch. It may be a pale substitute for meeting in real life, but conferencing via Zoom and its siblings has been a Godsend when the alternative was enforced hermitry. (Chambers says that word doesn't exist, but I think it should. I hereby invent it.) So nearly all of us are coming out of lockdown knowing how to use Zoom and its siblings for almost instantaneous worldwide video conversation. That is not only how to get the app's settings right, but also to find the people around the world you want to chat with and set up structures for meetings, virtual conventions and other sources of distant, virtual fun.

When we decided to delay Corflu Concorde by 8 months rather than a full year, we knew we might be close to the wind as far as the return of international travel was concerned. As I write, we are less than three months from Corflu Concorde, and we still aren't sure how easy it will be! The prevalence of the virus and the rules set by the national Governments involved can't be predicted more than a short time in advance. So some may be brave enough to arrange travel at short notice and be able to afford the PCR tests and other unavoidable hoops we will be asked to jump through for transatlantic flight. But understandably, others will prefer not to take the risk.

So even more of us than usual will be sitting at home frustrated by circumstances and wishing they could be at the con; and the more we can share what is going on in Bristol with other Corfluvians around the world, the better!

# VIRTUAL MEMBERSHIPS and ZOOM RULES

We have been working on how to share Corflu Concorde with those not in Bristol. Here is what we have confirmed so far, though these rules will be finalised in PR5:

- The programme will be broadcast via Zoom.
- We will be able to use the live transcription feature in the advanced, paid-for version.
- We will send Zoom link details not only to all attending and supporting members, but also to a new category of virtual member. These will not be made public in the PRs but will be emailed separately to each member.
- Virtual membership will be free, but you will only be admitted to the Zoom calls if you have registered in advance as a member. This is to avoid non-fannish interlopers and trolls.
- **Those who want to join as virtual members should register in advance by sending their email address to me or any other committee member.** Obviously, to receive convention publications you need to be a supporting or attending member.
- The panellists will be “live” at the con and visible on a single screen.
- The remote audience will by default be muted. Questions and comments from the remote audience can be typed in the Zoom chat channel, and the Zoom moderator at the laptop can read these or unmute the questioner so a chat can take place.
- People who want to bid on a particular auction item can also ask to unmute at the beginning of the bidding on that item.
- The Zoom events will be recorded for posterity, as have the panels at recent Corflus. If you in the remote audience don’t wish to be visible to posterity, we suggest you turn off your video.
- There will be a separate Discord channel for other chat about the convention, which will also be a source of up-to-date info about the con.
- People will be able to use the public part of this channel to apply for virtual membership, which when okayed will allow access to the Zoom links.

## HOTEL BOOKINGS

Accor Group hotels have now added their own online booking system to each individual hotel’s website, including the Mercure Holland House.

Sadly, however, this is not yet available for us to book our discounted rates, so **please do NOT use the hotel’s new online booking system** or you will risk paying full whack for your room.

For your convenience, the booking form – which is actually unchanged from the last fillable one – is being sent as an attachment once again, alongside this PR.

# CONVENTION PUBLICATIONS

## **Programme Book**

We hope to include plenty of local colour about fandom in Bristol and South-West England. There is a lot of colourful history locally with fan groups, conventions and well-known fanzine editors – Archie Mercer, Peter Roberts, Doug Bell and Christina Lake to name just a few. The 1967 and 1973 Eastercons were held in Bristol – Briscon and Ompacon.

Local fandom is wider than just fanzine fandom; just the weekend before Corflu, the latest iteration of Bristolcon is being held. This has run successfully every year since 2009, though for obvious reasons last year's event was held by Zoom. This year, like ours, their event will be a hybrid one. For details go to [www.bristolcon.org](http://www.bristolcon.org).

Expect a very striking cover from Venetia Easton (previously Venetia Jackson).

## **Special publication: Daangerous Visions**

Sandra Bond has edited and is masterminding the production of this fanthology, which showcases the very best of some brilliantly evocative and truly fannish fan fiction that has been written – over 70 years, starting in 1939. This is being illustrated by Steve Jeffery. Authors include Sam Moskowitz, Redd Boggs, Charles Burbee, Bob Tucker, Terry Jeeves, Jim Barker (art), Kevin Smith, Simon Ounsley, Chris Hughes, Ted White, Taral Wayne and Nic Farey. You will get your copy at the con, or later in the post if you are a supporting member or unable to attend.

# T-SHIRT

Venetia Easton's art for the Programme Book cover will also be available as a T-shirt. If orders for this open up before PR5, we will let you know with an interim emailing.

# TRAVEL

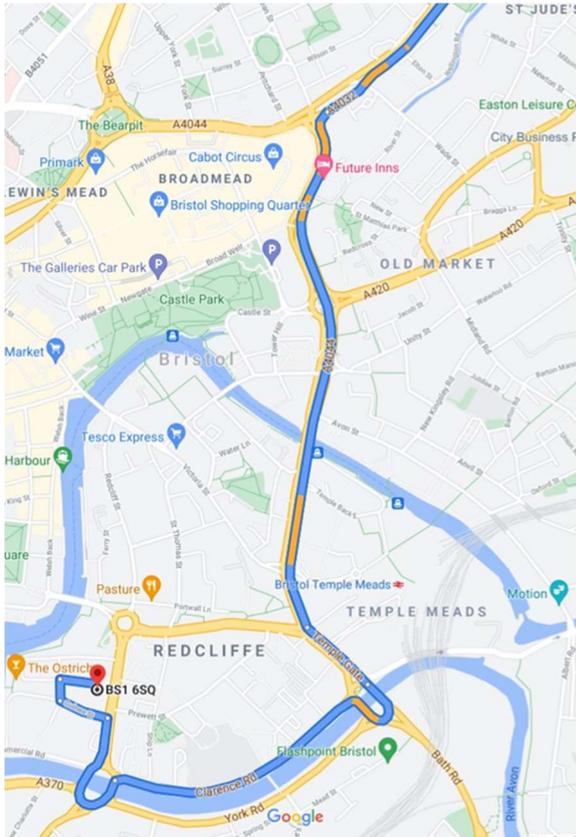
## **Overall picture:**

It is still unclear whether there will be further relaxation of rules, or new restrictions in the next few months, as this depends both on the way the battle between the virus on the one hand, and the vaccination programme and sensible precautions by all of us on the other, play out. We can't second-guess that. See more detail in the Corflu Fifty comments below. But what we can do is give guidance on the assumption people can travel.

## **Getting to the hotel:**

### **By car:**

Most routes into Bristol from the North, the East (including London), or across the Second Severn Crossing from Wales, involve leaving the M4 motorway at Junction 19 and coming



into Bristol from the north on the M32. To the left is a Google Maps guide to the route from the M32 into the city and to the hotel, and below is a more detailed map of the route round the back of the hotel to the two car parks. Use BS1 6SQ in your satnav or app.

**Air, bus and rail travel:**

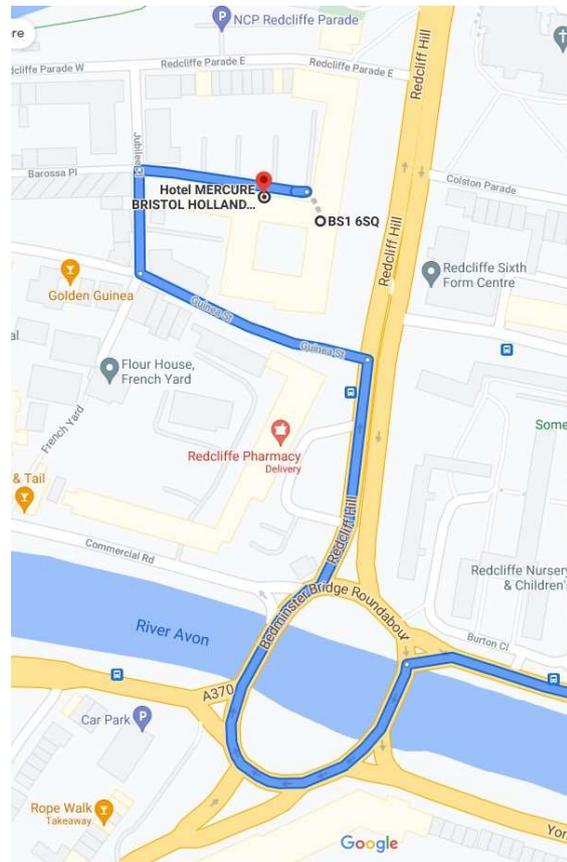
If (fingers crossed) Transatlantic travel happens, most Americans and Canadians will arrive at **Heathrow**. Once you get through Heathrow’s passport, immigration and infection control processes (congratulations), the most direct route to Bristol is by coach straight from Heathrow to Bristol. This takes 2 hours 5 minutes.

Train to London Paddington is via the Heathrow Express (fast but expensive) or the Underground (slower but cheaper); you have to change from the Piccadilly Line to the District Line at Earls Court to get to Paddington).

**Paddington** to Bristol Temple Meads station is a straightforward rail trip on Great Western Railway, usually less than 1 hour 40 minutes, but getting to Paddington first takes up to an hour. This adds enough time to make the coach just as fast, and on the coach you don’t have the hassle of hauling your bags round various Underground stations. Coach fares are lower, too.

If you fly to **Gatwick**, coaches to Bristol involve a change, usually via the Gatwick to Heathrow coach, which is an hour. Overall this may take three and a half or four hours. Train is quicker: get the Gatwick Express to London Victoria, then the Circle Line westbound to Paddington.

There are flights from various Irish airports direct to **Bristol airport**. The Bristol Flyer airport bus is up to every 20 minutes and takes 40 minutes. It costs £8 single, £13 return.



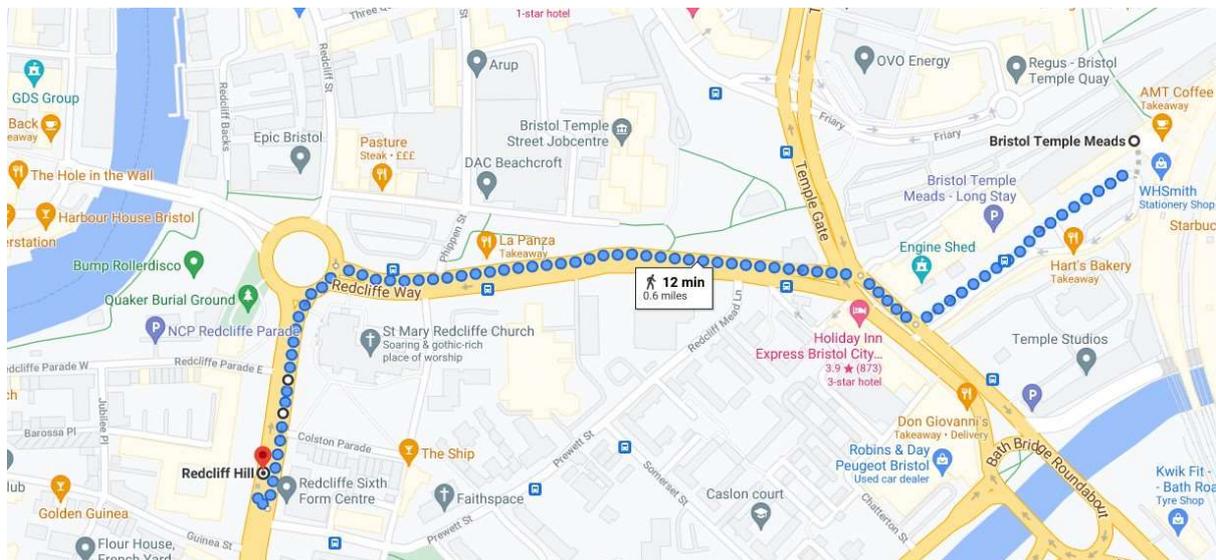
The walk from Bristol bus station to the hotel takes around 20 minutes – see the map at right.

If you arrive by train, the walk from Temple Meads station to the hotel is 12-13 minutes; see the map below.

### Discounted rail travel:

Bristol (& Bath) Tourism have done a deal with GWR so that anyone going to a conference in Bristol can get reduced rail fares. You can get the GWR offer on PEAK (i.e. a weekday morning), to Bristol, if eligible.

The small print is that you must book a specific train to Bristol; but you can catch any GWR train you like on the way home. This only applies on GWR services, including from London Paddington; unfortunately, not to any other train company that serves Bristol such as Cross Country or South-Western Railway). When travelling you may be asked for documentary proof that you are attending an event in Bristol, so our email confirming you are a con member should suffice!



To get the discounted travel, go to: [Discounted Train Travel](#). Thanks to MeetBathBristol, Dave Lally and the Bristolcon team for the info.

# THE CORFLU FIFTY

**Rob Jackson**

Back in May, it also seemed likely that the combination of vaccines and continued awareness would soon have Covid infections heading towards zero, at least in countries where the vaccines were widely available. Unfortunately vaccinations plateaued and new variants spread, so now we see Covid cases at a higher level than we had hoped.

The recent requirement for Americans visiting the UK to quarantine for ten days (with a fine of up to £10,000 for breaking rules) has thankfully been dropped, as long as they have proof of two Covid vaccinations; but there is still a requirement to sign up for two Covid tests (plus one pre-departure).

The rules for travellers returning to the US from the UK and Europe are also very strict just now. It is very difficult to predict whether these will be relaxed by November, and by how much.

Governments at both ends have to set their own rules, and there is no clear international consensus, as the patterns of infection are so unpredictable. The rules can be changed at short notice according to the whims of the virus and the governments. There are different restrictions in place for different countries outside the UK, some of them less severe.

Individual travellers can respond to these winds of change with flexibility and change their plans at short notice, but the process of choosing, contacting and collecting funds for a Corflu Fifty guest takes quite a bit longer, and requires a stable international environment.

By contrast, just now we are shooting at a constantly moving target, and it is really not feasible to send a non-resident to Corflu Concorde. Both the Corflu Fifty organisers (Rich Coad and myself) feel that limiting the potential pool of candidates to UK residents rather undercuts the spirit of things.

For these reasons we are skipping sending a Corflu 50 guest to Corflu Concorde and restarting with Corflu Pangloss in Vancouver next March. The Canadian border is opening to vaccinated Americans in August, so there is at least a reasonable chance Americans will be able to go that Corflu. The same applies to Brits, as long as Canada stays on the UK government's "amber" list, and the British traveller is fully UK vaccinated, or if Canada changes to "green."

So that's where things stand. It is a shame there won't be a C50 guest this year, but we made up for it in advance by having two at Corflu Heatwave!

## CORFLU CONCORDE MEMBERS

Correct up to 21 August 2021; listed alphabetically, with membership numbers and supporting/attending status alongside. Currently 53 attending (28 UK/Ireland, 25 US or other overseas) and 16 supporting members (3 UK, 13 US or other overseas).

69	A	Hazel Ashworth West	46	S	Mike Meara
41	A	Mowgli Assor	47	S	Pat Meara
29	S	Karen Babich	54	A	Farah Mendlesohn
32	A	James Bacon	27	A	Ian Millsted
3	A	Tom Becker	4	A	Murray Moore
26	A	Doug Bell	5	A	Mary Ellen Moore
52	A	Harry Bell	49	A	Caroline Mullan
53	A	Pat Bell	15	A	John Nielsen-Hall
45	S	John D. Berry	39	A	Ulrika O'Brien
62	A	Jeanne Bowman	8	A	Mark Olson
13	A	Claire Brialey	2	A	spike
37	A	Bill Burns	11	S	Curt Phillips
38	A	Mary Burns	14	A	Mark Plummer
57	A	Steven Cain	30	A	John Purcell
7	S	Jim Caughran	31	A	Valerie Purcell
9	A	Rich Coad	19	S	Dave Redd
33	S	Nic Farey	28	A	Mark W. Richards
34	S	J. L. Farey	61	A	Alan Rosenthal
24	A	Doug Faunt	40	S	Heath Row
10	A	Tommy Ferguson	42	A	Nigel Rowe
66	A	Vikki Lee France	68	A	Yvonne Rowse
23	A	Keith Freeman	60	S	David L. Russell
55	A	Ron Gemmell	58	A	Karen Schaffer
51	S	John Hertz	56	A	Alison Scott
35	A	Lucy Huntzinger	20	A	Paul Skelton
22	A	Rob Jackson	21	A	Cas Skelton
65	A	Steve Jeffery	67	A	Ian Sorensen
43	A	Jerry Kaufman	36	A	Geri Sullivan
63	S	Marcin Klak	48	A	Peter Sullivan
25	A	Christina Lake	44	A	Suzanne Tompkins
12	A	Dave Langford	50	S	R-Laurraine Tutihasi
16	S	Robert Lichtman	6	A	Pat Virzi
64	S	Gary Mattingly	59	A	Mike Ward
17	A	Ian Maule	1	A	Ted White
18	A	Janice Maule			

Virtual members will be listed in PR5, but membership will be open right till the con starts.

## **BRISTOL ACTIVITIES, ATTRACTIONS AND CUISINE**

There will be much more info in PR5, which will be emailed by the end of October, and in a ReadMe booklet where we will include all the last minute must-know information.