

Update Number Nine

April *"It won't be long now"*



TRAMP, TRAMP, TRAMP, THE BOYS ARE MARCHING

In just a few weeks, Sons of the Desert will be marching into Norwich for the 38th UK Laurel and Hardy Convention ready to have the time of their lives. This is almost true, for 143 Sons will be heading to Norfolk's county town and we certainly hope that everyone does indeed have the time of their lives. But I don't anticipate any marching. 'Trains and Boats and Planes' will be the main forms of transport as everyone heads to the Mercure Hotel. Have a safe journey, pack up your troubles but don't lose your luggage (it could happen) and remember that all the profits go to the fish!

CHECK LIST?

In the last Update, I printed a Check List. I thought I would repeat myself, repeat myself, repeat myself...too much cucumber!

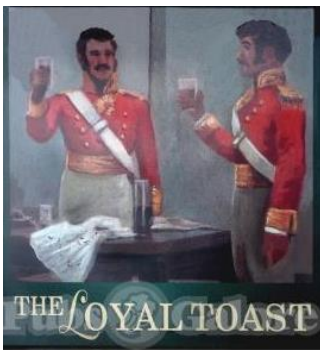
- **Tent Banners** - We will display them in the Ballroom. We will not have a Parade as such, but a 'Welcome Sons' greeting on the first night.
- **Dealer's Tables** - The memorabilia room is a great place to browse and discover an array of Laurel & Hardy items on sale. But we are not restricting the merchandise just to L & H items. If you think you have any appropriate items to sell (CDs, books, magazines connected to film and TV are always popular) then bring them along. To book a FREE table please contact Paul Allen sapsontour@aol.com

- **Fancy Dress** - The more the merrier! This is always a fun event and we would love to have plenty of participants. Don't be shy, give it a try.
- **Sons Entertain** - This is an event that in recent years has got bigger, better and is very entertaining. So we need to keep up this trend. We need more participants please. John Ullah is our MC for the event so please contact him by e-mail to join in the fun. j.ullah@blueyonder.co.uk
- **Fezzes** - I didn't mention fezzes last time as I thought no self-respecting Son can forget their fez, can they? Make sure you are cool and bring and wear you fez!



LOYAL TOASTS

Dave Dearle is our Toast Master during the Convention. The Loyal Toasts are a tradition which we cherish and we will have them at each of our three evening meals. If you are invited and accept his invitation to do a toast, please ensure that your tribute doesn't last longer than two hours as the beer will go flat. If you are not chosen, it could be bad luck or it could be that Dave doesn't like you!



This is the pub sign of my local hostelry. But I have to confess I have only been in there once in the twenty years since I have lived in Southend. Cheers!

GOODY BAGS

'Mad' Paul has had a sort-out of his garden shed, so we have cobbled together a goody bag for every Conventioneer. These will be available at the Registration Desk on Friday between 1pm and 6pm. If you arrive after 6pm then your goody bag will be available on eBay!

On second thoughts, just in case they don't sell on eBay, we will have them available for late-comers in the ballroom when we have our opening banquet.

NORWICH CITY MAPS

Many Sons are arriving a day early at the Convention. We have Norwich City maps available for you then in case you want to do some city exploring. Everyone will be given one of these maps on Saturday morning when we go by coach to the Norwich Puppet Theatre. The maps will be pre-marked with relevant information relating our coach trip and L & H's visit in 1954.

CASH POINT

There is a cash machine in the bank next door to the Mercure Hotel.

SWIMMING POOL & GYMNASIUM

The Hotel has an indoor heated swimming pool, sauna and steam room. However I understand that you are not allowed to wear bowler hats in you are going in for a dip

For those of us who need to get our bodies into better shape – which is probably all 143 of us – there is a gym equipped with treadmill, rowing machine, exercise bike and weights.



The leisure facilities if the swimming pool and gym are FREE for all Conventioneers during their stay.

PARKING

There are 225 parking spaces in the hotel car park and it is FREE

Enjoy your stay at the Mercure Hotel Norwich during the Convention

Mercure Norwich Hotel

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