

Forum Minutes: London, 31st October 2009



(1) Hello and welcome

Present: Diane (National Coordinator), Tony (Legal Issues Advisor), Dave (Technical Advisor), Stephen (Technical Administrator), Nikki (Music Resources Administrator), Nathan (stand-in Warwick Rep), Mario (Liverpool Rep), Renee (Liverpool), Fiona (stand-in Keele Rep), Corrine (stand-in Bristol Rep), Charlie (UEA Rep), Mark (stand-in Edinburgh Rep), Emma (Leeds Rep), Graeme (Aberdeen Rep and News Administrator), Jo (Cambridge Rep and Southern Intercessor), Becky (Royal Holloway Rep), Hayley (Southern Regional Worker and Prayer Chain Coordinator), Heather (stand-in London Rep), Tizzy (External Content Administrator), Alex (Central Intercessor), Jonny (Friends of Rev Worker), Alison (National Administrator).

Apologies: St Andrew's

(2) Matters arising from last forum

National hoodies

National Rev is in the process of producing hoodies which are being designed by Hannah (former NC) and Paul (Design Secretary). The Rev logo will be on the front (left side) and on the back will be a Burpee made out of Revelation words and phrases e.g. titles of WiM's, Aims and Values, Guardian Angels and warm ups etc. Anyone wishing to see or comment on the design can contact Diane. Currently awaiting reply as to how many letters will be available to personalise hoodies with your name or position etc. A question was raised at last forum as to whether or not the hoodies would be fair-trade and it is now known that there is hardly any difference in price between the two. National Reps voted in favour of fair-trade hoodies. The cost is going to be approximately £25. Hannah has asked forum to discuss, what if any profit National Rev should be making from these hoodies. General opinions were sought from everyone attending forum and then National Reps voted 6 to 5 in favour of hoodies costing £26 rather than £27. A choice of no zip and zipped hoodies would be best but if not available it was decided that no zips was preferred. (However individuals stated they would be willing to pay extra for a zipped option). The choice of colours which would be available was decided as black, blue, dark grey, hot pink and purple. Diane asked National Reps to make it very clear to choirs that hoodies will not be ordered until funds have reached and cleared the Revelation account. Payment will be either by cheque or the online banking account. Hannah has asked if someone will take on the organising and ordering of the national hoodies and Stephen volunteered to take on this role. Diane suggested a deadline of the beginning of December for the ordering of hoodies but will contact National Reps with exact details. Mario indicated that he may be able to source cheaper hoodies and will discuss with Stephen.

WiM CDs

The WiM CDs are ready to begin production and we have one finished version of the CD complete with artwork. Everyone involved has been working really hard to get the CD out. There are 45 pre-orders who will receive CDs first and others can be ordered online at wim.woo.hu.

(3) Choir updates

London

- We have our concert coming up on 27th Nov, at St Georges in Bloomsbury at 7:30pm.
- We are also doing lots of other things in the run up to Christmas
 - Carol singing in Belgravia
 - Singing for Christian Aid
 - Singing at Church of Hope
- We have about 40 members at the moment.

Cambridge

- We had an excellent response to Freshers Fayre and have had 3 rehearsals this session to date with about 75 attending our 1st rehearsal. We have around 50 regular members and lots of men!
- We are preparing for our Christmas concert. We have had problems with our initial venue being double booked but we now have a back-up venue. The venue will be confirmed soon.
- Socials – we had a formal dinner attended by about 26 people and are going bowling.
- We will be singing at a Christmas lights switch-on on 15th Nov
- We are also planning a Birthday celebration probably in late February which National Revvers will be welcome to attend.

UEA

- We had a good response from Freshers Fayre, with about 40 members and 20-30 regular members
- We have had 2 socials – musical/pizza night and a karaoke night
- We have 4 concerts/performances planned in the coming weeks including:
 - Lights switch-on on the 19th Nov
 - Carols in the square

Royal Holloway

- Have started really well! Have a lovely committee all who are working amazingly hard.
- We have 76 members, still struggling to keep up the male numbers though.
- We have upped our rehearsals to twice a week – get in more rehearsals and songs for the show
- Already performed at an event, sang three songs which went really well

- Starting our community outreach a week Thursday, we are performing in an old people's home. Plan to do two more performances there this term and again more next term.
- We have had one big social to London – the Celebration of life concert with LCGC, Maxi Priest etc in Southbank centre, and lots of smaller ones, just going out on campus. We are planning another one for the 21st of Nov – Go Ape in Bracknell and we are hoping to go and see a musical too.
- Have our Christmas concert on the 4th and 5th of Dec on Campus. People are very welcome to come, its joint with another choir on campus – Absolute harmony. Have some really cool songs, Khumbaya, Now Behold the Lamb, Sister Act Medley, Pray, Giants, The Killers – war child, Amazing Grace, Hosanna, I believe and He lives in you.
- Money we raise will go to charity. War child and Sue Ryder.
- Are going to go Christmas carolling for charity in the last week of term.

Aims -

- More collaborative stuff with other choirs around us. Possibly doing a big concert in spring?! Would be willing to host it. Or possibly doing more workshops together, just for the day rather than the weekend.
- More workshops – any ideas/contact?
- Want to do a tour, at the moment trying to get two new committee positions so that we can have two people dedicated to organising a tour.
- More socials.

Bristol

Bristol Rev has had a good start to the year, with over 100 new people signing up to the mailing list at the freshers fair. We had about 70-80 people at our first rehearsal, and about 50-60 at every rehearsal since then. We've now had 4 rehearsals and are starting to think about our Christmas concert which will be on Tuesday 8th December 2009. This will be an inter-society concert together with TUBBS, BUJO and MTB presents. We are also working on getting some members of MethSoc to do a couple of readings.

We're planning to have a social, which will be a pub quiz either next week or the week after. Apart from that, we're just working towards our Christmas plans, which aside from the concert will probably include carol singing with PantoSoc and performing at CHH Snow Ball.

It's a bit of a transition period for us because we have a lot of new member and not many people who have been in the choir for very long. But we're trying hard to make it the best year that Bristol Rev have had in a while!

Warwick

- Warwick Rev is officially FIT!
- 80-100 people attending each week, once everyone signs up online we should have at least 120.
- Christmas concert at Westwood Church on 05/12/09, 1930hrs
- In the early stages of planning a tour in the summer, no details yet though.
- We have hundreds of CDs we need to sell.

- We've got badges and stickers and they're lush! We'll be bringing them along to Southern Weekend Away.
- Carol Service is not confirmed yet at Coventry Cathedral
- We've had one social, very poorly attended. We're having a big environment rethink.

Keele

- We had a good response from Freshers Fayre and now have about 25 regular members including quite a lot of international students this year.
- We have a social planned for Tuesday – pizza and Hairspray!
- Our Christmas concert is on 12th Dec

Liverpool

- International Freshers Welcome Event on Monday 21st September
- Freshers Fair 27th Sept
- 1st rehearsal 29th Sept
- Diane visited on Tue 27th Oct
- Plan visit to Keele Rev possibly 2nd Nov
- International Freshers Christmas event – date to be confirmed
- Arranging to go to sing at West Kirby Church
- Hopefully electing a committee in November

Leeds

- We have relatively low numbers at the moment – around 10-15 regulars
- We are starting to plan for our concert which will be in the last week of term
- Will have a re-freshers fayre where will try to improve numbers
 - Diane reassured Leeds that numbers fluctuate within choirs from year to year and it isn't something to be concerned about

York (by email)

- Are working hard to improve numbers and learn new songs
- Have asked for some workshops and Diane will be visiting soon

Aberdeen

- We had 2 successful days at the 2 Freshers Fayres (Aberdeen University and Robert Gordon University)
- We're averaging at 30 people coming every week

Coming up:

- Concert 12th Dec
- Singing at a care home on 2nd Dec
- Possible Carol Singing with a local church later in December
- Busking also planned to take place later in term.

Edinburgh

- Our winter concert is held on 27th and 28th of November, from 7pm to 9pm, at Augustine United Church, Edinburgh. We are looking forward to an anticipated audience of 300 over two nights. We have a size of up to 7 in the band, and more than 50 in the choir.
- We have 53 members this year, mostly newly joined, due to majority of ex-revvers have left for graduation or other reasons.
- We had a stall at the societies fair organised by Edinburgh University for two days. We attracted more than 120 people to sign up for the mailing list, to show interest in Revelation.
- Our first rehearsal held towards the end of Freshers Week, which provided an opportunity for freshers and other students at the university to have a glimpse of what Revelation is like. Attendance reached 70, and it has also successfully spread the message of Revelation.
- We busked at Bistro Square, a university main area, as requested by the Christian Union at Edinburgh University. As Christian Union handing out free lunches, we provided entertainment to those in the queue and also spread the message of Revelation.
- Social Events - they take place weekly, highlighting a pub visit after rehearsals, which most choir members gather and enjoy. There will be a girls/boys social in two weeks time from the Forum, to reinforce a sense of community within the choir.
- We have had 3 full committee meetings, consisting 7 committee members collaborating to support the running of the choir.
- We have a bake sale coming up next Tuesday to raise some funds for EdRev.

St Andrews's (via email)

- Diane visited on Wednesday
- We have 55 people attending rehearsals
- We meet on Wednesday afternoon at 2:00-3:30pm
- Our concert is this Friday!
- We now have t-shirts made with the Rev logo and Burpee
- We have booked some workshops with Diane and Jess
- Would like to attend Northern Weekend Away

(4) Updates from National Staff

Technical Administrator

Diane explained there is a new position on National Staff this year which is the Technical Administrator (Stephen Nixon). The roles of Technical Administrator and Technical Advisor and two separate positions with two distinct roles and job description of the former will be discussed at the next forum.

Technical Advisor (Dave)

- Apologises for not being at staff training – my employers sent me Tanzania!

- Concerts – we have several bookings to do the sound for concerts in December (Keele, Warwick, Cambridge)
- Have been contacted recently about previous concert recordings. Please could choirs contact Stephen and me directly on new email address (techcrew@rev.org.uk).

It was clarified that the CD recording/production is done for national but it is not part of any of the National Staff job descriptions.

Music Resources Administrator (Nikki)

Nikki handed out an info sheet to National Reps which will also be emailed out. This included a link to the music list of everything in the Rev music bank. There is now also a music request form link, which when filled out sends the details directly into Nikki's spreadsheet and so should speed up the process of sending music to the choirs. These details should be available on the Rev website shortly.

News Administrator (Graeme)

At National Staff Training it was decided to produce a Rev newsletter every fortnight. So if you have any news you want known nationally please email: news@rev.org.uk

Updates Administrator

Pierre asked Diane to remind those on National Staff if they would write a blurb about themselves, their job description and provide him with a picture to go on the Rev website. The email address is: updates@rev.org.uk

Southern Intercessor (Jo)

Jo, Alex and Alison are praying for their different regions and if choirs have anything they would like them to pray for please let them know.

External Content Administrator (Tizzy)

Tizzy explained that Ally has made Revelation Burpee as a person on facebook. If you add Revelation Burpee as a friend you can invite Revelation Burpee to your events and it will then automatically update onto Revelation Events Calendar on the Rev website.

(5) National Update

Welcome Cards

Diane sent an email at the beginning of September containing Welcome Cards and as it appears it was not received by all choirs and Liverpool found the cards useful at their Freshers Fayre this email will be sent out again.

Information for choirs

At the National Staff Training Weekend it was suggested that a small and compact pack be sent out to new committees at the start of each session. This would basically be a condensed version of the Big Book as it was felt that there is a lot of information in the Big Book for committees to read at the start of the session. The suggestion was to produce a double A4 sheet which would give information about what you should do in first rehearsal and how you should introduce Rev. There was a positive response from National Reps for these to be produced for next year and it was suggested that warm ups be included.

Choir Visits

Diane has recently visited St Andrews and Liverpool and is planning to visit Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Keele in the near future. Leeds, Aberdeen, Royal Holloway and Bristol have said they would like committee training.

Voice in a Million

Diane explained that Voice in a Million is a project being run by the British Agency for Adoption and Fostering to raise awareness of children requiring fostering and adoption in the UK and worldwide. They have invited Rev to be part of a choir of 4000 young voices. A concert will be taking place in the O2 Arena on Thursday 28th January 2010 and will cost £10 to participate (this includes admin fee and t-shirt). At the present time it is unclear how many places Voice in a Million will be allocating to Rev but Rev will make places available to choirs on a first come first serve basis. The event will be producing a CD with Rev featuring on the song Oh Happy Day. At this stage Rev is unable to guarantee a church for Revvers to stay in.

Covent Garden

Rev has been invited to sing in Covent Garden. We would have a 30 minute slot on a Thursday evening (between 15th Nov and 24th Dec) at 6-8 pm. Hopefully a church would be available for Revvers to stay in and the cost would be around £15. Diane asked National Reps to get possible numbers from choirs.

RESITS

Thinking ahead to next August, Diane would like to ensure RESITS does happen this coming year. Diane explained RESITS (Revelation in Edinburgh Singing In The Sun) was an annual event with some singing and busking and with visits to shows on in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Diane is looking for someone to help organise a venue now, so if you think you would be interested please let Diane know.

Regional Workers

We currently have no Northern or Central Regional Worker. Diane explained that the Trustees have decided to relax the guidelines for these positions and encouraged people to apply and said that all applications will be considered on their own merits.

(6) WiM 2010 and vote for WiM Co

WiM 2010 is taking place in Aberdeen on 3rd to 11th April! At the recent Trustees meeting WiM issues and finances were discussed quite extensively.

Diane read out the following email from Phil (Finance Administrator):

“Hi National Reps

We are aware that Aberdeen WiM will be our most northerly WiM since the week began, beating Glasgow by an extra 145 miles. Unfortunately this may cause a financial issue for some Revvers. Revelation always tries to have funds available to give Revvers a helping hand with travel and as this is a service that will probably be used more widely for WiM this year we have decided to formalise it by setting up a specific budget and putting into place an application. For those wishing to apply for help with their WiM travel they need to follow these steps:

- 1) Price up travel, choose the cheapest method so we can help the most people*
- 2) Over the next week I will produce a form which will be forwarded to the National Reps to be filled in by choir members and returned to NC and Phil by December 31st. And then we will contact people who have applied, to either offer full funding for their travel or part of it, depending on how many people apply.”*

This is going to be called the WiM subsidy fund. Diane asked National Reps to make it clear to choirs that the 31st December is the absolute deadline for applications. If people apply for and are awarded travel costs (and tickets are booked) and then they do not come to WiM they will owe Revelation National the money. Applications from choirs e.g. for minibus hire will also be considered. An email with all the details will be sent out shortly.

The Trustees and the Finance team have agreed that the concert proceeds will go to the venue and they are currently in negotiations with the venue about exactly how exclusivity will happen and Diane will give everyone an update at the next forum. Diane made it clear that the decision to do this will not affect the WiM budget in any way.

Pre-WiM will be held in Aberdeen on 19th - 21st Feb 2010.

Jo and Jonny both applied to be WiM Co 2010. See appendix 1 and 2 respectively for their applications.

After the National Reps voted Jo was announced as the 2010 WiM Co.

(7) Regional Weekends Away 2009

Northern Weekend Away is currently planned for the 1st weekend in Feb (5th - 7th) and possibly taking place in Dundee.

Central Weekend Away is taking place in Barnt Green on 20th – 22nd Nov.

Southern Weekend Away is also taking place in Barnt Green on 13th – 15th Nov. Hayley asked if anyone had any workshop requests for SWA and busking and conducting workshops were suggested.

Sign-up sheets will be available on the website shortly. National Reps were encouraged to promote these weekends to their choirs regardless of their region.

(8) A.O.B.

- It had previously been suggested that a Christmas weekend get-together take place in Barnt Green this year similar to Arctic which took place a few years ago. However it was decided that due to the Covent Garden event the weekend would now not take place this year.
- Stephen raised the following:
 - For the first time there is a WiM 2009 Concert DVD being produced which will hopefully be ready for ordering at Christmas. The cost was agreed at £6 plus postage and 22p online transaction.
 - At last Forum a recording session was suggested and a proposal for this has now been prepared. The suggested location is either Keele or Warwick as these both have suitable venues and also would make the event as central for everyone as possible. It was proposed that Saturday would be the band day and Sunday would be for the choir. It would be quite a long process so there would probably only be time to record about 3 songs over the weekend.

National Reps agreed that this was an event they would like to take part in and were asked to consult their choirs and email Diane (diane@rev.org.uk) a 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice of weekends between March and July (excluding February) by 25th November.

- A National song was suggested that could be learnt by all choirs so when we meet up there is one song that everyone knows. It was also suggested that it could be used as the encore song at WiM and could be changed every 2 years. It was decided that the idea would be discussed further through a facebook group.

- Fiona let forum know that Keele are currently ordering hoodies and t-shirts and asked if anyone would like to order anything to please email the Keele Rev account (keele@rev.org.uk)
- Jonny explained Friends of Rev and that his job included raising the profile of Friends of Rev. Friends on Rev should be receiving a quarterly newsletter by email and Jonny is currently working on a Friends on Rev membership card (example shown to forum). National Reps were encouraged to mention Friends of Rev to their choirs especially to those who are in their final year of university. Ideas for the newsletter can be emailed to Jonny at friends@rev.org.uk. Rev is currently receiving £128 per month from Friends of Rev.
- Diane asked National Reps for their email addresses before they leave so the list could be updated and to ensure everyone is getting all the emails.

(9) Next forum arrangement

Next forum will provisionally be in York on Saturday 30th January 2010.
More details to follow closer to the time.

(10) Thank you and close


Appendix 1


Jo's WiM Co-ordinator 2010 Application




Name: Jo Ridpath
Age: 24
Status: Married
Rev: Cambridge Rev


1) What experience do you have in Revelation, in both your own choir and nationally?


 I have been in Rev since 2003. I joined up at UEA Fresher's fair where they tempted me in with promises of singing Sister Act!

 I was the only UEA rev-er at my first WiM in 2005. It was at Bangor that I learnt the wonders of National Rev ... haribo, burpy and A+V (which were revealed to me in a cabaret sketch if memory serves!) The friendship and encouragement of total strangers was amazing! It was with this encouragement that I did my first ever solo. This friendship and encouragement is something I want every Rev-er to experience.



 I was national rep for UEA Rev ever since my first WiM '05 until leaving UEA in 2006. I spread the national Rev love to bemused UEA rev-ers who were taught the importance of haribo and general Rev-ness. I've on occasion been unofficial Cambridge national rep in '06/'07/'08 as I was at forum anyway!

 I have been to 3 full WiMs and went to Newmarket WiM concert and gate-crashed their post-concert party (Hmmm should I admit to that?)

 I was Environment Sec and a Bond group leader at WiM '09.



I am currently *officially* national rep for Cambridge.

2) What qualities do you have which would enable you to do the job of WIM Coordinator?



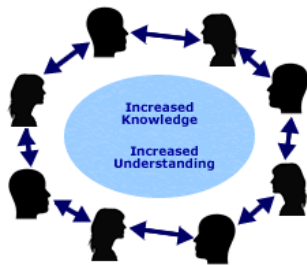
I enjoy encouraging people to fulfil their full potential, enabling independence rather than just doing something (whatever that something is) for them. I do this everyday in my job as an Occupational Therapist.



I am tactful and have experience supervising people and dealing with difficult situations.



I have experience chairing meetings and keeping them short and on – track.



I am organised and used to preparing in advance (I have to book any time out of work 8 weeks in advance due to Trust policy!)



I have *never* cried at WiM, I don't cry at soppy films or songs therefore will provide emotional stability to the WiM team! (Hmmm I have a feeling this may come back to haunt me....)



3) What do you feel will be your main priorities for WIM next year (mainly in terms of the team dynamics and the overall environment)?



I feel my main priority for WiM '10 is to provide the opportunity and atmosphere to encourage people to do new things and to grow, both in encouraging those who've never thought about it to apply for WiM team jobs and also opportunities during the week.

Personally WiM has enabled me to sing my first solo, conduct my first ever song and encouraged me to go back to my choir and teach and conduct a song. It is because of this Rev ethos that I am even considering applying for this job today!



I think it is everyone's hope and responsibility to ensure that WiM is as free from stress and backbiting as it is possible to have with minimal sleep and a hard floor to sleep on.



Another of my priorities is to make WiM a much prayed about event. As with anything in life it needs lifting up to God so we don't have to worry about it. (That isn't a promise that I will be saintly calm!)

(References: liberal use of Google Images + Facebook)

Appendix 2



WIM Co-ORDINATOR 2010 APPLICATION

Jonathan Dao (aka JONNY)

Job description

WIM Co-ORDINATOR (*must have previous WIM experience*)

- Be responsible for the pastoral care of the WIM Leadership Team.
- Receive and process all staff job applications, and allocate staff jobs in conjunction with WiM Consultant.
- Be responsible for organising internal and external workshops.
- Share the organisation and running of the pre-WiM weekend with the WiM Consultant
- Oversee the general activities of the week, not getting drawn into the details.
- Be an encouraging, people-orientated person who is able to make (or support others in) a tough people-related decision if need be.
- Chair leadership team meetings throughout the week and ensure team members know time and place in advance
- Be the visible face of the WiM leadership team and act accordingly throughout WiM

Responsible for WIM Leadership Team

Accountable to WIM Leadership Team & the WiM Consultant.

How to apply

If you would like apply for the job of WiM Co-ordinator 2010, please answer the questions below, giving as much detail as you feel appropriate. Please e-mail your application to hannah@rev.org.uk no later than 31st June 2009. The final decision will be made by the choirs at forum/via email with Reps. Whichever way this happens the opportunity will be given for choirs to ask you, and for you to be able to answer, any questions about taking on the role.

1) What experience do you have in Revelation, in both your own choir and nationally?

Since 2006, I've contributed (in part) to setting up Rev in London as an established student society in 2007, acting as one of two joint music co-ordinators at its start, after which I was then elected as concert co-ordinator until March 2009. Prior local experience at Cambridge in 2004-2006 was gained as an environment secretary, so already on a local level, I have learned much of and put into practice the Aims & Values (with the help of several older, and newer, members!). Enforcing them in the roles of music and concert co (where I have had to focus also on teaching/conducting and staging/logistical issues) has been a challenge, but not one I have backed down from, in fact one that has shown me I can stand my ground in such roles whilst maintaining the integrity of Rev as a choir that fosters solid friendships in an environment that enables them to discover (and develop) new or existing abilities.

In the last five years, I have attended RESITS twice, southern regional weekends away (for the last 3 years straight) and the last four WiMs. In one RESITS, I have taught and conducted several songs, and led at least one workshop in the regional weekends away. Most of my

experience gained nationally can be attributed to participating at WiM, where I acted as an environment secretary at Newmarket WiM 2006 and Leeds WiM 2008, band co-ordinator at Keele WiM 2007, and Arts Co-ordinator at this year's WiM in West Kirby. Much of these roles enabled me to gain a greater appreciation of the need to keep the Aims & Values in focus whilst bearing in mind the prospect of meeting several members who know relatively little about Rev and what it's about, or with regard to making difficult decisions. Particularly as Arts Co-ordinator, where I had thus been part of the Leadership Team, whilst I may normally be very pro-active in everything I'm assigned to do, I can adapt to roles where I do not get too embroiled in finer details.

2) What qualities do you have which would enable you to do the job of WIM Coordinator?

Many Revvers who've approached me have told me I've made Rev feel more enjoyable, particularly at WiM and I have come across as someone who is easy to talk to, and often easy to find also (even when they have questions that don't fall in my area of responsibility). Having undertaken the Arts Co-ordinator role at this year's WiM, I already have experience as part of the Leadership Team, and I've made every effort to make myself available to anyone needing to speak to me, or act accordingly with regard to what issues are, or were, immediate, and all without getting too drawn into (or make decisions about) small details which would be the responsibility of other WiM staff team members. I don't get flustered at the prospect of dealing with massive amounts of paperwork, which would prove invaluable in processing WiM job allocations, and my general availability for contact by email or phone will potentiate this process as this should facilitate job allocation advising by the WiM consultant (and I usually love plugging WiM anyway!!).

3) What do you feel will be your main priorities for WIM next year (mainly in terms of the team dynamics and the overall environment)?

The atmosphere within the leadership team this year was generally very positive, and I most certainly would want to keep that up next year, and therefore I would want to encourage attending pre-WiM as it would provide everyone in the team the best possible opportunity to get to know each other prior to the week itself (it's as simple as that). With regard to the overall environment, given there are always new members attending WiM each year, so I want to focus also on ensuring the pastoral well-being of everyone, not just the leadership team, hopefully allowing them to see they are just as important to WiM as anyone with a job or years of experience at Rev or music in general. My final priority would be to make myself as available as is possible from the months leading to pre-WiM to the week itself.

Jonny Dao can be contacted on 07827316904 or at Jonny.Dao@cantab.net
Current address: 13 Lothrop Street, London W10 4JB