



Crafty cuts Putting the 'do in Drink, Shop & Do.

'Putting jam in it is a bit of a waste of a jar... Wouldn't it be better to fill it with delicious booze?' If so, you simply must take yourself to the London Cocktail Club (www.londoncocktailclub.co.uk) and sip a concoction out of these quaint receptacles.

D is for... **Dance Dance Party Party.** A girls-only freestyle freakout that's a cross between an aerobics class and a club night. Its website (www.dancedanceparty.com) boasts: 'No Boys. No Booze. No Judgment (Legwarmers Optional)' and its three London venues each offer a dark room so you can jump around like a loon without worrying if your bra strap's slipped. At **Drink, Shop & Do**, a bar/café/shop in King's Cross (www.drinkshopdo.com), the afternoon tea is so good you'd swear they've got half the WI captive in their basement. There are board games for daytime amusement, and in the evening the bar hosts regular informal sessions to keep hands busy, including knit night (buy wool and needles here, along with a cocktail or two) and Lego-robot-making sessions. Thursday night is vintage make-up time so you can get dolled up too.

E is for... **Eating on the hoof.** Fun is about spontaneity, not forward-planning. Good news, disorganised diners: no-bookings restaurants are the big London food trend of 2013, and some of them are really superb – Corner

Room in E2, Dishoom in WC2 (see 'H'), and Morito in EC1. Be warned, though: if you want to be where it's at, a lot of other people will be there too, so pick your moment. **Edible Cinema** Love food? Love film? Then you'll love the meals-with-movies trend that's sweeping the capital. The best options include Bea's of Bloomsbury every Tuesday, One Aldwych and the Firmdale Hotel chain over the weekends, and Edible Cinema (www.ediblecinema.co.uk), which often provides a tasting selection to dip into throughout the film, matching flavours to the events on screen.

F is for... **Free chocolate.** Free. Chocolate. Need we say more? The excellent annual Chocolate Festival (www.festivalchocolate.co.uk) is back this weekend (Friday March 22 to Sunday March 24). There are expert demonstrations, choccy gifts to buy and, most importantly, sampling sessions. Or **float your boat** and take a mini cruise aboard Predator II – an ex-police launch which chugs across the river from the O2 QEII pier to Jubilee Pier at Trinity Buoy Wharf for just £2 each way.



G is for... **Getting high.** Raise your eyes from Time Out for a moment, and you will notice that the capital has gone skyscraper mad lately. The View From The Shard offers the best chance of spotting your house/gutter, but otherwise you can re-enact 'Avatar' on Kew's Xstrata treetop walkway, or 'Where Eagles Dare' on the Excel-O2 cable cars. Come back down to earth but avoid humdrum reality by booking a night out with **Gingerline**. You can find a pop-up bar or art thing near pretty much every stop on the hipster branchline (the Dalston-New Cross bit of the Overground). But secret supper club Gingerline is one of the pioneering best. Diners go to a stop on the line then follow SMS instructions to get to Gingerline's secret HQ for cocktails, and a five-course meal that's nearly as adventurous as the in-house cabaret. Check www.gingerline.info for new March dates.



Gingerline

H is for... **Having a Holi-day.** Indian nibbles, chai, storytelling and an all-important opportunity to lob coloured powder at all and sundry make Dishoom's celebration of the Hindu festival Holi fun for all the family. Everyone is welcome on Sunday March 24, when the crowd-pulling Covent Garden restaurant is taking over Village Underground (www.villageunderground.co.uk) for the day.

I is for... **Ironic clubbing.** Specifically, at the night known as Fleetmac Wood (www.facebook.com/fleetmacwood). Nope, that's not a smelling mitsake – it's a collective of DJs paying tribute to the many eras and ages of a band who contributed some sublimely melodic soft rock to the musical canon, but who are perhaps still best known for the urban myth about Stevie Nicks having cocaine blown up her bottom. Expect six hours of tunes culled exclusively from Fleetwood Mac's back catalogue, including remixes and edits made especially for the night. Loads and loads of fun – and that's not even a sweet little lie.

J is for... **Joining a film club.** Local movie screenings in pubs, clubs or museums, often introduced by a bespectacled geek with more enthusiasm than rhetorical skills, are a cosy local alternative to the multiplex. Try Aorta Burst at Roxy Bar and Screen for bizarre treats from the VHS vaults, or Big Red in Deptford (www.bigredpizza.co.uk), a double-decker bus which hosts film nights as well as offering pizza, cocktails, comedy and shisha pipes. And check Time Out's film events pages.