

FEATURED BAR

The Shop, NW10

75 Chamberlayne Road
NW10
020 8969 9399
theshopnw10.com

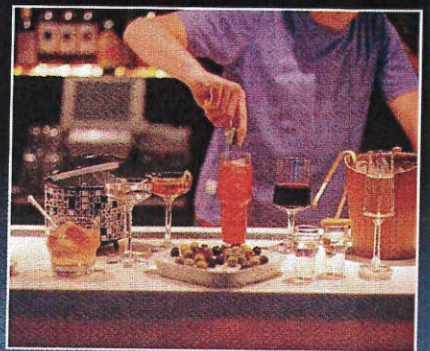
The Shop is a community cocktail bar. Its short life has already seen it play host to cupcake workshops, sales of vintage clothes, art exhibitions and a range of random happenings in a space that's designed to evolve with its folk.

It's even been the subject of a rave in the Telegraph and uniquely, everything in it is for sale. Like the pictures on the walls? They could be yours. Fancy the chairs? Make an offer.

Cocktails, served in recycled jamjars and milk bottles, include the Shop Assistant (tequila, lime, honey, raspberries, lager), Once Loved (rum, coco, pineapple and crème de abricot) and the purist Size Zero (prosecco, peach puree) while snacks include scotch eggs and pork pies. Owners Luke Allen and Ben Magid launched the venue in response to a lack of cocktails in Kensal Rise and the place has a happy, easy vibe with a creative edge. Don't miss the beery celebrations for Oktoberfest – this shop will be a keeper. 🍺



Take 3 Local bars



TRAILER HAPPINESS

This dive bar with a tiki theme and a kitch feel has a thing for rum cocktails and who could resist? 177 Portobello Road W11 020 7065 6821



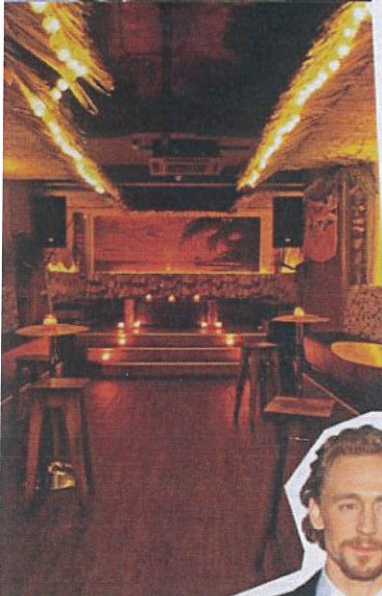
PARADISE

With its variety of different drinking spaces and very own karaoke room, Paradise is the ultimate cocktail venue. All quirky furniture (wonky lamps, old pieces of taxidermy) and gothic glamour, this is a venue for all occasions. 19 Kilburn Lane W10 020 8969 0098

PORTOBELLO STAR

Launching its very own gin distillery imminently, Portobello Star is a small but serious watering hole soon to become a gin palace. Watch this space. portobellostarbar.co.uk 171 Portobello Road W11 020 7229 8016

Top: Dean Street Townhouse; Call Lane Social; The Criterion Theatre; Tom Hiddleston



Try speed hating or (below) a Heartbreak Hoedown

NOT LOVE, ACTUALLY

Whether you want a cheeky snog or to steer clear of romance, we've got the best options for single girls on Valentine's Day.

SPEED HATING

Cringe at the thought of speed dating? London club Feeling Gloomy brings us Down With Dating – a singles' night with a mass Blind Hate (sample question: Which tropical disease would you most liken yourself to?). Because cynics deserve love too. £10, Sat 11th, Islington; www.feelinggloomy.com

FLOWER POWER

In Hawaii, the girls signal they're single by tucking a flower behind their ear. Try it out at hip Leeds bar Call Lane Social, which has transformed its upstairs space into a traditional Tiki bar. Need some Dutch courage to chat up that hot man? The rum cocktails are sure to help. www.calllanesocial.co.uk

SEXY SLEEPOVER

You might not have found Mr Right, but maybe you've bumped into Mr Right Now. London's Dean Street Townhouse has launched The Soho Sleepover for those, er, unexpected encounters. Order dinner after 11pm and you can book into one of their rooms for just £50 (usually up to £410). You even get Cowshed goodies. www.deanstreettownhouse.com

ROMANCE IS DEAD

North London bar The Shop is holding a Valentine's Day Massacre event on the 14th. Heartbreak-themed cocktails include the 'It's Not You It's Me' and the 'Sour Grape'. The music policy is punk and rockabilly and there's a prize for the person with

the best break-up story. PDAs strictly discouraged... unless with the staff. www.theshopnw10.com

SINGLES' SHINDIG

Singletons in Sheffield use the most romantic day of the year as an excuse to party at the Heartbreak Hoedown. There's live music, DJs and comedy – plus tears in jars, dead flowers, Cupids in nooses and meals for one. £7, Fri 10th; www.therudeshipyard.com

TAINTED LOVE

Want to avoid schmaltz and spend a night with one of our hottest actors? London's Criterion theatre is holding a special version of its Stories Before Bedtime night. Tom Hiddleston from War Horse is among those reading tales of love gone wrong. £12.50, Fri 10th; www.criterion-theatre.co.uk

CUPIDS IN NOOSES
ANTI-VALENTINE'S FESTIVAL



10TH/11TH/12TH FEB

THE RUDE SHIPYARD
89 ABBEYDALE ROAD, SHEFFIELD
HEARTBREAK HOEDOWN
LUNCH PARTY FRIDAY 10TH FEB
IGGLERS CORNER, QUEENS ROAD
LIVE MUSIC, POETRY AND PROSE ALL WEEKEND



Enjoy an anti-Valentine's cocktail at The Shop

TOM HIDDLESTON, FROM WAR HORSE, WILL JOIN NIAMH CUSACK TO READ TALES OF LOVE GONE WRONG

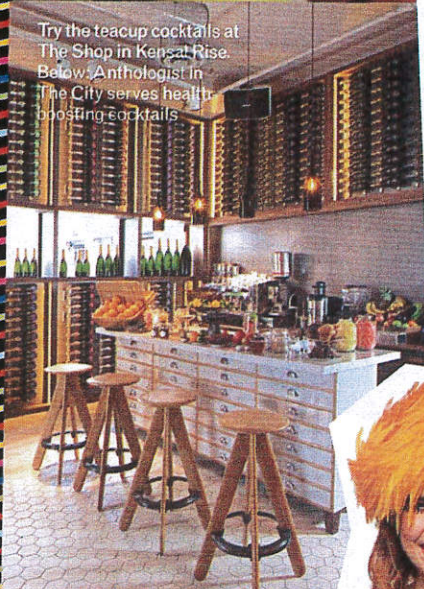
WEEK IN WEEK OUT

Have a guilt-free vodka, lime and soda – just 50 calories a glass



Trendy Hamilton bar in Edinburgh. Below: try new health-boosting Kamm & Sons

Try the teacup cocktails at The Shop in Kensal Rise. Below: Anthologist in The City serves health-boosting cocktails



THE DOABLE DETOX!

So how's that New Year's no drinking resolution working out? Thought so. Luckily, our favourite barfly, Barchick (Barchick.com), has some advice on how to do January in semi-virtuous style...

MAKE MINE SUGAR-FREE

The average G&T contains more than 200 calories, but you can cut out 100 by mixing yours with slimline tonic instead. A vodka with fresh lime and soda is even better – at just 50 calories.

TRY A DIY COCKTAIL

Make yours a Tommy's Margarita – a low-cal version of the original, which uses low GI agave syrup as sweetener: 45ml tequila, preferably 100% agave; 30ml lime juice, freshly squeezed; 15 ml agave syrup, cut with water. Shake all ingredients with ice and strain into an ice-filled glass.

TAKE TIME FOR TEA

Tea is full of antioxidants, so why stick to a morning cuppa? Cocktail legend Tony C from London bar 69 Colebrook Row has created the Silver Mountain cocktail, which uses the Rare Tea Company's purest Silver Tip White tea and a kick of Japanese Shochu. Or check out the teacup cocktails in hot new hangout The Shop in Kensal Rise, London.

STAY IN HIGH SPIRITS

Kamm & Sons is the hottest – and healthiest – new spirit around. Like gin, it's made from juniper berries, but also contains four types of ginseng, along with

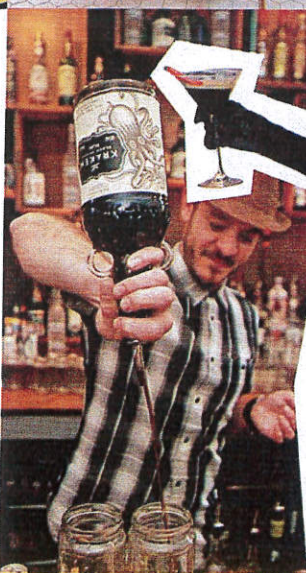
manuka honey and echinacea – perfect for boosting your immune system. Available from £19.25.

GET A HEALTHY KICK

Bar-restaurant Anthologist in The City has a dedicated superfood section on their menu, where all the cocktails are packed with health-boosting ingredients. Try an Under The Goji Spell – filled with vitamins. www.theanthologistbar.co.uk

DARE TO BE DRY

Staying on the wagon doesn't have to mean staying at home. At super-cool bar Hamiltons in Edinburgh, alcohol is strictly optional – and their non-boozy cocktails are anything but boring. The bartenders will make you up a delicious creation from that day's fresh, organic ingredients. Make ours a double! www.hamiltonsedinburgh.co.uk



PALOMA FAITH IS SUCH A COCKTAIL FAN, SHE HAD ONE NAMED AFTER HER. KEEP THE FAITH IS A MIX OF TIA MARIA, CHOCOLATE LIQUEUR AND CHILLI. FIERY!

For an antioxidant experience, try Silver Fountain cocktail at 69 Colebrook Row

