

Cor Blimey mate!
What a right old cockney knees up!

Danny and Jo, at the White Horse, held a Cockney Evening on the 20th March, a charity event which raised over £500 for Church funds. The old 'Joanna' was wheeled into the restaurant and my 'Old China' James Pearson (Director of music at Ronnie Scott's Jazz club, no less) was tinkling the ivories with a great selection of tunes. The place was packed, a ticket only sell-out, with tables moved out of the restaurant to make space for a great sing-along. The food was traditional East End fare: jellied eels, cockles, and pie and mash in liquor but for the faint of heart, or those from the frozen north, there was fish and chips, and gravy on your pie if requested.

The barmaids were dressed as buxom wenches, which didn't do much good for Roger Smith's heart condition! The service was superb with the drinks and food flying out to the huge hungry crowd. An old trumpet gramophone was propped on the bar, with Olly, the young terrier, sat next to it. There must have been thirty camera phones taking 'that picture' of Nipper the dog listening to His Master's Voice.

After the food was finished, James got back on the piano and started showing us just what can be done on an old, out of tune, upright piano. For the raffle, James also kindly donated four VIP passes to Ronnie Scott's.

The man is a huge talent and if you ever get the chance to see him play do not miss it. After a few more drinks (my recollection is getting a little hazy now) James was taking requests, most of these were singalongs of old favourites.

Our Mayor, the Right Hon Mr Dunn was well-dressed and engaged in a long, late discussion with our local picture-framer. I couldn't really understand the conversation, perhaps it was some of that rhymingslang (?) but not being a native I couldn't decode their 'secret' exchanges.

I looked up some of the phrases the next day, but could find no record in the 'Official Rhyming Slang' dictionary, strange!

A good time was had by all and I would like to thank Danny and Jo for yet another great charity event. Every year they have at least one event where the profits go to Wareside charities. Thanks to James for coming along and doing some incredible stuff on the piano, and thanks to all who pay to attend these events to raise money for Wareside good causes.

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