



Company Drinks 2015



COMPANY DRINKS

Between the early 1800's and the 1950's, up to 250,000 working-class east Londoners — mainly women and children — would leave the city each summer for temporary seasonal work harvesting fruit and hops in Kent. This 'working holiday' in the countryside offered income, fresh air and temporary independence from city life.

Company: Movements, Deals and Drinks was set up by international arts collective Myvillages in May 2014 as a way to revive this extraordinary urban-rural relationship and link it to the set up of a new community drinks enterprise.

The plan for the new company was not only to pick, but to keep the crop, make the drinks and trade them directly with all profits feeding back into the collective endeavour completing a whole cycle of production, trade and reinvestment.

In 2015 *Company Drinks* registered as a Community Interest Company and offers a year-round public programme across the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, including picking trips, processing workshops, bottling and branding sessions, trading outlets, bars and social and cultural events. Hundreds of local residents are involved in this new version of 'going picking' and in its second year the company has produced a range of 18 drink varieties — from cordials to green hop beer, sodas to saps and fizzy drinks to juice.

For more information on our events programme and stockists visit:
www.c-o-m-p-a-n-y.info

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SODAS



FIZZY CRAB APPLE AND MANOR HOUSE PEAR

COMPANY: A small group of regular and first-time volunteers, including residents from the George Brooker House Care Society.

MOVEMENTS: Walking distance from Upney Underground station, hire car for transporting the fruit.

DEALS: The apples and pears were free. East London soft drinks company Square Root were paid for the processing costs.

CHERRY BLOSSOM SODA

COMPANY: A small group of regular volunteers.

MOVEMENTS: Walking distance from Upney Underground station.

DEALS: The cherry blossom was free and collected by volunteers. Square Root were paid for the processing and bottling costs.



WHICH ANIMAL IS BEST AT PICKING ELDERFLOWER?



ELDERFLOWER LEMONADE

COMPANY: A team of volunteers, including our regulars and local residents looking for a fun day out.
MOVEMENTS: Foraging walk with Molly the horse across Eastbrookend Country Park.

DEALS: The flowers were free (on the condition that we left some for the birds), and picked by volunteers. Square Root were paid for the processing costs.



A HORSE, OF COURSE



BLACKBERRY AND APPLE SODA

COMPANY: Small groups of regular and first-time volunteers

MOVEMENTS: Foraging walks across Eastbrookend Country Park for the blackberries and trips by car to local residents who had donated apples from their gardens.

DEALS: The blackberries were free and the apples were donated. Square Root were paid for the processing costs.

STRAWBERRY ADE

COMPANY: BTEC Hospitality students and staff from Barking and Dagenham College.

MOVEMENTS: Travel by college mini-bus to Growing Communities Dagenham Farm, and later to Square Root in Hackney.

DEALS: Picking took place during college hours, and the strawberries were purchased at wholesale market price. Square Root were paid for the labour and processing costs.

LAST GRAPES' SPRITZER

COMPANY: A team of regular volunteers and members of the Gleaning Network.

MOVEMENTS: By car from east London to Bradwell Trout Farm and Vineyard in Essex.

DEALS: On our first trip in May we pruned the vines in order to get some of the harvest for free later in the year. In September the vineyard owners Glenn and Claire Lockey decided to use the vineyard as a grazing field for their goats and offered us the whole last crop. Square Root were paid for the processing costs.

BLACKCURRANT SODA

COMPANY: A coachload of families and regular volunteers.

MOVEMENTS: By coach from Dagenham Library to Feering Bury Farm in Essex.

DEALS: A free day-trip to the countryside in return for helping us pick blackcurrants. The fruit was free and gleaned after the commercial harvest had taken place. The coach was paid from the project budget. Square Root were paid for the processing costs.



COMPANY: Groups of children and young adults during their 2015 Easter holidays.

MOVEMENTS: Drop-in workshops took place in a meeting room on the first floor at Dagenham Library.

DEALS: Kate Rich and Kayle Brandon ran a series of cola concentrate workshops and were paid a standard artist fee. The workshops were free and everyone received a small bottle of concentrate. The remaining concentrate was carbonated and bottled by Square Root, who were paid for their labour.



Product photos: Jennifer Balcombe
Design: An Endless Supply

HOPS

COMPANY: Two coachloads of former hop-pickers and hopping enthusiasts from Barking and Dagenham.

MOVEMENTS: By coach from Dagenham Library to Little Scotney Farm, Lamberhurst, Kent.



Green Hop Bière de Table

DEALS: The contribution to the coach trip was £3 per person and included a Hopping Quiz and free Company Drinks. The farmer Ian Strang hosted us for the day and let us take the hand-picked hops for free in return for the extra attention our project brings to British hop growing. A team of brewers from Kernel Brewery joined us for the day and took a carload of green hop straight back to the brewery. Evin Kernel supported Company Drinks by producing the beer for cost price.

Green Hop Tonic

DEALS: The contribution to the coach trip was £3 per person and included a hopping quiz and free Company Drinks. The farmer Ian Strang hosted us for the day and let us take the hand-picked hops for free, but we had to order in our own porter loos. Square Root were paid for the making and processing costs.

BIRCH SAP



COMPANY: Students from Eastbrookend Comprehensive.

MOVEMENTS: Walking distance from the school into local parks.

DEALS: Permission from the park rangers to get free sap was granted on the condition that we sealed the tap holes in the trees afterwards.

PLANTASTIC DAMSONS

COMPANY: Regular gardeners at Plantastic community garden.

MOVEMENTS: Cycling distance from Park Centre.

DEALS: Free fruit in return for bottling and labelling the drink.



CORDIALS



COMPANY: Small groups of volunteers, from our weekly workshops and in response to event postings online and around the borough.

MOVEMENTS: Foraging walks in local parks and public spaces in Barking and Dagenham.

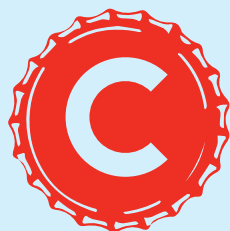
DEALS: All ingredients were free and picked by volunteers. The cordials were made and bottled by our team.

50ml bottles of Rose Petal, Gorse, Flowering Currant, Elderflower, Blackcurrant, Blackberry, Rosemary, Rosehip.

500ml bottles of Elderflower, Rosemary, Blackcurrant.

Company Drinks 2015 Menu

	DRINK	VOL.	PRICE
CORDIALS	Rose Petal	50ml	£1—£2.50
	Gorse	50ml	£1—£2.50
	Flowering Currant	50ml	£1—£2.50
	Elderflower	50ml	£1—£2.50
	Blackcurrant	50ml	£1—£2.50
	Blackberry	50ml	£1—£2.50
	Rosemary	50ml	£1—£2.50
	Rosehip	50ml	£1—£2.50
CORDIALS (large)	Rose Petal	500ml	£4—£7
	Elderflower	500ml	£4—£7
	Rosemary	500ml	£4—£7
SODAS	Elderflower Lemonade	275ml	£1—£2.80
	Strawberryade	275ml	£1—£2.80
	Cherry Blossom Soda	275ml	£1—£2.80
	Blackcurrant	275ml	£1—£2.80
	Fizzy Crab Apple and Manor House Pear	275ml	£1—£2.80
	Blackberry and Apple	275ml	£1—£2.80
	Last Grapes' Spritzer	275ml	£1—£2.20
COLA	B.A.D. Cola	275ml	£1—£2.50
NOVELTY	Birch Sap	150ml	£1—£3.50
	Plantastic Damsons	150ml	£1—£2.50
	Green Hop Tonic	275ml	£1—£2.80
BEER	Fresh Hop Bière de Table	330ml	£2.50—£5



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