



Drink through History with Rebellious Spirits

Enjoy historical cocktails drawn from the pages of *Rebellious Spirits*

accompanied by exciting tales read by the author

To celebrate the launch of her first book, *Rebellious Spirits: The Illicit History of Booze in Britain*, the author, alchemist, liqueur maker and drinks consultant behind Alchemist Dreams, Ruth Ball, will be presenting a series of evening events, Wednesday to Saturday from the 28th Oct to the 7th Nov. She invites the public to enjoy six recreated historical cocktails while they are entertained with tales of the secret, exciting and often dangerous world of illicit spirits brought to life from within the pages of her book.

Guests will sip a spiced wine from a recipe almost two millennia old while hearing about the mystery cults of ancient Greece; sample creamy Atholl Brose over tales of Scots outwitting dastardly English gaugers; try a Milk Punch, the surprisingly delicious result of a recipe involving curdled milk, while protest and rebellion break out on the streets of eighteenth century London. Then they will learn the history of the cruellest and most corrupt official in Donegal to the accompaniment of a fiery glass of sloe poitín, drink the Wassail to honour daring smugglers bringing in the brandy used to toast Christmas and finally try a Wartime Gimlet scraped together with preserved limes as not just spirit production but the production of most other cocktail ingredients is shut down to aid the war effort during the Second World War and the Spivs of the black market take up the challenge of supply.



The evening ends with the chance to ask the author any questions in your intimate group of just fifteen fellow explorers before finally heading home with a signed copy of *Rebellious Spirits: The Illicit History of Booze in Britain*. All six drinks as well as a copy of the book are included in the price of £50 Weds-Thurs and £70 Fri-Sat. The first and last drinks are full sized, but the middle four are half sized, to ensure the audience is still able to stand at the end of the evening.

Drink through History with *Rebellious Spirits* will take place in The Spare Room at The Viktor Wynd Museum of Curiosities in Hackney and ticket holders will be able to visit the permanent exhibition before or after the event for the reduced price of £2, instead of the usual £4. The event has been produced in part with liquid sponsorship from Jensen's Gin.

Notes to editors:

Tickets for Drink through History with *Rebellious Spirits* are £50 Wed-Thurs, £70 Fri-Sat and include two full sized cocktails, four half sized cocktails and a copy of *Rebellious Spirits: The Illicit History of Booze in Britain* which the author is happy to sign with your dedication on the night.

Tickets are available direct with no booking fee at: www.alchemistdreams.co.uk/events

Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1161224900573236/>

Twitter: @alchemistdreams

About *Rebellious Spirits*

Rebellious Spirits: The Illicit History of Booze in Britain by Ruth Ball is published on 1st October by Elliott & Thompson, £14.99 hardback, available online and in all good bookshops.



Ruth Ball's new book charts our long-standing love affair with illicit booze in chapters ranging from Gin, Scotch Whisky and Irish Potteen, to smuggling and the modern speakeasy. From the gin dispensed from a cat's paw at the Puss and Mew shop which could have been the world's first vending machine, to whole funeral cortèges staged just to move a coffin filled with whisky, the stories she recounts show off all the wonderful wit and ingenuity required to stay one drink ahead of the law.

The book includes 50 recipes, both authentic historical drinks and modern-day recipes blended by Ruth.

About Ruth Ball

Ruth Ball grew up in the Peak District, and studied Chemistry at Imperial College London. After graduating she founded Alchemist Dreams, a company dedicated to making handmade liqueurs blended to order. Starting out from Ruth's own kitchen, the company now boasts The British Library, Starwood Hotels and The Science Museum Group as clients. In researching traditional spirit-making Ruth found that many of the best sources came from the wrong side of the law - and this book was born.

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