

## Annie the Owl

*Subject: Removal of Alcoholic drinks and charity association*

The organisers of Annie the Owl would like to assure that during the operating hours of the sit-down event, all possible measures are being taken to safeguard the owls' welfare.

After some concerns from animal welfare groups regarding the provision of two alcoholic cocktails per person at Annie the Owl, the organisers have decided to no longer serve alcoholic drinks/cocktails during the event. The organisers believe that 64,000 people (and +125,000 tickets in the ballot entry) have registered for the event because they love owls and not because of the alcohol. The organizers hope that this new measure will alleviate any concerns amongst people who may have wrongly assumed the event was aiming at creating a bar or nightclub-like atmosphere at Annie The Owl. The organisers are seeking to raise funds for owls sanctuaries through a special event that invites people to relax, enjoy smoothies, and learn about owls in a unique setting.

The organisers would like to stress that the venue is a large empty space set over 3 different sections, not a traditional pub/bar. The venue provides ample space for the birds to exhibit normal behavior under the careful watch and protection of their respective falconers. The organisers would also like to make it clear that these birds have been to much larger events before such as TV shows, photo shootings, weddings, carnival and country fairs and other public events where over 40,000 people walked by the owls without any negative impact to their health or well being. By contrast the organizers have decided to only issue 100-120 tickets/night in order to ensure the birds' well-being.

The organisers would also like to clarify that, after a series of misunderstandings, they have regretfully accepted the Barn Owl Centre's wishes to no longer be associated with the event. The organisers of the event apologise for any distress caused to the managers of The Barn Owl Centre, which had complete knowledge of the event and previously agreed to accept the funds.

All profits and proceeds raised by the event will now go to another sanctuary partner, which is fully supportive of event as a means to raise awareness and funds for the protection of owls. The organizers of the event have decided not to disclose the name of the charity, despite their willingness to do so, due to their limited resources to manage media and skeptics.\*\*

The organisers are working with the Westminster Council and the U.K. government's Animal Health Inspector - Markets and Consumer Protection at the Animal Health and Welfare division to make sure that the event has addressed everything to ensure the birds' welfare. Their welfare is top priority and the removal of "alcoholic cocktails" is aimed to remove any possible cause of danger. We want to create a unique event whose ultimate objective is to create awareness for the owl conservation.

All attendees will be briefed at arrival on how to behave during the event. They will also be briefed that owls should not be considered as pets and the event itself is to raise donation for the species' conservation.

See Press Release 2 [here](#) for Animal Safety Details.

Note to Editors:

\*\* The organisers believe the Barn Owl Centre was overwhelmed by the media attention and skeptics, which prompted them to withdraw their support for the event and not accept donation.

For all press/media questions:

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