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This is **LONDON**

29/11/00 - London life section

My London: Billy Bragg

Billy Bragg

Living West Dorset. At my Mum's in Barking when I'm in London.

Eating Me Mum's in Barking, she always manages to make something with custard for afters, which is an absolute joy. I go to Thai restaurants a lot as there are none in Dorset. Sabai Sabai [King Street, W6] is a favourite - I can recommend their tom kar gai soup.

Drinking The Britannia in Barking. Or a little pub under the arches in Waterloo - I forget the name.

Dancing Pass on that.

Exercising The big escalators at Holborn Tube - I run up and down them sometimes. And I always pop into Beatties model shop when I'm there, to get Micro-Machines for my son.

Working The Barbican, at the moment.

Learning The British Museum. It's really good for wandering around - and that's why I'm always running up and down the escalators at Holborn.

Dressing Blue Cheese (as opposed to Thousand Island). I most often buy clothes abroad as they're much more interesting than anything you'd find up Bond Street.

Walking I do that Tottenham Court Road to Oxford Street thing.

Rummaging Bookshops - I like a good rummage in a bookshop, especially the ones with cafes so that you can have a cup of coffee at the same time. There's a great photo bookshop on Charing Cross Road called Zwemmers - I've always been drawn to photography books, but they're f***ing heavy.

Romance Primrose Hill. The romance of London is based there as you can see the whole city.

Escaping I used to escape round the back of Petticoat Lane. There's loads of old houses there and all of a sudden it's like you're in Holland or something.

Collecting Since the invention of metal detectors there's loads of stuff around the mudflats in the Thames. I've got loads of old belt buckles and badges, and my brother used to collect old bottles from there.

Inspiring The William Blake exhibition at the Tate Britain. It's the most inspiring place I've been to for a long time and fills my head with the lyrics of songs.

Dreaming On the train out of Waterloo.

Avoiding Driving into London.

Billy Bragg & The Blokes, Sat 2 Dec, 8pm, Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (020-7638 8891).

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