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# Taking a Light Glass in Soho



## Paul Bloomfield

Paul Bloomfield has been a chef for over 26 years. He has been responsible for product development for many leading firms, including Quorn, Covent Garden Soup company, M&S Chinese range, Sharwoods, Moy Park, Jimmy Doherty and Loyd Grossman sauces. He is the author or co-author of *Party Eats*, *Tempting Treats* and *The Brunch Cookbook*.

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I have been commissioned to write an autobiography and I would be grateful to any of your readers who could tell me what I was doing between 1960 and 1974.

*Jeffrey Barnard*

I am taking a light glass in Soho! Standing outside the Coach and Horses (one of my regular haunts), with my newly acquired drinking companion, who is reminiscing about how things have changed. She misses her days with Soho luminaries, not least 'No Knickers Joyce'. She drains the glass of wine that I bought her and goes back inside. She will never speak to me again. Such is the character of Soho – sustained by drink and legends.

Today it's a cosmopolitan quarter of restaurants, pubs, bars, coffee shops and clubs, interspersed with traders, hairdressers, porn shops and media houses. It's here that London's gay 'village' affably co-exists with tourists, hedonists, media-types and epicures.