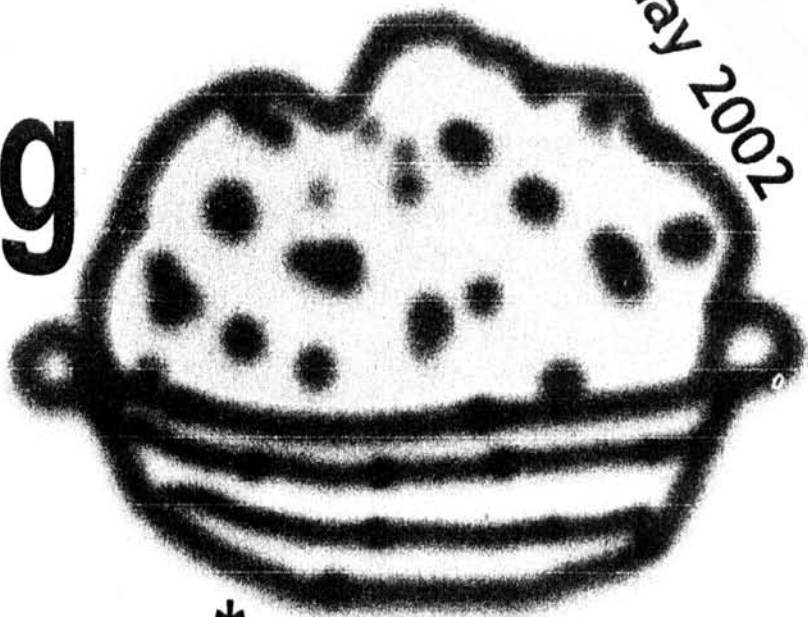


The Southwark Mayday 2002 pudding wonder is over*



May 1718 - James Austin, the inventor of Persian Ink powder, desiring to give his customers a substantial proof of his gratitude, invited them to partake of an immense plum pudding weighing close on 1000lbs that was boiled in the copper for fourteen days at the Red Lion Inn**, off The Borough. On the day of the feast, the pudding measuring 18 ft by 4 ft was paraded through the Southwark streets pulled along by 'six asses', accompanied by banners and flags and a band playing 'What lumps of pudding my mother gave to me'. Heading towards the Restoration Gardens in nearby St George's Fields***, the enormous pudding passed close by to The Mint****, home of the local nefarious and poor. The good smell of the pudding was all too much and the Minters rushed the procession, routed the escort and stole the feast, taking it back into the sanctuary of The Mint to be devoured by all.

* Heading from Manuscript of the Spalding Society, 1718

** Close to the south side of Union St at junction with Borough High St

*** Close to Southwark College site at The Cut, Waterloo

****The Mint was between Southwark Bridge Rd and Borough High St, bounded by Union St in the North and Marshalsea Rd at the South

brought to you this Mayday:

past tense

c/o 56a Infoshop
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