

## **The Alternative Bring and Buy Sale**

06/03/2010

The Dome

Think less of an old granny jumble sale and more of the Electric Ballroom's indoor market in its former glory days. Organised by Stephanie Dunk and Julia Gosling as an opportunity for individuals to set up their own stalls and sell knick-knacks, unwanted clothing, shoes, jewellery, CDs, DVDs and books. Established names and brands from the alternative world also sold a selection of items – many items at discount prices including: Spank, Scorch Pyrography, House of Hirudinea (selling some amazing steampunk couture and accessories) and Tricia Cox Millinery.

The former art of the bring and buy has long been a lost treasure, with markets increasingly becoming more commercialised, and its true essence gone. So then, the Alternative Bring and Buy Sale was a refreshing experience. You can buy a drink at the bar, find a rare Opeth demo dirt cheap (a fiver!) and find some amazing clothes at a fraction of the price on Ebay – fantastic if you're watching those pennies! I found a stunning pink (yes, pink!) strapless tartan dress that shall no doubt accompany me on many summer nights out. Sift through the countless rails and I guarantee you will find something!

It was a fantastic opportunity to pick up a present or a treat for yourself at astonishingly good prices and to find gems in other people's cast-offs. After all, someone else's rubbish is another person's treasure.

As yours truly is too young to remember the Electric Ballroom in its heyday, the Alternative Bring and Buy Sale is a more than satisfactory substitute for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century generation. With record numbers attending this month's sale, and the positive support from the sale's substantial gathering, the sale's success can only continue to grow. Hell, I'm already looking forward to the next one!

For more information on future sales, please visit: <http://www.alternativebringbuy.co.uk/>

Fatima Meah