

The spirit of Carnival beats the big drum when they hold the annual Fair in Soho. And that cosmopolitan collection of shops and restaurants, film offices and music publishers and clubs --- in the fascinating rectangle between Regent Street and Charing Cross Road --- goes as gay, as any challenger from the continent.

One of the most exciting contests in a crowded week was the spaghetti race --- when competitors had to absorb about a pound of it against the clock. The way to win is to ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ imagine you're a rabbit swallowing a ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ snake.

Another excitement was the waiters' race, started by Jeanette Scott. Competitors had to carry a bottle of champagne and a glass on a tray. ^

It's the only race on record where everyone starts favourite; you can't expect a ~~waiter~~ waiter to ^{run} ~~XXXX~~ if he's not tipped.

~~more~~ --- from that picture of ^a London ~~looking~~ like an old-fashioned village green --- we take you to some little bits of London's own private countryside. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother made a tour of some attractive gardens, that nestle shyly among the brick walls of the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ capital.

Carter Street Police Station had one of the proudest displays --- where Her Majesty was shown round by Police Commissioner Sir John Nott-Bower.

Another outstanding garden visited, was at the home of Mr and Mrs Clarke in Lewisham.