

It's Wooden Lion up in the air. – By Jenny Dawson

CUSTOMERS at the Greyhound in Fulham had never seen anything like it in their lives - two young ladies dressed as chars with their hair in curlers waddling about the pub clearing tables and polishing 'em!

The two ladies belong to a community based group from East Ham entitled EAST The members, about 20 Of them, turned out to see Woodford based band Wooden Lion perform their weird explosive music.

Though it may seem I am writing about EAST, I am in actual fact writing about Wooden Lion. I met the lads at a free gig in West Ham park. At first sighting you'd think how much like Hawkwind they are. I asked lead singer Roy Wood how Wooden Lion came about. 'Oh about a year ago we all got together and we just seemed to click. And Alan Essex here.' putting his arm round a rather sombre looking young man and giving him a hug, "plays synthesizer rather well. And he turned down Hawkwind for us!"

Turning to the rest of the band, there's 23 - year - old Jimmy McGrother, lead Gibson guitar, Steven Audley, 21, on Gibson bass. and Wal Mansfield. 24, on Premier single drums.

Most of the band all live together in a house in Horn Lane, Woodford Green.

Honest

'We're a real family band.' said Roy.

..I suppose you can describe our music as doom laden.' said Roy. 'We are very influenced by Arthur Brown and Hawkwind.'

Lion are only semi professional all the lads do an honest day's work amid then work even harder in the evenings for their beloved music.

The band had a stroke of bad luck last year. They finally thought their dreams of turning professional were coming true when they were offered a tour with Jethro Tull.

"But Tull broke up," said Roy morosely. "Everything seems to happen to us. Even the fuel crisis stopped us from supporting Pink Floyd in France."

Difficult

A mystery man appeared on the scene and offered Lion the security of a steady gig flow.

"It was regular thing going about three months."

But after three months. the mystery man disappeared leaving Lion hack where they started.

'It 's very difficult, said Roy. "We do our best to get gigs but that takes time. And it s something we haven't got at present.'

WE do a lot for EAST at the moment. They are a great hunch of people of people, always doing something for East Enders... Future gigs lined up for the band are another evening at the Greyhound and the first Weekend at the Windsor Free Festival which starts on August 24.

On the whole the band is quite amazing.