

## **Christmas and New Year's Eve in London – 2015**

### **Christmas Lights in London**

#### **Oxford Street Christmas Lights**

*Oxford Street, 1 November 2015*

The Oxford Street Christmas lights switch-on will see 1778 snowball-like decorations (and their 750,000 LED lightbulbs) lit up once again for what is the fifty-sixth year the road has been decorated for the festive period. In a subtle upgrade from last year's display, 445 new golden baubles will twinkle among the existing silver lights. For the first time ever the switch-on event on Sunday November 1 will see West Oxford Street closed to traffic (2pm-6.30pm). For more information contact Sally Greenwood at Rain Communications on [Sally.Greenwood@raincommunications.co.uk](mailto:Sally.Greenwood@raincommunications.co.uk)

#### **Covent Garden Christmas Market**

*Covent Garden, 12 November 2015*

Covent Garden's cobbled piazza and market buildings are irresistible at this time of year. A huge Christmas tree glows with red and white lights on the west side of the square, and a 22-foot tall silver reindeer stands on a pile of gifts on the east side. The area is decorated with 150,000 sparkling pealights. The London acapella group AfterParty will mark the switch-on moment with a free, open-air performance at 6pm, opening London's first mulled wine festival. For more information contact Jade Beatty at Edelman Communications on [coventgarden@edelman.com](mailto:coventgarden@edelman.com)

#### **Duke of York Square Christmas Lights**

*The King's Road, 7 November 2015*

The King's Road gets into the festive spirit with the Christmas lights being switched on at 4pm on November 7, with extra festivities and a beautiful tree adding to the joy. Father Christmas and his elves will arrive, and a free gift wrapping service will help you get a head start for the big day. For more information visit their website: <http://www.dukeofyorksquare.com/whats-on/news/christmas-lights2015>

#### **Carnaby Street Christmas Lights**

*Carnaby Street, 12 November 2015*

Never one to stick to tradition, illuminating the skyline of the Carnaby Street this year will be giant disco balls, celebrating the area's musical heritage. The party theme will continue into Kingly Court, Carnaby's food hub situated just off Carnaby Street, where thousands of sparkling lights will scatter the three floors of independent, concept restaurants, bars and cafés. To reflect the heritage brands and distinctive cobbled streets, The Newburgh Quarter will be dressed in Christmas trees with a disco twist of bright-lit stars. For more information contact Sophie Oller at Sister PR on [sophie.oller@sisterlondon.com](mailto:sophie.oller@sisterlondon.com)

#### **Regent Street Christmas Lights**

*Regent Street, 15 November 2015*

Dating back to 1954, the Christmas light switch-on on Regent Street is not a diary date to be missed. Shoppers will be treated to a traffic-free Regent Street as well as exclusive in-store promotions and star-studded entertainment from 12pm at the launch of their elegant

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Christmas lights. For more information

Beth Stanford at Sister PR on [beth.stanford@sisterlondon.com](mailto:beth.stanford@sisterlondon.com)

contact

## Ice Skating

### **The Natural History Museum Ice Rink**

*South Kensington, 29 October 2015 – 3 January 2016*

Go ice-skating at the Natural History Museum and experience a winter haven in the heart of the city. Now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, the spectacular rink is nestled in front of the iconic South Kensington Museum, beneath 80,000 twinkling fairy lights and around a 40-foot-high tree. Visit the interactive Christmas chalet, with prize giveaways and activities in partnership with chocolatiers Lindt. For more information contact Ali Castriotis at LD Communications: [ali@ldcommunications.co.uk](mailto:ali@ldcommunications.co.uk)

### **Skate in the City**

*Broadgate, 16 November 2015 – 25 February 2016*

Embrace the magic of Christmas in the heart of the City at Broadgate ice rink. Enjoy a season of lessons, special events and family fun at London's longest-running outdoor ice rink. Whether you're after private hire, a corporate booking or a unique Christmas party, Broadgate Ice Rink is sure to impress. Just a two-minute walk from Liverpool Street Station, in the midst of an impressive array of Christmas decorations, shops, bars and restaurants, it's the perfect destination for a day out with friends and family, or a post-work skate with colleagues. For more information contact Gabrielle Brown at the City of London Press Office on [gabrielle.brown@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:gabrielle.brown@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

### **Skate at Somerset House**

*The Strand, 18 November 2015 - 10 January 2016*

With stylish skating, luxury dining and seasonal shopping, plus acclaimed DJs appearing throughout the season, Somerset House is a one-stop-shop for everything festive. The 45 ft Christmas tree, decorated by Fortnum & Mason, will overlook the ice rink and on Tuesdays throughout December, contemporary twists on classic Christmas tracks will be played. For more information contact Francesca Hughes at the Somerset House Press Office on [francesca.hughes@somersetthouse.org.uk](mailto:francesca.hughes@somersetthouse.org.uk)

### **Westfield London Ice Rink**

*Shepherd's Bush, 19 November 2015 – 3 January 2016*

The approach of winter heralds the return of Westfield London's coolest indoor ice rink. Located in the magnificent Atrium event space, the 500 square-metre ice rink boasts an impressive festive backdrop and after dark, sumptuous lighting and live music, makes late night skating a special experience for friends and family. For more information contact Rowanne Yahia at Portas PR Agency on [rowannayahia@portasagency.com](mailto:rowannayahia@portasagency.com)

### **Ice skating at Hampton Court Palace**

*Hampton Court Palace, 20 November 2015 - 4 January 2016*

A sure fire way to get you and your family in the festive mood! Glide around Hampton Court's famous ice rink, the palace's iconic Tudor facade provides a suitably magnificent backdrop as well as a chance to enjoy a glass of mulled wine or hot chocolate at the rink-side café. For more information contact the Historic Royal Palace's Press Office on [press@hrp.org.uk](mailto:press@hrp.org.uk)

### **Winter Wonderland**

*Hyde Park, 20 November 2015 to 3 January 2016*

Get into the festive spirit as family favourite Winter Wonderland returns to London's Hyde Park. This free-to-enter event includes a host of Christmas-themed fun and activities, including big top shows, an observation wheel and a huge Christmas market. Skate around the ice rink which circles the Victorian bandstand, enter the Magical Ice Kingdom with its 'ice forest' of frozen sculptures and gleaming ice castle, and enjoy Zippos Circus and Cirque Beserk. For more information contact Anna Hope at AKH Communications on [anna@akhcommunications.com](mailto:anna@akhcommunications.com)

### **Ice skating at the Tower of London**

*Tower of London, 20 November 2015 - 3 January 2016*

The ice rink returns to the famous dry moat at the Tower of London. Skate in the heart of the City or visit the Ice Bar and Café which offers a welcome place to warm up with hot drinks and delicious snacks, while enjoying the majestic views of the Tower. For more information contact the Historic Royal Palace's Press Office on [press@hrp.org.uk](mailto:press@hrp.org.uk)

## **Christmas Markets and festive shopping**

### **Southbank Centre Christmas Market**

*Southbank, 27 October 2015 – 17 January 2016*

Winter Festival with NatWest returns to the Southbank Centre, transforming the Southbank Centre into a seasonal wonderland. Browse festive markets stuffed with delicious treats and unusual gifts. Enjoy live music or see a performance by Slava's Snowshow and La Soirée. There are lots of opportunities to join in with free activities and a twinkling atmosphere of cheer to enjoy with family and friends. The majority of the Winter Festival's outdoor attractions (including the cafés and bars) will be open from 10am-10pm daily, with the market closing at 9pm Sun-Thurs.

### **The Harrods Festival of Christmas**

*Knightsbridge, 7 November 2015*

The Festival of Christmas begins with the launch of the Harrods Christmas Windows and the opening of the Christmas Grotto. Families are invited to join in the fun in Hans Crescent over the weekend and discover beautiful trees and decorations, festive characters and entertainment for the children. For more information contact Nadine Laswed on [nadine.laswed@harrods.com](mailto:nadine.laswed@harrods.com)

### **Tate Modern Christmas Market**

*Bankside by Tate Modern, 20 November 2015 – 23 December 2015*

Pretty wooden chalets will fill the space between the Tate Modern and the Thames once more in 2015 for this traditional Christmas market. Browse handmade wooden toys, unique jewellery, intricate decorations and plenty more, then tuck into bratwurst, crêpes, roasted nuts or a warming cup of glühwein. A carousel and festive music help add to the Christmas spirit. For more information contact the Tate Modern Press office on Call 020 7887 8730 / [pressoffice@tate.org.uk](mailto:pressoffice@tate.org.uk)

### **Hyper Japan Christmas Market**

*Tobacco Dock, 27 - 29 November 2015*

Enjoy a Tokyo shopping experience with a Christmas twist at the Hyper Japan Christmas Market. With a focus on festive shopping and food, the market brings Japanese-style festive fun to London in the charming setting of Tobacco Dock. Browse the many stalls and discover some unique gifts ranging from eccentric pop culture goodies, gaming and anime movies, to traditional crafts, elegant kimonos and even bonsai trees. For more information contact Charlotte at Tobacco Dock London on [charlotte@tobaccodocklondon.com](mailto:charlotte@tobaccodocklondon.com)

### **Malone Souliers Pop-Up**

*Hotel Café Royal, 30th November 2015 - 2 January 2016.*

A Malone Souliers pop-up shoe parlour will be hosted in the main entrance of the glamorous Hotel Café Royal, in partnership with Starlight Children's Foundation. This will be the label's first dedicated UK retail space, featuring exclusive styles not available elsewhere. 50% of all proceeds will go to Starlight Children's Foundation. For more information contact Emma Powell at Sauce Communications on [emma@saucecommunications.com](mailto:emma@saucecommunications.com) / 020 8 600 3613

**Festive Shopping Days at Chelsea Physic Garden**

*Chelsea, 1- 11 December 2015*

Shop for green-fingered gifts and festive treats at Chelsea Physic Garden during its Festive Shopping Days in the run-up to Christmas. With seasonal discounts and a host of gifts to browse, there is bound to be something for your friends and family. Shoppers enjoy free entry to the gardens and the Tangerine Dream Café will be serving a special Christmas menu during the day. For more information contact [marketing@chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk](mailto:marketing@chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk)

**Seven Dials and St. Martin's Courtyard Shopping Event**

*Covent Garden, 3 December 2015*

For one night only between 5-9pm, over 100 fashion stores, beauty brands, hotels, bars and restaurants will offer a 20% discount as well as a mixture of free experiential activities. The area will be traffic free, providing shoppers with a unique opportunity to wonder the cobbled streets that will be filled with street food, live music and entertainment. For more information contact Lily Magenis at Sister PR on [lily.magenis@sisterlondon.com](mailto:lily.magenis@sisterlondon.com)

## Events and Activities

### Hogwarts in the Snow

*Warner Bros. Studio Tour London, 13 November 2015 – 31 January 2016*

This festive season, Hogwarts in the Snow will offer visitors the opportunity to see the Harry Potter film series' most iconic sets decorated for festive scenes. Eight Christmas trees will line the Great Hall, the Gryffindor common room will be dressed for the season and a blanket of filmmaking snow will be meticulously applied to the majestic Hogwarts castle model. For more information contact the Warner Bros. Studio Tour Press Office on [press@wbstudiotour.co.uk](mailto:press@wbstudiotour.co.uk)

### Living Nativity

*ZSL London Zoo, 30 November - 16 December 2015*

Journey through the scenes of the nativity and meet the Wise Men, see Mary in the stable and talk to the Shepherds at ZSL London Zoo. Children can then join Santa for a story about the animals and receive a festive gift. For more information contact Rebecca Blanchard on [rebecca.blanchard@zsl.org](mailto:rebecca.blanchard@zsl.org) / 020 7449 6236

### Shrek's Adventure! London Christmas Experience

*Southbank, 1 – 31 December 2015*

Journey to Far Far Away this December for some festive treats as Shrek's Adventure! gets a Christmas makeover. Once you've experienced the attraction's ten separate shows you'll be greeted by Shrek, who'll be dressed seasonally and will give younger guests a special Christmas treat. There'll be time to take photos by Shrek's Christmas tree, too. For more information contact the Shrek's Adventure! Press Office on [SAL.PressOffice@merlinentertainments.biz](mailto:SAL.PressOffice@merlinentertainments.biz)

### Christmas at Sutton House

*Hackney, 2 – 20 December 2015*

Indoor Christmas pop-ups will inspire visitors to the 500 year old Sutton House in Hackney. The many halls and chambers of Sutton House will be filled with an extravaganza of pop-up shops and stalls run by local artisans. Father Christmas will be this year's special guest, in a double decker caravan which has an historic palace interior, while the decorations throughout Sutton house have been designed by a specialist artist to create an enchanted feel. For more information contact Hannah Prothero at the National Trust Press Office on [Hannah.Prothero@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:Hannah.Prothero@nationaltrust.org.uk)

### Festive Horse Drawn Rides in Richmond Park

*Richmond Park, 4 December 2015 – 3 January 2016*

This Christmas make your dreams come true and step into your very own horse drawn 'sleigh' for a ride in Richmond Park. This 90 minute experience begins at Holly Lodge, where you'll be met with warm refreshments. You will take your place in the four-person Landau carriage under warm blankets, embarking on a 60 minute ride through the park in all its stark winter beauty, in addition to being treated to a unique behind-the-scenes visit of the working stables. For more information contact Maggie Greene on [maggie@operationcentaur.com](mailto:maggie@operationcentaur.com)

### The Quackmas Carol Tour

*Central London, 5 December – 23 December 2015*

Climb aboard a Duck, sit back and relax as you breeze by millions of Christmas lights and take in the festive atmosphere of the capital - the ideal way to fit in some festive fun amongst all that Christmas shopping. Part treasure hunt, part sight-seeing tour, this is a festive and inventive way to spend an afternoon, suitable for families from 3 years and above. For more

information contact Kelly Thompson at  
Duck Tours on [kelly.thompson@londonducktours.com](mailto:kelly.thompson@londonducktours.com)

London

### **London Wetland Centre's Wonderful Winter Weekend**

*London Wetland Centre, 5-6 December 2015*

Children will be thrilled to hop aboard for a husky sleigh ride and visit Santa in his magical grotto at the London Wetland Centre, where you can enjoy the Christmas celebrations among beautiful surroundings. Take a stroll among the lakes, meadows and ponds of this wonderful winter oasis. For more information contact Mari Zuckschwert at the London Wetland Centre on [maria.zuckschwert@wwt.org.uk](mailto:maria.zuckschwert@wwt.org.uk)

### **A Victorian Christmas**

*Kensington Palace, 5 December 2015 - 3 January 2016*

Kensington Palace has been stylishly dressed for this festive occasion, taking visitors back in time to the days of Queen Victoria. Get into the festive spirit with Victorian-themed entertainment and activities, from seasonal music in the form of carol singing or discovering more about Victorian pantomime, theatre and music hall performances; to going on an eerie Christmas tour to learn more about spooky festive life in the palace. For more information contact Laura Hutchinson, Media & PR Manager at Kensington Palaces, on [Laura.hutchinson@hrp.org.uk](mailto:Laura.hutchinson@hrp.org.uk)

### **Victorian Santa's Grotto**

*Museum of London Docklands, 5 December - 23 December 2015*

Travel back in time to a festive Victorian street to meet Father Christmas in his secret grotto at Museum of London Docklands. After a magical meeting with Father Christmas, children receive a special gift and the option to have their photograph taken against the backdrop of 19th century London. For more information contact Laura Jackson at the Museum of London on [ljackson@museumoflondon.org.uk](mailto:ljackson@museumoflondon.org.uk)

### **Cutty Sark Christmas**

*Greenwich, 5 – 6 December 2015*

Inspired by the cargoes that *Cutty Sark* carried around the world, visitors can make their own beautiful Christmas decoration to celebrate the festive season, during their visit to the famous tea clipper. For more information contact Emma Gough at the Royal Maritime Museum on [egough@rmg.co.uk](mailto:egough@rmg.co.uk)

### **Art Workshop: A Wartime Christmas**

*Imperial War Museum London, 20 - 23 and 27 - 31 December 2015*

Get crafty and help decorate the Imperial War Museum's Christmas wreath, and learn about how people celebrated Christmas on the Home Front. Have a go at making your own charm for the wreath, inspired by the lucky numbers, coins and love hearts that featured in lucky charms and tokens given as presents during the First World War. For more information contact Harriet Thompson, Press Assistant at the Imperial War Museum London, on [hthompson@iwm.org.uk](mailto:hthompson@iwm.org.uk) / 020 7416 5436

### **Ripley's Believe it or Not! Christmas Trail**

*Piccadilly Circus, 14 November 2015 – 6 January 2016*

New to the attraction this Christmas is an interactive Christmas trail, sure to keep everyone entertained during the festive season. With facts ranging from the curious to the unbelievable, the 'Ripley's Christmas Trail' offers festive fun suitable for all ages. All guests will be issued with a trail map and a pencil at the beginning of their visit and can gradually answer the questions at the appropriate trail points situated throughout the attraction. At the end of the visit, guests can hand in their completed trail map to the gift shop and receive a festive treat. For more information contact Naomi Finn, PR & Communications Manager at Ripley's, on [naomi@ripleyslondon.com](mailto:naomi@ripleyslondon.com) / 020 7494 6814



## Entertainment

### **The Winter's Tale**

*The Garrick Theatre, 17 October 2015 – 13 January 2016*

Following the announcement that esteemed playwright, actor and director Kenneth Branagh would be setting up a brand-new theatre company, the Garrick Theatre will be presenting Shakespeare's "problem play" *The Winter's Tale*, directed by Branagh himself. Starring Dame Judi Dench, this tale of jealousy, betrayal and ultimate redemption follows the fortunes of King Leontes of Sicilia and his childhood friend, the bohemian king Polixenes. For more information please contact [info@thecornershoppr.com](mailto:info@thecornershoppr.com)

### **Elf the Musical**

*Dominion Theatre, 24 October 2015 - 2 January 2016*

Ben Forster, Kimberley Walsh, Joe McGann and Jessica Martin will star in the London premiere of *Elf* the smash hit musical for a strictly limited 10-week season. Based on the beloved 2003 New Line Cinema hit starring Will Ferrell, *ELF* is the tale of Buddy, a young orphan child who mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported back to the North Pole. For more information contact Alexandra Buchanan on 020 3709 9722 / [alex@amandamalpess.com](mailto:alex@amandamalpess.com)

### **Jack and the Beanstalk**

*Hackney Empire, 21 November 2015 - 3 January 2016*

London's most famous panto will star Hackney Empire's own Olivier nominated dame Clive Rowe and Olivier Award-nominated Bodyguard actress Debbie Kurup. Set in the kingdom of Hackneydale it follows the story of young Jack tempted by a mysterious stranger into swapping the family's trusty old cow for a handful of magic beans. The show promises outlandish costumes, buckets of silliness, hilarious jokes and full-on show stoppers performed alongside a stunning live band. For more information contact [info@hackneyempire.co.uk](mailto:info@hackneyempire.co.uk)

### **The Snowman**

*The Peacock Theatre, 25 November 2015 - 3 January 2016*

Based on the book by Raymond Briggs, *The Snowman* is the story of a young boy whose snowman comes to life on Christmas Eve. Together they set off on a magical adventure, on which they encounter dancing penguins, reindeer and even Father Christmas. After escaping the icy clutches of Jack Frost, they finally arrive back home – just in time for Christmas morning. Fans of the animated film cannot fail to be moved by the performance of 'Walking in the Air' by a live band, which is played as James and the Snowman fly through the night sky. For more information contact Agnish Ray on [Agnish.ray@sadlerswells.com](mailto:Agnish.ray@sadlerswells.com)

### **Advent Procession**

*St. Paul's Cathedral, 28 and 29 November 2015*

See one of the year's most dramatic services as a procession moves from darkness to light in this London landmark. Words and music focus on the Advent theme of light in darkness, sung by the Cathedral choir. For more information contact Karen Hart, Press & Communications Officer at St. Paul's Cathedral, [khart@stpaulscathedral.org.uk](mailto:khart@stpaulscathedral.org.uk)

### **A Christmas Carol**

*Noel Coward Theatre, 30 November 2015 - 30 January 2016*

Prepare to be swept into Christmases past, present and future in Charles Dickens' classic festive story A Christmas Carol. Oscar-winning actor Jim Broadbent returns to the West End stage to play the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge, who is taken on a journey through his past, present and future by three ghosts on Christmas Eve, as he embarks on a journey towards redemption. For more information contact [theatre@premiercomms.com](mailto:theatre@premiercomms.com)

### **The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker**

*Royal Opera House, 8 December 2015 - 14 January 2016*

Experience the magic of Tchaikovsky's famous score as the enchanting world of The Nutcracker is brought to life. Late on Christmas Eve, a young girl named Clara tiptoes downstairs in search of her favourite present, a nutcracker doll. There, she is met by a mysterious magician who transports her on a dream-like adventure, through magical lands where she encounters the Mouse King and Sugar Plum Fairy. Expect breathtaking sets, sparkling stage effects with a Christmas tree that grows before your eyes, and famous melodies in Peter Wright's spectacular production. For more information contact Gareth King, Ballet Press and Communications Officer at the Royal Opera House on [gareth.king@roh.org.uk](mailto:gareth.king@roh.org.uk).

### **Carols for Shoppers**

*St. Martin in the Fields, 12 December 2015*

Take a break from your hectic schedule of Christmas shopping with an afternoon of carols and festive music in the beautiful and relaxing setting of St-Martin-in-the-Fields. Join in with traditional carols including Hark the Heralds Angels Sing and Come all ye Faithful and listen to an array of festive gems such as In the Bleak Midwinter and Away in a Manger. For more information contact [info@smitf.org](mailto:info@smitf.org)

### **The Little Match Girl**

*Sadler's Wells, 12 December 2015 - 3 January 2016*

Based on the popular story by Hans Christian Andersen, this charming show transports audiences to an icy cold Christmas Eve setting. A poor young match girl is wandering the streets. Shivering, starving and down to her last match to keep her warm, she suddenly sees what appears to be her loving grandmother, who takes her to the moon, leaving her troubled and grey life behind. This heart-warming tale of hopes and dreams boasts inventive visuals and dazzling dance courtesy of celebrated director and choreographer Arthur Pita. For more information contact Helen Snell at the Sadler's Wells Press Office on [helen@helensnell.com](mailto:helen@helensnell.com) / 07779 027 045.

### **Raymond Gubbay Presents – Christmas Carol Singalong**

*Royal Albert Hall, 13 December 2015*

Sing your heart out with all of the family as irrepressible showman Jonathan Cohen leads you through a fun-filled evening at Christmas Carol Singalong at the iconic Royal Albert Hall, accompanied by the London Concert Orchestra. For more information contact Rick Burin at the Royal Albert Hall on [rickb@royalalberthall.com](mailto:rickb@royalalberthall.com)

**Slava's Snowshow**

*Royal Festival Hall, 16 December 2015 - 3 January 2016*

This award-winning show combines theatrical clowning and stunning spectacle to create a visual masterpiece loved by children and adults alike. Performed by a highly renowned company of clowns, the magical show creates a dream-like world where one extraordinary image melts into another, culminating in a dazzling finale which needs to be experienced first-hand. For more information contact Alexandra Buchanan on 020 3709 9722 /

[alex@amandamalpass.com](mailto:alex@amandamalpass.com)

**Disney on Ice Presents Worlds of Enchantment**

*The O2, 22 December 2015 - 3 January 2016*

A whole range of new characters are joining old favourites Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck and the gang on the ice. Taking part in this all new production are characters from the likes of Frozen, Cars, The Little Mermaid and Toy Story, all brought to life by some of the country's top ice skaters. With lavish costumes, elaborate lighting, breath-taking set pieces and everyone's favourite Disney scores, audiences are transported to a magical world of adventure and fun. For more information contact Rebecca at AEG Events on

[rebecca.laurie@aeglive.co.uk](mailto:rebecca.laurie@aeglive.co.uk)

## **Festive Fare**

### **Santa's Tropical Grotto**

*Rainforest Café, 14 November – 31 December 2015*

Greeted by elves on the day, mix two magical worlds at the Rainforest Café's Christmas Grotto. A visit to Santa's grotto includes a two-course meal and drink. Expect plenty of tropical fun on this festive occasion. For more information contact the sales team on [salesmanager@therainforestcafe.co.uk](mailto:salesmanager@therainforestcafe.co.uk)

### **Christmas Unwrapped Afternoon Tea**

*InterContinental Park Lane, 22 November 2015 – 3 January 2016*

The new Christmas Unwrapped Afternoon Tea blends much-loved Christmas Day hallmarks to create a journey through this anticipated tradition. From 'pigs in blankets' and vol-au-vents to dessert presents served under a mini Christmas tree, this experience celebrates all the classics. For more information contact Patty Kahn-Saunders, Director of Communications InterContinental London Park Lane on [patty.kahn-saunders@ihg.com](mailto:patty.kahn-saunders@ihg.com)

### **Snow Queen Afternoon Tea**

*Hilton Conrad London St. James, 23 November 2015 – 11 February 2016*

The Snow Queen Afternoon Tea is inspired by the enchanting Hans Christian Anderson fairy-tale with a glittering array of winter delicacies, complimented with free flowing champagne. Treats will recreate the 'magic mirror' with salted butter shortbread, yoghurt cream, frosted blueberries and sugar shards, as well as 'the palace snowflakes' with blackcurrant and cardamom cake, glittering meringue and icing sugar snowflakes. For more information contact Melissa Dive on [Melissa Dive melissa@ophirpr.co.uk](mailto:melissa@ophirpr.co.uk)

### **Foodies Christmas Festival**

*Brick Lane, 27-29 November 2015*

This November London's acclaimed chefs and celebrity cooks will swap their aprons for Santa hats in the Aga Rangemaster Chefs Theatre, sharing their favourite recipes and top tips to help you create the perfect Christmas feast for friends and family. Confirmed chefs include Adam Simmonds (Michelin Star & Great British Menu Winner 2014) and Dhruv Baker (MasterChef Winner 2010). Alongside traditional and modern dishes, chefs will cook their favourite Retro Recipes, transporting you back in time to the 1960s when green piped potato, glacé cherries and multi-coloured cheese and jellies were all the rage. For more information contact Gary Anderson at Lanyard Media on [gary@lanyardmedia.com](mailto:gary@lanyardmedia.com)

### **The Smart School of Cookery's Christmas Baking Classes**

*St. Katherine Docks, 28 November - 13 December 2015*

Baking fans or cooking novices can learn how to make several festive treats at these workshops. Mince pies with brandy ice cream, clementine posset with port and cranberry compote and mulled wine poached pears are all on the menu. For more information please see their website: <http://www.annsmartschool.com/london/>

### **Vinopolis Festive Wine Experience**

*London Bridge, 2 – 20 December 2015*

Experience the best of Vinopolis, London's premier Wine Tasting Attraction before it closes its doors for good this December. Discover the unique Wine Experience where you can taste an array of over 100 wines, champagnes and spirits from all over the world. The Wine Experience is completely self-guided, offering a unique and interactive approach to wine tasting with various quizzes and games in eight Tasting Zones. For more information contact Josephine Clarke on [Josephine.Clarke@vinopolis.co.uk](mailto:Josephine.Clarke@vinopolis.co.uk)

**Winter Cocktails at the Churchill Bar & Terrace**

*Hyatt Regency London, 7 – 24 December 2015*

This winter, the Churchill Bar's glamorous alfresco terrace will be transformed into the ideal winter setting with twinkling lanterns and lavish fur-lined seats, where guests will be given hot water bottles and cashmere throws on arrival, providing a retreat from the bustling streets ahead of Christmas while guests can enjoy a series of special festive winter cocktails. For more information contact Emily King at the Hyatt Regency London on [Emily.king@hyatt.com](mailto:Emily.king@hyatt.com)

**Bottomless Boxing Day Brunch**

*Percy & Founders, 26 December 2015 – 13 January 2015*

Percy & Founders has a range of beautiful, relaxed and social dining spaces with views onto Fitzrovia Square. Over the festive periods, brunch-lovers can enjoy the weekend brunch menu with bottomless Prosecco or Bloody Mary for £16 per person. For more information contact Molly Assheton, Marketing Co-ordinator for Percy & Founders, on [molly.assheton@openhouselondon.com](mailto:molly.assheton@openhouselondon.com) / 020 7034 5424.

## **New Year's Eve Celebrations**

### **London New Year's Eve Fireworks with Unicef**

*Various locations in central London, 31 December 2015*

London's spectacular New Year's Eve fireworks display at the Coca-Cola London Eye is famous around the world. At midnight, Big Ben will ring out, followed by the UK's largest annual fireworks display, part of London's New Year's Eve with Unicef. Tickets are available online through [www.seetickets.com](http://www.seetickets.com). For more information contact the Greater London Authority's Press Office on [communitydesk@london.gov.uk](mailto:communitydesk@london.gov.uk).

### **New Year's Eve at the Roof Gardens**

*High Street Kensington, 31 December 2015*

Ring in the New Year 100ft above London in three beautifully themed gardens. Flappers and gangsters will be treated to a night of 1920's glamour complete with spectacular firework display at the stroke of midnight. Celebrations will start with cocktails upon arrival and a seasonal winter barbeque will be available in the heated Tudor Walkway. Guests can get down to Russ Cowie on trombone and percussion, playing the best party anthems of 2015 with a 1920's twist. For more information contact Charlotte Dollin on 0207 368 3963 / [charlotte.dollin@roofgardens.virgin.com](mailto:charlotte.dollin@roofgardens.virgin.com)

### **Celebrate at the Royal Opera House**

*Covent Garden, 31 December 2015*

This New Year's Eve, guests at the Royal Opera House will start the year in style with live music, opera classics, decadent dishes and plenty of champagne in the beautiful glass-vaulted Paul Hamlyn Hall. Following a four-course dinner, the Royal Opera Chorus will entertain guests with classics from the repertory, before guests take to the Amphitheatre Terrace for unparalleled views of the annual London firework display. For more information contact Tessa Sampson at Bacchus PR on 0208 968 0202 / [tessa@bacchus-pr.com](mailto:tessa@bacchus-pr.com)

### **Ring in the New Year at The Arch London**

*Marble Arch, 31 December 2015*

An extravagant five-course New Year's Eve menu will be served in Hunter 486 at The Arch London. Guests can end the year with this indulgent option, which also includes champagne and live music from 7pm. Located a stone's throw from Bond Street, Selfridges and Regent Street, the hotel is perfectly placed for enjoying a quiet evening in central London. For more information contact Roxii Hoare-Smith at Luxe PR on 020 7368 3330 / [Roxii@luxep.com](mailto:Roxii@luxep.com)

### **A Vintage New Year's Eve Party at Southbank Centre**

*Southbank, 31 December 2015*

Stretching over five floors in the Royal Festival Hall, the party celebrates the decades past, from the 1920s through to the 1980s, with six pop-up themed nightclubs and vintage entertainment. In between dancing, guests can get a makeover from their favourite decade or a quick touch-up at The Vintage Hair and Beauty Salon, and visit the vintage photography studio to capture the final look. Just before midnight, the exclusive terrace will open for guests to watch London's famous New Year's Eve fireworks. For more information contact Harriet Black on 020 7921 0888 / [harriet.black@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:harriet.black@southbankcentre.co.uk)

### **Viennese New Year's Eve Gala at Barbican Hall**

*Barbican, 31 December 2015*

Start your New Year's Eve celebrations in traditional style with this evening of Viennese music and dance from the Strauss family and friends. The performers, dressed in traditional Viennese costume, will be accompanied by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. For more information contact the Press Office at the Barbican on [press@barbican.org.uk](mailto:press@barbican.org.uk)

### **Midnight in London**

*The Booking Office, St. Pancras Renaissance Hotel*

Taking inspiration from the debauchery and excess of the 1920s, Midnight in London, a decadent soiree inspired by the Bright Young Things, will play host to London's thrill-seekers. Guests are encouraged to dress in their finest 1920's clothing to enjoy dinner and cocktails in one of London's most awe inspiring buildings. Swing band, Café Manouche, will entertain guests throughout the evening playing music ideal for the Charleston. For more information contact Madeleine Duxbury on [madeleine.duxbury@renaissancehotels.com](mailto:madeleine.duxbury@renaissancehotels.com)

### **New Year's Day Parade 2016**

*Central London, 1 January 2016*

London's New Year's Day Parade crowns the capital's festive season. More than 8,000 performers representing the London boroughs and countries from across the globe attract more than 500,000 spectators with live television broadcasts in the UK and abroad. Watch the parade along its route between Piccadilly at noon and Parliament Square at 3.30pm, via Piccadilly Circus, Lower Regent Street, Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, Cockspur Street, Trafalgar Square and Whitehall. For more information contact Dan Kirkby at London's New Year's Day Parade on [dan@lndp.com](mailto:dan@lndp.com) / 07785 392735.