

A VERY CROYDON CHRISTMAS

However you like to celebrate the season, **A Very Croydon Christmas** has something for you! Join us for a fabulous long weekend of performances; poetry; arts and craft; and installations from around the world. You're welcome!

All events take place in and around Croydon Clocktower, Katharine Street, CR0 1NX or on the High Street.



A Living Snow Globe

Nearly all events are free to attend, with the exception of the Carol Ceilidh Concerts, please book ahead.

Activities are suitable for all ages and all abilities unless otherwise stated. See recommendations within the listings.

As in the case of all live events, timings and locations may change, especially so in the case of poor weather. Please be flexible and patient.

FRIDAY 5 – SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER 2025

JOIN US FOR...

ANANSI STORIES

Join storyteller and author **Wendy Shearer** for Caribbean tales of Anansi the trickster spider and his forest friends. With music, dancing and colourful props, everyone is invited to jump into the stories!

Suitable for ages 5+. Circa 30 mins.

Sat 1.30pm, 3pm & 4.15pm
Children's Library

BABY GOSPEL

An uplifting family concert of soul, gospel, and festive music with members of the incredible **CK Gospel Choir**. Sing along to Christmas classics, timeless carols, and Motown favourites! Baby-friendly and welcoming all ages.

Sat 12.30pm – 1.15pm
Children's Library

CAPTURING A VERY CROYDON CHRISTMAS

Join us in Central Library or spend some time with one of our roving reporters to make new podcasts that celebrate Christmas in Croydon. Share your stories and memories of the borough at Christmas, or tell us about family rituals or other winter cultural traditions.

Fri 5.30pm – 7pm, Sat 12pm – 5pm & Sun 3pm – 5pm
Central Library and around the Clocktower



CAROLS AND CEILIDH CONCERTS

The Wandle Ceilidh Band bring us festive folk music from banjos to fiddles, hearty sing-along carols, and ceilidh dancing. Enjoy an early evening family concert for the small ones with juice and a biscuit, or an after-work concert with mulled wine. A fun, musical way to start the season!

Fri 5pm – 5.45pm & 6.30pm – 7.30pm.
Subsidised ticket fee applies, please book in advance. Older children are welcome at 6.30pm too, but no mulled wine for them!
Croydon Clocktower, Braithwaite Hall

CHRISTMAS STORY HUNT

We are going on a Christmas Story Hunt with storyteller **Andy Capps**. A magical journey discovering stories, characters, and seasonal surprises along the way.

Suitable for ages 4 – 11. Circa 30 mins.

Sat 12pm, 2pm & 3.30pm
Children's Library

THE CLOCKTOWER CAFÉ

Our favourite café will be open Saturday and Sunday as well as serving drinks Friday evening from the Arts Bar (Level 1).

COLOMBIAN FAROLITAS

Celebrate Día de las Velitas (7 Dec) with **UK Latin Community** by designing your own paper lantern symbolising light and hope in this family-friendly workshop. A beautiful way to honour Latin American festive traditions. These colourful creations include a battery tea light; adult supervision is required.

Recommended age 8+.
Sun 1pm – 3pm & 3.30pm – 5pm
Clocktower Atrium

LE CONTREVENT

Ever dreamed of a magic carpet ride while a pianist accompanies your flight with marvellous music? Now's your chance... Close your eyes and let the world go by in the fantastic world of **Grandet Douglas**.

Fri 4pm – 5.30pm & 6.30pm – 7.30pm

Sat 12pm – 3pm & 4pm – 5pm

Sun 12pm – 1.30pm, 2pm – 3pm & 3.30pm – 4.30pm
High Street

CROYDON YOUTH JAZZ BAND

Croydon Music and Arts present a selection of Christmas classics performed by the **Croydon Youth Jazz Band** and their band leader Mike Hewitt Brown. Expect the quintessentially Christmassy sound of brass instruments performed by Croydon's brightest young stars.

Sun 1.15pm – 2pm
Croydon Clocktower, Braithwaite Hall

DJ FRIETMACHINE

A machine that makes your potato dance? This must be seen to be believed! **DJ Frietmachine** is the most swinging potato-installation in the world. Come for some record ready free fries and find out how much rhythm can be found in your potato.

Fri 5pm – 7pm, Sat 12.30pm – 2.30pm & 3.30pm – 5.30pm, Sun 12pm – 2pm & 3pm – 5pm
Katharine Street



DJ Frietmachine from Superhallo © Willem Van Puyenbroeck



ELF

This cheeky chap has been given a weekend off from Santa's workshop to come and celebrate with us in Croydon! I am sure he will happily take a message back to the big man if you ask nicely...

Sat 1.30pm – 2.15pm, 3pm – 3.45pm & 4.30pm – 5.15pm

Sun 12pm – 12.45pm, 1.45pm – 2.30pm & 3.15pm – 4pm

Katharine Street, High Street and North End

FACEPAINTING WITH OAKLAN BRENNON

Enjoy free festive face painting for children and all ages. Choose from a range of cheerful seasonal designs and add a splash of colour to your celebration.

Sat & Sun 12pm – 2pm & 3pm – 4.30pm
Clocktower Atrium

FESTIVE WINTER TRAIL

The Museum of Croydon will be open Friday evening till 7pm and all weekend for exhibitions, music and a festive seasonal trail. Collect a self-led trail sheet from the Museum Desk (on Level 1) and explore the history of Croydon hidden in our galleries. Complete the trail to win a sweet treat!

Sat & Sun 10am - 4pm
Museum of Croydon

LEE MICHAEL WALTON FESTIVE TUNES

A selection of Christmas songs, old and new, jazz, classical and pop, to suit all tastes. These are Lee's own arrangements, created to bring about a sense of nostalgia, sparkle and joy!

Sat 2.45pm – 3.15pm & 4pm – 4.30pm
Museum of Croydon



A LIVING SNOW GLOBE

A beautiful gliding winter scene ready to come alive at the push of a button... The Snow Queen will offer you a warm welcome from her sparkling world, whatever the weather.

Sat 3.15pm - 4pm & 5.15pm – 6pm

Sun 1.30pm – 2pm, 3pm – 3.30pm & 4.30pm – 5pm
High Street and North End

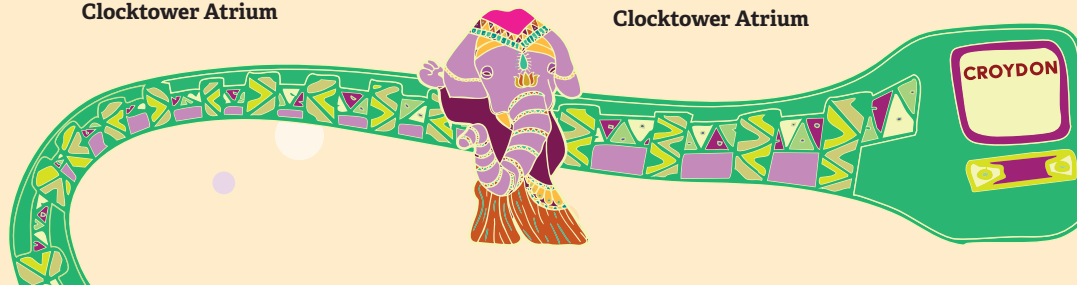


Lucky Horseshoe Workshop

LUCKY HORSESHOE WORKSHOP

Design and decorate a festive horseshoe using a variety of materials, including textiles, yarn, and other mixed media. The horseshoe is a traditional symbol of luck and travel. Artist **Deborah Birch** takes inspiration from her Romani heritage to connect to the shared experience of movement and belonging within Croydon's diverse community.

Sat 12.30pm – 2.30pm & 3.30pm – 5.30pm
Croydon Clocktower, Braithwaite Hall
Sun 12.30pm – 2.30pm & 3.15pm – 5pm
Clocktower Atrium



Matt Pang's Curiosity Christmas Tree

MATT PANG'S CURIOSITY CHRISTMAS TREE

A cross between a giant marble run and a magical clockwork toy, **The Curiosity Christmas Tree** is a wandering kinetic sculpture, hand-crafted from twisted metal, tinkling bells and twinkling lights. From inside the tree, the caretaker invites you to wind the handle and watch the baubles roll on their mesmerising journey.

Sun 12.45pm – 1.30pm, 2.15pm – 3pm & 4pm – 4.45pm

Katharine Street, High Street and North End

MEXICAN HOJALATA ORNAMENTS

Join **UK Latin Community** for a colourful craft workshop inspired by the vibrant Mexican tradition of Hojalata (tin art). Emboss and decorate festive ornaments using metallic sheets or card.

Fun, creative, and suitable for all ages!

Sat 1pm – 3pm & 3.30pm – 5.30pm
Clocktower Atrium

MISS MURPHY'S PANTOMIME PONIES

You are invited to a festive frolic! Release your inner panto pony at costume making and dance workshops, or come and pose as a pony. You can do just one, or all three. All pony activities are in The Braithwaite Hall.

Come with pals and family, or make new friends crafting a festive pony costume and mask

Saturday 12pm – 2.30pm & 3.30pm – 6pm.

Book ahead to help us prepare. Sessions limited to 25 people, first come first served.

Drop-in and pose as a pony in our pop-up photo studio to make A Very Croydon Panto Pony Postcard to take home.

Saturday 12pm – 2.30pm & 3.30pm – 5.30pm

Learn and perform a special Croydon Pony dressage dance in our choreography workshops (best suited for teenagers and adults).

Sun rehearsals 10am – 12.30pm, five-minute performances 1pm and 2.15pm.
Book ahead to help us prepare. Sessions limited to 8 people, first come first served.



Miss Murphy's Pantomime Ponies

Bring your family and friends (old or new) and the pony you made on Saturday to join a Pony Parade.

Sun rehearsals 12.30pm – 1pm.
Parade leaves after the 1pm performance.
Suitable for ages 7+.

You can also meet some of **Miss Murphy's Pantomime Ponies** at the Friday night ceilidhs.



Mughal Miniatures: The Elephant and the Drummer

MUGHAL MINIATURES: THE ELEPHANT AND THE DRUMMER

Dholli the drummer has just returned from his travels and can't wait to show off his brand-new drum to his friends: Elnaz the elephant and Maalini the garden guardian. It's not long before Maalini is dancing along! But Elnaz is not so sure... Can Dholli and Maalini help Elnaz find her groove and join the dance?

Sat 1pm – 1.30pm, 2.30pm – 3pm, 4pm – 4.30pm
Katharine Street, High Street and North End

NARDUGAN CRAFT WORKSHOP

Atelier Arzu brings a unique workshop blending Christmas and Turkish Nardugan traditions. Craft your own miniature decorative wreath featuring pomegranates and a traditional nazar boncuğu (evil eye bead) as a symbol of protection and positive energy.

Sat 12pm – 2pm & 4pm – 6pm

Sun 12pm – 1.30pm & 2.30pm – 4.30pm
Clocktower Atrium

OLEKSII OLISHEVSKYI

Ukrainian pianist Oleksii will bring the Samuel Coleridge-Taylor exhibition to life with a mixture of his own compositions, Ukrainian Carols and classic recitals.

Sun 1.30pm & 4pm
Museum of Croydon

POEMS FOR PEACE

A multilingual poetry performance on the themes of peace, togetherness and the spirit of Christmas. Languages include amongst others Farsi, Urdu, Bengali and English. Presented in partnership with Faiths Together, Poets Anonymous Croydon and the Muslim Association Croydon.

Sun 3pm – 4.30pm with interval – includes free tea, coffee, biscuits.

Croydon Clocktower, Braithwaite Hall



Rosettes

ROSETTES

Using repurposed fabric including shirting and tablecloths **Sam Nowell** guides you to create wearable Rosettes to crown yourself with a rather mundane or unfavourable attribute.

Sat 12.30pm – 2.30pm & 3.30pm – 5.30pm

Croydon Clocktower, Braithwaite Hall

Sun 12pm – 2pm & 3pm – 5pm
Clocktower Atrium

SYMBOLS OF PEACE WORKSHOP

Family friendly drawing activities where, led by artist **Chioma Ince**, we will be making our own symbols of peace inspired by countries from around the world. Transform your piece of art into a colourful badge to wear home.

Fri 4.30pm – 7pm

Clocktower Level 1 landing (nr Museum)

Sun 12.30pm – 3.30pm

Clocktower Atrium

THREADS OF CHRISTMAS PAST

Use threads to create a beautiful drawing that expresses a memory or story found in Croydon's past, with **Lydia Allain Chapman**. Craft your own card to send to a loved one, or take home an image to hang on your wall, inspired by the work of Korean artist, Do Ho Suh.

Sat 1pm – 3pm & 4pm – 6pm

Clocktower Atrium

A VERY CROYDON CHRISTMAS PAINTING

Join illustrator **Chantelle D'Souza**, the artist behind this year's poster image, for a fun painting workshop for all ages. Recreate highlights from her **A Very Croydon Christmas** design, including Elnaz the Elephant and our Pantomime Ponies. No experience needed! Suitable for ages 6+.

Sun 12pm – 2pm & 3pm – 5pm

Clocktower Atrium



A Very Croydon Christmas Painting

VINTAGE CHRISTMAS COLLAGE

Come and make a Christmas collage with vintage pieces, cuts outs and stickers. Led by Croydon artist **Stacey McGonigal**.

6 Dec is Small Business Saturday UK. We are celebrating by supporting our new CEZ Creative Space in Centrale with this workshop as part of their Christmas Market.

Fri 4pm – 6.30pm

Clocktower Level 1 landing (nr Museum)

Sat 12pm – 3pm

Croydon Creative Enterprise Zone, LG Centrale, 21 North End, CR0 1TY



Willow Star Weaving

WILLOW STAR WEAVING

Judith Needham returns to Croydon with fun for all the family. Make mini willow stars to decorate your tree or home this Christmas. Or maybe you'd like to craft a star wand? Suitable for ages 7+.

Fri 4pm – 6.30pm

Clocktower Level 1 landing (nr Museum)

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