

PARENTS NEWS

Dec/Jan 2014/15 No.196 The First & Foremost Local Monthly Newspaper for Families

1993 - 2014

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FREE

www.rarebreeds.org.uk

What's On in December / January

www.birdworld.co.uk

Three Editions in South-East England

Southwest London & Surrey
London South E Surrey & West Kent
Kent

ISSN 2050-4772

KENT

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www.parents-news.co.uk

London Wetlands Centre
www.wwt.org.uk

www.fairfield.co.uk



Christmas Out & About

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With Christmas fast approaching and penguins very much in the limelight in the wake of the latest seasonal offering from retail giant John Lewis, Birdworld is proud to tell its own happy penguin tale and offer you the chance to come to the park for FREE to meet the stars of the show in time for Christmas.

The story begins with Sid and Nancy, Birdworld's most loved-up African penguin couple, who laid two eggs this year and incubated them faithfully until it was noticed that one of the embryos had died. To protect the remaining one, surrogate parent Keeper Alice was called in, and the egg was taken to the park's incubation room, where on 8th August staff had the happy event of seeing the baby penguin emerge fit, strong and healthy!

This is where keepers Jack and Zoe stepped in as both have worked in South Africa passing on their rearing expertise and are extremely experienced in the care and upbringing of penguins. Their dedication to their new 'baby' was without equal and there really was no other title for the chick than the combination of his foster parent's names - Joey! All this time, Sid and Nancy

Birdworld African penguin

remained in Penguin Beach, watching on as other penguins laid eggs and reared chicks, no doubt wondering if their baby had survived – so it was with delight that on 21st October staff moved Joey out of the rearing room and into Penguin Beach where he met Sid and Nancy for the first time! Joey now lives with his true parents but still remembers his foster mum and dad, and pesters them whenever they are

nearby. He has become a firm favourite with visitors. You can see Sid, Nancy and Joey at Birdworld, or even help at mealtimes with the fabulous feeding experience! Or if you can't get to the park why not adopt one of the family or order one of our cuddly penguins online?

<http://birdworld.co.uk/shop/christmas-shopping-page/>

December 2014

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Jack and Zoe with little Joey Penguin Beach at the park.

December 2014

Meet Santa with his reindeer – including baby Rudolph - and take a husky sleigh ride

WWT London Wetland Centre Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 December
Get into the festive mood at WWT London Wetland Centre's wonderful winter weekend! Children will be thrilled to hop aboard for a husky sleigh ride, visit Santa

in his magical grotto and meet the reindeer, including baby Rudolph.

Head over to the northern pine forest; Father Christmas will be ready to welcome families in his cosy grotto among the trees.

You can also meet the family of reindeer, including a six month old baby, and discover more about these delightful animals from the North.

Take a sleigh ride with the huggable huskies; they're

lovely to look at but also working animals, so younger children can experience the excitement of a husky sleigh ride. Or perhaps you'd like a family photo taken with one of these cuddly dogs as a special seasonal souvenir?

If you want to hear icy tales of adventure join our Polar Explorer, Anthony Arctic for some Frantic Antarctic Antics at his Base Camp.

Show tickets are £2 per child (cash only, just turn up. Adults free); shows at 11am, 12.30pm, 2pm and 3.00pm.

Here at Britain's favourite nature reserve you can enjoy the Christmas celebrations among beautiful surroundings. Take a stroll among the lakes, meadows and ponds of this wonderful winter oasis and then relax over Christmas lunch in the Water's Edge Cafe.

Plus, on Sunday only Fullers Shire Horse dray rides from 12.00-3pm. See these magnificent animals in action and hop aboard for a ride. By enjoying a festive weekend there, you're also contributing towards their vital conservation work in the UK and around the world.



Christmas Out & About

Sleeping Beauty and the Time Lords returns!

Join the adventure through time and space in Spotlites' professional interactive play for children's *Sleeping Beauty & the Time Lords*. The play, written in Spotlites' unique interactive style where children come onstage throughout, tells the story of the beautiful princess, Aurora. Despised by a jealous Cyberwitch, she is plunged into a hundred year cryogenic sleep. A prophecy tells that one day, a Time Lord will appear and wake the Princess but the evil Cyberwitch has other ideas!

Spotlites specialises in theatre for young people and their interactive shows are a unique experience for children aged 5-12. This production, opening on 7th December at Spotlites @ Kings Theatre, High Street, Chatham, will offer children the chance to defeat the evil Cyberwitch with real sonic screwdrivers and disable Extremators with the Doctor!

This unique production opens on Sunday 7th December.

You can book your tickets on 01634 829468 or choose your own seats online at

Prices
Normal admission prices to WWT London Wetland Centre apply

- Visit to Santa is £5 per child (cash only) including goody bag
- Santa tickets cannot be pre-booked, just turn up but please bear in mind the queue can be lengthy
- In the event of rain the Father Christmas queue will be moved indoors
- Husky sleigh rides are free with admission (children 8 or younger, with weight restrictions)
- There is no charge to see the reindeer (11am to 4pm)
- Anthony Arctic's Frantic Antarctic Antics tickets are £2 per child (cash only, just turn up. Adults free); shows at 11am, 12.30pm, 2pm and 3.00pm.

For full details and updates please check www.wwt.org.uk/london

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Blowing the Whistle on GDC Scam.

Orthodontists and the General Dental Council are operating an illegal scam to withhold information from the public about new methods which can avoid almost all extractions and even major jaw surgery. This is being done partly to protect traditional methods and partly to preserve the high incomes of orthodontists and surgeons. Research suggests that this British development is being ignored in the UK while spreading rapidly abroad. As a result hundreds of children and young adults have extractions and jaw surgery, unaware they may be unnecessary.

Some Orthodontists mislead patients, saying that extractions can be avoided although the traditional methods they use leave too little room, risking severe damage to the face. It is wise to explore the internet yourself, many sites make great claims and show beautiful faces but very few show good results before and after treatment. Even the media is scared of disclosing this scandal.

There is another way.

Take a second opinion now. Nine years old may be too late.

ORTHOTROPICS

The alternative to orthodontics with extractions and surgery.



Research shows Orthotropics can get much better results than "Train Tracks".

Professor John Mew, Tunbridge Wells 01892 526406 and personal 01435 862045
Email: john.mew@virgin.net

When experts disagree, where do you go for answers?
www.Orthotropics.com
Ask an appropriate professional to refer you for a free assessment

Visit our Winter Wonderland & meet Santa!

Selected dates from 29th Nov - 24th Dec 2014



Book online today at www.birdworld.co.uk

WWT London Wetland Centre

Meet Santa and his reindeer and take a husky sleigh ride!

Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 December
For full details see www.wwt.org.uk/londonsanta
WWT London Wetland Centre, Barnes SW13 9WT
t: 0208 409 4400 e: info@london@wwt.org.uk

SLEEPING BEAUTY AND THE TIME LORDS
Professional interactive play for 5-12s

★★★★★
British Theatre Guide
★★★★★
Broadway Baby
★★★★★
EdWestMag

Interactive theatre for kids who don't just want to sit still and watch!
Defeat the evil Cyberwitch with real sonic screwdrivers!
Disable Extremators with the Doctor!
Kids come onstage throughout!

7th December - 22nd February
£7.50 (£6.50) £26 family

Puss in Boots
Interactive play for 2-6s
Help Puss storm ogre's bouncy castle!
"Outstanding" Fringe/Review

Christmas Holiday Drama Workshops for 5-12s
FORCE AWAKENS
CYBERMEN
MARS
ES
FRANKENSTEIN

Spotlites @ Kings Theatre, 338 High Street, Chatham ME4 4NR
www.spotlites.co.uk 01634 829468

Christmas Gifts

Linkee gets a smart new facelift in time for Christmas 2014

- new questions, new look, new celebrity contributors, same shouty-out game-play - **Linkee**, the cheeky trivia party game which liberated thousands of UK families from a Yuletide-yawnfest last Christmas, is back for 2014's festivities with a more sophisticated look and new sexy features: **All new questions**, 357 brand-spanking new **Linkee** to solve, a crowd of which have been third-sourced from **Linkee** fans during the past year... making it a bang-up-to-date mix of the current, the topical, the tricky and the downright daft.



Selfie Brush

The hottest social media tool for your selfies! Wet brush isa the number one selling detangling brush in the US and now it doubles up as a phone case The side of the brush has a handy slot for your iphone Available from www.sallyexpress.com



Godstone Farm Christmas

MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS

The elves will be waiting to greet you and guide you through the snowman arkway.

Timmy, Ningo and their lovely shaggy friends will be eagerly awaiting for you to wander along and say hello.

Post your letter in the Godstone Farm Post Office to let Father Christmas know if you have been naughty or nice!

Finally, step into the Christmas cabin to meet the big man himself who has a special gift for all the children who have been good this year!

Only £7.50

Pre-book your tickets 01883 742546

Includes cake, mince pies, hot chocolate, Santa's special gift, and a special photo with Santa.

For full details, dates and pricing pick up a leaflet at the gift shop or see www.godstonefarm.co.uk

Look no further than **ZSL London Zoo** for a wild present this Christmas



With just three months till Christmas, the countdown is in full swing and the **Zoological Society of London (ZSL)** has a selection of tempting treats sure to satisfy any festive wish list.



ZSL and Bloomsbury's Wild Things! books are on special offer this Christmas; for just £12 the little monster in your family can unwrap titles including *'The Lion who came to Lunch'*, a puppet of the animal featured, and a foam animal mask, to really bring the stories to life.

For the person who has everything, how about making magical memories this Christmas with a *VIP Meet the Animals* encounter, or go one

ADOPT A DARTMOOR PONY

development and progress of the pony you have chosen over the following year.

Ponies George, Charlie, Smartie and Rolo look forward to meeting you and to becoming part of your family! They live at the **Dartmoor Pony Heritage Trust Centre**, at Parke, Bovey Tracey in Devon.

By buying an Adoption, you will be funding the **DPHT's** work to feed, care for and find homes for these ponies and to give them a basic education so that they are more suitable for domestic and conservation grazing homes than coming straight off the Moor as wild, untouched animals. The charity's aim is to ensure the continuation of the native Dartmoor pony gene pool and to preserve the iconic pony on the Moor, for future generations to enjoy.

The cost is just £20 per year for UK residents; £25 for those who live abroad.

The Adoption Pack includes a beautiful line drawing and an adoption certificate and you'll also receive updates on the



If you are interested in adopting a **Dartmoor Heritage Pony** www.dpht.co.uk 01626 833234

December 2014

Grrrr-eat gifts for all the family

Fancy getting up close with one of **ZSL London Zoo's** mischievous monkeys? Or having a sleeper in the heart of **ZSL Whipsnade Zoo**? Then look no further than **ZSL** for inspiration.

With beautiful hand-painted, animal themed jewellery from designers *And Mary* for the girls, cute animal alphabet mugs for the little ones, trendy t-shirts for the boys and even cushions with awesome animals on them to take home and treasure, the whole family is covered this Christmas.

With cuddly toys and clothes, stunning home-ware and quirky gifts galore, **ZSL** is fully stocked and ready to be the one-stop shop for Christmas. Money raised from the sale of gifts supports **ZSL's** conservation work around the world and with prices starting at £4.95 there's something to suit every budget.

Gifts are available from **ZSL London Zoo's** shop in the Zoo and will be arriving soon on the website. With special



offers launching online and in-store **ZSL** is ready for Santa's helpers to fill their baskets.

www.zsl.org

December 2014

Greenall's

Here a great gift for mums and dads **The Original London Dry Gin** is distilled with eight unique botanicals to give a classic London Dry Gin with rich juniper notes, balanced with mature citrus and spice. **Greenall's** is available at most good supermarkets and wine stores, price £15.49.

The Greenall's Gift Box is exclusive to **Tesco** stores. New **Greenall's** Sloe Gin, price £16.00, available at **Sainsbury's** and **Tesco** stores. New **Greenall's** Wild Berry Gin, price £15.50, available at **Morrison's** and **Tesco** stores.

Christmas cocktail *Wild About You* 50ml **Greenall's** Wild Berry Gin; 25ml Lemon Juice



On the Berry-Side

50ml **Greenall's** Wild Berry Gin
20ml Lemon Juice
20ml Elderflower Cordial
4 Raspberries
Top with a dash of soda water
Method: Shake all ingredients apart from soda water, strain in to a hi-ball filled with ice, top up ice, add a dash of soda water
Garnish: Raspberry and a thick lemon slice

X Touch Gloves

For mums on the go...keep your gloves on and still use your touch screen mobile device... welcome to the **X Touch Glove**, from extreme weather clothing brand *'Extremities'*.

Whether it's stylish school-run mums, sporty outdoor types, or techy grandparents; the **X Touch Glove** will prove the perfect stocking filler this Christmas.

Originally developed to allow explorers and adventurers to use GPS navigation tools in hostile weather environments, these thermal lightweight stretch fabric gloves have a conductive fleece forefinger and thumb for smartphone or tablet use as well as a silicone print palm for extra grip. They can also be used as a base layer beneath ski gloves.

Price: £25. Sizes XS, S/M, L/XL.

Available online at www.extremities.co.uk



Sew Fab

Sew Fab: Sewing and Style for Young Fashionistas by *Lesley Ware* teaches 8-13 year olds all they need to know to sew their very own unique wardrobe, tailored completely to their own style. Be a stylist and fashion designer in one with **Sew Fab**, the ultimate style and sewing workbook for any fashion-obsessed girl. Packed with gorgeous illustrations, step-by-step projects, tips and fun activities, for creating unique clothing and accessories in no time. **Sew Fab** will take you from new sewing recruit to 'Sew Ready' in no time! Reveal your inner Style Tribe, learn how to match colours to your skin tone and tread the fine line between fun and functional by mastering the art of accessorising. Unpick myths around hand stitches and discover the essential items of any sewing basket before launching your own projects!

Christmas Gifts



Rehab London

A gift for dad. This has been created with cutting edge natural science technology by a team of dermatologists, makeup artists and scientists who were asked to develop a brand that could fulfil the needs of the male complexion. They came up with seven products that cater for different specific needs: Daily detox scrub, Argan oil shaving Gel, Calm balm post shaving balm, Morning glory moisturiser, shine free oil control lotion, revive survive anti-fatigue cream, Back to Matte anti shine gel

www.rehablondon.co.uk



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Christmas

December 6th, 7th, 13th, 14th, 20th, 21st, 22nd & 23rd

Mr Wong returns with his Pantomime adventures!

Book online at rarebreeds.org.uk T 01233 861508



Education

Penguin Children's Christmas Gift Guide 2014

Pre-School & Picture Books 0-6 Years

The Spectacular Tale of Peter Rabbit by **Emma Thompson**, illustrated by Eleanor Taylor Oscar-winning actress and screenwriter Emma Thompson triumphs once more with a tale that makes the everyday simply SPECTACULAR. "It was high summer and a

travelling fun-fair had come to the village... Peter Rabbit and Benjamin were forbidden to attend..." £12.99 Hardback *Peter Rabbit's Christmas Collection* by **Beatrix Potter** A festive treasure-trove of original Beatrix Potter stories, letters and illustrations, brought together in one Christmas collection.

This treasury is perfect for all fans of Beatrix Potter and Peter Rabbit, young and old, and includes little-known material, including beautiful Christmas cards, letters and stories.

RRP £14.99 Hardback *Snow Day* by **Richard Curtis**, illustrated by Rebecca Cobb A heart-warming winter tale

from writer and director Richard Curtis, and Rebecca Cobb, the powerhouse behind *The Empty Stocking*.

A snowy day, a deserted school and the teacher you least want to see. Welcome to Snow Day, the most magical day of the year... RRP £10.99 Hardback

December 2014 Top tips to boost young children's Christmas excitement

It's getting close to Christmas so postbags across the country are stuffed full of hopeful letters to Santa. **Mark O'Donnell**, the new headmaster of *St Martin's Ampleforth*, the prep school at *Ampleforth College*, has over 200 excited children eagerly awaiting a fun-filled festive season and has provided some tips on how to manage children's excitement in a way which puts the true meaning back into the holiday season. Mark says: "For parents, channeling young children's Christmas excitement can be both fun and challenging. Finding a balance between the 'giving' and 'receiving' messages are key to a fulfilling festive season."

1. Outside and Festive – Playing in the great outdoors is a fantastic way to wear out excited kids. Ampleforth is set in two thousand acres of scenic Yorkshire countryside so whether it's building a snowman, sledging or an old fashioned country ramble, busy days mean children sleep well.

2. Nativity – Popular film "Love, Actually" showed there's great diversity in nativity plays and this is true across the country. Helping build excitement for your

child's school nativity is a great way to encourage creativity and confidence and their first experience on stage is memorable for both the parent and child.

3. Church Service – Being a Benedictine school, we have lots of traditional church services around the festive season, but also a big focus on working the earth and being part of nature which is reflected in our Gardening Club where the children are able to collect holly and pine cones to make Christmas wreaths.

4. School-made creations – Here at *St. Martin's* we have a 20ft Christmas tree with all the decorations made by the children at the school. It's a great way to keep the children entertained and get them involved in some creative Christmas crafting.

5. Story Time – Reading an extract from a child's favourite book can be one way to keep a youngster's attention, as can reading a child's version of Luke chapter 2, the nativity story. Also, older children can keep younger children occupied by playing board games or other activities. www.ampleforth.org.uk

December 2014 Learn to Read in 4 Weeks for FREE*

with **Reading Eggs!** Full of educationally sound, fun and interactive activities, **Reading Eggs** focuses on the most fundamental skill needed in school: **reading**. Children from 3 to 7 years of age, or older children struggling with reading, will enjoy the huge variety of reading lessons, activities and games that make up the **Reading Eggs** programme.

Reading Eggspress continues the reading adventure by taking children to a brand new world designed for 7-13 year olds, focusing on comprehension and grammar. **Reading Eggspress** provides a unique learning environment where students' can improve their English language and comprehension skills in a way that is exciting and relevant. These programmes provide a

comprehensive range of online lessons that teach children aged 3-13 the literacy skills needed for lifetime reading success.

The reason why over 90% of parents using **Reading Eggs** and **Reading Eggspress** report a noticeable improvement in their child's reading skills is because the programme makes learning fun. Sign up for a special 4 WEEK FREE trial* and see for yourself how your child's reading improves by using **Reading Eggs** and **Reading Eggspress**.

Register your child at www.readingeggs.co.uk/parentnews

Registration is quick, easy and FREE! *Free trial only available to new customers who sign up at the above address. Not applicable for schools.



Employer action makes TechFuture Girls open to all

Thanks to generous sponsorship from employers, **TechFuture Girls**, will now be available free to all schools. **TechFuture Girls**, formerly known as **CC4G**, is a well-established resource for after school or lunchtime clubs, aimed at girls aged 10-14. Since its launch in 2005, more than 150,000 girls have benefited from its mix of activities, games and projects, all designed to build girls' skills and confidence in technology. The materials are developed in close collaboration with employers, and teach universally applicable skills like coding, cyber security, data management and video editing, but are themed around girls' interests, like music, sport or fashion. Regularly refreshed to reflect the fast moving world of technology, **TechFuture Girls** is aligned with the latest changes in the computing curriculum, and reflects the introduction of coding to all age groups.

Platinum sponsor **HP** has taken the lead in this initiative, with generous support from Gold sponsors **BT, National Grid** and **Oracle**. This considerable backing means that more than 20,000 schools can now access the programme without charge.

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Learn to Read in 4 Weeks FREE with Reading Eggs!

The multi-award winning online reading programme for 3-13 year olds.

With hundreds of reading lessons and activities to explore, sign up for our special **4 WEEK TRIAL*** and see first-hand how your child's reading can improve in just 4 weeks! **Reading Eggs** provides a comprehensive range of online reading lessons and eBooks that teach children aged 3-13 the literacy skills needed for lifetime reading success.

The reason why over 90% of parents using **Reading Eggs** report a noticeable improvement in their child's reading skills is because the programme makes learning phonics and basic reading skills fun.

Sign up for our special **4 WEEK FREE trial*** and see for yourself how your child's reading improves by using **Reading Eggs**.

FREE 4 WEEK TRIAL*
Register today at
www.readingeggs.co.uk/parentnews
Registration is quick, easy and FREE Offer ends 28th February 2015
*Free trial only available for new customers who sign up at the above address. Not applicable to schools.

Day Trips London Calendar

December 2014

London Calendar

www.parents-news.co.uk
This information plus much more online



Twitter: @parentsnewsuk

Theatre Crooms Hill London 020 8858 7755 Jack & the Beanstalk pantomime, www.greenwichtheatre.org.uk
Until 17 Jan Royal Opera House Covent Garden London 020 7304 4000 The Wind in the Willows brought to life through song, music, dance & puppetry for all the family, 5+ yrs, www.roh.org.uk
Until 28 Feb Canary Wharf Ice Rink Canada Square Park 0870 4000 601 This year the rink will be bigger & better than ever before suitable for families, www.canarywharf.com
2-5&12 Dec Chelsea Physic Garden London 020 7552 5646 Festive shopping days, 2.9.16.24.27 & 13.20.27 Jan **Queen's House** Greenwich 020 8858 4422 Play Tuesdays, under 5's, 6.13.20.27 Dec & **FREE**, Daily Nature through the Lens with close-ups of insects & extraordinary time lapse photography, www.nhm.ac.uk/whats-on
Daily David Attenborough: Life on Camera enjoy some of the best loved clips from his landmark television series, www.nhm.ac.uk/whats-on
Whats-on Daily Wildscapes experience what it's like to be an animal on the African plain, swimming through the ocean & in the Arctic & Antarctic circles, www.nhm.ac.uk/whats-on
Until 4 Jan Museum of London 150 London Wall London 020 7001 9844 A Bear Called Paddington all ages, **FREE**
Until 4 Jan Paddington's picnic a family-friendly activity space, up to 11 yrs, **FREE**
until-4 Jan Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens Ice Skate 600sqm rink, with a First Christmas Tree Mazemaded from real trees. There will be street entertainers, urban skater trick teams, an extended street market of London's top pop up eateries, plus shopping at the Artisan Craft market, traditional rides & much more, www.iceskatevauxhall.co.uk
Until 11 Jan Greenwich

From Australia, all ages. **Every weekend throughout Dec** Cutty Sark characters stories brought to life by characters from the ship's past, 3+ yrs, activities **FREE** with entry, www.rmg.co.uk/cuttrysark
6-7 Dec East **Wintergarden** Santa's Magical Silver Reindeer Christmas tale performed with classic festive songs for families, tickets www.canarywharf.com
all proceeds will be donated to Romny's the baby charity. 16 Dec: Carols & Candles Service special service for those working in & around Canary Wharf, www.canarywharf.com
6-7 Dec Horniman Museum London Road Forest Hill Horniman Christmas Fair enjoy festive treats & lots more, **FREE**. 13 Dec Hands on Family workshops themed sessions for families, 3+ yrs, **FREE**. 13 Dec ArtMakers create a pretty Roman Christmas Star to take home, adults **FREE**, families, 3+ yrs, 14 Dec A World of Stories, families, 5+ yrs, **FREE**. **Until 14 Dec** Discovery for All explore thousands of real objects from around the world with the museum's Explainers, all ages & adults, **FREE**. **Every Tues & Wed until 17 Dec** Busy Bess sessions for under 5's with crafts, creative play stories & songs, **FREE**. **Every Sat** Art Makers have fun with different art techniques to create something fabulous to take home, for families, 3+ yrs, **FREE** **Every Sat** Farmers Market, **FREE** entry, 24 Jan The Big Garden Birdwatch take part in the biggest birdwatch happening across the UK, join in activities all about garden birds including helping to count different birds in the Gardens & finding out about birdsong & making puppets, **FREE**, www.ballnet.org.uk/Nutcracker
6-7,13-14 Dec & daily 19-24 Dec London Zoo Regent's Park London 020 7722 3333 Meet Santa in his grotto & enjoy a fun packed day with Christmas themed activities, www.zsl.org
7 Dec Museum of Childhood Bethnal Green 020 8983 5200 Snowflakes interactive reading of book followed by a book signing, 3+ yrs, Daily Back-packs filled with jigsaws, stories & games to explore the collection, 4-11 yrs, Activity Card hands on art fun for children to create a Samurai helmet, a silver goblet or an elephant mask to take home, **FREE**, drop in, www.vam.ac.uk
6-7 Dec Cutty Sark King William Walk Greenwich 020 8858 3445 Family fun weekend, create a Christmas harbour scene with ships & a shimmering sea to turn into a card or hang up at home, all ages, 29.30 Dec Create a wool fluffy sheep made with wool just like the cargo Cutty Sark used to carry all the way

New LegoLand Windsor 01753 621621 Pirates Landing gets a major revamp to become New Pirates Shores featuring Castaway Camp a new pirate adventure play area with more than 100 brand new Lego modes & themed features on the Pirate Falls Treasure Quest log flume ride, plus a new themed restaurant plus lots more to offer.
Until 21 Dec Alfriston Clergy House Polegate 01323 870001 See the house decorated for Christmas throughout the ages, with medieval & Victorian seasonal foliage.
Until 23 Dec Bateman's Burwash 01435 882302 A Kipling family Christmas see the atmospheric home of Rudyard Kipling decorated for Christmas & try a special children's Christmas trail leading to an elves' workshop, 26 Dec Boxing Day breakfast & walk, 1 Jan New Year's Day breakfast & walk.
Until 31 Dec Bluewater Shopping Mall Dartford

Science Museum Store Pop up with live experiments & demonstrations taking place all day long whilst you get the chance to shop, children can play with all the latest toys, gadgets & goodies.
Until 4 Jan Royal Naval Museum 02392 73 7562 Biggles & Chums - First World War watercolours & works on paper art exhibition, **FREE**, **Until 30 Mar** Horrible Science of Submarines exhibition www.submarine-museum.co.uk
Until 18 Jan Royal Pavilion Ice Rink Brighton Ice Skating, 6.7.13.14.20-22 Dec **Bodiam Castle** Robertsbridge 01580 830196 Christmas at the Castle with Christmas traditions old & new with a Father Christmas castle grotto, making mummung masks & wassailing, 6.7.13.14.20-23 Dec Christmas lunches.
11 Dec Royal Naval Submarine Museum 023 92 545034 Christmas Carol Concert with members of Portsmouth Cathedral Choir, all profits will go towards the maintenance of HMS Alliance, www.submarine-museum.co.uk
24 Dec Explosion Museum of Naval Firepower 023 9250 5600 Meet Santa
20 Dec-4 Jan Royal Marines Museum Portsmouth 023 9281 9381 Get Me Out of Here: Survival in the Arctic test your arctic survival skills in winter themed art activities, 7 Dec Christmas Gala Concert, tickets 023 9281 9385.
Parents News On-line www.parents-news.co.uk
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From 5 Nov Tower of London Tower Hill London 0844 482 7799 Twilight Tours
Every weekend London Transport Museum 39 Wallington Street Covent Garden London 020 7379 6344 The Family Station choose some **FREE** activities to do as you explore the museum, families all ages. **Ongoing** Family Station All Year Round activities for families, 3-12yrs.
Ongoing Royal Mews Buckingham Palace 020 7766 7302 Family groups may explore a range of self directed activities from the art trolley, 5-11yrs.
Ongoing Science Museum Imax Theatre 0870 870 4868 Mysteries of the Unseen World, daily screenings, 8+ yrs.
Ongoing Royal Academy of Arts 020 7300 8000 www.royalacademy.org.uk New policy all children under 12yrs of age will have **FREE** entry to all exhibitions.
Every Sun National Gallery 020 7747 2885 Family workshops for families bringing paintings alive & listening to a themed story on the magic carpet, plus **FREE** family trail, www.nationalgallery.org.uk
Every Sun Hildreth Street Market Balham SW12 Street Market with fresh food traders sourced from all over London.
Every 2nd Sat of month National Geographic Store 83-97 Regent Street 020 7025 6960 Animal Man comes face to face with slithering snakes, slimy insects & smelly skunks. Meet a wide variety of animals to include owls, lizards, tortoises, amadillos, meerkats & lots more, hands on activities are led by AnimalMan Nick Spellman for all ages.
Every Sat Venet Street Market, Clapham Common 020 7622 8259 Offering fine foods & fresh produce plus a variety of handmade crafts will be available throughout Dec with gifts & cards for all the family as well as Christmas trees & floral decorations. Christmas trees will be available.
Every Sat Blue Elephant Theatre Camberwell 020 7701 0100 Young People's Theatre workshops, various age groups 7-18yrs, **FREE** to join.
Every Sat 2-4pm & after school on Tue & Thurs South London Gallery 65 Peckham Road 020 7703 6120 The Shop of Possibilities for children & families living on five neighbouring estates, Pelican, Southampton Way, Elmington, Wyndham & Comber, & Seaux Gardens are invited to play at after school & weekend workshops in this recently renovated former retail outlet on the Seaux Gardens housing estate.
Every weekend Rich Mix Bethnal Green 020 7613 7498 Kids' Cine Time family films.
Every weekend Temple Station 020 7222 1234 Harry Potter Locations Tour, 2 ½ hrs.

Designer Outlet, plus Xmas Market, traditional rides plus every skater will receive a **FREE** hot chocolate, www.iceskatingatwembleypark.co.uk
Until 4 Jan Royal Air Force Museum Grraham Park Way Hendon London 020 8205 2266 Biggles & Chums- First World War watercolours & works on paper exhibition. **Ongoing** Airfix exhibition with some of Airfix's most popular models from the 50.60s & 70's.
Until 4 Jan Hackney Empire 117 Wilton Street London 020 8985 2424 Mother Goose, www.hackneyempire.co.uk
Until 4 Jan Imperial War Museum Lambeth Road 020 7416 5439 Horrible Histories exhibition families can make their way through the exhibition, encountering themes such as Ruthless Resistance, Cracking Codes, Great Gadgets, Savage Sabotage & Clever Camouflage plus how to make invisible ink, crack codes & use fake feet. **Until 4 Jan** A Family in Wartime exhibition, **FREE** entrance. **Until 4 Jan Secret War** exhibition, **FREE** entrance. 4.11.18.25 Jan Object handling session, families can explore objects from the collections & how they connect with iconic objects on display, families all ages, **FREE**. 4.11.18.25 Jan Creative Response, get creative, make a drawing, take a photograph, write a postcard & share your ideas with the museum, families, all ages, **FREE**. 24-25 Jan Holocaust Memorial Day discussion & replica object handling session for families who wish to learn about the Holocaust, 11+ yrs. **Every Sun** Object Conservations family object handling sessions & Creative Response make a creative response to themes held within the new atrium & Teraaced Galleries. **Ongoing** A Family in Wartime exhibition explores the lives of William & Alice Allpress & their ten children & what life in London was like during the war. A Family in Wartime is brought to life through interactive exhibits, photographs, recorded interviews with the family, archive film footage & more, **FREE**. **Until 8 Mar** Truth & Memory: British Art of the first World War art exhibition. www.iwm.org.uk
Until 4 Jan Science Museum Exhibition Rd London 0870 870 4868 3D Printing the future exhibition for all ages, **FREE**. **Daily** Interactive experience: Flyzone Studio a new experience that transports visitors using the latest in green screen technology. Children, adults & families are able to come along & dress up as pilots or astronauts & then take away photographs of themselves flying through the air or exploring Space, all ages. **Every weekend** Icy Cool Adventure families, until 7's, **FREE**. **Every Weekend** Speed of Light, families, 5+ yrs, **FREE**.

From Australia, all ages. **Every weekend throughout Dec** Cutty Sark characters stories brought to life by characters from the ship's past, 3+ yrs, activities **FREE** with entry, www.rmg.co.uk/cuttrysark
6-7 Dec East **Wintergarden** Santa's Magical Silver Reindeer Christmas tale performed with classic festive songs for families, tickets www.canarywharf.com
all proceeds will be donated to Romny's the baby charity. 16 Dec: Carols & Candles Service special service for those working in & around Canary Wharf, www.canarywharf.com
6-7 Dec Horniman Museum London Road Forest Hill Horniman Christmas Fair enjoy festive treats & lots more, **FREE**. 13 Dec Hands on Family workshops themed sessions for families, 3+ yrs, **FREE**. 13 Dec ArtMakers create a pretty Roman Christmas Star to take home, adults **FREE**, families, 3+ yrs, 14 Dec A World of Stories, families, 5+ yrs, **FREE**. **Until 14 Dec** Discovery for All explore thousands of real objects from around the world with the museum's Explainers, all ages & adults, **FREE**. **Every Tues & Wed until 17 Dec** Busy Bess sessions for under 5's with crafts, creative play stories & songs, **FREE**. **Every Sat** Art Makers have fun with different art techniques to create something fabulous to take home, for families, 3+ yrs, **FREE** **Every Sat** Farmers Market, **FREE** entry, 24 Jan The Big Garden Birdwatch take part in the biggest birdwatch happening across the UK, join in activities all about garden birds including helping to count different birds in the Gardens & finding out about birdsong & making puppets, **FREE**, www.ballnet.org.uk/Nutcracker
6-7,13-14 Dec & daily 19-24 Dec London Zoo Regent's Park London 020 7722 3333 Meet Santa in his grotto & enjoy a fun packed day with Christmas themed activities, www.zsl.org
7 Dec Museum of Childhood Bethnal Green 020 8983 5200 Snowflakes interactive reading of book followed by a book signing, 3+ yrs, Daily Back-packs filled with jigsaws, stories & games to explore the collection, 4-11 yrs, Activity Card hands on art fun for children to create a Samurai helmet, a silver goblet or an elephant mask to take home, **FREE**, drop in, www.vam.ac.uk
6-7 Dec Cutty Sark King William Walk Greenwich 020 8858 3445 Family fun weekend, create a Christmas harbour scene with ships & a shimmering sea to turn into a card or hang up at home, all ages, 29.30 Dec Create a wool fluffy sheep made with wool just like the cargo Cutty Sark used to carry all the way

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9 Dec-4 Jan Unicorn Theatre for Children 147 Tooley Street London 020 7645 0560 It's Baby's First Christmas a sensory show for babies 6-18mths duration 40 mins including 15 mins play time. **Until 14 Jan** The Nutcracker & the Mouse King, 8+ yrs. **Until 4 Jan** The Fourth Wise Man, 4+ yrs. **9-25 Jan** The Polar Bears Go Wild, 2+ yrs, www.unicorntheatre.com
11-23 Dec The Young Vic Theatre Company The Cut London 020 7922 2922 The Way Back Home a brand new opera featuring puppetry & animations, 5+ yrs, www.youngvic.org
11 Dec-14 Jan Lillian Baylis St Martin's Lane London 0871 9110200 English National Ballet performs the Nutcracker, www.ballnet.org.uk/Nutcracker
12 Dec Hyde Park The Look Out 020 7036 8056 Transformed into a magical film venue with underfloor heating Edward Scissorhands. **12 Dec** The Gremlins. **13 Dec** Nightmare before Christmas. **13 Dec** It's a Wonderful Life. **12 Dec Isis Education Centre Hyde Park** 020 7036 8056 Christmas with Victoria & Albert join the Education team for a stroll through Kensington Gardens focusing on seasonal folklore & the origins of many of our festive traditions. **12-13 Dec** The Royal Observatory Greenwich 020 8858 4422 An Evening with the Stars, 7+ yrs. **Until 14 Jan** Longitude Punk'd celebrates the creation of wacky inventors, all ages. **Until end of Feb** Astronomy Photographer of the Year exhibition, entrance, www.rmg.co.uk/visit
13 Dec King Charles Court Old Royal Naval College Greenwich 020 8269 4799

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