

Finsbury Winter Warmers

Programme

12 January 2026 – 7 March 2026

All events
are free, with
refreshments
provided.



For more information, visit our website:
Islington.gov.uk/WinterWarmers

Islington Heritage's Finsbury Winter Warmers is back for a fourth wonderful year with an exciting eight-week programme featuring over 40 events across more than 14 venues. All events are free, and refreshments are provided.

We look forward to welcoming you!

If an event requires pre-booking, this will be mentioned in the event description. For more information and to make a booking, visit our website at: Islington.gov.uk/WinterWarmers

For password protected Eventbrite registration, please use the password: WinterWarmers4



**Cover image courtesy of Islington Archives
Exmouth Market, 1967.**

This booklet was printed in December 2025.

Curator's Choice

Monday 12 January

2.00pm-3.00pm

Islington Museum, below-ground entrance, 245 St John Street, EC1V 4NB

Islington Museum Curator, Sarah Guzman, will highlight her favourite items and stories, exploring how they inform our heritage. **Just turn up, no need to book.**

A Visit to the Clown Archive

Tuesday 13 January

11.00am-12.45pm or 1.30pm-3.15pm, both visits followed by refreshments at Islington Museum

Assemble at entrance to Finsbury Library, 245 St John Street, EC1V 4NB

A rare opportunity to join archivist and clown Mattie Faint to view the Clown Archive and its unique collection of clown portrait eggs and clown costumes, including Coco's! **Please book in advance, numbers strictly limited.**

Jewellery Workshop: Wire and Bead

Thursday 15 January

2.00pm-4.30pm

Islington Museum, below-ground entrance, 245 St John Street, EC1V 4NB

Join our fun jewellery making workshop for complete beginners. Learn how to make a pair of wire and bead earrings or other bead jewellery to take home!

Please book in advance, numbers strictly limited.

Clerkenwell Book Club: Barnaby Rudge by Charles Dickens

Thursday 15 January

6.30pm-7.30pm

Finsbury Library, 245 St John Street, EC1V 4NB

Join us to read and discuss books set in Clerkenwell. This month's book, Barnaby Rudge by Charles Dickens is one of Dickens' few historical novels. Set against the backdrop of the London Riots of 1780, it is a story of mystery suspense and murder. **Please ask at Finsbury Library Counter for Clerkenwell Book Club copies. Just turn up, no need to book.**

Tour of the Museum of the Order of St John: St John Ambulance:

A Victorian Masterpiece

Friday 16 January

12.30pm-1.15pm, followed by refreshments at Islington Museum

**Museum of the Order of St John, St John's Gate, 26 St John's Lane,
ECM 4DA**

Explore the spectacular Victorian interiors of St John's Gate and discover how St John Ambulance became an international movement through the personal stories of its dedicated heroes and innovators. There are steps along the tour route, see our access page for details. **Please book in advance.**

The Angels of Kaos Choir

Saturday 17 January

2.00pm-4.00pm

Islington Museum, below-ground entrance, 245 St John Street, EC1V 4NB

Hear the Angels of Kaos perform an eclectic set list of guaranteed crowd pleasers from folk to funk, and lots in between. **Just turn up, no need to book.**

A Visit to the Clown Archive

Tuesday 20 January

11.00am-12.45pm or 1.30pm-3.15pm, both visits followed by refreshments at

Islington Museum

Assemble at entrance to Finsbury Library, 245 St John Street, EC1V 4NB

Another opportunity to join archivist and clown Mattie Faint to view the Clown Archive and its unique collection of clown portrait eggs and clown costumes, including Coco's! **Please book in advance, numbers strictly limited.**

Discovering Paul Robeson: History, Music and Solidarity

Tuesday 20 January

5.00pm-7.00pm

Marx Memorial Library, 37a Clerkenwell Green, EC1R 0DU

Come along to a special Finsbury Winter Warmer event celebrating Paul Robeson — activist, actor and singer — marking 50 years since his death. Enjoy a short introduction to his remarkable life, an archive display, and refreshments in the Marx Memorial Library's historic Clerkenwell setting. **Just turn up, no need to book.**

Memories of Clerkenwell (1960s-1980s) – the People and Clocks that Shaped a Community

Wednesday 21 January

6.30pm-7.30pm, followed by refreshments

Islington Museum, below-ground entrance, 245 St John Street, EC1V 4NB

An opportunity to hear the memories of Ron Rose and Robert Wren of the clock and watch trade. Both men are fellows of the Royal Horological Institute. The talk will cover shops, workshops and interesting characters and stories involved in horological Clerkenwell in the second half of the 20th century. The public clocks that were relied on by the local community will also be discussed. **Just turn up, no need to book.**

Emirates Stadium Tour and Arsenal Museum Visit

Thursday 22 January

11.00am-1.00pm

Get an exclusive behind-the scenes look at Arsenal Football Club. Join Arsenal in the Community for a chance to explore the stadium and learn more about this iconic premier-league team. Light refreshments included. **Please book in advance. Meeting point provided on booking.**

Art workshop: Architectural Drawing and Pop-Ups

Friday 23 January

10.30am-12.30pm

Zaha Hadid Foundation, 10 Bowling Green Lane, EC1R 0BQ

Practise drawing and making pop-ups with guidance from an artist, all materials provided, and beginners are welcome. For inspiration you will look at buildings from across the world which were designed in Clerkenwell by Zaha Hadid Architects and at local landmarks. Light refreshments included. **Please book in advance.**

Green Clerkenwell Trail preview: North Clerkenwell

Saturday 24 January

10.00am-11.30am, followed by light refreshments at Islington Museum

A special opportunity to walk the Green Clerkenwell Trail before its official launch later this year. Produced by local residents, the trail is a dedicated walking route connecting Clerkenwell's green spaces and telling the stories of Clerkenwell.

Walking the north section, you'll explore architectural gems designed by Berthold Lubetkin and a circular garden on the doorstep of Lenin's residence dating back to 1905. **Please book in advance. Meeting point provided on booking.**

Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy

Saturday 24 January

1.30pm-4.20pm, including an interval and light refreshments

Islington Museum, below-ground entrance, 245 St John Street, EC1V 4NB

Come and watch the BAFTA Award winning 2011 film version of John Le Carre's gripping thriller about Cold War espionage and see if you can name the location of the scenes filmed in Clerkenwell. **Just turn up, no need to book. Strictly 15+.**

Latecomers will not be admitted.

Be a Singing Postcard

Monday 26 January

2.00pm-4.30pm

Islington Museum, below-ground entrance, 245 St John Street, EC1V 4NB

Join singer/songwriter Lucinda Sieger and have fun using your imagination to write and sing (or read) your own postcard. Bring along an object or an image to inspire you. No experience of writing or singing necessary. **Please book in advance.**

Keeping Warm and Well with Herbs

Tuesday 27 January

3.00pm-4.30pm

Islington Museum, below-ground entrance, 245 St John Street, EC1V 4NB

An introduction to herbs that can support our bodies over the colder months following the themes of immunity, stress & relaxation, colds and flu and keeping warm. Make your own set of herbal tea bags to take home. **Just turn up, no need to book.**

Cook and Eat

Wednesday 28 January

6.30pm-8.30pm

The Peel, Northampton Road, EC1R 0HU

Make tasty chicken or veggie kebabs at this fun, practical workshop. No prior cooking skills required. **Please book in advance, numbers strictly limited.**

Welcome to the Zaha Hadid Foundation

Thursday 29 January

10.30am-12.00pm

Zaha Hadid Foundation, 10 Bowling Green Lane, EC1R 0BQ

Join us for a talk and building tour to discover more about the international legacy of local architect Zaha Hadid and the history of this former Victorian school building in Clerkenwell, which was once the HQ of Zaha Hadid Architects and now home to one of Clerkenwell's newest cultural institutions. **Light refreshments included. Please book in advance.**

Emirates Stadium Tour and Arsenal Museum Visit

Monday 2 February

2.00pm-4.00pm

Get an exclusive behind-the scenes look at Arsenal Football Club. Join Arsenal in the Community for a chance to explore the stadium and learn more about this iconic premier-league team. Light refreshments included. **Please book in advance. Meeting point provided on booking.**

Islington's Pride: One Small Borough's Big Impact on British LGBT+ History

Monday 2 February

6.30pm-7.30pm

Islington Museum, below-ground entrance, 245 St John Street, EC1V 4NB

Seán McGovern, Islington's Pride project manager, takes you on a fun and informative trip through Islington's outsized impact on Britain's path to greater equality. Expect pride, protest, and play. **Just turn up, no need to book.**

Clerks' Well Visit

Tuesday 3 February

10.30am-11.15am or 11.15am-12.00pm, both visits followed by light refreshments at Islington Museum

Discover the medieval well that gave Clerkenwell its name! Learn about the fascinating history of this Grade I listed hidden gem, from supplying water to 12th century nuns to its later rediscovery in the 1920s. **Please book in advance. Meeting point provided on booking.**

'Collaging Cities' with Grace Holliday

Thursday 5 February

11.00am-1.00pm

The Peel, Northampton Road, EC1R 0HU

During this workshop, we will explore the art of paper collage to create our own layered city scenes. Shape, colour and the technique of mark-making using a variety of pens, inks and cutouts will construct buildings on paper - brought together into dynamic city scenes. Our inspiration will focus on the heritage and ever-changing patchwork of places in London and beyond. **Please book in advance, numbers strictly limited.**

Tour of the Charterhouse

Friday 6 February

11.00am-11.30am refreshments, 11.30am – 12.30pm tour

The Charterhouse, Charterhouse Square, EC1M 6AN

Join us for an exciting tour of Clerkenwell's historic Charterhouse, home to martyrs, plotters, schoolboys, and since 1611, a community of older people. This guided tour will explore some of the lesser-known histories of this iconic London landmark. **Please book in advance, numbers strictly limited.**

AG

Saturday 7 February

2.00pm-4.00pm

Islington Museum, below-ground entrance, 245 St John Street, EC1V 4NB

AG is an energetic, Islington-based acoustic singer/songwriter; his sound is inspired by folk and blues, and his lyrics focus on storytelling. He recently supported Frank Turner & the Sleeping Souls on their Undefeated Tour at the 02 Academy Oxford. **Just turn up, no need to book.**

Easy Steps to Wellbeing

Tuesday 10 February

2.00pm-4.00pm, followed by refreshments

Islington Museum, below-ground entrance, 245 St John Street, EC1V 4NB

This workshop will provide you with a range of practical tools to use in your daily life to help you feel calmer, happier and more focused. Please wear comfortable clothes and bring a bottle of water and pen and paper. **Just turn up, no need to book.**

Colin O' Brien, The Clerkenwell Photographer

Tuesday 10 February

6.30pm-7.30pm, followed by refreshments

Islington Museum, below-ground entrance, 245 St John Street, EC1V 4NB

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the death of photographer Colin O'Brien who documented Clerkenwell from 1948 until 2016. The Gentle Author, who worked alongside Colin for the last five years of his life, shows a selection of Colin's most famous images and describes his working process.

Just turn up, no need to book.

Cook and Eat

Wednesday 11 February

6.30pm-8.30pm

The Peel, Northampton Road, EC1R 0HU

Make a delicious warming Spanish butter bean stew at this fun, practical workshop. No prior cooking skills required. **Please book in advance, numbers strictly limited.**

Hogarth Senior – a Tale of Coffee, Classics and Incarceration

Thursday 12 February

12.30pm-1.30pm, followed by refreshments

The London Archives, 40 Northampton Road, EC1R 0HB

Come along to the this illustrated talk at The London Archives to hear the story of Richard Hogarth's ill-fated Greek and Latin themed coffee shop in St John's Gate Clerkenwell and how it inspired his famous son William's art. **Please book in advance.**

Winter Warmers Valentine's Day

Saturday 14 February

10.30am-4.15pm, with refreshments

Feel the love this Valentine's Day with a programme of events for children and adults. **Just turn up, no need to book.**

Valentine's Card Making Workshop for Children and Adults

Saturday 14 February

10.30am-12.00pm

Finsbury Library, 245 St John Street, EC1V 4NB

A card making workshop inspired by story book characters and images of Valentine's Cards in Islington Archives.

Love Lines

Saturday 14 February

12.00am-1.15pm

Islington Museum, below-ground entrance, 245 St John Street, EC1V 4NB

An open session where anyone can read a poem they've written or a favourite piece about love. No stage, no pressure, just a group of people reading words they care about. Whether you read or just listen, you're welcome.

Not suitable for children.

Paddington 2 (PG)

Saturday 14 February

1.30pm-4.15pm, including a 30-minute interval

Islington Museum, below-ground entrance, 245 St John Street, EC1V 4NB

A heartwarming film for all to enjoy. **Children under 11 to be accompanied by an adult.**

Dance Workshops at Sadler's Wells

Monday 16 February

10.00am-10.50am Jazz dance

11.00am-11.50am Flamenco

Sadler's Wells, Roseberry Avenue, EC1R 4TN

Always wanted to dance at Sadler's Wells? Then join one of our dance workshops to get your energy flowing and learn some new steps. Our amazing teacher Sonia Illescas will teach two workshops, one looking at the dynamic art of jazz dance and an introduction to Flamenco rhythms. Please wear comfortable clothes and shoes to take part. **18+. Please book in advance, numbers strictly limited.**

Barts North Wing Tour

Wednesday 17 February

10.30am-11.30am, followed by light refreshments

Following last week's talk on Richard Hogarth, join us at Barts North Wing for a tour of two of England's most important interiors, the Hogarth Stair with its large paintings by William Hogarth and the Great Hall. The tour will also highlight the conservation work that has taken place to rescue and rejuvenate the Grade I listed building. **Please book in advance. Meeting point provided on booking.**

Discover Clerkenwell's "Little Italy"

Thursday 19 February

11.00am-12.30pm, followed by light refreshments at Islington Museum

This guided walk explores the life of the Italian community between the 19th and 20th centuries. From craftsmen to gelato sellers, criminal gangs to Mazzini's circle, Saffron Hill to St Peter's Italian Church, there are many tales to be told.

Please book in advance. Meeting point provided on booking.

Green Clerkenwell Trail preview: South Clerkenwell

Saturday 21 February

10.00am-11.30am, followed by refreshments at Islington Museum

A special opportunity to walk the Green Clerkenwell Trail before its official launch later this year. Produced by local residents, the trail is a dedicated walking route connecting Clerkenwell's green spaces and telling the stories of Clerkenwell. Walking the south section, you'll stroll through spaces including a monastic herb garden and medieval plague pit. **Please book in advance. Meeting point provided on booking.**

Vimala Rowe and Dorian Ford

Saturday 21 February

2.00pm-4.00pm

Islington Museum, below-ground entrance, 245 St John Street, EC1V 4NB

Vimala Rowe (vocals) and Dorian Ford (piano) re-invent the performance of the jazz standard by simply doing just that, performing the jazz standard with love, joy, feeling and freedom. **Just turn up, no need to book.**

Visit to the Goldsmiths' Centre

Monday 23 February

11.00am-11.45am, followed by light refreshments at Islington Museum

The Goldsmiths' Centre, 42 Britton Street, EC1M 5AD

Join us to see the 'Apprentice to Masterpiece' exhibition which showcases 'Masterpieces' of the most recent Goldsmiths' apprentices who completed their training in December 2025. This Winter Warmers session, with a member of the Goldsmiths' Centre Team, will introduce you to the history and mystery of Goldsmithing apprenticeships and the work being done to keep the trade alive today. **No need to book, just turn up.**

Body Breathing

Tuesday 24 February

1.30pm-2.30pm, followed by refreshments

The Peel, Northampton Road, EC1R 0HU

Bring calm and clarity to your day by learning to breathe with your whole body. Mindful breathing can ease stress and anxiety, improve sleep, and help you feel more balanced throughout the day. **Please book in advance, numbers strictly limited.**

Lubetkin in Finsbury

Thursday 26 February

12.30pm-1.30pm, followed by refreshments

The London Archives, 40 Northampton Road, EC1R 0HB

This illustrated talk exploring the work of the architect Berthold Lubetkin in the Finsbury and Clerkenwell area in the 1930s and early post-war period will be given by his biographer John Allan, a personal friend of Lubetkin and former architect responsible for restoring several of Lubetkin's buildings. **Please book in advance, numbers strictly limited.**

Archives Drop-in: Out on the Town!

Thursday 26 February

3.00pm-6.00pm

Islington Archives, Finsbury Library, 245 St John Street, EC1V 4NB

Islington has been a destination for music, theatre and dancing for hundreds of years. Visit Islington Archives to view original archive material relating to the area's entertainment heritage, from Sadler's Wells famous 'water theatre' to iconic gay club nightclub, Trade. **Drop in, no need to book.**

Fireside Music, Crafts and Tales

Saturday 28 February

12.00pm-3.00pm

Three Corners Playground, Northampton Road, EC1R OHJ

Come and have fun around the fireside and enjoy music, crafts and a selection of finger food. **Children of all ages welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. Drop in, no need to book.** Refreshments for this event kindly provided by Tesco Clerkenwell Express.

Tour of the Museum of the Order of St John:

The Lost Priory of the Medieval Priory of St John

Wednesday 4 March

12.30pm-1.15pm, followed by refreshments at Islington Museum

Museum of the Order of St John, St John's Gate, 26 St John's Lane

ECM 4DA

Step beyond the ancient City walls to explore the Priory of the Knights Hospitaller, the English headquarters of the Order of St John. Visit the church and 12th-century crypt to trace its history from Jerusalem to Henry VIII's dissolution. There are steps along the tour route, for information about access please visit the access page of our website. **Please book in advance.**

Clerks' Well Visit

Thursday 5 March

10.30am-11.15am or 11.15am-12.00pm, both visits followed by light refreshments at Islington Museum

Another opportunity to discover the medieval well that gave Clerkenwell its name! Learn about the fascinating history of this Grade I listed hidden gem, from supplying water to 12th century nuns to its later rediscovery in the 1920s. **Please book in advance. Meeting point provided on booking.**

Clerkenwell Book Club: The Clerkenwell Affair by Susanna Gregory

Thursday 5 March

6.30pm-7.30pm

Finsbury Library, 245 St John Street, EC1V 4NB

Join us to read and discuss books set in Clerkenwell. This month's book, The Clerkenwell Affair by Susanna Gregory is a murder mystery set in 1666 during the reign of King Charles II. Clerkenwell and a local soothsayer in particular may hold the key to the puzzle. **Please ask at Finsbury Library Counter for Clerkenwell Book Club copies.**

London Archives Workshop: Reform, Revolt and Revolution

Friday 6 March

12.30pm-2.00pm, followed by refreshments

The London Archives, 40 Northampton Road, EC1R 0HB

For centuries Clerkenwell was a centre for radical politics: it was a meeting point for demonstrations; its printers produced pamphlets, and it housed infamous revolutionaries. Explore this history through The London Archive's collections in this relaxed, friendly and hands on workshop. **Please book in advance.**

A Day of Events in Celebration of International Women's Day

Saturday 7 March

10.00am-4.00pm

The following events celebrate IWD which falls on Sunday 8 March. Just turn up, no need to book.

Inspirational Clerkenwell Women – a guided walk

Saturday 7 March

10.00am-11.00am, followed by light refreshments at Islington Museum

Come and discover the stories of some extraordinary women associated with Clerkenwell, including a bare-knuckle boxing 'Championess', a world-famous architect, and a trade union leader. **Please book in advance. Meeting point provided on booking.**

Aromatherapy for Wellbeing

Saturday 7 March

12.00pm-1.30pm

Islington Museum, below-ground entrance, 245 St John Street, EC1V 4NB

Support your mind and body and pamper yourself with aromatherapy. Join us to learn about the restorative properties of essential oils and make a free customised aromatherapy spray to take home. **Please book in advance, numbers strictly limited.**

About Women by Women

Saturday 7 March

2.00pm-4.30pm

Islington Museum, below-ground entrance, 245 St John Street, EC1V 4NB

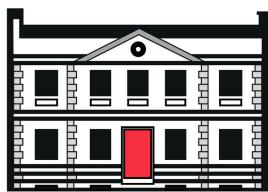
Take part in this Read & Write workshop exploring impactful poetry about women, by women. We'll look at a mix of classic voices alongside contemporary poets and discuss what makes their poetry endure. The session will finish with a free-write inspired by the poetry we read, your experience of womanhood and the inspirational women that have played a role in your life, with space for anyone who wants to share their writing. **Just turn up, no need to book.**

With thanks to:

**CLERKENWELL
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Museum &
Archives**



www.marx-memorial-library.org.uk



Museum of
THE ORDER OF
ST JOHN



zaha hadid foundation

THE Peel
The heart of
the community
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**Quentin Blake Centre
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TESCO

 **Arsenal
Community**



 **the Charterhouse**

bellore rashbel

awesome!
adventure play

Do you need this information in another language or reading format such as Braille, large print, audio or Easy Read?

Please contact 020 7527 2837.

**For more information and to make a booking, visit our website at Islington.gov.uk/WinterWarmers
Eventbrite password: WinterWarmers4**

 **Islington Museum**

245 St John St

London EC1V 4NB

 020 7527 2837

 Islington.Museum@islington.gov.uk